



# Regulating for Recovery

Regulatory Burden Reduction Target Report

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The Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness

*(ACHIEVEMENT AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2020)*

# Achieving Our Target

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As the province moves through the pandemic and comes out the other side, government must aggressively work to ensure there is a regulatory framework in place to support the province's economic recovery.

We have built a strong foundation to make this happen.

Since the creation of the Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness (the Office) in 2015, the commitment to assess, measure and reduce undue regulatory burden on business has been a cornerstone in government's broader strategy to build a strong foundation for economic growth in Nova Scotia.

It is now key for economic recovery efforts.

The first regulatory burden reduction target was set in 2017. The \$25 million (net) burden reduction target was exceeded, resulting in an estimated \$34 million (net) in annual savings for Nova Scotia businesses. The Office provided an accounting of the many initiatives that contributed to those savings in early 2019.

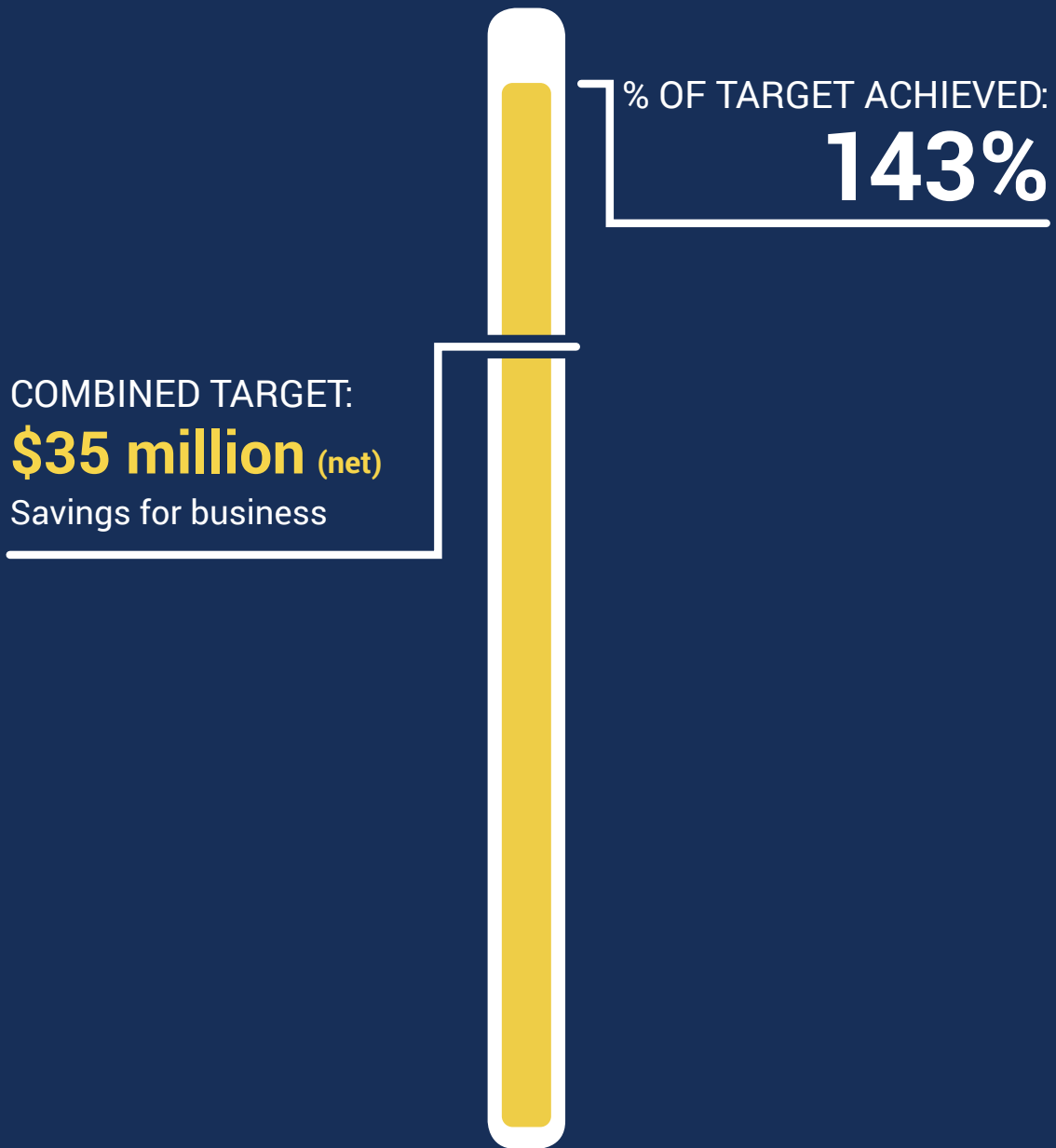
Shortly after the successful results of the first burden reduction exercise, a second target was established. The goal: to reduce undue regulatory burden on Nova Scotia businesses by an additional \$10 million (net) by end of 2020.

