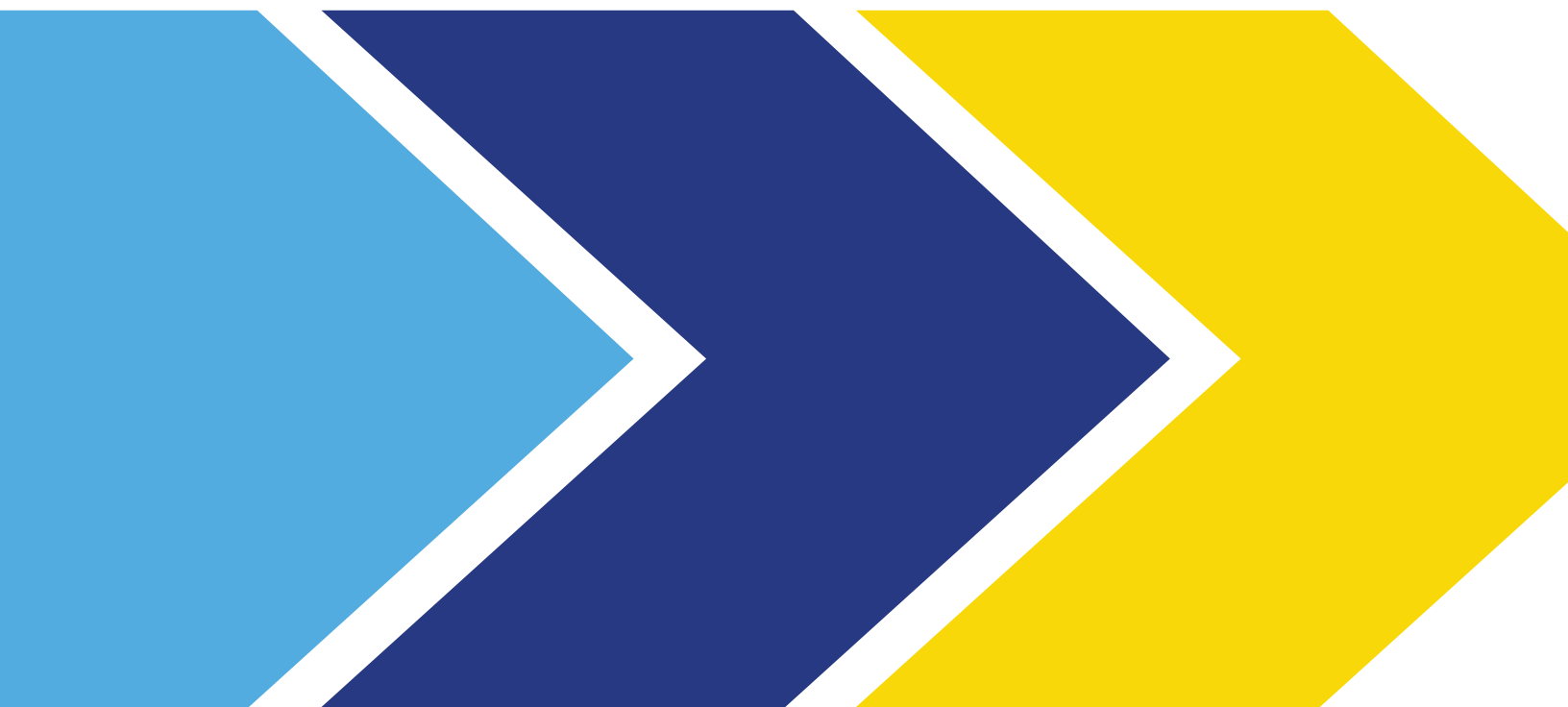


# **BUSINESS PLAN**

2022-23



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Budget 2022-23: Business Plan  
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MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER



I am honoured to present the Nova Scotia Office of L'nu Affairs business plan for 2022-23. The Office of L'nu Affairs (OLA) provides a broad range of advice and support on multifaceted issues that include formal consultation obligations, tripartite negotiations regarding Mi'kmaq Aboriginal and Treaty rights, and collaborative and cooperative opportunities that seek to improve the economic and social prosperity of the Mi'kmaq in Nova Scotia. In addition, OLA is playing a key role in coordinating and supporting public education and awareness of the shared history in our province.

Nova Scotia has long term well-established and dynamic relationships with the Mi'kmaq and Indigenous communities. It is an important rapport that is achieved through the Made-In-Nova Scotia Negotiation process, the formal consultation processes, the Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Tripartite Forum, the Treaty Education Initiative, and other ongoing intergovernmental and engagement processes.

OLA continues to engage with federal, provincial, territorial, and Indigenous partners on many initiatives such as the continued implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls' Calls for Justice. OLA continues to support the Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Tripartite Forum and its working committees. I hope to continue and look forward to the Nova Scotia Cabinet and Mi'kmaq Chiefs government to government meetings.

OLA will build upon the inaugural provincially recognized Truth and Reconciliation Day of September 30, 2021, in conjunction with Treaty Day and Mi'kmaq History Month in October to celebrate history, culture and acknowledge the legacy of residential schools and the role it holds in the reconciliation process.

The global pandemic continues to challenge us all, yet we are proud of what we have been able to accomplish in the past year. We look forward to continuing to build upon our significant collaborations and relationships with our L'nu partners.

