

# Accountability Report 2017–2018

Department of Communities,  
Culture and Heritage

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Accountability Report 2017–2018

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## 1. Accountability Statement

The Accountability Report of the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage for the year ended March 31, 2018 is prepared pursuant to the *Finance Act* and government policies and guidelines. These authorities require the reporting of outcomes against the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage Business Plan for the fiscal year just ended. The reporting of the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage outcomes necessarily includes estimates, judgments and opinions by Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage management.

We acknowledge that this Accountability Report is the responsibility of Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage 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 Communities, Culture and Heritage 2017-2018 Business Plan.

Original signed by

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Honourable Leo Glavine  
Minister

Original signed by

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Tracey Taweel  
Deputy Minister

## 2. Message from the Minister and Deputy Minister

We are pleased to present the Accountability Report for the Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage for 2017-18. This report highlights last year's progress in meeting our Business Plan objectives and outlines our strategic priorities for the year ahead.

Our work and mandate are fundamentally about investing in the people of Nova Scotia – in their communities and businesses, ideas, arts, culture and heritage, learning, health and well-being. When we invest in these areas, we strengthen our province, and provide new opportunities for economic growth while also ensuring that we have strong, empowered and healthy citizens from birth to their later years.

In 2017-18, 68 per cent of the department's budget was invested directly into communities through various programs. This represents about \$57 million dollars flowing to community libraries and museums; recreation facilities; arts, culture and sport organizations; professional and aspiring artists; festivals and events; communities; businesses who want to make their premises more accessible and welcoming; and organizations that are working to reduce poverty and make our province's communities stronger.

Just over one year ago, we launched the province's first Culture Action Plan which helps advance the well-being and prosperity of our communities through the promotion, preservation, innovation and celebration of culture, heritage and languages. The plan is guiding Nova Scotia forward to make the province a recognized leader where cultural identity, expression and economy prosper. A place where all people honour and embrace our province's diversity and heritage, and benefit from leveraging our creative strengths. We strive to be a leader in cultural stewardship and make our province a place where more citizens have access to opportunities for healthy, active living. With the Culture Action Plan, we also committed to sharing more stories about Nova Scotians. We are working to address systemic racism; advancing cultural diversity, and doing more to preserve and celebrate our Mi'kmaw culture and heritage.

Our work, and the investments we are making in culture, arts, sport and recreation are paying off and yielding economic and social benefits for Nova Scotians. Culture and sport contributed \$1.03 billion to the provincial economy in 2016. Culture and sport job numbers grew over the same seven years, reaching just under 17,000 jobs in 2016. These sectors are economic drivers, and there is tremendous opportunity for growth, especially in exports. As well, our province's culture, arts, sport and recreation yield social benefits. Our work helps ensure we understand, and leverage, these social benefits. In 2018-19, we will make strategic investments to strengthen the economy, drive social benefits, and ensure our province has strong and empowered communities.

Original signed by

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Honourable Leo Glavine  
Minister

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Tracey Taweel  
Deputy Minister

### 3. Financial Results Fiscal Year 2017-2018

<b>Departmental Expenses Summary</b>			
<b>(\$ thousands)</b>			
<u>Programs and Service Area</u>	<u>2017-2018 Estimate</u>	<u>2017-2018 Actual</u>	<u>2017-2018 Variance</u>
<b>Departmental Expenses:</b>			
Office of the Minister and Deputy Minister	685	576	(109)
Culture and Heritage Development	20,961	35,609	14,648
Communities, Sport and Recreation	17,728	16,621	(1,107)
Archives, Museums and Libraries	35,429	35,800	371
Policy and Corporate Services	4,220	4,248	28
Office of Acadian Affairs and Francophonie	2,003	2,009	6
African Nova Scotia Affairs	773	996	223
Gaelic Affairs	414	460	46
Art Gallery of Nova Scotia	2,082	2,082	-
<b>Total: Departmental Expenses (Note 1)</b>	<b>84,295</b>	<b>98,401</b>	<b>14,106</b>
<b>Additional Information:</b>			
Fees and Other Charges	1,576	2,121	545
Ordinary Recoveries	7,052	6,461	(591)
<b>Total: Revenue, Fees and Recoveries (Note 2)</b>	<b>8,628</b>	<b>8,582</b>	<b>(46)</b>
TCA Purchase Requirements (Note 3)	-	224	224
Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs) (Note 4)	246.3	227.3	(19.0)

#### Significant Variance Explanations: 2017-2018 Estimate to 2017-2018 Actual

##### Note 1: Total Departmental Expenses

Expenditures were \$14.106 million or 16.7% higher than budget primarily due to investments of \$13.8 million in community infrastructure.

##### Note 2: Revenue, Fees and Recoveries

Revenue, Fees and Recoveries were (\$46K) or 1% lower than budget due to decreased recoveries related to restructuring of the Federal Digital Internship Program, offset by increased Nova Scotia Museum admission and commission revenue.

##### Note 3: TCA Purchase Requirements

TCA Purchase Requirements were \$224K or 100% higher than budget due to purchase of overhead book scanner and resolution of outstanding deficiencies for vessel completion.

##### Note 4: Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs) – Net

Provincially funded staff were 19.0 FTEs lower than budget due to temporary staff vacancies.