This report outlines the results on achieving the second target. It also provides some insights into what we have learned through our work and what lies ahead.

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# SAVINGS TO BUSINESSES

(January 2017 to December 2020)



For a total savings of:  
**\$50,611,000**

# Results Summary

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## Savings To Businesses

Over the second target period, several provincial departments advanced 16 initiatives to reduce regulatory burden for Nova Scotia businesses. These efforts resulted in \$16.2 million (net) in annual savings; exceeding the \$10 million (net) burden reduction target set in 2019.

Taken together, work across government since 2017 to reduce unnecessary regulatory burden has resulted in \$50 million (net) in going annual savings in regulatory costs for Nova Scotia businesses. This is time and money that business owners can allocate or deploy to more productive activities, including business recovery.

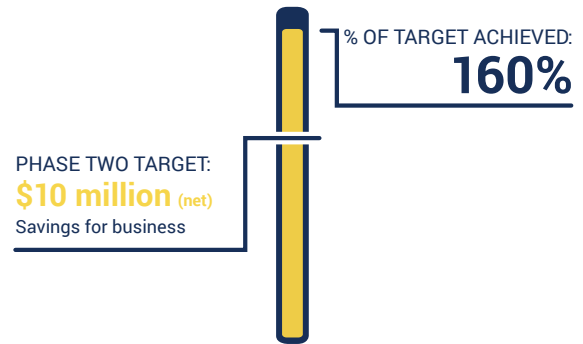
The Business Impact Assessment (BIA) tool, developed with input from the business community, is used to determine the impact, including cost, of legislative, regulatory, policy and process changes on business.

## Savings to Citizens

This year's burden reduction report also includes the results of Nova Scotia's first-ever target to reduce the number of hours citizens spend complying with government regulations. Partnering with Service Nova Scotia and Internal Services (SNS-IS), an initial target was set to save citizens 50,000 hours of administrative burden by December 31, 2020. Service Nova Scotia and Internal Services exceeded its target, reducing citizen time on administrative burden by more than 185,000 hours.

## SAVINGS TO BUSINESSES

(January 2019 to December 2020)



For a total savings of: \$16,221,400

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## SAVINGS TO CITIZENS



For a total savings of: 185,200 hours

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# Insights

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## The Impact of COVID-19 on Nova Scotia's Regulatory Environment

The past year has been an unprecedented year for all businesses, particularly small businesses and those in the hospitality and tourism industry. Businesses faced extraordinary circumstances as they worked to comply with public health orders put in place to protect the health and safety of Nova Scotians and combat the COVID-19 global pandemic. We are extremely grateful for their efforts and their sacrifices.

In addition to providing financial supports to business and their employees, government made regulatory improvement part of their pandemic response. In Nova Scotia, the provincial government fast-tracked initiatives to support business through the pandemic – efforts that contributed to a reduction in regulatory burden. Government also fast-tracked initiatives to enable less in-person interactions between government and citizens; these initiatives also reduced the time citizens spend on compliance.

The pandemic has revealed extensive opportunities for regulatory streamlining that we cannot afford to miss. The Office has been tasked with capturing these opportunities

across government departments and in consultation with stakeholders, with the overall goal of ensuring that, where appropriate, improvements implemented in response to COVID-19 are considered for permanent adoption. This is now a major project and will be a focus of the Office's work throughout 2021.

### Regulatory Burden Reduction: \$50 million (net) annual savings

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Since 2017, government-wide action to improve Nova Scotia's regulatory environment and reduce unnecessary regulatory burden is estimated to save businesses **\$50 million (net)** annually.

This work is central to supporting the province's economic recovery.

