



# **Business Plan**

**2023-24**

**Municipal Affairs and Housing**

  
**NOVA SCOTIA**

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Budget 2023-24: Business Plan  
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# Municipal Affairs and Housing

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

### Municipal Government

- Review and consider amendments to the *Municipal Government Act* and *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter* to modernize service delivery and governance for all Nova Scotia municipalities.
- Continue the renegotiation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Province and municipalities.
- Continue to deliver municipal programming and statutory grants that support the operations of local governments.
- Continue to provide education and training to municipal administrators and elected officials in key subject areas and deliver the “Strategic Planning Toolkit” workshops to municipalities and villages across the province.
- Liaise with provincial and federal government departments to ensure municipalities are engaged in matters impacting them, and that the municipal perspective is brought forward in key government initiatives, e.g., accessibility, climate change, housing, renewable energy, etc.
- Support municipalities that are exploring the potential for structural change in their communities by sharing our experiences, expertise, and knowledge regarding municipal modernization.

### Emergency Services

- Planning and development related to the deployment of Next Generation 911, an initiative aimed at updating the 9-1-1- service infrastructure to improve public emergency communications.
- Promote emergency management related training with municipalities and key partners while building on previous emergency management exercising to enhance municipal and provincial readiness to coordinate and respond to emergencies.
- Continue to promote a culture of preparedness with municipalities while engaging provincial departments, critical infrastructure providers and other key stakeholders to foster partnerships with the public and private sectors to build and sustain capabilities in coordinating a whole of government approach to emergency management.

### Affordable Housing

- Develop a provincial housing strategy to serve as a roadmap for addressing the housing needs of Nova Scotians.
- Work with the new Nova Scotia Provincial Housing Agency to create an Accountability Framework and ensure strategic alignment with Government and support the achievement of the Agency's vision and purpose.
- Establish a provincial housing supply baseline to inform further analysis on where to target provincial investments for addressing the housing crisis effectively.
- Deliver programs people need, including access to housing for low-income households.
- Work with partners to:
  - preserve existing affordable housing including piloting transformation initiatives.
  - increase supply including leveraging provincial land for housing and designating special planning areas for development.

- ensure more supply gets to market quickly, including reducing barriers to housing development, and implementing the recommendations in the Deloitte Report to the Executive Panel on Housing in HRM.
- Build capacity within the Community Housing sector and incentivise transformation toward sustainable operating models.

### Planning and Infrastructure

- Support the Minister of Environment and Climate Change as they build climate change adaptation capacity and resilience through:
  - Improving municipal stormwater infrastructure by updating planning requirements to support the development of stormwater management plans, with a focus on high-risk areas.
  - Continuing to support municipal flood line mapping projects.
- Continue to lead the Nova Scotia Critical Infrastructure Resiliency Program. This program's goal is to build and enhance the ability of critical infrastructure owners and operators to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies with a goal of providing continuity of service across all sectors.
- Continue to support and deliver multiple Federal/Provincial cost-shared infrastructure programs through leveraging and administering funding available from multiple levels of government. This funding enables the department to address needs in areas such as Transit, Environmental Quality, Climate Change Mitigation, Recreation and more.
- Continue to administer the Federal Government's Canada Community-Building Fund program (CCBF). Investments from the CCBF allow municipalities to invest in public infrastructure that addresses local priorities and *enables* DMAH to continue to work with our municipalities towards the advancement of asset management planning in Nova Scotia.
- Continue to deliver annual Provincial programs that target capital investments in our communities. These programs fund projects that support our emergency services, help identify and mitigate potential flood risks, encourage municipal collaboration, and support upgrades to water, wastewater and solid waste.

### Accessibility

- Support the implementation of the Government of Nova Scotia Accessibility Plan 2022-25 and work with the Accessibility Directorate to ensure that municipal perspective is heard with respect to the implementation of the Accessibility Act and the Access by Design 2030 strategy.

## Financial Summary

<b>Municipal Affairs and Housing</b>			
	<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>2023-2024</b>
	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>Forecast</b>	<b>Estimate</b>
Program & Service Area	(\$ thousands)	(\$ thousands)	(\$ thousands)
<b>Departmental Expenses:</b>			
Senior Management	982	934	1,097
Corporate Policy and Innovation	1,649	1,760	1,580
Municipal Sustainability	246,227	261,008	295,215
Emergency Measures Office	10,625	36,379	12,880
Housing	140,996	207,277	243,626
<b>Total Departmental Expenses</b>	<b>400,479</b>	<b>507,358</b>	<b>554,398</b>
<b>Additional Information:</b>			
<b>Ordinary Recoveries</b>	<b>170,690</b>	<b>159,985</b>	<b>283,352</b>
<b>TCA Purchase Requirements</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>23,598</b>
<b>Funded Staff (Net FTE's)</b>	<b>182.8</b>	<b>171.2</b>	<b>178.8</b>