## 4. Department Highlights 2017/18

- **Body Worlds RX** – The Museum of Natural History hosted the largest touring exhibition company in the world. The exhibit attracted great interest from January to April, 2018 and set a new attendance record of 94,122 visitors to the museum. Body Worlds RX offered a unique opportunity to explore the biology and physiology of the human body and see the dramatic effects of disease while encouraging healthy living to all museum visitors. The museum saw senior visitation increase 10 times, adult visitation triple and youth visitation almost double. School group visitation rose from 503 to 7,685 students.
- **Bun is Bàrr** – As part of an awareness campaign based in Gaelic tradition of Nova Scotia, Gaelic Affairs partnered with Communities, Sport and Recreation to develop a mini-documentary on the Bun is Bàrr Master-Apprentice program. This mini-documentary, launched during Gaelic Nova Scotia Month 2018 in May, highlights the importance of international learning in Gaelic Nova Scotia where apprentices learn about Gaelic culture from Gaelic speaking elders. The intent is to raise awareness of the importance of engaging Gaelic elders and fortifying Gaelic culture and language with present and future generations of Nova Scotians.
- **Mi'kmaw Culture** – CCH worked with the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre to launch a successful "What I Wish You Knew" tile exhibit at the Museum of Natural History on the experience of the urban Mi'maq community with input from 50 community members.
- **New Partnerships** – The Office of Acadian Affairs and Francophonie focused on community engagement and outreach through a new six-person Acadian Affairs and Francophonie Advisory Committee that hosted its first meeting in January, 2018. The committee offers a direct means of informing the Minister of Acadian Affairs and Francophonie on the needs, challenges and opportunities in the Acadian community.
- **Helping Communities Get Land Titles** – Government began work to help African Nova Scotians get title to land on which they live by investing in supports for the communities of North Preston, East Preston, and Cherry Brook in the Halifax Regional Municipality and Lincolntonville and Sunnyville in Guysborough County.
- **Historic Cookbook** – The Nova Scotia Archives launched a cookbook that gathers recipes from 150 years of culinary history. *Nova Scotia Cookery: Then and Now* contains many recipes that call for, and celebrate, the use of local ingredients. The cookbook features a selection of historic recipes from the archives that were given a modern interpretation by chefs.
- **Celebrating Canada 150** – As part of the celebrations marking the 150th anniversary of Canada's Confederation, CCH provided about 170 community organizations funding to celebrate heritage and culture in various ways. Rendez-Vous 2017 Tall Ship Regatta was a highlight of the 2017 celebrations.

## 5. Measuring Our Performance

### 2017 Platform Commitments

The department is tasked to continue to work across departments, with stakeholders, community partners, and Nova Scotians to implement the Culture Action Plan; champion and support the voluntary sector to help us build strong and vibrant communities in our province. To achieve a collective impact to build a stronger province, the department's mandate for government's second term includes the following commitments and actions taken:

Commitments	ACTIONS TAKEN IN 2017-2018
Create a \$1M Small Business ACCESS-Ability Program	Launched the program in December, 2017 and funded 17 projects by March, 2017 throughout Nova Scotia such as business ramps to make entrances accessible.
Increase the Community Access-Ability Program to \$1M	Government increased its commitment to this grant program from \$150,000 to \$950,000 in 2017-18 for facilities such as libraries, community halls, shelters and group homes.
Remain committed to partnering with our creative industries.	Actions relating to this commitment are described in the Nova Scotia Culture Action Plan Theme 6: Drive Awareness and Economic Growth of the Culture Sector, which is reported on in the following section of this report.



# Nova Scotia's Culture Action Plan: Creativity and Community

This plan brings life to the department's mandate, working with partners across government and community to build the well-being and prosperity of Nova Scotia's diverse and creative communities. With the support of other departments, CCH is working on 60 specific actions that will promote, develop, preserve, and celebrate the province's culture, heritage, identity, and languages.

## Theme 1 – Promote Mi'kmaq Culture

We need to do more to acknowledge and embrace the significance of Mi'kmaq culture – a message we heard from the culture community and the Mi'kmaq. We must promote and preserve this culture while simultaneously taking steps to enrich and maximize it.

PROPOSED STRATEGIC ACTIONS	ACTIONS TAKEN IN 2017-2018
<p>Acknowledge and support Mi'maw interpretation and ownership of Mi'kmaq culture – enabling Mi'kmaq telling Mi'kmaq stories.</p>	<p>Nova Scotia Museums management and curatorial staff have initiated a repatriation working group to review best practices. Members of the group met with colleagues from New Brunswick, the Yukon and Ottawa to learn from recent repatriation initiatives and are reviewing policy and procedural implications for the NSM. Next steps include dialogue with the Mi'kmaq community.</p> <p>Through the Nova Scotia Archives, additional Mi'kmaq material was scanned and added to the transcribe site. The George Greed Mi'kmaq petroglyphs virtual exhibit launched in August 2017.</p> <p>We have consulted with the Department of Justice regarding the final disposition of Nova Scotian records from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.</p>
<p>Enhance opportunities for Mi'kmaq cultural expression through collaboration and support of crafts, powwows and mawiomi'l, arts, feasts, sporting events and other cultural activities.</p>	<p>Actions were undertaken to move towards a more functional and meaningful relationship between Nova Scotian Mi'kmaq and the Province.</p> <p>An emphasis was placed on more culturally relevant sport programs and opportunities for Mi'kmaq youth, more active and healthy Mi'kmaq youth. Initiatives undertaken included:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Negotiated bilateral details with Sport Canada that will see approximately \$1 million invested over five years to build the capacity of the Mi'kmaw Sport Council and enhance culturally relevant sport programming for Mi'kmaq youth and children.</li> <li>• Partnered with Mi'kmaq leaders at the Trails Strategy Coordinating Group table in preparation for the launch of the strategy and its ongoing coordination.</li> <li>• Worked with community, provincial and municipal partners to put together a successful bid to attract the 2020 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) to Halifax.</li> </ul>
<p>Create a Mi'kmaw Cultural Liaison position within government to facilitate our work with Mi'kmaw artists, culture workers and teachers, and to improve understanding and access to government culture programs and services.</p>	<p>Began work to create a Mi'kmaw Cultural Liaison position in the department. When staffed, the liaison will work to enhance opportunities for Mi'kmaq cultural expression through collaboration to support powwows and mawiomil, arts, feasts, sporting events and other cultural activities. The liaison will also facilitate work with Mi'kmaw artists, culture workers and teachers to improve understanding and access to cultural programs and services.</p>

