

Accountability Report

2016–2017

Department of Intergovernmental Affairs
July 2017

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Accountability Statement

The Accountability Report of the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs for the year 2016/2017 ended March 31, 2017 and is prepared pursuant to the *Finance Act* and government policies and guidelines. These authorities require the reporting of outcomes against the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs Business Plan for the fiscal year just ended. The reporting of the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs outcomes includes estimates, judgements and opinions by the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs management.

We acknowledge that this Accountability Report is the responsibility of the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs management. The report is, to the extent possible, a complete and accurate representation of outcomes relative to the goals and priorities set out in the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs 2016-2017 Business Plan.

Original signed by

Honourable Stephen McNeil, Premier, Province of Nova Scotia
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Original signed by

Kelliann Dean
Deputy Minister

Message from the Minister

It is my pleasure to present the Accountability Report for the Nova Scotia Department of Intergovernmental Affairs which highlights the department's progress and achievements for the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

The Department of Intergovernmental Affairs advances the Province's interests with the Government of Canada, other provinces and territories, and foreign governments. It serves as a central point of coordination of the province's intergovernmental priorities and protocol requirements, supports Military Relations, as well as the operation of Government House.

Intergovernmental Affairs is also responsible for trade policy, interprovincial and international trade negotiations, and the development of the Province's strategic approach to international markets. Intergovernmental Affairs supports the Minister of Trade in this capacity.

During 2016-2017, Intergovernmental Affairs linked its goals and priorities to align with the strategic priorities of the government of Nova Scotia. This involved work with intergovernmental forums like the Council of the Federation and the Council of Atlantic Premiers, and Nova Scotia departments and agencies to develop strong international relations, encourage global trade and seize investment opportunities.

In 2016-2017, Intergovernmental Affairs provided support for the First Ministers and National Indigenous Leaders, when the Pan-Canadian framework on climate change was endorsed and released in December 2016.

Intergovernmental Affairs actively promoted key priorities under the Atlantic Growth Strategy. This federal-provincial initiative focuses efforts and resources in areas that have a significant impact on regional growth.

On a regional level, I was pleased to host the Council of Atlantic Premiers in Annapolis Royal on May 16, 2016. Atlantic Premiers also met in Brudenell, Prince Edward Island, on July 3, 2016, and Steady Brook, Newfoundland and Labrador, on February 20, 2017, to further the regional cooperation agenda and to identify ways to improve the delivery of programs and services to Atlantic Canadians.

On a pan-Canadian basis, the Council of Federation met twice during 2016-2017 and Premiers reached an agreement in principle on a renewed internal trade agreement - a significant milestone that replaced the 20-year-old agreement on internal trade. Nova Scotia's positions on a number of issues were also advanced at these meetings.

Intergovernmental Affairs was also active in advancing Nova Scotia's interest in trade matters internationally. The department supported trade and investment missions to Asia, the United States and Europe, which resulted in increased trade and research partnerships. The Minister of Trade signed the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement

on October 30, 2016. And, the Department continued to advocate Nova Scotia's position on a number of trade policy disputes, including softwood lumber and supercalendared paper. A highlight of the year was the release of the Nova Scotia - China Engagement Strategy which led to the development of formal partnerships with the Chinese Embassy and two Chinese provinces, Shandong and Guangdong. This engagement helped to solidify China as Nova Scotia's second largest international trading partner.

The election of a new Administration and Congress in the United States provided an opportunity for Nova Scotia to build new relationships and identify priorities and issues with the new decision-makers in Washington, DC. Nova Scotia participated in the Southeastern United States – Canadian Provinces Alliance and the annual conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers.

In my role as Minister responsible for Military Relations, I continued to advocate for veterans. The Department launched the DND 404 Equivalency Program to allow service men and women to apply their military vehicle qualifications and training to the civilian workforce in Nova Scotia.

The Protocol Office continued to promote the interests of Nova Scotia by ensuring that all diplomatic visits were matched with the Province's strategic interests. Government House was also very active in managing the functions of the Lieutenant Governor.

