

Accountability Report

2016–2017

Department of Seniors
July 2017

Table of Contents

Accountability Statement	2
Message from the Minister	3
Financial Results.....	4
Measuring Our Performance	5
Department Accomplishments for 2016-2017.....	5
Stakeholder feedback	6
Appendix I.....	7

Department of Seniors Accountability Report 2016 - 2017

Accountability Statement

The Accountability Report of the Department of Seniors for the year ended March 31, 2017 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 of Seniors 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 2016-2017 Business Plan.

Department of Seniors

Original signed by Minister

Leo A. Glavine, Minister

Original signed by Deputy Minister

Simon d'Entremont
Deputy Minister

Department of Seniors Accountability Report 2016 - 2017

Message from the Minister

I am pleased to present the 2016-2017 Accountability Report for the Department of Seniors, a summary of its activities and achievements over the past year. The department leads government's efforts to ensure that the issues, opportunities and contributions of older Nova Scotians are considered, included and addressed in government decision making.

In March, Premier McNeil launched *SHIFT: Nova Scotia's Action Plan for an Aging Population*. *SHIFT* is a response to aging of our population that recognizes the important contribution that older adults make to our province. The Department of Seniors has overall responsibility for coordinating and implementing *SHIFT* and reporting annually on its progress.

More than 600 Nova Scotians and organizations gave input to *SHIFT*. The result was a plan that includes more than 50 actions assigned to ten government departments and the two health authorities over the next three years. *SHIFT* has three major goals: value the paid and unpaid work of older adults; promote healthy, active living; and support Nova Scotians to age-in-place while remaining connected to their communities.

Working with Nova Scotians to create inclusive, safe and age-friendly communities across the province continues to be a priority of the Department of Seniors. In 2016-2017, the department awarded 47 grants totaling more than \$585,000 to communities and organizations across Nova Scotia. The grants supported senior safety programs and age-friendly community activities and planning.

The Department of Seniors will continue to work with our partners across government, municipalities, businesses, community stakeholders and with older adults themselves. This will ensure Nova Scotians remain engaged, active and healthy members in their communities as they age.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by Minister

Leo A. Glavine
Minister of Seniors

Department of Seniors Accountability Report 2016 - 2017

Financial Results

<u>Programs and Services</u>	<u>2016-2017 Estimate</u>	<u>2016-2017 Actuals</u>	<u>2016-2017 Variance</u>
Office of the Deputy Minister	240	218	(22)
General Administration	472	435	(37)
Age Friendly	410	370	(40)
Safety for Seniors	323	337	14
Policy and Planning	133	151	18
Group of Nine	20	15	(5)
Total - Departmental Expenses	<u>1,598</u>	<u>1,526</u>	<u>(72)</u>
 Ordinary Recoveries	 ---	 ---	 ---
 <u>Funded Staff (# of FTEs)</u>			
Department Funded Staff	7.00	6.8	(0.2)

Department of Seniors Accountability Report 2016 - 2017

Measuring Our Performance

“In its policy coordination role, and as the central point of contact for seniors’ issues in the Nova Scotia government, the department will lead a coordinated effort to ensure that the issues, opportunities and contributions of older Nova Scotians are considered, included and addressed in government decision making.”

2016-2017 Business Plan, Department of Seniors

Department Accomplishments for 2016-2017

- *SHIFT: Nova Scotia’s Action Plan for an Aging Population* www.novascotia.ca/shift

Creating *SHIFT: Nova Scotia’s Action Plan for an Aging Population*, was a major focus of the work of the Department of Seniors in 2016-2017.

Through 14 community conversations led by the Nova Scotia Centre on Aging (seven regional meetings; and seven meetings with members of diverse communities), an online and a paper survey, Nova Scotians were asked for input on three major goals. These included: valuing the paid and unpaid work of older adults; promoting healthy, active living; and, supporting Nova Scotians to age-in-place while remaining connected to their communities. More than 600 Nova Scotians and their organizations attended the meetings or provided input through the survey.

An Advisory Committee provided oversight and three working groups with representatives from academia, community, business and government provided expert advice on specific areas of focus. The resulting plan includes 12 major commitments and 53 specific actions assigned to 10 provincial government departments and the two health authorities. Among the commitments are strengthening community transportation, working with municipalities to promote age-friendly community planning, supporting senior entrepreneurship and older workers, addressing income and food security, and promoting physical activity. Many of these activities will involve several departments working together. *SHIFT* will be implemented over three fiscal years (2017-2018 through 2019-2020) with the Department of Seniors taking the lead in coordinating its implementation.

- *Grant programs: Senior Safety; and Age-friendly Communities*

Fifteen community organizations were awarded \$20,000 grants to deliver senior safety programs across Nova Scotia, including a new senior safety program introduced in Richmond County.

More than \$285,000 was awarded to 32 organizations around the province to develop and implement age-friendly community plans and activities. Among the projects awarded

Department of Seniors Accountability Report 2016 - 2017

funding were the development of a home share program in western Nova Scotia, an age-friendly community planning project in Dartmouth, and a province-wide peer-led support mental health promotion initiative that provides community-dwelling seniors with information and tools to support brain health.

Stakeholder feedback

On SHIFT: Nova Scotia's Action Plan for An Aging Population

"This Action Plan is a significant document in that it emphasizes the importance of recognizing, respecting and including the diverse perspectives, needs and experiences of older adults in the development of law, policy, programs and services for the entire population, as well as those targeted specifically at older adults. Every senior is an asset to Nova Scotia and... major contributors to Nova Scotia's social, cultural and economic well-being."

Bill Berryman, Chair
Seniors Advisory Council of Nova Scotia
(Group of IX)

"With the 'oldest' population in Canada at 19.5%, Nova Scotia is positioned to be a leader nationally and internationally in promoting health and wellness of aging population. The SHIFT Action Plan will go a long way in realizing this potential in the province of Nova Scotia."

Dilip V. Jeste, M.D.
Senior Associate Dean for Healthy Aging and
Senior Care; Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry
and Neurosciences
University of California, San Diego

Department of Seniors Accountability Report 2016 - 2017

Appendix I

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

Please use the following format to satisfy the disclosure obligation:

The following is a summary of disclosures received by the Department of Seniors.

Information Required under Section 18 of the Act	Fiscal Year 2016-2017
The number of disclosures received	No disclosures were received by the department in 2016-2017.
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