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## Primary Sources of Burden Reduction

A review of the 2019-2020 target period indicates there are a few primary drivers of regulatory burden reduction. Modernization of legislation and regulation is one driver of regulatory cost reduction. For example, broadening the list of products to reflect advancements in technology and associated products under the Extended Producer Responsibility program reduces cost to business. Costs to business were also reduced by process improvements, for example, moving services online and shortening the time spent on a process or eliminating redundant requirements by business or simplifying or eliminating complex administrative requirements. Both the Building Services Project and the amendments for Electronic Corporate Records are examples of moving services online to create efficiencies, resulting in considerable savings for impacted businesses.

### Nova Scotia's Auditor General Report Findings

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In 2019 the Auditor General of Nova Scotia reviewed the Office's business impact assessment process and concluded that the Office has an effective process in place to assess and measure regulatory burden for businesses in Nova Scotia. Further, it was concluded that the estimated net savings from the first target were reasonable and well supported, and that exemptions from the target were correctly applied.

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# Regulatory Count vs Regulatory Cost

The Office is focused on ensuring that we are measuring the results of burden reduction efforts in a way that best reflects the experience of business. There are a number of ways to measure overall regulatory burden. Two prominent measures used across Canada are 1) measuring and monitoring overall regulatory requirement count and 2) measuring and monitoring overall regulatory cost.

The Office tracks both measures and has found an ambiguous connection between a change in regulatory requirement count and an associated change in cost to business. While a reduction in both the regulatory count and the regulatory cost would be ideal, the Office is committed to an approach to reduce regulatory burden that best results in a direct positive impact on businesses.

While it has been observed that an increase in regulatory count may result in an increase in regulatory cost and vice versa, overall, we have found the net relationship to be oppositional. During both burden reduction target periods overseen by the Office, the overall regulatory cost burden to business decreased while at the same time the overall regulatory requirement count increased.

As noted above, the modernization of legislation, regulation and processes is a primary driver of regulatory cost reduction. It is also a primary driver of an increase in

regulatory count. In some cases, government is 'catching-up' to industry standards and practice by updating its legislation, regulation and processes; in other cases, it is enabling businesses to interact with government, clients or customers in a way that better reflects technological advancements. Both cases would likely result in an increase in regulatory count as government is enabling additional ways to do business or interact with government or customers and, by doing so, lowering costs.

For example, the biggest single savings to business over this target period came from the introduction of new legislation, the *Plastic Bag Ban Act*, and related regulations. This new legislation reflected the movement not only of the broader community, but of business itself, with many businesses ceasing to provide single-use plastics as an option for consumers over the past several years. While this new legislation and corresponding regulations added to Nova Scotia's overall regulatory count, the changes are estimated to result in \$5 million in annual savings to business as there is no longer the need to purchase single-use plastic bags and, if they choose, they can charge for reusable or paper bags.

The Office will continue to examine the benefit of these measures individually, as well as their intersection, to build our knowledge and ensure Nova Scotia is developing Canada's most efficient and effective regulatory system.

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# Achieving The Target

As of the end of the program on December 31, 2020, initiatives approved and where implementation is complete or underway are estimated to reduce burden to business by \$16.2 million (net), representing 162% of the \$10 million (net) burden reduction target.

The costs or savings of the measures below have been estimated using the Business Impact Assessment (BIA) tool or through customized economic modelling using the methodology found in the BIA. The BIA model is based on

the Standard Cost Model, which estimates the impact of regulatory proposals and which includes direct costs/savings (i.e. fees, capital purchases), along with compliance costs (including time).

The estimates provided are based on the best information and data available at the time of this report. Additional detail on each measure, including those exempt from the program, is provided in the following "In Depth" section.

DEPARTMENT	APPROVED AND/OR IMPLEMENTED REGULATORY MEASURE	ESTIMATED ANNUALIZED SAVINGS (COST) TO BUSINESS
<b>Service Nova Scotia</b>	Updated Permanent Liquor License Application Process	\$47,000
	Adding International Registration Program at Kentville Access Centre	\$130,000
	Registry of Joint Stock Companies Director Updates are Now Shared with CRA	\$450,000
	Extra Provincial Fee Waiver	\$1,000,000
	Fall 2019 Legislative Amendments for Electronic Corporate Records	\$2,200,000
	Updates to FOIPOP System and Processes	\$26,000
<b>Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal</b>	MVI Inspections to New Vehicle Inventory	\$275,000
	Building Service Projects	\$2,500,000
<b>Nova Scotia Environment</b>	Solid Waste-Resource Management Regulations and Used Oil Regulations Amendments - Additional EPR	\$1,200,000
	Plastic Bag Ban Legislation	\$5,000,000
<b>Department of Labour and Advanced Education</b>	Repeal of Partial Hours and Inexperienced Rate	\$3,300,000
	Trade Union Act Regulations	\$238,000