I am proud of the accomplishments during the past fiscal year and would like to thank staff for their continued hard work and commitment to excellence.

Original signed by

Honourable Stephen McNeil, Premier, Province of Nova Scotia
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Financial Results

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS			
	2016-2017 Estimate	2016-2017 Actuals	2016-2017 Variance
Program & Service Area	(\$thousands)		
Departmental Expenses:			
Operations	\$2,492	\$2,097	(\$395)
Government House	\$833	\$857	(\$24)
Protocol Office	\$500	\$409	(\$91)
Total – Departmental Expenses	\$3,825	\$3,363	(\$462)
Additional Information:			
Ordinary Revenue	0	0	0
Fees and Other Charges	0	0	0
Ordinary Recoveries	\$30	\$153	\$123
Total: Revenue, Fees and Recoveries	\$30	\$153	\$123
TCA Purchase Requirements	0	0	0
Provincial Funded Staff	33.5	27.8	(5.7)
<u>Departmental Expenses Variance Explanation:</u>			
<u>Revenue, Fees and Recoveries Variance Explanation:</u>			
<u>TCA Purchase Requirements Variance Explanation:</u> N/A			
<u>Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs) Variance Explanation:</u>			

Measuring Our Performance

The following outcomes and accomplishments demonstrate Intergovernmental Affairs' progress in 2016-2017 as it relates to the Department's mandate, core functions and its 2016-2017 Business Plan.

Government of Canada Relations

Intergovernmental Affairs recognizes the importance of maintaining effective relations with the Government of Canada, with an objective of conveying and advancing Nova Scotian interests in federal public policy.

Outcome

The Province is recognized as a leader and equal partner within the confederation and influences federal policy decisions to the benefit of Nova Scotians.

Goals

1. To lead, coordinate and provide effective approaches to developing Nova Scotia positions and strategies on federal policy.
2. To provide effective engagement in advancing constructive dialogue on Nova Scotia's federal-provincial priorities and interests.
3. To influence Government of Canada policy and decision making.

Actions

Atlantic Growth Strategy

- Co-led the development and launch of the Atlantic Growth Strategy, an important federal-provincial initiative, that focuses efforts and resources aimed to stimulate the region's economy. Announced in July 2016, the Leadership Committee is comprised of the four Atlantic Premiers, the four Atlantic federal regional ministers and Minister Navdeep Singh Bains, as the minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA).
 - o It covers 5 key areas: Skilled workforce/ Immigration; Innovation; Clean Growth and Climate Change; Infrastructure, and, Trade and Investment.
- Supported participation in the Atlantic Growth Strategy Leadership Committee meetings (July 2016 and January 2017), and other committee work resulting in initiatives such as:
 - o an immigration pilot project to help match the needs of local employers with the skill sets of immigrants. Through this project, the Government will admit up to 2,000 immigrants and accompanying families for the Atlantic region; and
 - o a new \$20 million Atlantic Trade and Investment Growth Strategy.

First Ministers' Meetings

- Led engagement with the Prime Minister and supported participation in the First Ministers' Meeting and the Meeting of First Ministers' and National Indigenous Leaders, where the Pan-Canadian framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change was endorsed and released, December 2016.

Provincial and Territorial Relations

There are two key forums dedicated to improving and maintaining interprovincial relationships. The Council of the Federation (COF) was created in December 2003 as a forum for provinces and territories to strengthen interprovincial-territorial cooperation, improve federal provincial territorial relations and provide leadership on intergovernmental issues. Premiers of each province and territory are members of the Council.

The Council of Atlantic Premiers (CAP) was created in May 2000 to strengthen the economic competitiveness of the region, improve the quality of public services to Atlantic Canadians; improve the cost-effectiveness of delivering public services to Atlantic Canadians and to promote Atlantic Canadian interests on national issues.