**Theme 2 – Promote Creativity and Innovation**

Culture helps drive successful economies and communities. Creativity and innovation spur a thriving, diverse array of cultural enterprises. From a bottom-line perspective, that means economic success, and from a social cohesion and immigration perspective, it means more attractive communities.

PROPOSED STRATEGIC ACTIONS	ACTIONS TAKEN IN 2017-2018
<p>Creation of a Culture Innovation Program that recognizes and supports innovative cultural initiatives that address social priorities and opportunities. This program will contain some targeted investment to support the development of culture hubs in communities, such as museums and libraries and will also support innovative community</p>	<p>The Culture Innovation Fund was launched in January 2018 and supported 31 projects in 2017/18 with total investment of \$1.5 million.</p> <p>The fund has helped foster valuable partnerships and community capacity building including for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NSCAD and Phoenix House which are working together to help youth learn through art.</li> </ul>

<p>initiatives that enhance economic, social and cultural activities in our towns and cities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dartmouth North Community and Trufaux which are addressing food insecurity through film.</li> <li>• The Antigonish Theatre which is offering relaxed performances for those with cognitive challenges.</li> </ul>
<p>Work with community organizations to support the not-for-profit and voluntary sectors, recognizing the essential role of volunteers in community and culture activities.</p>	<p>Met with representatives of not-for-profit organizations across Nova Scotia to help them access the Department's Communities, Sports and Recreation programs.</p> <p>Built leadership capacity of female volunteers hosting the Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women and facilitated leadership modules.</p> <p>Supported municipalities in the process of updating Physical Activity Strategies with the engagement of volunteer-based community organizations.</p>
<p>Work within the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage and with culture organizations to review funding programs to ensure they are as effective and transparent as possible.</p>	<p>The department continued to review programs by looking at program application rates, where investments are being made, outcomes met, and evaluating whether there are barriers preventing traditionally marginalized groups from accessing them. Data shows there is increased awareness and interest in programs by priority populations.</p> <p>Ongoing review in 2017-18 by the Office of the Auditor General also helped identify the need to document and streamline the process. CCH worked to further align project funding with government priorities, including the Culture Action Plan and SHIFT: Nova Scotia's Action Plan for an Aging Population.</p>

### Theme 3 – Strengthen Education, Partnerships and Understanding

The more we can expose our children to culture and creative expression in our schools, the better off we will be as a province that values, inspires, and incubates original, even daring, talent. At the same time, we want to ensure our culture and creative workers are taught entrepreneurship and marketing, to help expand their successes.

PROPOSED STRATEGIC ACTIONS	ACTIONS TAKEN IN 2017-2018
<p>Expand and build on existing educational partnerships related to culture, such as working with the book publishing industry to promote Nova Scotia content in teaching resources.</p>	<p>The department continued to work closely with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and the province’s book publishers to foster feasible procurement practices purposely designed to accommodate more Nova Scotian books and stories in Nova Scotian schools.</p> <p>There is also ongoing work with the provincial libraries and book publishers to ensure more digital copies of Nova Scotia books are available for loan to library card holders.</p>
<p>Through the Treaty Education MOU work plan, move forward with the implementation of Mi’kmaw culture-based initiatives in partnership with key provincial departments and Mi’kmaw Kina’matnewey. (For example, crafting a Treaty Education Framework).</p>	<p>Collaborated with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and the Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency to undertake a Library Aboriginal Perceptions/Treaty Education training session with the staff and members of two regional library boards. The session facilitated discussions with participants to explore opportunities to promote Mi’kmaw culture and outreach to local Mi’kmaw communities. Plans are underway to provide the training to other library regions across the province.</p> <p>The department supported three learning opportunities on the role of libraries, archives and other cultural memory institutions in preserving and respecting traditional knowledge and language with Ms. Camille Callison. Ms. Callison is the Indigenous Services Librarian, Liaison Librarian for Anthropology, Native Studies and Social Work and a member of the Indigenous Advisory Circle at the University of Manitoba. She is a board member of the Canadian Federation of Library Associations, and a member of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO Memory of the World Committee and Sector Commission on Culture, Communications and Information.</p>

## Theme 4 – Advance Cultural Diversity

While we have been blessed by diversity, we need to also acknowledge there are things in our society that must change, must improve. A culture is not just built on successes, pride, and goodwill; a culture also holds on to our defeats, our grief, and our most shameful decisions.