DEPARTMENT	APPROVED AND/OR IMPLEMENTED REGULATORY MEASURE	ESTIMATED ANNUALIZED SAVINGS (COST) TO BUSINESS
Department of Agriculture	Repeal and Replacement of the Farm Registration Regulations	(\$147,000)
	Repeal and Replacement of the Timber Loan Board Regulations	(\$22,000)
	Changes to Lab Service Fees	(\$126,000)
Department of Business	Tourism Accommodations Registration Act Regulations	\$30,000
Department of Finance	Defined Benefits Pension Funding Reform	\$110,000
Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture	Amendments to Aquaculture Licence and Lease Regulations	(\$2,600)
Department of Lands and Forestry	Forest Fire Protection Regulations	\$5,000
	Amendments to the Natural Resources Ministerial Land Transactions Regulations	\$8,000
<b>Total Burden Reduction Savings (net)</b>		<b>\$16,221,400</b>

Please see appendix for more information on the Office's role with the public health measures in response to COVID-19.



# Initiatives

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## An In-depth Review of the Initiatives Contributing to the Target

### **Service Nova Scotia and Internal Services (SNS-IS)**

#### *Updated Permanent Liquor License Application process:*

SNS-IS implemented changes to simplify and shorten the liquor licence application process. The application has been reduced to three pages and requires fewer supporting documents. Additionally, as part of this initiative credit checks are now being done in-house with consent to the check being part of the application. Impacted businesses will see savings due to the reduced obligations and travel time.

#### *Adding International Registration Program at Kentville Access Centre*

International Registration Program (IRP) supplemental registration can now be completed at the Kentville Access Centre; previously, this was only available at the Halifax, Dartmouth, and Sydney Access Centres. This will result in annual savings to Kentville area trucking carriers by reducing the amount of travel.

#### *Registry of Joint Stock Companies Director Updates are Now Shared with Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)*

Through the Nova Scotia Business Registry, initial business information from the Registry of Joint Stock Companies is shared with CRA at the time a new entity is formed. Until recently, further updates to directors or to a business operating name were not shared. This meant that businesses and their representatives would need to spend time contacting CRA by telephone and fax to provide updates every time they changed that information at the Registry. These changes have enabled automated updates of this business information to CRA, so business clients no longer need to spend time verifying and updating this detail in two places.

#### *Extra Provincial Fee Waiver*

Effective August 1, 2019, companies incorporated in another Canadian province or territory no longer have to pay the \$274 registration or annual renewal fee when registering to carry on business in Nova Scotia. Eliminating this fee

helps to remove barriers to trade between the provinces and encourages businesses to do business in Nova Scotia. On implementation, this made NS only the second province in the country to have a \$0 fee for extra-provincial registrations and renewals. This fee waiver does not apply to federally incorporated or foreign companies.

#### *Amendments for Electronic Corporate Records*

In order to modernize administrative processes and increase regulatory effectiveness, the Department led changes to various pieces of legislation assigned to or administered by SNS-IS. With respect to business impact, amendments of note include:

- Companies Act and Corporations Registration Act
  - The minute books of companies can now be maintained electronically, provided they are accessible as otherwise required in the Co-operative Associations Act.
  - Notices of meetings can be made electronically, and Director and Member meetings can be held electronically.
  - Books, registers and records of the co-operative can be maintained electronically provided they are accessible as otherwise required in the Act.
  - Resolutions can be passed by signature of all directors or all members in lieu of holding a meeting.

#### *New FOIPOP System and Process*

SNS-IS is implementing a new system for online public requests for information under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act ("FOIPOP"). The portal will be used by the public to submit requests for information from government. The new portal will make it easier for members of the public, including businesses, to submit FOIPOP requests and receive responses. The new portal is anticipated to go live in Winter 2021.

