



Accountability Report 2022–23

Premier/Executive Council/Priorities
& Planning



Table of Contents

Accountability Statement..... 3
Introduction 4
Measurement of Performance..... 4
Financial Summary and Variance Explanation 6
Public Interest Disclosure of Wrongdoing Act 8

Accountability Statement

The Accountability Report for the Office of the Premier/Executive Council Office and Office of Priorities and Planning (Offices) for the year ended March 31, 2023, is prepared pursuant to the *Finance Act* and government policies and guidelines. The reporting of the Offices' outcomes necessarily includes estimates, judgments, and opinions by the Offices' management.

We acknowledge that this Accountability Report is the responsibility of the Office of the Premier/Executive Council Office and Office of Priorities and Planning management. The Report is, to the extent possible, a complete and accurate representation of outcomes relative to the goals and priorities set out in the Offices' 2022-23 Business Plan.

(original signed by)

The Honourable Tim Houston
Premier of Nova Scotia
President of the Executive Council

(original signed by)

Laura Lee Langley
Clerk of the Executive Council
Deputy Minister to the Premier
Acting Deputy Minister of the Office of Planning and Priorities

Introduction

This document reports on the activities of the Office of the Premier, Executive Council Office and Office of Priorities and Planning as outlined in the 2022-23 Business Plan.

Measurement of Performance

Office of the Premier/Executive Council Office

The Executive Council Office (ECO) leads the execution of government's mandate and ensures alignment of priorities through objective analysis and advice to the Executive Council (Cabinet) and its committees. ECO supports Cabinet by facilitating government's decision-making process; delivering clear direction to departments; developing and advancing corporate priorities and plans; and providing corporate leadership for agencies, boards and commissions.

In fiscal 2022-23 ECO:

- Supported approximately 800 submissions to the Executive Council through: collaboration with government departments to ensure clear and concise submissions; provision of comprehensive analysis to assist informed decision making; and communicating decisions and direction to departments in a timely manner.
- Evaluated and implemented strategic changes to the forms used for submissions to the Executive Council to provide more efficient, effective and modern decision-rendering tools.
- Strengthened corporate governance and oversight by providing policy leadership and guidance on departmental business planning and accountability reporting.
- Continued advancement of the centralization of the Agencies, Boards and Commissions (ABC) appointment process, which will result in faster processing time for board appointments and reduction in administrative burden for departments.
- ABC recruitment campaigns undertaken in 2022/23 indicate the online ABC application system has been well received as evidenced in both the number of applicants and overall applications. From April 1, 2022, to March 1, 2023, there were 654 members appointed to provincial ABCs, of which 267 disclosed one or more diversity characteristics (roughly 41% of the total number of appointments). There has been a continual increase in both the number of applicants and the number of board appointees who self-identify as part of a diverse or equity group.

- Facilitated and supported corporate and inter-departmental committees to promote advancement of government priorities, integrated service delivery and human-centered policy design; supported key departmental engagement processes with external stakeholders and community partners and supported collaboration between government and the Restorative Research, Education and Innovation Lab on complex relational issues.

Office of Priorities and Planning

The Office of Priorities and Planning (OPP) is responsible for communicating and managing the priority objectives and mandate of Executive Council and working across departments to advance government's policy agenda. It works closely with departments and agencies to translate government's priorities into policies, plans, programs and initiatives to produce measurable results. OPP encourages and supports work aimed at improving quality of life, growing the population, creating more and better opportunities for Nova Scotians and supporting sustainable prosperity across the province. To support the progress of government's priorities and shared goals, OPP fosters alignment and coordination across the system.

In fiscal 2022-23 OPP:

- Supported various leadership committees, fostering engagement, coordination, and collaboration towards shared goals.
- Used a variety of methods, including strategic foresight, to address complex problems and providing data insights to help identify solutions for Nova Scotians.
- Provided Cabinet, Deputy Ministers, and Senior Officials with access to timely, accurate and meaningful data, analysis, and insights to inform decision making.
- Continued to modernize the way we monitor the organizational performance and progress of government's policy agenda and mandate commitments.

Financial Summary and Variance Explanation

Office of the Premier/Executive Council Office

	2022-2023 Estimate	2022-2023 Actuals	2022-2023 Variance
Executive Council Office/ Office of the Premier	<i>(\$thousands)</i>		
Departmental Expenses:			
Executive Council Office/ Office of the Premier	6,205	5,871	(334)
Total: Departmental Expenses	6,205	5,871	(334)
Additional Information:			
Ordinary Revenue	0	0	0
Fees and Other Charges	0	0	0
Ordinary Recoveries	30	1	(29)
Total: Revenue, Fees, and Recoveries	30	1	(29)
TCA Purchase Requirements	0	0	0
Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs)	44.0	40.9	(3.1)
Departmental Expenses Variance Explanation: Actual expenses were \$334 thousand lower than Estimate primarily due to vacancy and operating savings.			
Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs) Variance Explanation: FTE variance due to staff vacancies.			

Financial Summary and Variance Explanation (cont'd)

Office of Priorities and Planning

	2022-2023 Estimate	2022-2023 Actuals	2022-2023 Variance
Office of Priorities and Planning	<i>(\$thousands)</i>		
Departmental Expenses:			
Strategy and Corporate Services	1,436	1,392	(44)
Total: Departmental Expenses	1,436	1,392	(44)
Additional Information:			
Ordinary Revenue	0	0	0
Fees and Other Charges	0	0	0
Ordinary Recoveries	177	429	252
Total: Revenue, Fees, and Recoveries	177	429	252
TCA Purchase Requirements	0	0	0
Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs)	8.5	7.4	(1.1)
Departmental Expenses Variance Explanation: Actual expenses were \$44 thousand lower than Estimate primarily due to operating savings.			
Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs) Variance Explanation: FTE variance due to staff vacancies.			

Public Interest Disclosure of Wrongdoing Act

The *Public Interest Disclosure of Wrongdoing Act* was proclaimed into law on December 20, 2011.

The Act provides for government employees to be able to come forward if they reasonably believe that a wrongdoing has been committed or is about to be committed and they are acting in good faith.

The Act also protects employees who do disclose from reprisals, by enabling them to lay a complaint of reprisal with the Labor Board.

A wrongdoing for the purposes of the Act is:

- a) a contravention of provincial or federal laws or regulations;
- b) a misuse or gross mismanagement of public funds or assets;
- c) an act or omission that creates an imminent risk of a substantial and specific danger to the life, health or safety of persons or the environment; or,
- d) directing or counselling someone to commit a wrongdoing.

Please use the following format to satisfy the disclosure obligation:

The following is a summary of disclosures received by the Office of the Premier/Executive Council Office and Office of Priorities and Planning.

Information Required under Section 18 of the Act	Fiscal Year 2022-2023
The number of disclosures received	0
The number of findings of wrongdoing	0
Details of each wrongdoing (Insert separate row for each wrongdoing)	N/A
Recommendations and actions taken on each wrongdoing. (Insert separate row for each wrongdoing)	N/A