PROPOSED STRATEGIC ACTIONS	ACTIONS TAKEN IN 2017-2018
<p>Update the province's <i>Multiculturalism Act</i> of 1989 to better reflect and support the Nova Scotia of today and tomorrow.</p>	<p>The department had begun work reviewing the <i>Multiculturalism Act</i> in 2016/17 including conducting a jurisdictional review. Work was deferred, with efforts directed to advance anti-racism work in 2017-18.</p>
<p>Work collaboratively with the community, government, departments and agencies, and others, to continue to address systemic racism and discrimination.</p>	<p>The Nova Scotia Government was the first province to proclaim the International Decade for Persons of African Decent (2015-2024). An action plan is currently in development, which will see CCH work collaboratively across government to address systemic racism.</p> <p>Other actions undertaken by the department include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worked with the African Nova Scotian Community to protect War of 1812 Black refugee settlement land in Beechville through the <i>Heritage Property Act</i>.</li> <li>• Expanded the capacity of African Nova Scotian Affairs by creating new positions to address barriers faced by African Nova Scotian communities to attain clear title to land.</li> <li>• Participated in the Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children Restorative Inquiry.</li> <li>• Hosted cultural competence sessions for staff including a diversity focus at the department's annual all staff planning day, and Two Blanket Exercises (Aboriginal History in/of Canada) through a Treaty Education MOU.</li> <li>• Hosted an awareness session on Anti-Racism for staff including a presentation of awareness on bias and cross-cultural understanding.</li> <li>• Developed a workshop on African Nova Scotian Historical and Cultural Realities for African Heritage Month activities for provincial public servants.</li> </ul>

<p>Strengthen the province's Gaelic Affairs, African Nova Scotian Affairs and Acadian Affairs and Francophonie offices.</p>	<p>To build a keen appreciation for culture, the following actions were taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hired community navigators within African Nova Scotia Affairs to assist community.</li> <li>• Launched the Gaelic license plate with revenue of sales going back into community programming.</li> <li>• Developed a mini-documentary on the Bun is Bàrr Master-Apprentice program. This mini-documentary highlights the importance of international learning in Gaelic Nova Scotia where apprentices learn about Gaelic culture from Gaelic speaking elders.</li> <li>• The Office of Acadian Affairs and Francophonie provided funding to 11 community projects together with support from the Quebec Government to promote French-language exchanges.</li> <li>• Consulted regional Acadian and Francophone organizations.</li> </ul>
<p>Support the capacity of organizations to mentor communities and leverage strengths across the province.</p>	<p>Through collaboration with colleagues from several departments, municipalities and non-profit organizations, the Inclusion &amp; Access in Sport &amp; Recreation Data Collection Project was completed.</p> <p>Worked with Kings Volunteer Resource Centre to develop a volunteer linking website to be launched in 2018-2019. It will help volunteers find opportunities where they are most needed by not-for-profit organizations and help those organizations obtain volunteers.</p> <p>Supported the Nova Scotia Community Sector Council to develop a framework to strengthen knowledge and skills to build better connections with Mi'kmaq communities across the province.</p> <p>Conducted our Sport Development Tool &amp; Recreation Development Tool with all provincial sport and recreation organizations. Results will be used to build capacity of organizations, in turn increasing their ability to service communities.</p>

## Theme 5 – Excellence in Cultural Stewardship

Culture plays a major role in our social and individual lives, shaping community identity, building pride of place, connecting us to our natural surroundings, and bringing together people from different backgrounds.

PROPOSED STRATEGIC ACTIONS	ACTIONS TAKEN IN 2017-2018
Position the Nova Scotia Museum system to tell the province’s story while increasing relevance and attractiveness for visitors through strategic, targeted investments.	The Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History set a new attendance record of 94,122 visitors when it hosted the Body World RX exhibit during winter 2018. This highlighted the need for a plan to reach new audiences and modernize our approach to making museums attractive to visitors of all ages.
Work with community partners to implement the Shared Recreation and Trails Strategies to foster active healthy living. Increase inclusion and access to recreation for all Nova Scotians.	The department is collaborating with Recreation Nova Scotia on implementing the Recreation Shared Strategy. A Trails Strategy is in development.  The department coordinated the 2017 Recreation Nova Scotia Conference in Membertou First Nation (the first time in a Mi’kmaq community). The theme of the conference, “Holistic Recreation: Planting Seeds, Growing Together” aligned and advanced the Recreation Shared Strategy and Cultural Action Plan and left a legacy of connection and working with our Mi’kmaq communities.
Enhance communications between the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage and community museums across the province.	Department staff worked with community museums on an individual basis to address their needs through the Community Museums Assistance Program (CMAP).
Work with stakeholders to promote and increase awareness of Nova Scotia’s built heritage and its value to our province and identity.	The department funded Halifax Regional Municipality \$15,000 to host the 2017 Nova Scotia Heritage Conference on Cultural Heritage Destinations and the Heritage Housing Industry. Attended by 113 heritage stakeholders, the conference explored the need for a provincial Heritage Strategy and more opportunities to promote our unique cultural heritage assets. The coordinator of the Heritage Property Program delivered a presentation at the 2017 National Trust-APT Conference in Ottawa. Nova Scotia promoted its <i>Heritage Property Act</i> that supports our unique heritage and cultural assets. There are 298 registered provincial heritage

