



Accountability Report

2018–2019

Seniors



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Accountability Report 2018–2019

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Accountability Statement

The Accountability Report of the Department of Seniors for the year ended March 31, 2019 is prepared pursuant to the Finance Act and government policies and guidelines. These authorities require the reporting of outcomes against the Department of Seniors Business Plan for the fiscal year just ended. The reporting of the Department outcomes necessarily includes estimates, judgments and opinions by Department of Seniors management.

We acknowledge that this Accountability Report is the responsibility of Department of Seniors 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 Seniors 2018-2019 Business Plan.

Department of Seniors

Original signed by Minister

Leo A. Glavine, Minister

Original signed by Deputy Minister

Simon d'Entremont
Deputy Minister

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Message from the Minister

Over the past year, the Department of Seniors has made significant strides in addressing government's priority to value, promote and support older adults and their contribution to Nova Scotia.

2018-2019 marked the second year of implementing *SHIFT*: Nova Scotia's Action Plan for an Aging Population and the more than 50 actions outlined in that plan. We released an 18-month progress report highlighting the achievements of these important programs, supports and projects across the province. Government, community groups and other partners are leading this work to help older adults stay involved and connected with their communities, stay physically active, and support their social and economic contributions. We look forward to continuing this work in the coming year.

An important part of *SHIFT* is our Senior Safety program. The department supported 16 projects that aim to address safety concerns of older adults by promoting education and awareness of senior abuse, crime prevention, and safety and health issues. We also funded the creation and implementation of 35 projects encouraging inclusive and engaging communities for all ages through our Age Friendly Community Grant program.

NS GovLab, the province's first social innovation lab, has been working with community members to develop ideas and prototypes for programs and services to support our older adults. GovLab is developing partnerships with community groups to gain insight from diverse perspectives. With a human-centered design approach, the goal is to change the way society views aging by creating policies, programs and services to meet the needs of an aging population.

The department will continue to work collaboratively across government and foster our relationships with municipalities, businesses and community stakeholders to encourage the development of inclusive, safe, age-friendly communities. By improving services, policies and structures, we will ensure Nova Scotians continue to remain engaged, active and healthy members in their communities.

I am pleased to share the 2018-2019 Accountability Report for the Department of Seniors. This report provides an outline of the various ways the Department of Seniors worked with partners and lead initiatives to enhance the lives of older adults in Nova Scotia. Together we are overcoming challenges, redefining what aging means and discovering opportunities.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by Minister

Leo A. Glavine
Minister of Seniors

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Financial Results

<u>Programs and Services</u>	<u>2018-2019 Estimate</u>	<u>2018-2019 Actuals</u>	<u>2018-2019 Variance</u>
Office of the Deputy Minister	233	119	(114)
General Administration	330	344	14
Age Friendly	759	793	34
Safety for Seniors	569	609	40
Policy and Planning	305	253	(52)
Group of Nine	17	13	(4)
Social Innovation Lab	496	460	(36)
Total - Departmental Expenses	2,709	2,591	(118)
 Ordinary Recoveries	 ---	 ---	 ---
 <u>Funded Staff (# of FTEs)</u>			
Department Funded Staff	9.00	9.5	0.5

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Measuring Our Performance

Mandate (Dept. of Seniors), & *SHIFT: Nova Scotia's Action Plan for an Aging Population*

"The Nova Scotia Department of Seniors provides policy leadership and coordination across government to value, promote and support the participation in and contribution by older adults to all aspects of Nova Scotia life"... Between 2017 and 2020, the Department of Seniors will oversee the implementation and monitoring of *SHIFT: Nova Scotia's Action Plan for An Aging Population*. The action plan is a government-wide initiative, with the following vision: Together, Nova Scotians value, support and promote older adults and their contribution to Nova Scotia."

- *2018-2019 Business Plan, Dept. of Seniors.*

"Nova Scotia demographics are shifting. By 2030, more than one in four Nova Scotians will be aged 65 and over. Some might consider this a challenge. We see an opportunity."

- *2018-2019 Business Plan, Dept. of Seniors.*

"SHIFT pushes all of us to think differently about our changing demographics and to consider the opportunities and benefits that come with an older, more experienced population."

