



BUSINESS PLAN

2024-25

Intergovernmental Affairs

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

Intergovernmental Affairs

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

In 2024-25, IGA will focus on advancing Nova Scotia's priorities for healthcare, the economy, and future growth and sustainability, through work with the Council of the Federation, the Government of Canada, the Council of Atlantic Premiers, the Committee on Internal Trade, and foreign governments including international missions. The Department will also work to deliver on IGA's Ministerial and legislated mandates. Priority actions are outlined below.

1. Premier Chairs the Council of the Federation

- Advance Nova Scotia's positions and funding priorities through the national Premiers' forum, the Council of the Federation (COF), including initiatives that leverage federal funding to grow the housing supply and increase housing affordability
- Continue to call for a First Ministers' Meeting with the Prime Minister on competitiveness and strategic infrastructure
- Lead coordination and alignment among provincial departments to develop Nova Scotia positions in preparation for national forums, including First Ministers' Meetings, COF, and ministerial meetings
- Continue dialogue with respect to innovative solutions in healthcare
- Pursue federal funding programs to enhance economic sustainability, clean growth, infrastructure, and programs that expand access to affordable housing

2. Atlantic Regional Collaboration

- Leverage the Council of Atlantic Premiers to advance Nova Scotia priorities, regional cooperation and alignment, particularly on healthcare solutions
- Seek federal commitments on immigration programs that support Nova Scotia's objectives for population growth and labour market needs
- Through the Atlantic Growth Strategy Leadership Committee, pursue economic and regional objectives, including a regional approach for the development of a housing innovation pilot

3. Strategic Trade Objectives

- Support the Premier, as Minister of Trade, in advancing the Province's objectives for global and interprovincial trade and export growth
- Support the Province's international business development work by providing strategic market intelligence, promoting international market opportunities to Nova Scotia companies, and understanding and working to resolve any industry barriers and market access issues
- Further the Province's interests in Canada's trade negotiations, particularly in the United Kingdom and South-East Asia, with a focus on adding pathways for recruitment of health professionals, growing market share, and reducing trade barriers that impact supply chains

- Monitor and assess developments related to the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement on trade, and prepare strategic trade goals for the review of the agreement, scheduled for 2026
- Advance Nova Scotia's positions and priorities to reduce interprovincial barriers to trade through the Committee on Internal Trade (CIT) and the Atlantic Trade and Procurement Partnership
- Through the CIT, advance key initiatives under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement, including improving labour mobility, mutual recognition, and opening sales channels for alcoholic beverages

4. Developing and Leveraging Global Relationships

- Support the Premier in leading international engagement to advance the Province's objectives for trade and export growth, market development and diversification, and key sector opportunities
- Support the Premier's participation in Canada-United States forums of premiers and governors to strategically advance and advocate the Province's interests in the United States, Nova Scotia's largest international export market
- During international engagement and trade missions, promote Nova Scotia as an attractive destination for skilled workers and tourists
- Support the development and implementation of structures (including MOUs and agreements) to increase engagement between Nova Scotia and foreign jurisdictions, including agreements that enhance Nova Scotia's ability to recruit internationally trained workers
- Work with the Department of Public Works, the Department of Economic Development, airlines and Nova Scotia airports to maintain and enhance air access in the province

5. The Military and Defence Sector in Nova Scotia

- Work with the federal government and other provincial departments to ensure that Nova Scotia's defence sector continues to be a driving force of innovation and economic growth
- Work with the federal government, provincial departments, and military community stakeholders to support military families posted to Nova Scotia

Accessibility Initiative: As part of the work of the Province's Accessibility Interdepartmental Committee, which is supporting the implementation of the Government of Nova Scotia Accessibility Plan, IGA will be completing a cross-jurisdictional comparative review of accessibility legislation at the federal and provincial-territorial levels.

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>
Administration	3,725	3,797	4,426
Government House	1,017	1,045	1,032
Protocol and Honours Secretariat	277	276	286
Total - Departmental Expenses	5,019	5,118	5,744
Ordinary Recoveries	---	99	---
<u>Funded Staff (# of FTEs)</u>			
Department Funded Staff	34.0	33.9	35.0