Outcome

The Province is recognized as a leader and equal partner within confederation; one that is effective in influencing interprovincial/territorial policy decisions to support its priority interests to the benefit of Nova Scotians.

Goals

1. To provide advice on Provincial/Territorial interests and positions impacting Nova Scotia.
2. To identify and implement Provincial/Territorial opportunities for strategic collaboration on federal Provincial/Territorial programs and services.
3. To support the Province in demonstrating regional leadership and collaboration on key files of interest to the province.

Actions

Council of Atlantic Premiers (CAP)

- Supported CAP, including a Premiers' meeting in Annapolis Royal, NS, May 2016, which resulted in a health care commitment of joint procurement of anesthesia and ultrasound equipment (with a projected savings of \$6.1 million over three years);

- Supported the participation in the CAP meeting, Brudenell, PE, July 2016 and Steady Brook, NL, February 2017, which included a key outcome in the area of red tape reduction. Red tape reduction initiatives agreed to included:
 - o moving from four separate provincial licenses to one regional license for each trade related to technical safety, taking a phased-in approach;
 - o mutual recognition across the region of safety equipment for head and foot protection, and training for occupational health and safety committees and first aid, and;
 - o adopting a streamlined licensing process for insurance adjusters to allow swift movement within the region to respond to severe weather events and emergencies.

Council of the Federation (COF)

- Supported the participation in two COF meetings: Whitehorse, YK, July 2016, and Ottawa, December 2016.

At Whitehorse, Premiers reached an agreement in principle on a renewed internal trade agreement, the Canada Free Trade Agreement (CFTA). This ground-breaking agreement will support their vision for promoting trade, investment and labour mobility across provincial and territorial boundaries, as part of a broader economic vision for Canada.

- Advanced Nova Scotia's positions nationally on several issues, including:
 - o Immigration; Labour Market Agreements; Energy Strategy; Health Innovation; Emergency Management; and, Marijuana Legalization.

International Relations

With a long tradition of trade and exports, the province is continuously looking for new economic opportunities to help stimulate Nova Scotia's growth and success in global markets. To accomplish this, Intergovernmental Affairs works directly with foreign governments to promote Nova Scotia's position in the world and to facilitate businesses selling their expertise, skills and goods internationally.

To this end, the Department played a support role with other provincial departments in coordinating international relations; organizing government-to-government meetings that help lay a path for successful trade missions and business developments; and by promoting Nova Scotia government expertise to other countries in areas where it is a recognized international leader.

Furthermore, it is recognized that sub-national governments have a critical role to play in strengthening Canada-US relations. Nova Scotia's proactive involvement with such forums as the Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG/ECP), the Southeastern US-Canadian Provinces Alliance (SEUS) and the Council of State Governments-Eastern Regional Conference (CSG/ERC) ensures that its interests are promoted and protected with these important US trading partners.

Outcomes

1. A whole of government coordinated approach that advances Nova Scotia's global interests and priorities.
2. International relationships and diplomatic ties with key government and business decision makers/influencers that benefit Nova Scotia by leveraging opportunities, addressing challenges and removing barriers to business.

Goals

1. To support the Province's international interests through strategic analyses, policy advice and interdepartmental coordination.
2. To advance Nova Scotia's interests with priority countries.
3. To maximize the Premier's role in facilitating and advancing Nova Scotia's interests through international business development opportunities, investment attraction, and trade opportunities.

Actions

- For 2016-17, the province's international engagement continued to evolve and substantial efforts to build international relationships, the exploration of economic opportunities and the provision of support to businesses and stakeholders continued to take place.
- The province's strategic approach to international relations included:
 - o Premier-led out-bound trade and political missions to Asia, the United States and Europe (including a special tour and wreath laying ceremony at Vimy Ridge in honour of fallen Nova Scotians); and
 - o the welcoming of delegations from strategic markets including China, Japan, South Korea, the European Union, and the United States.

