



BUSINESS PLAN

2024-25

L'nu Affairs

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Budget 2024-25: Business Plan
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Office of L'nu Affairs

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

The Office of L'nu Affairs (OLA) provides a broad range of strategic policy advice and support on multifaceted issues that include formal consultation obligations, tripartite negotiation regarding Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia Aboriginal and Treaty rights, and collaborative and cooperative opportunities that seek to improve Mi'kmaw economic and social prosperity. OLA plays a key role in coordinating and supporting public education and awareness of our shared history with the Mi'kmaq in our province. OLA is working with the Mi'kmaq on the implementation of the *Mi'kmaw Language Act*, which recognizes Mi'kmaq as the original and first language of this land and commits the Province to support its revitalization.

Priority Action Areas:

Negotiations – Advance tripartite Mi'kmaq/Provincial/Federal work on Mi'kmaw Aboriginal and Treaty rights in Nova Scotia.

- The Made-in-Nova Scotia Process is the formal Mi'kmaw rights negotiation process that helps maintain and foster a positive and productive relationship between the Province and the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia.
- In 2024/25, the three Parties will continue to focus on exploring interim and incremental approaches to addressing Mi'kmaw rights in Nova Scotia. This will focus on developing negotiated agreements that bring greater clarity and predictability to the exercise of Mi'kmaw rights. Tripartite work will also continue on Mi'kmaw enhanced social assistance self-governance.
- OLA will continue to support the Ministers of Natural Resources and Renewables and Environment and Climate Change on the inclusion of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas in the Protected Areas Network.

Consultation – The Province has consistent and effective, legally sound mechanisms for consulting with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia when contemplating conduct that may adversely impact Aboriginal and Treaty rights.

- OLA will continue providing advice, policy and leadership as well as developing tools and coordinating support to provincial departments in meeting their duty to consult obligations when contemplating conduct that may adversely impact Mi'kmaw Aboriginal and Treaty rights.
- OLA will continue to monitor Mi'kmaw communities' evolving approaches to consultation, and for those that choose to consult outside of the Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn Negotiation Office (KMKNQ) / Consultation Terms of Reference process, OLA will strive to work with those communities to develop a legally defensible and mutually agreeable consultation approach.
- OLA will continue to support the Mi'kmaq by offering consultation capacity funding where appropriate.
- The Consultation Division will continue to provide advice to project proponents regarding Mi'kmaw engagement and delegated aspects of consultation.
- The Consultation Division will continue to provide training sessions to provincial public servants focused on the duty to consult as it relates to departmental decisions.

Policy and Intergovernmental Initiatives – Productive collaborations with provincial departments, Federal/Provincial/Territorial governments, Mi'kmaw organizations and other external partners.

- OLA will continue to provide strategic advice, coordination and guidance on all Indigenous matters, including engagement, interdepartmentally on a formal basis through the Senior Officials Advisory Committee on L'nu Affairs, and informally through issue coordination and management with provincial departments.
- OLA will work with our Mi'kmaw partners through the Mi'kmaw Language Committee to develop a language revitalization strategy per the *Mi'kmaw Language Act*.
- OLA will continue to support the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs to position Nova Scotia as a world leader in sustainable development.
- OLA will continue to provide direct and leveraged support for major Indigenous initiatives to advance social and economic outcomes for Indigenous people in Nova Scotia through Strategic Funding Initiative Grants and the Aboriginal Community Development Fund.
- In collaboration with Canada and the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia, OLA will continue to lead, fund, and participate in the Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Tripartite Forum to enhance collaboration among the parties and develop initiatives to improve social and economic wellbeing of Mi'kmaq in Nova Scotia.

Public Education and Awareness – Mi'kmaw culture and history provides a foundation for reconciliation and positive relations.

- With contributions from other provincial partner departments (Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage, Education and Early Childhood Development and the Public Service Commission), OLA will continue to provide public education and awareness through the Treaty Education Nova Scotia Initiative established between the Province, Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey and Millbrook First Nation.
- OLA will continue to work across government departments and with Mi'kmaw partners to advance the work of Treaty Education.
- OLA will continue to support the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development with the development of resources on Indian Residential Schools, Treaty Education and reconciliation.

Financial Summary

| Departmental Expenses Summary (\$ thousands) | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| <u>Programs and Services</u> | <u>2023 -2024</u> <u>Estimate</u> | <u>2023-2024</u> <u>Forecast</u> | <u>2024-2025</u> <u>Estimate</u> |
| L'nu Affairs | 4,393 | 4,393 | 4,255 |
| Total - Departmental Expenses | 4,393 | 4,393 | 4,255 |
| Ordinary Recoveries | --- | --- | --- |
| <u>Funded Staff (# of FTEs)</u> | | | |
| Department Funded Staff | 17.5 | 16.5 | 17.5 |