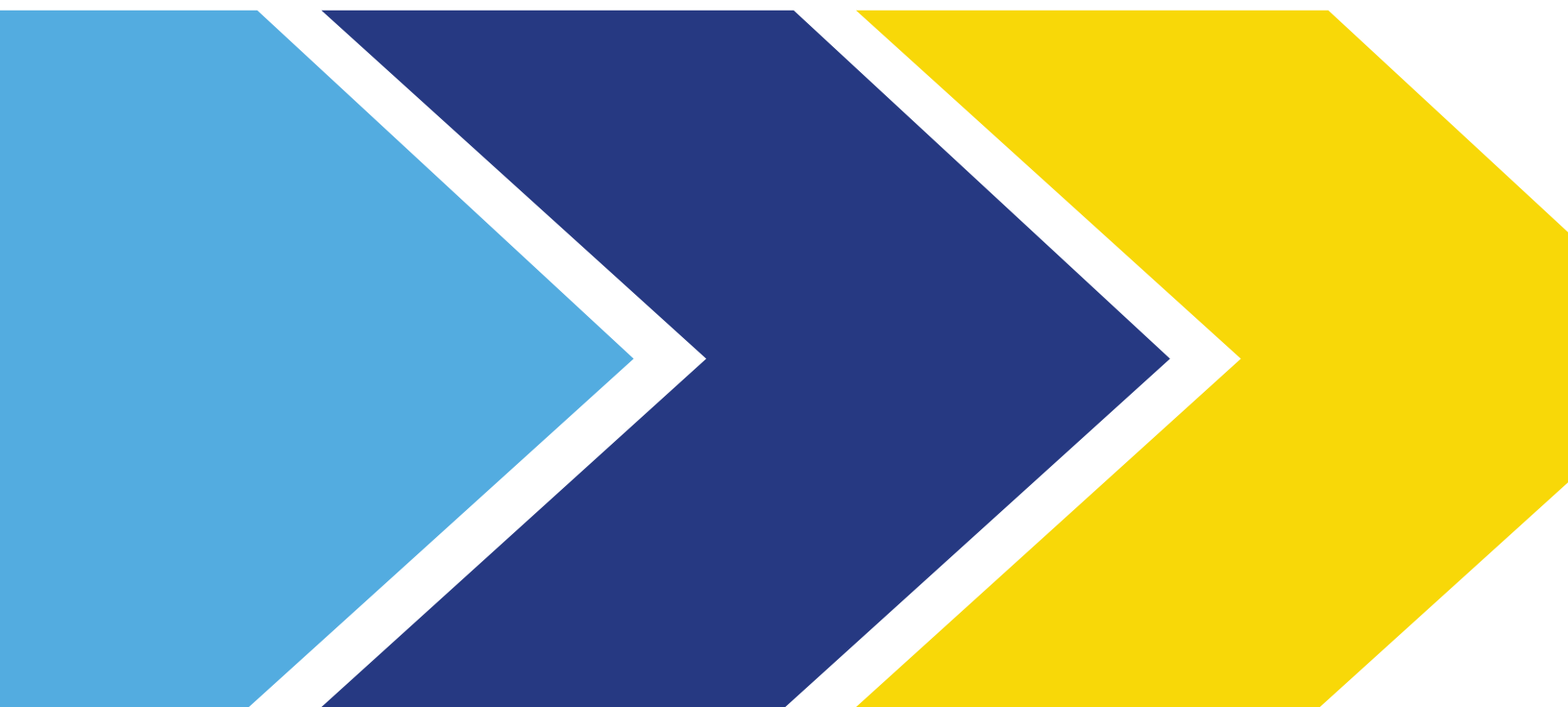


# **BUSINESS PLAN**

2022-23



**Agriculture**



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## Minister's Message

I am pleased to present the Department of Agriculture's 2022-23 Business Plan that outlines our strategic direction for the year ahead.

