



# **Business Plan**

**2023-24**

**Advanced Education**

**NOVA SCOTIA**

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Budget 2023-24: Business Plan  
March 2023  
ISBN 978-1-77448-508-8

# Department of Advanced Education 2023-24 Priority Actions in Support of Government's Business Plan

The Department supports the post-secondary education sector in the province through the provision of funding and working in partnership with post-secondary institutions, Research Nova Scotia, and others, to advance initiatives that support government priorities. The Department oversees Nova Scotia's 10 universities and the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC), regulates private career colleges and language schools, manages the Nova Scotia Student Assistance Program and Post-Secondary Accessibility Services, and is responsible for the legislation that created Research Nova Scotia.

## 2023-24 Priority Actions in Support of Government's Business Plan

### **Supporting a student-centered post-secondary education system where all learners thrive**

- In 2023-24, Advanced Education will continue to work in partnership with other government departments, including the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing on developing a Student Housing Strategy.
- Through participation on the *Post-Secondary Advisory Council on African Nova Scotian and Black Students*, Advanced Education will finalize and begin supporting the post-secondary institutions to implement a framework for post-secondary recruitment and retention.
- The *Mi'kmaq and Indigenous Post-Secondary Recruitment and Retention Advisory Committee*, led by Advanced Education, will continue to advance and implement its Strategic Plan on Recruitment and Retention of Mi'kmaq and Indigenous Post-Secondary Students.
- In 2023-24, the Department will finalize its work on the development and implementation of stand-alone sexual violence prevention policies at all private career colleges in Nova Scotia. All Nova Scotia universities and the NSCC already have policies in place and the Department works with these institutions to ensure these policies are updated every three years.

### **Driving a high-quality, relevant, accountable, and sustainable post-secondary education system**

- Since the current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with universities expires in 2024, Advanced Education will work with the universities to establish the framework that will replace the existing MOU.
- Advanced Education will advance the recognition and use of the newly created micro-credentials framework in support of lifelong learning and labour market needs. The framework was developed in collaboration with Labour, Skills & Immigration; Education and Early Childhood Development; Nova Scotia universities; NSCC; various sector councils; and the federal government. A micro-credential is a recognition of assessed skill or competency earned through a short duration or applied learning experience and can stand alone or connect to other credentials and align with sector, employer, profession, community, or learner need.

- The Department completed the Minister mandate item to review university charters and acts and their respective governance models and structures. In 2023-24, the Department will be moving forward with research on various other topics that were identified during the governance review, such as research priorities and program approvals.
- The Department will continue to work with the Department of Health and Wellness (DHW), Nova Scotia Health and other partners to expand training opportunities in strategic high need areas to support the province's health workforce. In 2023-24, the Department will be expanding training opportunities for the Medical Laboratory Technologist (MLT) program for Nova Scotians and will fund and support an MLT bridging program for internationally trained health care professionals looking to work in Nova Scotia.
- Advanced Education will continue to support private career colleges, NSCC and Université Sainte-Anne as they deliver, or prepare to deliver, a progressive education training model for Continuing Care Assistants (CCAs). The CCA Tuition Bursary, provided by the Department of Seniors and Long-Term Care, is a multi-year initiative aimed to increase the number of registered CCAs in the province. In 2023-24, Advanced Education will continue to support the post-secondary institutions as they work to increase enrolment to meet the CCA targets.
- In 2023-24, Advanced Education will continue to support Dalhousie, DHW, Cape Breton University, and other partners as new medical residency seats in family medicine are created across the province. The Department will continue to support the designated pathway to medical residency for international medical graduates (IMGs) studying outside Canada as well as the new focused residency pathway for IMGs with a connection to Nova Scotia. In addition, Advanced Education will be supporting ongoing work to further identify opportunities to increase residency options in rural areas of the province.
- The Department will work in collaboration with DHW, Nova Scotia Health and post-secondary institutions to explore opportunities to enhance the clinical nursing placement process to ensure nursing students receive the training they need for the workplace.

## **Promoting Nova Scotia as a center for research and innovation excellence**

- In 2023-24, the Department will continue to support Research Nova Scotia's mission-oriented research approach and provide leadership and oversight through participation on the Board.
- The Department will continue to support Mitacs internships through additional provincial investments to increase the number of work integrated learning opportunities in Nova Scotia by up to 3,244 internships. Mitacs connects eligible partners (businesses, not for profits, municipalities, or hospitals) with highly skilled post-secondary students as well as postdoctoral fellows to solve research and innovation challenges.
- Advanced Education will continue to work with and support the Nova Scotia Post-Secondary Education Sandboxes which provide post-secondary students access to mentors and advisers to develop an entrepreneurial mindset and to help foster an enthusiasm and capacity for innovation and entrepreneurship.
- The Department will develop and finalize an innovation framework to be used with partners to advance research and innovation that supports provincial priorities.

## Financial Summary

<b>Departmental Expenses Summary</b>			
<b>(\$ thousands)</b>			
<b><u>Programs and Services</u></b>	<b><u>2022 -2023</u></b> <b><u>Estimate</u></b>	<b><u>2022-2023</u></b> <b><u>Forecast</u></b>	<b><u>2023-2024</u></b> <b><u>Estimate</u></b>
Administration	633	641	661
Policy and Corporate Services	1,391	2,122	1,442
Program Service and Delivery	61,997	62,313	73,059
Nova Scotia Community College	160,112	160,433	170,645
Grants to Universities	452,484	612,559	461,427
<b>Total - Departmental Expenses</b>	<b><u>676,617</u></b>	<b><u>838,068</u></b>	<b><u>707,234</u></b>
<b>Ordinary Recoveries</b>	9,049	11,201	11,449
<b><u>Funded Staff (# of FTEs)</u></b>			
<b>Department Funded Staff</b>	76.0	63.9	74.0

**Note:**  
 For Ordinary Revenues, see Estimates and Supplementary Detail Book, Chapter 2  
 For TCA Purchase Requirements, see Estimates and Supplementary Detail Book, Chapter 1