	<p>properties, more than 1500 registered municipal heritage properties, and 7 approved municipal heritage conservation districts.</p> <p>The Heritage Property Program hosted a day-long facilitated session with all municipal Heritage Officers to explore opportunities to better support and promote existing heritage conservation districts and future cultural landscapes across Nova Scotia.</p>
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**Theme 6 – Drive Awareness and Economic Growth of the Culture sector**

Creative Industries are a strategic growth sector in government’s work to create inclusive economic growth. Part of the challenge to grow is making sure people and markets, here in Nova Scotia and far beyond, know what is happening in our culture sector. Success stories abound, but sometimes aren’t told; many aspects of the creative sector are thriving already, and should thrive even more with more time in the spotlight, more awareness and access, and more support.

<b>PROPOSED STRATEGIC ACTIONS</b>	<b>ACTIONS TAKEN IN 2017-2018</b>
<p>Create a strategic, government-wide approach to the development, attraction and funding of events. These events will showcase the province’s sport, culture, heritage and competitive advantages to national and international audiences. A coordinated approach will ensure events are properly funded and deliver measurable results and return on investment.</p>	<p>Began a coordinated approach to ensure events are properly funded and deliver measurable results and return on investment.</p> <p>For example, the province, along with other key stakeholders, supported the successful bid by the Mi’kmaq Sport Council of Canada in 2017-18 to host the 2020 North American Indigenous Games in Nova Scotia.</p>
<p>Work with Screen Nova Scotia and industry organizations to strengthen the TV and film industry with a focus on developing Nova Scotian filmmakers, writers, and producers of local content and to encourage diversity and gender parity.</p>	<p>The \$262,000 Screen Writers Development Fund, developed through consultation with Screen Nova Scotia, was announced in January 2018. It is a new model to increase Nova Scotia content in the film industry by supporting local writers and producers.</p> <p>The fund will also encourage diversity and gender parity within the industry and support the expansion of global markets and audiences.</p>
<p>Use the existing Creative Industries Fund to help businesses and not-for-profits export globally, targeting the music, book</p>	<p>In 2017-18, CCH invested \$2 million dollars in more than 67 projects from 60 Nova Scotia cultural organizations and businesses. Highlights include funding for the following initiatives:</p>



publishing, craft, film, design, visual and performing arts sectors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2b Theatre’s hit musical Old Stock: A Refugee Love Story had a seven week off -broad-way run in New York City, winning many award nominations and finding new business opportunities along the way. It was the company’s first run in New York.</li> <li>• Craft Alliance Atlantic led an export mission to the NY Now Wholesale Show in New York City. Six Nova Scotia companies participated and accumulated sales are expected to reach an estimated \$1.165 million within the next year.</li> <li>• 902HipHop, a woman-led hip hop artists’ management company, was supported with a significant opportunity to grow international business networks through projects focused on music publishing. Now with the proper infrastructure in place, 902HipHop is ready to build capacity and break into new export markets in Los Angeles, Atlanta, New York and London, U.K.</li> </ul>
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## SHIFT: Nova Scotia’s Action Plan for an Aging Population

Shift is a government-wide initiative led by the Department of Seniors. In collaboration with other government departments the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage is helping to reframe the discussion around aging and the many benefits of our demographic shift. An aging population reflects advances in population health and improvements in the social and economic well-being of Nova Scotians.

### Goal: Value the Social and Economic Contributions of Older Adults

Entrepreneurship represents an opportunity for older adults to tap into and build on years of experience and networks, while having the flexibility and control they might not have had in a traditional workplace. Older, experienced entrepreneurs also have much to offer in knowledge, experience, and mentoring.

COMMITMENTS	CCH ACTIONS TAKEN IN 2017-2018
<p><b>Value unpaid community and volunteer work</b> Older adults keep our communities going. From formal volunteering to simply pulling together to care for other people and get things done, older Nova</p>	<p>Nova Scotia Connect.ca, a web portal for recreation programs, was rolled out across Nova Scotia in 2017-18. The site has an emphasis on encouraging physically active lifestyles including in older adults.</p>

<p>Scotians play a huge role in sustaining community life and not-for-profit organizations through their unpaid work.</p>	<p>The department has begun developing Volunteer Nova Scotia, a volunteer matching site in collaboration with community and the federal partners. Many seniors want to volunteer but have difficulty knowing what opportunities are available. This site will help individuals and organizations map opportunities.</p>
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**Goal: Promote Healthy, Active Living**

Population health is an approach to health that aims to improve the health of the entire population and to reduce health inequities among population groups. In order to reach these objectives, it looks at and acts upon the broad range of factors and conditions that have a strong influence on our health.