To support Nova Scotians in accessing and choosing locally produced food, we will lead the development of a Nova Scotia Food and Beverage Strategy. The strategy will create awareness of, improve access to, and increase local production of healthy, local food to help meet the goal of 20 per cent local consumption by 2030.

Work will continue to develop Canada's next policy framework for agriculture. The "Guelph Statement," released at the fall 2021 Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers' meeting, will replace the Canadian Agricultural Partnership agreement expiring at the end of March 2022. The "Guelph Statement" represents a shared vision for the future success of the industry and focuses on five priority areas: Environment and Climate Change; Science; Research and Innovation; Market Development and Trade; Building Sector Capacity and Growth; and Resiliency and Public Trust.

We want to continue to build on the success of our local wine industry. Supporting the revitalization of Nova Scotia vineyards will help to improve the quality of grapes that go into Nova Scotia wine.

Community pastures play a critical role in the development and growth of Nova Scotia's beef sector. The Community Pastures Action Committee has been tasked with implementing the recommendations of an action plan that will set our pastures up for long-term success. Improved pastures will give farmers a better resource to work with and improved fertility will be better for cattle.

We are continuing with improvements to the provincial dykeland system along the Bay of Fundy. This program, supported by the federal Disaster Mitigation Adaptation Fund, will mitigate climate change impact, strengthen the resilience of dykes, and reduce disaster risks.

Nova Scotia's agriculture industry is staying strong and contributing to the health of our provincial economy, despite the impacts of the pandemic. 2022-23 holds promise for new growth, and government is committed to growing the industry into the future. I encourage you to read our business plan to find out more.

Sincerely,

Original signed by Honourable Greg Morrow

## Mandate Actions

The Department of Agriculture helps develop competitive, sustainable, and profitable agriculture and agri-business industries that contribute to the economic, environmental, and social prosperity of Nova Scotia's rural and urban communities, and all of Nova Scotia. The Department will undertake the following priority initiatives in 2022 – 2023:

### Support Local Food

- Through a cross-departmental working group, develop a Food and Beverage Strategy to support and encourage local food consumption through opportunities under three pillars:
  - Enhanced overall awareness of healthy food choices and local options;
  - Improved access to local food throughout the province to maximize usage of existing resources and help address food insecurity; and
  - Increased local food production and processing through season extension, production efficiency, and targeted commodity growth, while addressing barriers such as labour shortages and land protection.
- Work with the Department of Economic Development to support the implementation of the Nova Scotia Loyal Program to encourage local food consumption.
  - Existing agriculture buy local marketing strategies and partnerships will be leveraged to help establish the NS Loyal brand.

### Enhance Sustainability

- Undertake initiatives to support climate change mitigation and environmental and economic sustainability in the agriculture industry in partnership with the federal government, municipalities, First Nations, businesses, community groups and non-profit organizations. Specifically, the Department will:
  - Implement, monitor, and evaluate the Departmental Climate Change Adaptation Work Plan previously developed with Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change.

- Begin development of sector specific climate adaptation strategies for the horticulture, beef and sheep, and Christmas tree industries.
- Actively pursue provincial and federal funding programs to assist industry with climate change mitigation, including the adoption of clean technology.
- Continue work with Efficiency One to evaluate and improve energy efficiency in the agriculture industry.

#### Encourage Innovative and Environmentally Conscious Development

- Support businesses in the agriculture industry to establish themselves in the province or scale-up their business by:
  - Promoting Nova Scotia agricultural exports through establishment of a Nova Scotia agri-food and beverage brand and online directory to target prospective national and international buyers.
  - Assisting producers and food processors in investment decision making by providing them with support for pursuing new market development opportunities.
  - Providing direct lending opportunities through the Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board to support farmers and processors in establishing and increasing production.
  - Working with other government departments, industry, and community organizations to identify and address barriers to participation of underrepresented communities in the agriculture industry.