- *2018 Nova Scotia Throne Speech*

The Department of Seniors is also leading the effort to actively seek new policy initiatives and ways to improve and augment the plan's objectives for the long term in a bid to 'embrace the boom' and reap this aging dividend.

Department Accomplishments for 2018-2019

- **The Three (3) main Goals (pillars) of *SHIFT: Nova Scotia's Action Plan for an Aging Population***
www.novascotia.ca/shift

GOAL: Value the social and economic contributions of older adults

With their knowledge and experience, older Nova Scotians help drive our economy and keep our communities going.

GOAL: Promote healthy, active living

With good health, older Nova Scotians can pursue their goals, live independently.

GOAL: Support aging in place, connected to community life

Aging in place means older Nova Scotians can grow older in their homes and stay involved and connected to their communities.

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- **Caregiver Benefit Program Expansion**

In accord with the 2017 Throne speech, which committed to an expansion of the Caregiver Benefit Program, more Nova Scotians are now receiving support for providing care to adults living at home through the expansion of eligibility for the Caregiver Benefit Program announced in March 2018. The eligibility criteria expanded to include people who help care for those assessed as having high to very high care needs to ease the financial responsibility often associated with caregiving and allow more Nova Scotians to live in their homes for as long as possible.

- **Implementation of *SHIFT*: stages of progress**

The government is committed to implementing the specific actions of *SHIFT* in fiscal years 2017/18 through 2020/21 and beyond. Progressively understanding the diversity of older Nova Scotians and building on their strengths will help make Nova Scotia a better place for all of us.

In early 2019 we released a *SHIFT* 18-month progress report based primarily on lead department submissions from Spring 2018.

- **Leading, coordinating and collaborative efforts with partners in implementing *SHIFT***

The Minister and Deputy Minister of Seniors have overall responsibility for coordinating and implementing the *SHIFT* action plan, creating an evaluation framework, and reporting annually on progress.

Deputy Ministers and Deputy Heads of other departments and agencies are responsible for reporting their activities related to the *SHIFT* action plan in their annual business plans.

- **Partnerships with federal and other jurisdictions to leverage and advance knowledge related to aging populations**

Staff of the Departments of Seniors (DoS) participate on several multi-jurisdictional (Federal-Provincial-Territorial) committees and working groups (e.g. Labour Market Participation of an Aging Workforce Working Group) aimed at facilitating research, advancing and leveraging knowledge and best practice to inform policy and decision making and practices related to an aging population.

A Joint Nova Scotia Municipal Steering Committee on Aging is being established to advance a number of shared priorities under the established MOU between the Province and the NSFM.

Working with Acadia Centre for Business and Third Sector Enhancement on a 3-year

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\$30,000 per year funded pilot program “Redefining Retirement” that helps participants find purpose, passion and opportunity as an older adult. In 2018, sessions were held in St. Margaret’s Bay, Windsor/West Hants and Yarmouth County, with additional sessions planned for 2019.

In collaboration with the Acadia Entrepreneurship Centre, who presented “Older Adults and Entrepreneurship: Motivation, Barriers and Unexpected Opportunities” at the NSCDA’s annual conference in September with 60 attendees.

- **Efforts to facilitate and leverage research and provide policy advice related to aging and our aging population**

The Department of Seniors partnered with the Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation to host an information session on May 4, 2018 for government partners on opportunities to collaborate and access data and research from the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging.

- **Expansion and strengthening (to more communities) the Senior Safety Program**

We presently have 16 multi-year funding agreements across the province for the development of Seniors’ Safety Programs in their county, (Victoria County and Colchester County) were funded in the 2017-2018.

- **Efforts to educate employers about the value of older workers and age-friendly workplaces in partnership with Labour and Advanced Education**

LAE and Seniors have collaborated on the creation of free age-friendly workplaces series of modules for NS Skills Online. The series includes information on the benefits to hiring older workers, and how to create inclusive, all-ages friendly work environments where older workers are valued and supported.

- **Efforts to promote mentorship opportunities for older adults**

Seniors currently partners with Dalhousie University Continuing Education to pilot Mentoring Plus sessions in communities (e.g., New Glasgow, Sydney, Truro, Kentville) which brings together retirees who want to share their skills, knowledge and networks with groups of unemployed young adults who need help determining a career path.

