



BUSINESS PLAN

2024-25

Advanced Education

© Crown copyright, Province of Nova Scotia, 2024

Budget 2024-25: Business Plan
February 2024
ISBN 978-1-77448-569-9

Department of Advanced Education Business Plan

The Department of Advanced Education is responsible for the supervision and direction of all affairs and matters relating to post-secondary education in the province including financial assistance for students undertaking post-secondary education. The Department facilitates a proactive and inclusive post-secondary education system through which people learn, grow and thrive. The 2024-25 business plan summarizes the priority actions of the Department under four areas of action. These priority actions support the provincial government's 2024-25 business plan and focus areas of healthcare, the economy and healthy communities.

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

Focusing on the Student Experience and Well-Being

- In 2024-25, the Department will advance initiatives to support the creation of new student housing options on or close to campus. New student housing at the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) Akerley and Pictou campuses is expected to open in September 2024.
- Advanced Education will action next steps to finalize the framework developed by the *Post-Secondary Advisory Council on African Nova Scotian and Black Students* for post-secondary student recruitment and retention.
- The *Mi'kmaq and Indigenous Post-Secondary Recruitment and Retention Advisory Committee*, led by Advanced Education, will move forward with work on Indigenous self-identification and the Truth and Reconciliation poster campaign in 2024-25 as part of the Strategic Plan on Recruitment and Retention of Mi'kmaq and Indigenous Post-Secondary Students.
- In 2024-25, the Department will continue its work on the development and implementation of stand-alone sexual violence prevention policies at all private career colleges in Nova Scotia. All Nova Scotia universities and the NSCC already have policies in place and the Department works with these institutions to ensure these policies are updated every three years.

Responding to Critical Workforce Need

- The Department will continue to work toward a renewed Interprovincial Funding Agreement for the Atlantic Veterinary College. The new agreement supports the recruitment, training and retention of veterinarians in the province to address current and projected labour needs in this field.
- The Department will continue to work closely with the Department of Health and Wellness (DHW), Nova Scotia Health and other partners to expand training opportunities to support the province's health workforce. Specific examples include:
 - Continuing the partnership with the Michener Institute that expands training opportunities in the province for Medical Laboratory Technologists.
 - Work with Acadia University to establish an accredited school of nursing.
 - Work with universities to enhance the admissions process for nursing programs to improve enrollment management.

- Expanding enrolment in the BSc Nursing program at Cape Breton University (CBU) from 21 students to 42 students.
- Continuing support to post-secondary institutions as they work to advance accelerated programming for Continuing Care Assistants.

Modernizing and Accelerating Post-Secondary Education Programming

- The Department, in partnership with Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD), will continue to work with post-secondary institutions in the province to advance programming that accelerates teacher education to address the urgent labour need in this sector. CBU launched an 8-month on-line accelerated Bachelor of Education (B.Ed) program in January 2024. In May 2024, CBU will replace its current 15-month B.Ed program with a 12-month in-person program. The Department will monitor and evaluate the results of the accelerated pilot programming.
- Working closely with EECD, Labour Skills and Immigration, NSCC and the Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency, the Department will explore opportunities for new programming to expose students to skilled trades earlier and provide accelerated pathways to meet labour market demands in skilled trades occupations.
- In 2024-25, the Department will work with the universities, NSCC and EECD to explore the expansion of work integrated learning and dual credentialing opportunities to enhance the post-secondary pathways available to Nova Scotians and respond to the changing needs of the workforce.
- The new NSCC Sydney Waterfront campus is scheduled to open in September 2024, replacing the NSCC Marconi campus. The new campus includes state of the art technology and capacity for increased enrolment.

Fostering Sustainability and Accountability

- The Department will implement a collaborative strategic alignment planning process with both universities and the NSCC to ensure responsiveness to provincial economic and workforce needs, as well as the long-term sustainability and accountability of the publicly funded post-secondary education system.
- The current Memorandum of Understanding with Nova Scotia universities expires March 31, 2024. Advanced Education will continue working with universities on implementation of an updated and enhanced approach for the agreement between the Province and the universities, focused on accountability, measuring system performance, student experience and outcomes, and alignment with government priorities.

Financial Summary

Departmental Expenses Summary (\$ thousands)

<u>Programs and Services</u>	<u>2023 -2024 Estimate</u>	<u>2023-2024 Forecast</u>	<u>2024-2025 Estimate</u>
Administration	661	780	647
Strategy, Policy & Partnership	1,442	2,273	2,201
Program and Service Delivery	73,059	74,713	69,608
Nova Scotia Community College	170,645	170,764	184,409
Grants to Universities	461,427	491,629	468,674
Total - Departmental Expenses	707,234	740,159	725,539
 Ordinary Recoveries	 11,449	 13,946	 10,669
 <u>Funded Staff (# of FTEs)</u>			
Department Funded Staff	74.0	63.4	74.0

Note:

For Ordinary Revenues, see Estimates and Supplementary Detail Book, Chapter 2

For TCA Purchase Requirements, see Estimates and Supplementary Detail Book, Chapter 1