#### Expand Education in Healthy Eating, Environmental Stewardship and Agriculture Careers

- Work with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to ensure youth awareness of the agriculture industry, especially related to healthy eating.
  - Continue to provide in-classroom resources that explore environmental sustainability in the agriculture industry, such as the 'Digging Deeper' soil conservation module and the 'In Pkwiman: Wild Blueberries in Mi'kma'ki and Wabanaki' module on environmental stewardship.

- Ensure youth are taught early about linkages between healthy eating and local agriculture through classroom programs such as 'All Kinds of Apples' and 'Little Green Sprouts' and explore opportunities for new programming.
- Encourage students to pursue careers in agriculture through programs such as 'GenAg' and increase awareness and adoption of promotional resources developed under Agriculture in the Classroom.

## Areas of Focus

The Department will continue work on the following areas of focus in 2022–2023:

### Federal-Provincial Funding Partnership

- Implement year five of the five-year Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) policy and priorities framework.
- Finalize negotiations on the Next Policy Framework (NPF) for 2023–2028.
  - The NPF will advance sustainable agriculture and agri-food by focusing on five priority areas: Environment and Climate Change; Science; Research and Innovation; Market Development and Trade; Building Sector Capacity and Growth; and Resiliency and Public Trust.

### Community Pastures

- Continue to implement the recommendations from the commissioned reports, including the work of the Community Pasture Action Committee (CPAC) tasked with overseeing the implementation of the recommendations. Support teams have been put in place within the Department to assist both the CPAC and the pastures themselves with the required work, with the goal of accomplishing the following in 2022-2023:
  - Finalize business plans for all active Community Pasture Co-operatives.
  - Implement a communication strategy to share information between the Co-operatives and inform the public on how to access pastureland.

- Review all pastureland ownership and address any outstanding issues or barriers to pasture expansion through purchasing of privately held lands, completing survey work, and migrating land.

### Agricultural Dykeland Improvement

- Continue improvements to the provincial dykeland system along the Bay of Fundy under the federal Disaster Mitigation Adaptation Fund that will mitigate climate change impact, strengthen the resilience of dykes, and reduce disaster risks.
  - For the third year of this nine-year project, design will continue on ten sites and construction will begin on four sites.

### Nova Scotia Wine Strategy

- Implement a Nova Scotia Wine Strategy with the province's wine industry that will define Nova Scotia as a quality wine region that will:
  - Explore options for developing and implementing a quality standard requirement for 100% Nova Scotia wine, including oversight models.
  - Deliver a vineyard replanting program to revitalize existing vineyards with higher quality grapes ensuring the right grapes are available for production.
  - Expand the reach of the industry across Canada by providing support to industry to identify export opportunities.

### Business Continuity and Emergency Preparedness

- Support the livestock industry to develop emergency and business interruption response plans that ensure the ability to respond to an emergency event, including business continuity in a market interruption event.
  - The Department has provided resources to support the development of emergency preparedness plans for the pork and poultry industries in 2022-23.



## Financial Summary

<b>(\$ thousands)</b>			
<b><u>Programs and Services</u></b>	<b><u>2021-2022 Estimate</u></b>	<b><u>2021-2022 Forecast</u></b>	<b><u>2022-2023 Estimate</u></b>
Senior Management	726	697	637
Policy & Corporate Services	4,343	4,320	3,854
Agriculture Risk Management and Lending	13,604	13,615	13,488
Agriculture & Food Operations	12,827	13,139	12,726
Industry Development	9,113	9,001	9,794
<b>Total - Departmental Expenses</b>	<b>40,613</b>	<b>40,772</b>	<b>40,499</b>
<b>Ordinary Recoveries</b>	<b>5,122</b>	<b>5,122</b>	<b>5,640</b>
<b><u>Funded Staff (# of FTEs)</u></b>			
<b>Department Funded Staff</b>	<b>169.6</b>	<b>154.4</b>	<b>165.1</b>
<b>Note:</b>			
For Ordinary Revenues, see Estimates and Supplementary Detail Book, Chapter 2			
For TCA Purchase Requirements, see Estimates and Supplementary Detail Book, Chapter 1			