Nova Scotia-China Engagement

- The province launched a Nova Scotia-China Engagement Strategy aimed at capitalizing on opportunities for growth in the Chinese market.
- The Nova Scotia-China Engagement Strategy has three major elements:
 - o to focus on Nova Scotia's competitive strengths in the Chinese market;
 - o to build and strengthen our relationships in China; and
 - o to ensure coordinated, strategic partnerships in support of Nova Scotia businesses and institutions as they grow this relationship.
- Nova Scotia's growth in trade with China continued in 2016-17, surpassing the province's exports to the entire European Union, making China Nova Scotia's second largest trading partner with \$494 million in exports.

- Nova Scotia signed formal partnerships with the Chinese Embassy in Ottawa and two provinces in China.
- Nova Scotia added 6 new air cargo charter flights to China from the Halifax Stanfield International Airport that supported seafood exports.
- A number of key education research agreements were reached with four Nova Scotia-based universities and Chinese institutions resulting in research partnerships.
- Launched Study and Stay, a new pilot program aimed at recruiting and retaining international post-secondary students from key markets and a scholarship for Chinese students.

Canada-United States Relations

- The Minister of Business, led a trade and intergovernmental delegation to The Southeastern United States – Canadian Provinces Alliance (SEUS-CP) conference in Nashville, TN.
- Led an intergovernmental delegation to the annual conference of New England Governors – Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG/ECP) in Boston, MA.
- Met with the Governor of Massachusetts and senior government officials to discuss collaboration with the Atlantic Provinces in the energy sector and our willingness to act as a corridor for electricity to help meet New England's clean energy requirements.
- Led a successful trade and intergovernmental mission to Boston that was tied into the annual Boston Tree Lighting event. During the mission, government participated in the signing ceremony of an MOU between the UMass Dartmouth Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIE) and the Centre for Ocean Ventures and Entrepreneurship (COVE), Halifax, Nova Scotia.
- The Minister responsible for Nova Scotia Business Inc. and senior officials from the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) led a concurrent multi-sector trade mission involving more than 20 Nova Scotia companies in the ICT, ocean tech and seafood/agriculture sectors to the Boston area.
- EduNova officials also led a delegation of provincial post-secondary institutions and promoted Nova Scotia universities and the Nova Scotia Community College to a large audience of guidance counsellors to New England.
- Along with David Alward, Consul General of Canada to New England, hosted a roundtable session on developing an innovation ecosystem with global leaders in the

field from New England institutions such as MIT, as well as, venture capitalists, to promote Nova Scotia as a destination for investment and innovation.

- Met with both the Canadian Ambassador to the United States, as well as, the US Ambassador to Canada, to discuss Canada-US relations, and reinforce our long history of bilateral trade and international relations and the deep, integrated nature of the economic and energy ties between our countries.
- The election of a new Administration and a new Congress in the United States (US) provided an important opportunity for Nova Scotia to assess and analyze its current approach to cross-border relations with the United States.

Nova Scotia – European Union (EU) Engagement

- Led a successful trade mission to the European Union from June 26-July 2, 2016. The mission included visits to Dublin (Ireland), Glasgow and Edinburgh (Scotland), Vimy Ridge (France) and London (England)

Nova Scotia has identified Western Europe as a strategic global market with significant trade and investment opportunities for its businesses and institutions. The mission strengthened Nova Scotia's ties to the growing European market and provided direct support to Nova Scotia stakeholders and businesses, expanding their international presence in areas of tourism, energy, gateway/transportation, and trade.

Trade Policy

The Trade Policy division at Intergovernmental Affairs is responsible for advancing Nova Scotia's interests in domestic and international trade negotiations and agreements. These agreements govern the cross-border movement of goods, agricultural products, services and investment, and government procurement across a range of sectors, and provide trade remedy rules. The agreements also set out the rules for trade remedies and dispute settlement.

The goal of Trade Policy is to ensure effective rules-based systems are in place that support Nova Scotia's priorities in trade in goods and services, investment, regulatory cooperation, procurement and labour mobility.