<p><b>COMMITMENTS</b></p>	<p><b>CCH ACTIONS TAKEN IN 2017-2018</b></p>
<p><b>Reduce the impact of poverty on health</b>            The costs of living (including food, housing, transportation, access to technology)—and by association, income security—are major barriers to health for older adults.</p>	<p>An investment of \$110,000 was provided to the Mobile Food Market (Department of Health and Wellness and Disability Secretariat/Department of Community Services) to maintain the market's current locations in Halifax, as well as to explore options to expand services across the province.</p> <p>An additional \$100,000 in grants, ranging from \$4,500 to \$31,000 was provided to organizations across the province. One example is the Thoughtful Food: Building Resiliency project in Middleton.</p>
<p><b>Promote physical activity and regular exercise</b>            Regular physical activity is important for healthy aging and has been shown to be a major factor in the ability of older adults to live independently and stay as healthy as possible.</p>	<p>Planning, informed by citizen surveys, was initiated to revise the Municipal Physical Activity Leadership program (MPAL) memorandums of understanding between the province and communities to better attract and serve aging adults and support action at a community level. About 200 people attended two stakeholder symposiums on physical activity that were held in March 2018 to engage and inform community leaders and stakeholders on the importance of physical activity and how to work together to build vibrant active communities.</p> <p>In January 2018, an online survey of municipal recreation directors across Nova Scotia was conducted to learn about municipal recreation</p>

	programming and how the Shared Strategy for Advancing Recreation in Nova Scotia is impacting planning in communities.
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**Goal: Support Aging in Place, Connected to Community Life**

Creating supportive environments that foster autonomy and independence while helping older adults stay connected to their community is key to preventing social isolation and promoting healthy, active living.

COMMITMENTS	CCH ACTIONS TAKEN IN 2017-2018
<b>Commitment: Support community transportation</b>	
<p><b>Support community transportation</b> When people lack transportation options, it severely limits their ability to participate in society and the economy and to access services, including health services. This is a particularly significant issue in rural areas.</p>	<p>The department worked with partners across government and the community to improve access to transportation across the province. This initiative will benefit rural Nova Scotians, older adults, those living in poverty, persons with disabilities and youth who currently lack access to transportation options in their communities.</p>
<p><b>Support social connections</b> The World Health Organization emphasizes the importance of combatting social isolation by involving older adults in building socially inclusive and healthy communities for all ages.</p>	<p>In 2017-18, the department's Facility Access Grant Program guidelines were updated to include older adults as a priority population for funding support.</p> <p><b>Other Supported Initiatives:</b> Bridgewater, Chester, Lunenburg and Liverpool curling clubs provided free programs and equipment to older adults. At the Queens Place Emera Centre, public skates and fitness classes and one-month fitness centre memberships were provided free to older adults.</p> <p>An investment of \$50,000 was made to the Community Technology Network to undertake community Internet/digital literacy pilots for older adults across the province.</p> <p>An additional \$20,000 from CCH (Diversity and Community Capacity Fund) was leveraged to ensure four additional pilots were undertaken in culturally diverse and marginalized communities.</p>

**Goal: Implementing the Plan**

Programming needs to be culturally safe and address barriers and opportunities as defined by members of the community, to ensure that programs and services are accessible and relevant.

COMMITMENTS	CCH ACTIONS TAKEN IN 2017-2018
<b>Base decisions and actions on evidence</b>	The department began using 2016 census data, as well as statistics from the Community Data

<p>It can be difficult to obtain reliable data to understand the experiences and circumstances of older adults within specific communities and involving factors like gender, ethnicity, socio-economics, and other aspects of identity.</p>	<p>Program to provide a broader understanding of our diverse communities and better representation of the province's demographics including our aging population.</p> <p>The department is undertaking a program audit that will provide an in-depth overview of who is currently served through our programs and where we need to adjust to meet the needs of all Nova Scotians.</p>
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## Nova Scotia's Poverty Reduction Blueprint

Reducing poverty is a complex issue that crosses most government departments, requires the involvement of community, and benefits most from a collaborative approach. The Government of Nova Scotia made a \$20 million dollar, four-year investment for Poverty Reduction. The goal is to work with and support innovative projects that are designed to address poverty and improve the lives of low-income Nova Scotians. The results, outcomes and approaches from these projects will help government know what has been most effective, and help form a Nova Scotia Poverty Reduction Blueprint that will guide actions to reduce poverty from 2021 onward.

- Goals:
- Building vibrant communities by investing in community expertise
  - Preventing poverty by breaking the cycle
  - Alleviating the hardship of poverty through improved services
  - Enabling Nova Scotians to exit poverty by building capacity

PROPOSED STRATEGIC ACTIONS	CCH ACTIONS TAKEN IN 2017-2018
<p>Nova Scotians living in poverty will benefit from a new grant program for community-based organizations, and people on income assistance in Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) will receive a free bus pass.</p>	<p>The department in collaboration with the Department of Community Services implemented Building Vibrant Communities, a new grant program focused on: food security (initiatives that provide Nova Scotians with adequate access to food), youth transition (enabling Nova Scotian youth to become independent adults) and transportation (helping Nova Scotians access the transportation they need). The program involves an evaluation of each initiative which will measure the impact of the investment to help inform a Nova Scotia Poverty Reduction Blueprint.</p> <p>In 2017-2018 a total of \$600,550 was disbursed in support of 49 projects across 46 organizations.</p>

## 6. Acadian Affairs and Francophonie

### Overview and Mandate

The Office of Acadian Affairs and Francophonie works with government departments, agencies, offices and Crown Corporations, to assist in the delivery of services in French. In addition to enabling the delivery of French-language services, the Office of Acadian Affairs and Francophonie promotes Acadian and francophone culture and heritage, celebrates accomplishments and supports community initiatives and projects, as well as maintains ongoing dialogue with the Acadian and francophone community, other provincial and territorial governments and the Government of Canada.

