



BUSINESS PLAN

2024-25

Municipal Affairs
and Housing

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Budget 2024-25: Business Plan
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The Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing

2024-25 Priority Actions in Support of Government's Business Plan

The Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing (DMAH) provides programs, grants, and funding along with services and guidance to municipalities, towns and villages in many areas including safety and security, budget planning and finance, and policy and program development. The Department helps municipalities across the province govern and provide municipal services in times of emergency. DMAH is responsible for the Emergency Management Office and the Office of the Fire Marshal. DMAH works to create conditions favourable to the development of housing and to grow affordable housing within the province.

Housing

- Advance the Implementation of the 12 Key Actions of the Provincial Housing Plan, *Our Homes, Action for Housing*, to create the conditions for more housing options in collaboration with our partners. The Department will advance these initiatives under the three strategic solutions:
 - Increase housing supply
 - Grow and sustain affordable housing
 - Deliver programs people need.
- Key performance indicators and metrics will be developed to track initiatives underway in each of these areas, and monitor progress toward the five-year targets:
 - Create the conditions and pave the way for 41,200 new household units
 - Help make 17,250 household units more affordable
 - Improve housing conditions for more than 47,900 households.

Working with the Nova Scotia Provincial Housing Agency (NSPHA)

- Work with the NSPHA to advance the priorities of the Government of Nova Scotia as outlined in *Our Homes, Action for Housing*, to ensure that more individuals and families have access to public housing that they can afford and meets their diverse needs. This will include collaborating on key initiatives, such as strategic asset management, to ensure that the housing portfolio is sustainable into the future, in the best interest of client outcomes, and providing responsible stewardship of public resources.
- Establish information-sharing agreements with the NSPHA to achieve efficiencies and to better serve shared clients.

Municipal Government

- Implement a renegotiated Service Exchange Agreement by working with government partners to develop necessary regulations.
- Support the operations of local governments through the continued delivery of municipal programming and statutory grants.
- Assess municipal financial health and fiscal responsibility through financial analysis and use of tools to identify risk such as the Financial Condition Indicators (FCIs).
- Support municipal elections through the delivery of training modules for Returning Officers in preparation for municipal elections in October 2024.
- Support newly elected municipal leaders through the delivery of new councillor orientation sessions to all councillors following municipal elections in October 2024.
- Seek ways to address any legislative barriers related to housing development and/or the needs of our municipal partners.

Emergency Services: NSEMO & OFM

- Proceed with planning and development for the deployment of Next Generation 911; an initiative aimed at updating infrastructure to improve public emergency communications.
- Promote a culture of preparedness with municipalities while engaging provincial departments, critical infrastructure providers, and other key stakeholders to build and sustain capabilities for a whole of government approach to emergency management.
- Support Fire Services in the province through training, fire investigations, and in meeting their reporting requirements under the *Fire Safety Act*.
- Work with the Fire Service Association of Nova Scotia (FSANS) on issues impacting the fire service through-out the province.
- Implement process and system improvements to align with the recommendations of the May 2023 Auditor General report.

Planning and Infrastructure

- Commence a review of the Statement of Provincial Interest Regarding Housing to support increasing the supply of housing.
- Support the work of the Department of Environment and Climate Change and municipalities through continuing to administer the Municipal Flood Line Mapping Program and developing a Municipal Stormwater Management Planning Project.
- Administer Provincial and Federal funding programs that encourage housing and support community needs in the areas of water and wastewater, climate change, transit, and other local priorities.
- Work to deliver annual Provincial programs that target capital investments in our communities addressing emergency services, help identify and mitigate potential flood risks, encourage municipal collaboration, and support upgrades to water, wastewater, and solid waste.

Accessibility and Equity

- Work with the Accessibility Directorate and municipalities to look at how accessibility can be added to the Statements of Provincial Interest.
- Implement the DMAH and government-wide commitments in the Government of Nova Scotia Accessibility Plan 2022-25 and Equity and Anti-Racism Strategy. This includes supporting municipalities to implement and renew accessibility plans, prepare to comply with the built environment accessibility standard, and develop equity and anti-racism plans.
- Work with the Accessibility Directorate and the Office of Equity and Anti-Racism to ensure that the municipal perspective is heard with respect to the implementation of the Accessibility and Dismantling Racism and Hate Acts and the Access by Design 2030 strategy.

Municipal Affairs and Housing			
	2023-2024	2023-2024	2024-2025
	Estimate	Forecast	Estimate
Program & Service Area	(\$ thousands)	(\$ thousands)	(\$ thousands)
Departmental Expenses:			
Senior Management	1,097	1,017	1,061
Corporate Policy and Innovation	1,580	1,881	1,871
Municipal Sustainability	295,215	345,622	390,714
Emergency Measures Office	12,880	71,205	12,829
Housing	243,626	293,222	273,580
Total Departmental Expenses	554,398	712,947	680,055
Additional Information:			
Ordinary Recoveries	283,352	306,933	377,215
TCA Purchase Requirements	23,598	20,192	51,021
Funded Staff (Net FTE's)	178.8	166.1	179.8