Wela'lioq,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karla MacFarlane". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Karla MacFarlane  
Minister, Office of L'nu Affairs

**NEGOTIATIONS:** Advance tripartite Mi'kmaq/Provincial/Federal work on Aboriginal and Treaty rights in Nova Scotia.

- The Made-in-Nova Scotia Process is the formal Mi'kmaq rights negotiation process that helps maintain and foster a positive and productive relationship between the Province and the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia.
- In 2022/23, the three Parties will continue focus on exploring interim and incremental approaches to addressing Mi'kmaq rights in Nova Scotia. This will focus on developing negotiated agreements that bring greater clarity and predictability to the exercise of Mi'kmaq rights in Nova Scotia.
- In 2022/23, formal tripartite negotiations will also continue on Mi'kmaq enhanced social assistance self-governance.
- OLA will support the Minister of Natural Resources and Renewables and the Minister of Environment and Climate Change on the inclusion of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas in the Protected Areas Network.

**CONSULTATIONS:** The Provincial Government has consistent and effective, legally sound mechanisms for consulting with the Mi'kmaq and coordinating with the Federal Government.

- Maintain centralized support and advice to Provincial Departments in discharging their duty to consult the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia on impacts to asserted and established rights potentially resulting from departmental decisions.
- OLA will continue to work with line departments to build internal consultation capacity of those departments; strengthen OLA's strategic advisory role, and create or enhance consultation processes that are aligned with particular lines of business and departmental authorizations that trigger consultation with the Mi'kmaq.
- OLA will focus on expanding the utility and capacity of the consultation tracking database to potentially include a geographic component.
- Continued OLA support of the Mi'kmaq internal consultation coordination, capacity, and communications between KMKNO and Mi'kmaq communities is essential to enhance the provincial consultation process coordination by OLA.
- OLA will continue to monitor communities' evolving approaches to consultation, and for those that choose to consult outside of the KMKNO/TOR process, OLA will work to apply relevant jurisprudence and ensure that these communities are also participating in consultation.

**POLICY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL INITIATIVES:** Productive collaborations with Provincial departments, Federal/Provincial/Territorial fora, Mi'kmaw organizations, and other external partners.

- In collaboration with Canada and the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia, OLA will continue to lead, fund, and participate in the Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Tripartite Forum to enhance collaboration and improve outcomes on issues of mutual importance.
- OLA will continue to provide ongoing horizontal coordination, guidance, and strategic advice on all Indigenous matters interdepartmentally, formally, through the Senior Officials Advisory Committee on Indigenous Affairs and informally through issue coordination and management with line departments.
- OLA will support the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development in the review and update of curriculum alongside a governance model for P-12. This will include education on Indian Residential Schools and inclusion of Indigenous voices in Education policy and decision-making.
- OLA will continue to work with Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey (MK) and other Mi'kmaw organizations, as well as provincial departments and partners to support Mi'kmaw language revitalization and promotion in accordance with anticipated provincial legislation.
- OLA will pursue an enhanced process and policy to effectively manage Indigenous engagement matters, necessary due to an increasing demand from provincial departments, business, and agencies for engagement advice on projects, legislation, and initiatives outside of the formal Consultation process.
- OLA will continue to work closely with the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs on Federal/Provincial/Territorial initiatives that may impact Indigenous people. This will include an active pursuit of federal funding programs that enhance environmental and economic sustainability.
- OLA will continue to provide ongoing support of major social, justice, economic and employment initiatives, and organizations. This includes OLA Strategic Funding Initiatives and the Aboriginal Community Development Funds. OLA will continue to pursue leverage funding from partners for initiatives, projects and organizations that advance social and economic outcomes for Indigenous people.
- OLA will continue to work closely with the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre and other organizations to address urban and off reserve Indigenous issues.

**PUBLIC EDUCATION AND AWARENESS:** Greater public education, awareness, and appreciation of Mi'kmaq and Indigenous culture and history provides a foundation for reconciliation, positive relations and productive rights-based negotiations and consultations.

- With two dedicated OLA staff plus significant in-kind staff contributions from other provincial partner departments (CCTH, EECD & PSC), OLA will continue to provide public education and awareness of the Treaties and our Treaty

relationship; creating an opportunity for every Nova Scotian to learn about our shared history in the Province and in Canada and work toward reconciliation through the Treaty Education Nova Scotia Initiative established between the Province, Mi’kmaw Kina’matnewey (MK) and Millbrook First Nation.

- OLA will support EECD in a review and update of curriculum related to Diversity, including education on Indian Residential Schools.
- OLA will continue to provide funding for a Mi’kmaw coordinator and support staff position at MK.
- OLA will continue to work across government departments and with Mi’kmaw partners to advance the work of Treaty Education.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

<b>Office of L’nu Affairs</b>			
<b>Departmental Expenses Summary</b>			
<b>(\$ thousands)</b>			
<b><u>Programs and Services</u></b>	<b><u>2021-2022</u></b> <b><u>Estimate</u></b>	<b><u>2021-2022</u></b> <b><u>Forecast</u></b>	<b><u>2022-2023</u></b> <b><u>Estimate</u></b>
L’nu Affairs	4,257	4,257	4,224
<b>Total - Departmental Expenses</b>	<b>4,257</b>	<b>4,257</b>	<b>4,224</b>
<b><u>Funded Staff (# of FTEs)</u></b>			
<b>Department Funded Staff</b>	17.5	16.7	17.5