

Accountability Report 2017–2018

Office of Immigration

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Accountability Report 2017–2018

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Accountability Statement

The Accountability Report of the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration for the year ending March 31, 2018, is prepared pursuant to the Finance Act and government policies and guidelines. These authorities require the reporting of outcomes against the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration Statement of Mandate for the fiscal year just ended. The reporting of the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration outcomes necessarily includes estimates, judgments and opinions by Nova Scotia Office of Immigration management.

We acknowledge that this Accountability Report is the responsibility of Nova Scotia Office of Immigration 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 Nova Scotia Office of Immigration 2017-2018 Business Plan.

Nova Scotia Office of Immigration

Original signed by

Lena Metlege Diab QC
Minister

Original signed by

Tracey Taweel
Chief Executive Officer

Message from the Minister of Immigration and Chief Executive Officer

We are pleased to present the 2017-18 Annual Accountability Report for the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration (NSOI).

2017 was another big year for immigration in Nova Scotia. We welcomed 4,514 newcomers to our province, with about 2,735 arriving under our Provincial Nominee Program. We also nominated 1,451 individuals for immigration under the Provincial Nominee Program in 2017, Nova Scotia's highest number of nominations ever. The Atlantic Immigration Pilot launched in March 2017 and in the first year we endorsed 201 individuals with job offers from Nova Scotia employers. Combined, our office supported 1,652 individuals and their families in 2017 who wish to make Nova Scotia their home.

We are not only working hard to attract new immigrants; our goal is to welcome people who wish to build their lives here permanently. Attracting more newcomers to live and work in Nova Scotia is crucial to population growth, revitalizing our communities, helping employers fill persistent labour gaps, and growing our economy. To help our new residents integrate into communities and workplaces, we invested \$6.4 million to continue critical programming including language training and employment support.

We are proud of our shared accomplishments, for instance:

- Our International Graduate Entrepreneur Stream program is designed to help international students graduating from a Nova Scotia university or community college to stay and start up their businesses here in the province. We are proud to be the first province in Canada to take advantage of this unique opportunity and, in April 2017, we nominated our first candidate under this stream.
- We have made progress in raising awareness of the Atlantic Immigration Pilot and helping employers navigate immigration streams that best suit their needs. We organized or participated in over 110 significant events this year, on top of countless individual meetings or discussions with employers.
- In 2017-18, we worked closely with our partners at the Nova Scotia Health Authority, the IWK, and the College of Physicians and Surgeons to launch a new Physician stream. This stream supports the attraction of internationally trained doctors and specialists to the province by making the immigration process easier and faster.

By continuing to embrace a spirit of openness, we will discover new ideas, welcome new people, and create new businesses. With this focus, immigration will help us produce real results for Nova Scotians by capitalizing on new opportunities and new ideas to create a better economy,

Original signed by
Lena Metlege Diab QC
Minister

Original signed by
Tracey Taweel
Chief Executive Officer

Financial Results

	2017-2018 Estimate	2017-2018 Actuals	2017-2018 Variance
Office of Immigration	<i>(\$thousands)</i>		
Departmental Expenses:			
Office of Immigration	9,120	8,209	(911)
Total: Departmental Expenses	9,120	8,209	(911)
Additional Information:			
Ordinary Revenue	0	0	0
Fees and Other Charges	0	0	0
Ordinary Recoveries	0	0	0
Total: Revenue, Fees and Recoveries	0	0	0
TCA Purchase Requirements	0	0	0
Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs)	35.0	32.6	(2.4)
<u>Departmental Expenses Variance Explanation:</u>			
Variance due to vacancy and operating savings resulting from delayed program delivery			
<u>Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs) Variance Explanation:</u>			
Temporary Vacancies			

Measuring Our Performance

Attraction and Recruitment

Outcome	Measure	Base Year	Annual Target: 2017	Results
Immigration activities address Nova Scotia's economic and labour market gaps.	Number of new immigrant landings per calendar year.	2003: 1,474	4,000	4,514 NSOI surpassed its 2017 target of 4,000 landings. Landings measure the actual immigrants who arrive in Nova Scotia. For instance, someone nominated in 2017 may not actually "land" in Nova Scotia until 2018 or 2019.

* See table next page for more detailed breakdown of landing numbers.

Breakdown of Landings –Nominee Program (NP) Principal Applicants, Dependents vs Federal Pathways*											
Category/Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
NP Principal Applicant	286	317	291	287	348	438	657	654	555	1130	1244
NP Spouse or Dependents	614	549	506	342	430	517	545	746	839	1460	1491
NP Total	900	866	797	629	778	958	1,201	1,400	1,394	2,590	2,735
NP % of Landings	36%	33%	33%	26%	36%	41%	48%	52%	41%	47%	61%
All Federal	1,623	1,785	1,591	1,766	1,363	1,383	1,325	1,268	2,009	2,893	1,779
Federal % of Landings	64%	67%	67%	74%	64%	59%	52%	48%	59%	53%	39%
GRAND TOTAL	2,523	2,651	2,388	2,395	2,141	2,339	2,523	2,668	3,403	5,483	4,514

Source: IRCC Permanent Residents Q12018 data

*Landings under the Atlantic Immigration Pilot Program are included under the federal landings category.

