



Business Plan

2023-24

L'nu Affairs



NOVA SCOTIA

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Budget 2023-24: Business Plan
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Office of L'nu Affairs

2023-24 Priority Actions in Support of Government's Business Plan

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 of Nova Scotia Aboriginal and Treaty rights, and collaborative and cooperative opportunities that seek to improve Mi'kmaq economic and social prosperity. OLA is playing a key role in coordinating and supporting public education and awareness of the shared history in our province. OLA is working with the Mi'kmaq on the implementation of the Mi'kmaw Language Act, which recognizes Mi'kmaq as the original and first language of this land and commits the Province to support its revitalization.

Priority action areas:

Negotiations – Advance tripartite Mi'kmaq/Provincial/Federal work on Mi'kmaq 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 2023/24, the three Parties will continue to 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 2023/24, tripartite work will also continue on Mi'kmaq enhanced social assistance self-governance.

Consultation – The Province has consistent and effective, legally sound mechanisms for consulting with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia when contemplating conduct that may adversely impact Aboriginal and Treaty rights.

- OLA will continue providing advice, policy leadership, developing tools and coordinating support to Provincial Departments in discharging their duty to consult the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia.
- OLA will continue to monitor Mi'kmaq communities' evolving approaches to consultation, and for those that choose to consult outside of the KMKNO/TOR process, OLA will strive to work with those communities to develop a legally defensible and mutually agreeable consultation approach to ensure that the Province continues to fulfill its duty to consult with these communities.
- OLA will continue to support the Mi'kmaq by offering consultation capacity funding.
- The Consultation Division will provide advice to project proponents regarding Mi'kmaq engagement and delegated aspects of consultation.

Policy and Intergovernmental initiatives – Productive collaborations with Provincial departments, Federal/Provincial/Territorial governments, Mi'kmaw organizations and other external partners.

- 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 work with Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey (MK) and other partners in establishing a Mi'kmaw Language Committee whose primary purpose will be to develop a language revitalization strategy per the Mi'kmaw Language Act, which came into effect October 1, 2022.
- OLA will continue to 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 support the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs to position Nova Scotia as a world leader in sustainable development.
- For initiatives outside of the formal Consultation process, OLA will continue to advise on Indigenous engagement processes. This is due to an increasing demand from provincial departments, business, and agencies for engagement advice on projects and legislation.
- The OLA Strategic Funding Initiatives and the Aboriginal Community Development Fund will continue to provide direct, and leveraged, support for major Indigenous initiatives to advance social and economic outcomes for Indigenous people in Nova Scotia.
- 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.

Public education and awareness – Mi'kmaw culture and history provides a foundation for reconciliation and positive relations.

- With contributions from other provincial partner departments (CCTH, EECD & PSC), OLA will continue to provide public education and awareness through the Treaty Education Nova Scotia Initiative established between the Province, Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey (MK) and Millbrook First Nation.
- OLA will continue to work across government departments and with Mi'kmaw partners to advance the work of Treaty Education.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Departmental Expenses Summary (\$ thousands)			
<u>Programs and Services</u>	<u>2022 -2023</u> <u>Estimate</u>	<u>2022-2023</u> <u>Forecast</u>	<u>2023-2024</u> <u>Estimate</u>
L'Nu Affairs	4,224	4,168	4,393
Total - Departmental Expenses	4,224	4,168	4,393
Ordinary Recoveries	--	--	--
<u>Funded Staff (# of FTEs)</u>			
Department Funded Staff	17.5	16.5	17.5

