



Business Plan

2019–20

Department of Seniors



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Budget 2019-20: Business Plan
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Message from the Minister



The first of the baby boomers have turned 70 and by 2030 more than 1 in 4 Nova Scotians will be 65 and over. There is a demographic shift happening in Nova Scotia. Our Government is leading the discussion to reframe how we think about aging by continuing to create and foster environments that help our older adults thrive.

Our 2019-2020 Business Plan outlines the specific actions the Department of Seniors will take to continue to be at the forefront of this shift in thinking.

Government's three-year action plan was launched in March 2017. This year, in collaboration with partner departments and organizations, we will focus on achieving all 50+ specific actions outlined in Shift: Nova Scotia's Action Plan for an Aging Population. These actions embrace and celebrate the social and economic contributions of older adults; promote healthy, active lifestyles; and help Nova Scotians stay connected to their communities as they age at home. Through ongoing implementation and evaluation, we have already begun thinking about the best way to continue to drive this important agenda.

We will continue to administer two grant programs. Our Senior Safety Program grants increase awareness and knowledge among older adults, families, government partners, and community organizations about senior abuse, crime prevention and the well-being of older adults. Our Age Friendly Community Grant program supports projects that encourage age friendly community planning across Nova Scotia.

I'm proud of the work being done by NSGovLab, the province's first social innovation lab, whose main goal is to change the way society views aging by creating policies, programs and services to meet the need of this vibrant population. Partners from all walks of life are creating and testing projects using a human-centered design approach.

I look forward to supporting this continued focus on our changing demographics. Together, we can continue to value, support, and promote Nova Scotia as a better place for all.

Original signed by Minister

Honourable Leo Glavine, Minister
Department of Seniors.

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Department Mandate

The Nova Scotia Department of Seniors has the mandate to lead, coordinate, and monitor the implementation of *SHIFT: Nova Scotia's Action Plan for an Aging Population*; as well as continue to lead the development of policy and advice that values, promotes and supports the economic and social participation and contribution of older adults to all aspects of Nova Scotia life.

The Department also collaborates with multiple stakeholders and partners (including older adults) to discuss, share and leverage information, facilitate and undertake research, and effectively utilize evidence-informed knowledge. The goal of this collaboration is to work together to support Nova Scotians to actively and progressively age in safe, healthy, and age-friendly communities.

SHIFT: Nova Scotia's Action Plan for an Aging Population

Fiscal year 2019-2020 marks year 3 of the implementation of *SHIFT: Nova Scotia's Action Plan for An Aging Population*. The action plan is a government-wide initiative, with the vision: "Together, Nova Scotians value, support and promote older adults and their contribution to Nova Scotia".

The overall responsibility for coordinating, implementing the action plan, and reporting on progress rests with the Minister and Deputy Minister of Seniors.

As demonstrated by this government-wide initiative, the complexity and inter-connectedness of the issues and opportunities associated with an aging population mean that an integrated and coordinated approach to government policy and planning is imperative. There are many players within, and outside of government, including older adults themselves who have crucially important roles to play in advancing the interests of older adults in Nova Scotia.

The *SHIFT* action plan has three main goals:

- Value the social and economic contribution of older adults;
- Promote healthy, active living; and,
- Support aging in place, connected to community life

The plan also includes a series of activities to ensure that government decision-making and the development of programs and services are evidence informed.

Priority Activities for 2019-2020

- Work with partner departments and organizations to continue the implementation of *SHIFT*.
- Continue to collaborate within the other provinces and the federal government to undertake initiatives to advance important issues of common concern pertaining to the wellbeing of older adults.
- Research on barriers to employment participation for older workers from the perspective of public policy impact, employers, and older adults.
- Collaborating with Service Nova Scotia (SNS) and the Department of Community Services (DCS) to facilitate legislative and administrative changes to the Property Tax Rebate for Seniors (PTRS) program.
- Promote and educate employers about the value of older workers and age-friendly workplaces in partnership with Labour and Advanced Education and other governments.
- Partner with organizations involved in entrepreneurship education to promote entrepreneurship, including social entrepreneurship, as a viable option for older adults.
- Work with partner organizations to promote mentorship opportunities for older adults.
- Work with the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM - formerly UNSM) and stakeholders to establish a Joint NS Municipal Steering Committee on Aging to promote and support the development of Age-friendly Communities and address issues of joint concern.
- Refine the administration and workflow, as well as continue funding the Age-friendly Communities Grant program to support municipal governments and community-based organizations to engage in age-friendly community planning across the province.
- Expand the Senior Safety Program to more communities in Nova Scotia.
- Use the Social Innovation Lab to explore the viability of new solutions to complex challenges and opportunities associated with an aging population.
- Publish and distribute the 2019/20 Positive Aging Directory.
- Provide Secretariat support to and collaborate with the Seniors Advisory Council of Nova Scotia (Group of IX).
- Working as part of the Data Validation group developing a Data Sharing Protocol to leverage data across Social Policy Departments to inform program decisions and support complex social policy issues.

Departmental Expenses Summary

| Departmental Expenses Summary (\$ thousands) | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <u>Programs and Services</u> | <u>2018-2019 Estimate</u> | <u>2018-2019 Forecast</u> | <u>2019-2020 Estimate</u> |
| Office of the Deputy Minister | 233 | 122 | 237 |
| General Administration | 330 | 339 | 340 |
| Age Friendly | 759 | 759 | 761 |
| Safety For Seniors | 569 | 629 | 675 |
| Policy and Planning (renamed, was Seniors Programs) | 305 | 311 | 195 |
| Group of Nine | 17 | 15 | 17 |
| Social Innovation Lab | 496 | 465 | 496 |
| Total - Departmental Expenses | <u>2,709</u> | <u>2,640</u> | <u>2721</u> |
| | | | |
| Ordinary Recoveries | --- | --- | --- |
| | | | |
| <u>Funded Staff (# of FTEs)</u> | | | |
| Department Funded Staff | 9.00 | 9.50 | 9.00 |
| | | | |
| Note: | | | |
| For Ordinary Revenues, see Estimates and Supplementary Detail Book, Chapter 2 | | | |
| For TCA Purchase Requirements, see Estimates and Supplementary Detail Book, Chapter 1 | | | |