Integration and Retention

Outcome	Measure	Base Year	Annual Target: 2017	Results
Nova Scotia's immigration policies and settlement activities support immigrants and their families to successfully settle and integrate in their new community.	Percentage of all immigrants arriving in Nova Scotia in a six-year period remaining in the sixth year.	2008 IMDB: 69%	70% or better retention rate (2015)*.	71%** retention rate. NSOI has re-committed to maintaining a 70% or higher retention rate in 2018.

* NSOI uses tax filer data from the Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB) to calculate retention rates. There is a two-year time lag in the availability of data from IMDB, the latest available data is for the 2015 tax year.

**This measure represents the percentage of all tax-filing immigrants arriving in Nova Scotia in a six-year period remaining in the sixth year.

Leadership and Policy Development

Outcome	Measure	Base Year	Annual Target: 2017	Results
Increase the number of annual provincial	Number of certificates issued annually per calendar year.	2014: 700	1,350	1,451

nominations.

The Province's NSNP allocation for 2017 was 1,350. A total of 1,451 nominations were issued after NS was granted an allocation of unused nominations from other provinces. The 1,451 nominations is more than double 2014's allocation of 700 in and was the highest number of nominations ever made under the NSNP. NSOI has set the 2018 target at 1,350 certificates for the NSNP.

Increase allocation for the Atlantic Immigration Pilot.

Number of endorsements through the Atlantic Immigration Pilot Program per calendar year.

2017: 201 792

201

NSOI expects to meet the annual target of 792 in 2018. Most new immigration programs take time to fully come up to speed. For instance, in the first year of the national federal Skilled Trades program, just over 100 applications were received. By year four, the program accepted over 3,500 applications.

Supplemental Information and Appendices

In 2017-18 the strategic outcomes were identified as Attraction and Recruitment; Integration and Retention; and Leadership and Policy Development. Our work is guided by our strategic outcomes and some highlights from 2017-18 are below.

Physician Stream

In 2017- 18, NSOI worked closely with the Department of Health and Wellness, the Nova Scotia Health Authority (NSHA), the IWK Health Centre and the NS College of Physicians and Surgeons to develop and launch a Physician stream under the Nova Scotia Nominee Program. The Physician stream provides internationally trained physicians hired by the NSHA or the IWK Health Centre a more streamlined immigration process when immigrating to Nova Scotia. Following the February 2018 launch of the stream, NSOI and NSHA continue to work together on international physician recruitment to supplement NSHA's recruitment locally and nationally.

Atlantic Immigration Pilot

The three-year Atlantic Immigration Pilot was launched in March 2017 under the Atlantic Growth Strategy. The Pilot is a new approach and partnership between federal and provincial governments, employers and settlement organizations that is focused on improving immigrant retention and helping employers fill labour market gaps. It includes three streams: one for high-skilled occupations, one for semi-skilled occupations and one for international graduates. The Pilot provides an opportunity to test a new approach that puts settlement services at the forefront of the immigration process. Under the Pilot, all applicants and employers are connected with settlement service providers, both pre- and post-arrival. In 2017-18, Nova Scotia worked with partners across the province to promote the Pilot and explore new opportunities to help businesses to identify their specific immigration requirements, find talent through international recruitment, and connect with settlement supports to support retention.

Attraction and Recruitment:

In 2017, NSOI nominated 1,451 individuals for immigration under the NSNP, a record high for Nova Scotia. Under the Atlantic Immigration Pilot, our office endorsed 201 individuals with job offers from Nova Scotia employers. Combined, our office supported 1,652 individuals and their families in 2017 who wish to make Nova Scotia their home.

This was achieved through our targeted attraction and recruitment efforts, where NSOI engaged with a wide-range of stakeholders to promote Nova Scotia as an immigration destination and recruit individuals who meet the province's economic needs, including:

- Active partnership with post-secondary institutions and regular outreach to international students to discuss immigration and the pathways available to immigrate here.
- Increased resources to focus on employer engagement. Working closely with employers is critical to helping them better understand immigration and help them navigate the immigration system. NSOI worked closely with business owners in the province to increase their awareness of the Nova Scotia Nominee Program, Atlantic Immigration Pilot and federal immigration pathways, actively partnering with employers to help match businesses with skilled talent from around the world.

- Enhanced international attraction. NSOI staff marketed Nova Scotia at national and international career fairs and conferences, working with employers, the office helped employers find the skills they need in international markets.
- Broader community outreach has also been a priority. NSOI participated in over 100 community and sector events throughout the province promoting opportunities available through our immigration programs.
- Continuing improvements made to the Nova Scotia Immigration website to provide timely and relevant information to potential applicants, international students, employers, and newcomers.

Settlement:

In 2017, Nova Scotia welcomed 4,514 immigrants, the second highest number in the province’s history. To help new residents adapt to life in the province, Nova Scotia has increased funding for newcomer services year over year since 2013. In 2017-18, NSOI invested nearly \$6.4 million in settlement services, including language training and employment support – up from \$5.4 million five years ago. This funding supports a strong network of settlement services providing the integration of newcomers through language, bridging, workplace culture, employer engagement, family crisis, computer and technical training programs.

Public Interest Disclosure of Wrongdoing

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 Nova Scotia Office of Immigration:

Information Required under Section 18 of the Act	Fiscal Year 2017-18
The number of disclosures received	0
The number of findings of wrongdoing	0
Details of each wrongdoing	0
Recommendations and actions taken on each wrongdoing	0