KEY INITIATIVES AND PRIORITIES	CCH ACTIONS TAKEN IN 2017-2018
<p><b>Leadership and policy direction:</b> Champion and support the planning, administration, and policy development frameworks for the implementation of the <i>French-Language Services Act</i> and its Regulations.</p>	<p>The Committee of Deputy Ministers on the Implementation of the <i>French-Languages Services Act</i>, chaired by the CCH Deputy Minister, provided direction for the preparation of a new strategic plan on French-language services by Acadian Affairs and Francophonie and the French-language Services Coordinating Committee.</p> <p>Four strategic planning sessions were held with the French-language Services Coordinating Committee to work towards developing a new strategic plan for French-language services for 2018-2023.</p>
<p><b>Availability and accessibility of French-language services:</b> Increase the prevalence and awareness of French language services through active offer, communications, printed and electronic materials, and by increasing the capacity of the public service to offer services in French.</p>	<p>The Office worked with Communications Nova Scotia to finalize French-language Communications Guidelines.</p> <p>The Office coordinated French Language training for provincial public servants. 540 public places were filled in seasonal classrooms.</p>
<p><b>Community engagement and outreach:</b> Encourage the participation of the Acadian and Francophone community in the development of government policies with a view to improving the delivery of services in French.</p>	<p>Staff consulted Regional Acadian and Francophone organizations in January 2018 during the preparation of a new strategic plan for French-language services from government for 2018-2023 which is now being finalized.</p> <p>One-on-one meetings were held between the Fédération acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse president, and the Executive Director and French-language services coordinators. Staff also met with key personnel from the departments of</p>

	<p>Justice, Education and Early Childhood Development, Municipal Affairs and Service Nova Scotia, and the Nova Scotia Health Authority. Government announced a six-person Acadian Affairs and Francophonie Advisory Committee and regular meetings began in January. The committee offers a direct means of informing the Minister on the needs, challenges and opportunities in the Acadian community.</p>
<p><b>Québec–Nova Scotia Agreement for Collaboration and Exchange:</b>  Promote French-language exchanges and cooperative activities between community organizations in Nova Scotia and Québec. <i>Vive l’Acadie</i> Community Initiative: Support cultural projects in the Acadian and francophone community.</p>	<p>Through an Agreement for Cooperation and Exchange with Quebec, \$51,780 was provided to support 11 community projects and was matched by the Québec Government. Funded projects included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the <i>Tournée des rendez-vous du cinéma québécois</i> to bring Quebec cinema to Nova Scotia through public screenings and workshops in schools</li> <li>• sessions for school staff to help youth better assume ownership of their Acadian and Francophone culture at school and in their community</li> <li>• an initiative allowing artists from Nova Scotia to participate in the <i>Festival de la chanson de Tadoussac</i>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Francophone Immigration:</b> Support the work of the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration in supporting and attracting more French-speaking immigrants to Nova Scotia.</p>	<p>The Office of Acadian Affairs and Francophonie participated in several recruitment missions with the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration as part of Destination Canada and Destination Acadie. An emphasis was placed on recruitment for the health and education sectors, in Morocco, France and Belgium. The Office funded francophone organizations to attend immigration recruitment missions.</p>

## 7. African Nova Scotian Affairs

### Overview and Mandate

African Nova Scotian Affairs (ANSA) works with government departments and the African Nova Scotian community to enhance understanding and assist in the delivery of services that meet the unique needs of African Nova Scotians. It is the connecting point to the community, promoting African Nova Scotian priorities while contributing to government decision-making. ANSA facilitates positive change on behalf of African Nova Scotians. It also works in partnership with departments, agencies and other organizations to develop solutions that support the ongoing well-being of African Nova Scotians

KEY INITIATIVES AND PRIORITIES	ACTIONS TAKEN IN 2017-2018
<p><b>Develop partnerships, lead and collaborate with government departments on a series of United Nations Decade for People of African Descent initiatives.</b></p>	<p>In May, 2018 Nova Scotia became the first province to proclaim the United Nations Decade for People of African Descent. CCH and ANSA are developing an International Decade for People of African Decent (2015-2024) action plan, for government to address systemic racism. This provides an opportunity to highlight the contributions made by people of African descent to our societies and to propose concrete measures to promote our full and equal participation in all aspects of society. The ANSA website has been updated to include information about the Decade for People of African Descent.</p>
<p><b>Work to advance government's commitment to continue to address systemic racism and discrimination and acknowledge head-on that these remain problems.</b></p>	<p>ANSA continued to participate in the Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children (NSHCC) Restorative Inquiry's Reflection and Action Task Group. ANSA worked collaboratively with several government departments to address the long-standing issue of land clarification that affect African Nova Scotian residents.</p>
<p><b>Develop and deliver an awareness workshop on the African Nova Scotian historical and contemporary realities.</b> This includes an overview of the migration and history of people of African descent in Nova Scotia, the impacts of race, power and privilege on the current realities of African Nova Scotian communities.</p>	<p>ANSA created and facilitated three day-long training sessions on the historical and contemporary realities of African Nova Scotians. This training will remain in the Public Service Learning Calendar for the fiscal year 2018-2019.</p>
<p><b>Continue to work with the African Heritage Month Information Network to assist the Network with African Heritage</b></p>	<p>ANSA assisted and supported 13 municipal proclamations for African Heritage Month, with a theme "<i>Educate, Unite, Celebrate Community</i>". ANSA</p>