## **Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (TIR)**

### ***Building Project Services Modernization***

The following changes have been made to TIR's procurement and building project services:

- Virtual tender/project meetings: Stakeholder meetings discussing tenders or project work can now be done virtually.
- Electronic change orders: Change orders for projects are no longer required to be on paper and can be submitted and processed electronically.
- Increase standing offer threshold: Increase the threshold for utilizing the standing offers for consulting engagements from projects with fees less than \$100,000 to those with fees less than \$1,000,000.
- Online tender bidding: Allow potential vendors to bid for tenders online.

### ***Vehicle Inspection Regulations***

Changes to regulations will allow pre-delivery inspection (PDI) work orders to be used as proof of valid motor vehicle inspection (MVI) for a new vehicle. As a result, new car dealers will no longer be required to affix an MVI sticker before sale if the vehicle has a copy of a work order for a satisfactory PDI, saving the new car dealers time and reducing their costs.

## **Nova Scotia Environment**

### ***Plastic Bags Reduction Act***

The Plastic Bags Reduction Act came into effect on October 30, 2020 to prohibit businesses from distributing plastic single-use checkout bags. The aim is to reduce the amount of film plastic disposed in landfills, collected and bundled for sale to available markets, or released into the environment as litter. Businesses will see savings from no longer needing to purchase single-use plastic bags. Businesses may charge for reusable or paper bags if they choose.

### ***Solid Waste-Resource Management Regulations and Used Oil Regulations Amendments- Additional EPR***

Amendments were made to the Solid Waste-Resource Management Regulations and the Used Oil Regulations to include new products to Nova Scotia's current Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program. In particular, e-book

readers, GPS devices, video game systems, microwaves, external hard drives, optical devices, and modems were added. In addition, an EPR program was created for used oil, oil filters, oil containers, glycol (anti-freeze), and glycol containers. The initiative is estimated to result in savings to generators of used oil and glycol waste due to no longer having to pay disposal fees.

## **Department of Business**

### ***Tourism Accommodations Registration Act Regulations***

The Tourist Accommodations Registration Act (TARA) replaces the previous accommodation licensing and inspection system under the Tourist Accommodation Act (TAA) and provides a simple, easy to use online registration model for all tourist accommodation hosts/operators with fixed roof accommodations. Hosts offering tourist accommodations in their primary residence are not required to register. Savings are realized as the result of requiring fewer categories of tourist accommodations to register and reducing the registration requirements.

## **Labour and Advanced Education**

### ***Repeal of Partial Hours and Inexperienced Rate***

As a result of the repeal of the Partial Hour Provision of the Minimum Wage Order (General), employers will no longer be required to round up partial hours and calculate wages for partial hours worked by employees paid at or near (slightly higher than) minimum wage; these employees can now be paid for actual time worked, as is the case with other hourly wage employees. Businesses will see savings as a result of having eliminated both the requirement to round up wages and the related administrative burden spent calculating and carrying out payment of partial hours worked.

### ***Trade Union Act Regulations***

Regulations under the Trade Union Act now preclude an application for certification of a union in the construction industry from being filed on weekends or holidays. This change helps to ensure that the union certification process in the construction industry is balanced. Affected businesses will see savings due to no longer scheduling staff on weekends or holidays to ensure that employees have an opportunity to participate in a decision to unionize a workplace.

## **Department of Agriculture**

### *Repeal and Replacement of the Farm Registration Regulations*

The new regulations reduced the gross income categories for determining annual farm registration fees from nine to five categories and increase the farm registration fees; removed the application form for farm registration from the Regulations; and now allows new farms who have not yet filed a tax return to register with proof of farm income. While the new regulations will result in an overall cost to industry, registration is voluntary, and it allows access to government programs for farm business.

### *Repeal and Replacement of the Timber Loan Board Regulations*

The new regulations support the Nova Scotia forestry industry, modernize lending practices, align practices and products to be comparable with other private lending institutions, and align operations, services, and fees of the Timber Loan Board with the Farm Loan Board and Fisheries and Aquaculture Loan Board which were both updated in 2018. These changes will result in an annual cost to impacted businesses who choose to apply for a loan; however, there will be broader positive economic impacts due to efficiencies in the loan application process and the increased access to loans for businesses who may not qualify for loans at financial institutions under terms offered by the Farm Loan Board.

### *Changes to Lab Service Fees*

Fees for various laboratory services offered to the agriculture industry (e.g. soil testing, dairy testing) have moved toward a cost-recovery model. The fee increase will have a cost impact on Nova Scotia farmers as these tests are a regulatory requirement for the dairy industry and industry best practice for the other sectors.