The Public Service Commission (PSC) is working to include more older adults as mentors and mentees in the government’s mentorship program. The iNSpire Mentorship program was launched to several departments and networks in Fall 2017, and it became available to all employees in 2018. All ages and levels of employees are encouraged to participate in the program as either mentors or mentees.

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- **Age Friendly Communities Program Funding to support plans and projects**

The Department of Seniors' Age Friendly Communities Grant funding program provides funding up to \$25,000 for planning and projects that lead to more age-friendly and inclusive communities. Close to 50 applications were received and \$390,000 was awarded in 2017/18, and 82 applications received and over \$375,000 awarded in 2018/19 to fund a range of initiatives that advance the goals of *SHIFT*.

- **Social Innovation Lab/NS Govlab Initiative**

Established a social innovation lab focused on aging that can study and develop ways to address complex issues associated with an aging population. The call for applications to the fellowship program was launched in February 2018.

The first cohort of 24 fellows comprised of public servants, academics, private sector and passionate citizens formed 4 teams (2 focused on intergenerational connections and 2 on aging-in-place) to develop and test prototypes to address the different impacts of an aging population; they were selected from 80 applications. The second cohort of fellows has also been selected, and they are now in the second phase, having concluded their immersive phase at the end of January 2019.

- **Hosted a TedEx Aging well conference**

In partnership with the Nova Scotia Centre on Aging (NSCA), a TEDx MSVU Aging Well conference was successfully hosted at the Mount Saint Vincent University (MSVU) on October 4, 2018.

- **Public Education Campaign efforts and activities**

A video to combat ageism titled "Beyond the Number" was created for television and social media in fall 2017. A second video titled "Shift – Change Your Perception" that states we can shift attitudes about aging and focus on valuing and supporting the contributions of older adults was developed and released.

- **Develop a provincial approach to encourage physical activity and recreational strategies that includes middle-aged and older adults**

CCH launched "Let's Get Moving Nova Scotia: an action plan for increasing physical activity" on November 8, 2018. The plan includes emphasis on activity types, actions and content aimed on reaching diverse communities, and fit the needs of the aging population.

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- **Deliver a Community-based transportation strategy and solution for Nova Scotia**

The Action Plan was developed and received funding (\$2.4M) in 2018-19. This initiative especially benefits rural Nova Scotians, older adults, those living in poverty, persons with disabilities and youth who currently lack access to transportation.

Improving access to community transportation supports Nova Scotians in all aspects of their lives: from accessing jobs, education and recreation opportunities to health care services. This strengthens our communities and our economy.

- **Cultural competency training activities for government employees regarding ageism, etc.**

Cultural competence is included as both content and outcome of the PSC's training on Diversity and Inclusion and in the Diversity Certificate. The PSC also provides department/business unit training. In the last couple years, the PSC did group training with multiple departments and business units. This helps deliver one of our SHIFT goal to improve on how we work with diverse Seniors communities.

- **Silver Economy Summit**

The Department of Seniors partnered with the Halifax Chamber of Commerce to host a Silver Economy Summit in Halifax in March 2018 with a focus on technology and aging. There were over 200 participants for the summit, which a trade show representing over a dozen organizations discussing their products and services for older adults. Two companies (Checkin and Paraglide) were awarded funds through *SHIFT* competition for developing products to support aging in place.

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Supplemental Information and Appendices

Key/Interesting Facts about our Work

FACT: Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Florida have the oldest populations among all states, provinces and territories in North America.

Deputy Minister Simon d'Entremont insists that's not a bad thing but an opportunity.....

"We have to stop looking at aging as a problem to be solved and see it as the opportunity it is."

SHIFT

Deputy d'Entremont presented a talk at the TEDx MSVU Aging Well titled *"Shifting the conversation about an aging population"* in October 2018 wherein he counters what we have come to think about aging against what the evidence tells us, busting some commonly held myths about health, engagement, and independence that contribute to ageism.

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Appendix A: Public Interest and Wrongdoing Act

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 the Department of Seniors

Information Required under Section 18 of the Act	Fiscal Year 2018-2019
The number of disclosures received	No disclosures were received by the department in 2018-2019.
The number of findings of wrongdoing	n/a
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