<p>Month events and municipal proclamations.</p>	<p>continues to work with the African Nova Scotian Information Network as they prepare for 2019.</p>
<p><b>Pilot an asset based community development initiative for North Preston, East Preston, Lake Loon and Cherry Brook.</b> The initiative provides a holistic approach to assess resources, skills and experiences for application towards a community development action plan.</p>	<p>ANSA continues to support the Tri-Community group, with representatives from the communities of Lake Loon – Cherry Brook, North Preston and East Preston. The group produced its first tri-community newsletter to help the communities have a better understanding of and share information on community updates.</p>



## 8. Gaelic Affairs

### Overview and Mandate

Gaelic Affairs works with government departments and communities to support reclamation of Gaelic language, culture and identity and to build positive social and economic outcomes. This work contributes to individual and collective self-confidence, fosters innovation and creativity and keeps individuals, engaged, connected and working in our communities.

KEY INITIATIVES AND PRIORITIES	ACTIONS TAKEN IN 2017-2018
<p><b>Awareness.</b> Working with government and other partners, Gaelic Affairs will initiate an awareness campaign based in Gaelic tradition of Nova Scotia entitled Learning from Our Tradition: Gaels in Nova Scotia.</p>	<p>Gaelic Affairs and Communities, Culture and Heritage developed a mini-documentary on the Bun is Bàrr Master-Apprentice program to raise awareness of the importance of engaging Gaelic elders and fortifying Gaelic culture and language with present and future generations of Nova Scotians.</p>
<p><b>Education.</b> In collaboration with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Gaelic educators, parents, school board representatives, Gaelic community members and others, Gaelic Affairs will support the inclusion of Gaelic language, history and culture in teaching grades primary to 12.</p>	<p>Work advanced on Gaelic resources for schools with collaboration with Comhairle na Gàidhlig / The Gaelic Council of Nova Scotia, Gaelic community members, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Gaelic Educators in Nova Scotia's Public Schools, Gaelic Affairs and Communications Nova Scotia.</p>
<p><b>Mi'kmaq culture.</b> In partnership with Mi'kmaq communities, Gaelic Affairs will enhance cross-cultural awareness to create understanding and identify common language, culture, identity and historical narratives among the Mi'kmaq and Gaels.</p>	<p>Gaelic Affairs has worked in a collaborative capacity to develop an initiative MAGIC (Mi'kmaq, Acadians and Gaels in Inverness County) to share cross cultural narratives and experiences. Four MAGIC gatherings took place in 2017-18 where an open invitation to members of all three communities was extended.</p>

## 9. Changes in Measures

Research by the department indicates that culture continues contribute significantly to Nova Scotian society and our economy. The department has two significant tools which provide information on the importance of culture to Nova Scotians and their communities, from an economic and social perspective, and allow us to track its impact. These tools help to benchmark and monitor progress of the Culture Action Plan.

Culture Satellite Account (CSA) is the result of collaboration among all 14 Federal-Provincial-Territorial jurisdictions in Canada that hired Statistics Canada to provide ongoing economic data for culture and sport. The CSA is an accounting framework and statistical tool that provides estimates of the economic contribution of culture and sport to the economy of each province and territory in Canada, it provides estimates of GDP (Gross Domestic Product), output and jobs. It also reveals trends in arts, cultural industries, heritage and sport, and provides economic information about trade and tourism.

Provincial/Territorial Culture Indicators (PTCI) from the CSA, released in February 2018, show that in 2016, Culture contributed \$874 million to our provincial GDP and 13,719 Nova Scotians worked in the culture sector, while sport contributed \$152 million and provided 2,760 jobs. We will continue to use the PTCI data from the CSA to measure economic importance of the culture and sport sectors. Additional CSA modules will provide additional economic data about culture and sport. The new expansion on trade, for example, shows 61 per cent growth in the export of culture products from Nova Scotia from 2010 to 2016. Exports of sport products grew 35 per cent over the same period.

The Nova Scotia Culture Index Study provides data on how Nova Scotians participate in, are aware of, and value all major aspects of culture in the province. It is a research tool created to gauge the social importance of culture in the province and to reveal how Nova Scotians interact with culture. The Nova Scotia Culture Index Study measures, tracks, compares and analyzes our citizens' responses to culture over time. A shortened survey of the Study was completed in February 2018, and collected data based on randomized telephone interviews conducted with 1002 Nova Scotia residents.

The 2018 study highlights include:

- When asked if, "Culture helps create community identity," 78 per cent of respondents agreed that it does.
- When asked if respondents thought, "Culture helps attract visitors from outside Nova Scotia", 77 per cent agreed that it did.
- 74 per cent of Nova Scotians believe that, "Culture does help connect people from different communities and backgrounds."
- 88 per cent of residents agree that, "Engaging children in culture is important to their overall development."

## 10. Public Interest Disclosure of Wrongdoing Act

Information Required under Section 18 of the Act	Fiscal Year 2017-2018
The number of disclosures received	0
The number of findings of wrongdoing	0
Details of each wrongdoing	N/A
Recommendations and actions taken from each wrongdoing	N/A