Outcomes

1. Conflicts and barriers to trade and commerce are resolved positively for Nova Scotia.
2. Trade and commerce expansion beyond Nova Scotia's boundaries supports its economic and social progress.

Goals

1. To further Nova Scotia's interests in domestic and international trade negotiations and agreements.

Actions

- CETA was signed on October 30, 2016 and will be implemented provisionally on September 21, 2017. IGA supported the Minister of Trade, engaged with the Government of Canada, facilitated correspondence, responded to inquiries from NS business stakeholders, and initiated work on a trade implementation plan.
- IGA provided supported and participated in negotiation rounds, teleconferences, and bilateral discussions to finalize the text of the Canadian Free Trade Agreement.
- In collaboration with the Government of Canada, a successful advocacy strategy resulted in halting a proposed import prohibition on live lobster exports from Canada to the EU. IGA lead the province's representation on a task force engaging with key allies in the United States and European Union.
- Ensured Nova Scotia's interests were effectively managed in disputes. Key activities included: advancing Nova Scotia's interests in softwood lumber litigation, advancing arguments at a preliminary NAFTA chapter 19 hearing on Super Calendered Paper, supporting Canada's defense in Resolute V. GOC and Bilcon v. GOC collaborating with GOC and other government departments to monitor developments related to other emerging trade issues.
- Anticipated and mitigated risks and compliance issues across government through implementing a Trade Implementation Committee, developing a Trade Policy Handbook which was distributed across government and working directly with other government departments on trade risk assessments in a number of areas, such as labour mobility and alcohol.

Military Relations

Nova Scotia is Canada's only province with a Minister responsible for Military Relations. This reflects the long and proud history of the military in the province and its importance to Nova Scotia. The mandate is to: maintain a positive working relationship between the provincial government and the headquarters, offices, and agencies of the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Forces in Nova Scotia; and, increase the awareness of the contributions the military makes locally, nationally and internationally, including participation in observances such as Remembrance Day and Cadet Day.

Outcomes

1. Ensure that there is shared understanding of Nova Scotia's defence and veteran related priorities.
2. Nova Scotia is actively engaged with the defence and veteran communities in the province.

Goals

1. Work at enhancing relationships with the most senior military leaders in Nova Scotia to identify initiatives and projects that the province and military can collaborate.
2. Acknowledge and recognize that the military represents a strategic asset for Nova Scotia and is an important part of the province's economic and social fabric.

Actions

- Met with senior leadership members of the Canadian Armed Forces and Veterans Affairs Canada in Nova Scotia to collaborate on topics of mutual interest and concern.
- Launched the DND 404 Equivalency Program to allow service men and women to apply their military vehicle qualifications and training in the civilian workforce in Nova Scotia.
- Government caucus participated in military and veteran-related events and ceremonies during 2016-2017 that commemorated those that serve and who have served Canada.
- The government honoured and recognized cadets, the memory of the HMCS Kootney, the Nova Scotia / Nunavut Command of the Royal Canadian Legion, those who served in the Merchant Navy and the Centennial Anniversary of the No. 2 Construction Black Battalion, CEF.
- Government continued to support local community organizations and groups in Nova Scotia who play an important role in remembering the brave men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice for Canada.

The Protocol Office

The Protocol Office co-ordinates official ceremonies and events, as well as official visits by Members of the Royal Family, Heads of State and Government, Ambassadors, High Commissioners and Consuls General. The Office manages and administers the Order of Nova Scotia Program, the Premier's Congratulatory Message Service, and the Government Gift Bank. In addition, the Protocol Office provides consulting services to government departments, non-government organizations and the public.

Outcomes

1. Nova Scotia's interests and priorities are communicated to other foreign governments.
2. Nova Scotia has a positive national and international profile.

Goals

1. To promote the interests of the province to foreign governments.
2. To Increase the profile of the province and its people.