## **Department of Finance and Treasury Board**

### *Defined Benefits Pension Funding Reform*

Outdated regulations were creating a situation where plan sponsors were required to comply with redundant reporting requirements. Changes to the regulations reduced reporting requirements for certain types of plans and addressed other regulatory issues for defined benefit pensions plans, resulting in reduced administrative burden for impacted businesses.

## **Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture**

### *Amendments to Aquaculture Licence and Lease Regulations*

The regulatory amendments implemented processes and licences previously introduced under amendments to the Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act. While there is a cost to industry for the associated changes, the regulations were developed to provide more flexibility to operators while maintaining departmental oversight, and to ensure licenced and leased aquaculture sites are used to their full potential.

## **Department of Lands and Forestry**

### *Forest Fire Protection Regulations*

Changes to these regulations modernized the job site firefighting equipment requirements, and clarified definitions for campfires, burn pile sizes, and burn days. New job site equipment requirements in the revised regulations reflect current crew sizes, better align with other provincial jurisdictions, and promote more efficient and reasonable wildfire suppression operations. The amendments, particularly the changes in equipment requirements, are resulting in an annual savings for all affected businesses.

### *Amendments to the Natural Resources Ministerial Land Transactions Regulations*

The amendments to the regulations reduced the time required to process routine land transactions and reduced the number of transactions that required approval by the Governor in Council. Specifically, the amendments removed the requirement for notice to and approval by Executive Council for Crown Land transactions related to licenses issued for the purposes of transmitting, delivering, or furnishing power, cable, telephone, cellular, broadband, or similar services, and will result in savings for impacted businesses.

# Exemptions

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In some exceptional circumstances, government must establish or adapt regulations to address an urgent or pressing public policy issue. To reflect the intent of the program (reducing unnecessary burden and that which is fully 'owned' by the province), criteria were developed to exempt exceptional regulatory measures from the burden reduction program.

The criteria are intended to ensure that the target program achieves its purpose – the reduction of unnecessary burden. The program was not intended to unduly restrain government in its important function as regulator. There are three categories of exemptions:

1. Economic analysis indicates economic benefits produced by the regulatory change will be materially larger than the burden.
2. Initiatives that are substantially beyond the direct control of the provincial government but are required to meet national or international standards or agreements (e.g. Federal climate change policy).
3. Proposals that are required to meet unforeseen or urgent public policy needs. For examples, proposals where research and evidence clearly indicate a significant and urgent public health or safety risk. Proposals exempt from the program are still submitted to the Office for assessment for alignment with the Premiers' Charter of Governing Principles for Regulation and are still costed using the BIA.

The following measure is exempt from the burden reduction program:

## **Department of Finance and Treasury Board**

### *Permitting and Fees for Vaping Retailers*

Changes were made to the Revenue Act and Regulations for the permitting and taxation of vaping products. Permitting is now required. The Revenue Act changes were enacted as a public health initiative to address the rising rates of youth vaping in Nova Scotia. The BIA resulted in a calculated burden of \$330,000 per annum for retailers and wholesalers of vaping products, due to the new permitting requirements. This cost has been exempted from the burden reduction target calculation due to it being an urgent public health policy initiative in Nova Scotia.



# Reducing Burden to Citizens

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## A Citizen Burden Reduction Pilot

The Office and its government legislation recognizes that government regulations, administration and policy decisions can have a significant impact on citizen time. The Office began a pilot project in 2020 with the Department of Service Nova Scotia and Internal Services (SNS-IS) to measure and reduce the amount of time citizens spend on administrative burden related to government programs, such as filling out forms.

Through this initiative, a citizen/non-profit regulatory impact assessment tool was prepared based on the Business Impact Assessment (BIA) tool currently used by the Office.

- The quantitative section costs changes to one-time and ongoing time/effort for citizens in hours.
- The quantitative section also captures changes in fees or payments citizens are required to make to the provincial government or its agencies to meet regulatory requirements (i.e. license or application fees).

After initial discussions with SNS-IS, a target was set to save citizens 50,000 hours of their time by December 31, 2020.

As with initiatives identified in the business target, several planned initiatives to save citizen hours were expedited by government's response to the COVID-19 global pandemic. As a result, SNS-IS exceeded their target, reducing citizen time on administrative burden by more than 185,000 hours.