Actions

- The Protocol Office promoted the interests of Nova Scotia by ensuring that all diplomatic visits matched the Province's strategic interests with appropriate departmental and ministerial advice, consultation and representation. In total, it managed eight diplomatic visits over the fiscal year.
- On a day-to-day basis, the Protocol Office provided protocol advice to government departments, the public and consular community.
- The Protocol Office coordinated the Order of Nova Scotia program. Its outreach efforts resulted in approximately 100 nominations. As a result, 5 of these Nova Scotians were selected and honored with the Order of Nova Scotia, and their accomplishments showcased with strong internet and media attention. In the past year, the program has been promoted through traditional and social media, resulting in national coverage.
- Successful planning and support of official visits by dignitaries and diplomats, and the hosting of representatives from other jurisdictions, helped to project the province in a positive light and facilitate cross-cultural communication and trade. The Protocol Office also facilitated communication with the Honorary Consular Corp. The Protocol Office has been working with the Waterfront Development Corporation to achieve its goals with Rendez-vous 2017. The Office of Protocol continued to liaise with the Prince's Charities Canada.
- The Protocol Gift Bank increased the visibility of Nova Scotia inside and outside the Province through sales of local arts and crafts. It made almost 1700 sales in 2016-17 representing 110 artists in Nova Scotia.

Government House

An important aspect of Intergovernmental Affairs is its operation of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor/Government House. Intergovernmental Affairs provided administrative and logistical support enabling the Lieutenant Governor to exercise the constitutional powers and responsibilities of the Office and to undertake representational, ceremonial and civic duties.

Outcome

The constitutionally defined and legal function of the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia is fulfilled.

Goals

1. To fulfill the constitutionally defined and legal function of the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia.

2. To support communities and the people in Nova Scotia by celebrating their accomplishments, people and history.

Actions

- Lieutenant Governor Grant presided over a series of First World War Commemorations both at Government House and locations around the province.
- The Lieutenant Governor hosted the annual conference of the Governor General, Lieutenant Governors and Territorial Commissioners at Government House.
- The Office of the Lieutenant Governor made the necessary preparations for the transition to a new Lieutenant Governor.
- Eighteen Canada 150 events were planned and executed in honour of the Sesquicentennial of Confederation.
- Three high profile events involving the Mi'kmaq were organized and held by Government House; Treaty Day Flag Raising & Reception; We are all Treaty People, Treaty Commemoration Event; Ceremony granting a free pardon to Grand Chief Gabrielle Sylliboy.
- The Lieutenant Governor carried out 241 in-house and external events on behalf of the Crown.
- The Lieutenant Governor presented awards and honours in Halifax and other communities throughout the province.
- The Lieutenant Governor carried out the prescribed constitutional duties (Royal Assent, Speech from the Throne, signing of commissions and orders-in-council, swearing in members of the Executive Council, meeting with the Premier).
- Government House welcomed nearly 14,000 visitors through official events and public tour programming.

*Annual Report under Section 18 of the **Public Interest Disclosure of Wrongdoing Act***

The *Public Interest Disclosure of Wrongdoing Act* was proclaimed into law on December 20, 2011.

The Act provides for government employees to be able to come forward if they reasonably believe that a wrongdoing has been committed or is about to be committed and they are acting in good faith.

The Act also protects employees who do disclose from reprisals, by enabling them to lay a complaint of reprisal with the Labor Board.

A Wrongdoing for the purposes of the Act is:

- a) a contravention of provincial or federal laws or regulations
- b) a misuse or gross mismanagement of public funds or assets
- c) an act or omission that creates an imminent risk of a substantial and specific danger to the life, health or safety of persons or the environment, or
- d) directing or counselling someone to commit a wrongdoing

The following is a summary of disclosures received by Intergovernmental Affairs:

Information Required under Section 18 of the Act	Fiscal Year 2016 - 2017
The number of disclosures received	0
The number of findings of wrongdoing	0
Details of each wrongdoing (insert separate row for each wrongdoing)	N/A
Recommendations and actions taken on each wrongdoing (insert separate row for each wrongdoing)	N/A