INITIATIVE	HOURS SAVED
Property Tax Rebate for Seniors (PTRS) Opt-in program	14,000
Mobile Phone ID Capability	1,100
Heating Assistance Rebate Program (requirement to attach fuel bill)	9,800
Ticket Lottery Online Forms	600
Property Tax Rebate for Seniors (PTRS) Direct Deposit	7,500
Personal Property Judgment Creditor	2,200
Online Driver's Licence Renewal	150,000
<b>TOTAL CITIZEN HOURS SAVED</b>	<b>185,200</b>

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## **Initiative Details- Citizen Hours Saved**

### ***Property Tax Rebate for Seniors Opt-in program***

Property Tax Rebate for Seniors (PTRS) is a low-income program where eligible applicants can be reimbursed funds towards their municipal tax bill. As part of the PTRS program, there is now an “opt-in” option that will automatically forward the required information to those approved to the Heating Assistance Rebate Program (HARP). This allows eligible recipients to receive the HARP rebate without having to submit an additional application.

### ***Mobile Phone ID Capability***

In 2019, International students and vulnerable citizens did not have to go to an Access Center for a Nova Scotia Provincial Photo Identification card issued under the Registry of Motor Vehicles program. These citizens were able to access this service at several universities and community centres. This service was not able to be delivered in 2020 because of COVID restrictions, however, the intention is to do so in future years.

### ***Personal Property Judgment Creditor***

The Personal Property Registration System (PPRS) now includes an option for individuals and businesses for a Judgment Creditor Account (JCA). It provides limited search and registration functions and enables clients to register a Notice of Judgment. This new service offers an option to judgment creditors who use the system infrequently to register and maintain their judgments in the PPRS from a

home/personal computer, rather than hiring a third-party service provider or going to a Land Registration Office to file at a PPRS public terminal. These public terminals are still available for those who do not wish to use the new account type.

### ***Heating Assistance Rebate Program (HARP) Requirement to Attach Fuel Bill***

The Heating Assistance Rebate Program (HARP) is a program to help eligible low-income Nova Scotians receive a rebate of up to \$200 on their home heating costs every year. Applicants need to meet the program’s income criteria and submit a fuel bill to validate they pay for heating. SNS-IS is now using an audit process to prove home heating and no longer require applicants to submit heating bills.

### ***Ticket Lottery Online Forms***

The application form for ticket lotteries with prizes under \$4000 can now be completed online and via mobile devices.

### ***Property Tax Rebate for Seniors (PTRS) Direct Deposit***

Beginning in 2020-2021, the program has launched a direct deposit option, and as a result, clients will no longer have to deposit cheques to receive their rebate.

### ***Online Driver’s Licence Renewal***

Citizens can now renew their driver’s licence online, saving citizens hours spent travelling to Access centres to renew their licence.



# Role of the Office with Public Health Emergency Measures (Regulatory) **Related to COVID-19**

The Office recognizes that 2020 has been an unprecedented year, and that many businesses have been impacted by government directives associated with the response to the global health pandemic.

The Office considered whether regulatory interventions put in place in response to the public health emergency triggered by COVID-19 would be assessed through its Business Impact Assessment (BIA) process.

The Office concluded these measures would not go through the BIA process for the following reasons:

- The Charter of Governing Principles for Regulation, which guides the Office's regulatory assessment and measurement program, outlines principles that must be considered in determining whether regulation is the best policy instrument to respond to an issue. If regulation is determined to be the superior policy choice, the Charter outlines a set of guidelines that must be adhered to.
- The public health emergency measures imposed in response to COVID-19 were required to protect the health and safety of Nova Scotians. There were no other feasible policy instruments available to government to respond to the public health crisis.

- Governments at all levels rolled out unprecedented financial programs and supports to mitigate the impact of the intervention.
- There is no evidence that lesser or no regulatory intervention by government would have resulted in better economic outcomes. Early economic data from sources such as the OECD indicate that countries whose regulatory intervention was early and robust may have better economic outcomes and faster recoveries.
- The public health regulatory interventions are temporary; once the threat of the virus is diminished or eliminated, there is every expectation that the public health measures imposed on business will be relaxed or lifted entirely. Similarly, government financial programs and supports will end.

Measures introduced during the pandemic to improve efficiencies and service delivery and which government chooses to adopt on a more permanent basis would be fully assessed, costed and measured against our burden reduction target, as consistent with the Charter.





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