



Accountability Report 2019–20

Intergovernmental Affairs



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Accountability Report 2019–2020

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Accountability Statement

The Accountability Report of the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA), for the year 2019-20 ended March 31, 2020, is prepared pursuant to the *Finance Act* and government policies and guidelines. These authorities require the reporting of outcomes against the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs' Business Plan for the fiscal year just ended.

The reporting of the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs outcomes includes estimates, judgments and opinions by the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs management. We acknowledge that this Accountability Report is the responsibility of the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs 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 Department of Intergovernmental Affairs 2019-20 Business Plan.

Original signed by _____

Honourable Stephen McNeil
Premier, Province of Nova Scotia
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs
Minister Responsible for Military Relations

Original signed by _____

Kelliann Dean
Deputy Minister, Department of Intergovernmental Affairs

Message from the Minister

I am pleased to present the 2019-20 Accountability Report for the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA).

IGA is responsible for managing the Province's strategic interests nationally and internationally, and the advancement of intergovernmental and trade priorities. The Department also co-ordinates Protocol requirements, Military Relations and the operation of Government House.



The Province of Nova Scotia is committed to growing our economy and population, and improving and protecting the social well-being and health of our citizens. In 2019-20, Government's objectives were broadly advanced and achieved through enhanced legislation and policy, strengthened government relations, and trade and investment.

During the year, IGA led engagement with the Government of Canada, provinces and territories, and led collaboration among departments, agencies and stakeholders. Central co-ordination and a structured approach, including policy analysis and advice, ensured outcomes were achieved, economic and policy benefits were maximized, and Nova Scotia's position on key issues were presented in a consistent and effective manner.

Under the leadership of the Minister of Trade, Nova Scotia continued to advance national and international trade policy objectives. IGA supported these objectives and worked to leverage key trade agreements for the benefit of business and industry sectors in the province. The department was successful in realizing its objectives through a wide variety of operational activities.

Highlights for 2019-20 included:

- ratification of the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA), ensuring continued access to the United States market for the province's important commercial sectors
- continued engagement in China, which supported a 25-per-cent increase in exports from Nova Scotia into the Chinese market during 2019, compared to the previous year
- implementation of the Nova Scotia-Europe Engagement Strategy, which leveraged the Canada-European Comprehensive and Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) and focuses trade efforts throughout Europe
- Protocol support for visits by international dignitaries and official delegations

As the Minister Responsible for Military Relations, I was honoured to engage with the leadership of the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces on issues of importance for military personnel and veterans.

I would also like to recognize the commitment of His Honour, the Lieutenant-Governor, who represented the Queen of Canada in Nova Scotia at numerous events across the province, and welcomed 14,000 visitors during ceremonies and receptions at Government House.

The past fiscal year ended on a challenging note, with the global outbreak of COVID-19, which

will continue to impact international activities, travel and trade. Regardless, we remained committed to working with our partners and ensuring Nova Scotia's presence on the global stage.

The Honourable Stephen McNeil
Premier of Nova Scotia
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs
Minister responsible for Military Relations

Mandate

IGA is the central co-ordinating agency responsible for:

- Advancing the Province's interests and managing its relations with the Government of Canada, provinces and territories, and foreign governments at the national and subnational levels
- Trade policy, interprovincial and international trade negotiations, agreements and disputes; development of the Province's strategic approach to international markets
- Co-ordination of the Province's intergovernmental priorities
- Protocol requirements; Military Relations
- Supporting the operation of Government House

Core function areas:

Government of Canada Relations
Interprovincial Relations
International Relations
Canada-U.S. Relations

Trade Policy
Military Relations
Protocol Office
Government House

Financial Summary

	2019-2020 Estimate	2019-2020 Actuals	2019-2020 Variance
Program & Service Area	(\$thousands)		
Departmental Expenses:			
Administration	\$2,654	\$2,682	\$28
Government House	\$943	\$981	\$38
Protocol Office	\$596	\$465	(\$131)
Total: Departmental Expenses	\$4,193	\$4,128	(\$65)
Additional Information:			
Ordinary Revenue	0	0	0
Fees and Other Charges	0	0	0
Ordinary Recoveries	\$30	\$13	(\$17)
Total: Revenue, Fees and Recoveries	\$30	\$13	(\$17)
TCA Purchase Requirements	0	0	0
Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs)	35.7	33.0	(2.7)
<u>Departmental Expenses Variance Explanation:</u>			
<u>Revenue, Fees and Recoveries Variance Explanation:</u>			
<u>TCA Purchase Requirement Variance Explanation:</u>			
<u>Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs) Variance Explanation:</u>			

Measuring Our Performance

IGA provides corporate oversight, cross-departmental co-ordination and strategic leadership to advance the Province's intergovernmental objectives, relationships and opportunities. Through facilitation of a whole-of-government approach, IGA helps to create the conditions to support strong economic and social outcomes in Nova Scotia, with an emphasis on intergovernmental and international relationships, increased trade and market development, and strategic stakeholder engagement.

One of IGA's performance indicators is the biennial Client Satisfaction Survey. The survey for fiscal 2019-20 indicated that 90% of respondents were satisfied with IGA's work.

The 2019-20 Accountability Report outlines actions and outcomes in four priority areas, reflecting IGA's mandate and core function areas, and correlates with the objectives and outcomes of the 2019-20 IGA Business Plan. Performance indicators/measurements in this report include references to quantitative progress on Government priorities achieved through broad collaboration. Some examples during 2019-20 include provincial population growth, increases in immigration, international students, exports and trade opportunities.

IGA Priorities in 2019-20

In 2019-20, IGA continued to achieve outcomes to meet legislated and ministerial mandates, and supported progress on government strategic goals. IGA worked with partners in government, business, institutions, organizations and communities to align efforts and achieve results on key priorities that impacted multiple sectors of the province's economy and society.

The Department's Priority Areas:

- Priority 1: Co-ordination, collaboration and alignment within government
- Priority 2: Advancing Nova Scotia's intergovernmental interests (nationally and globally)
- Priority 3: A strategic approach to trade
- Priority 4: Promoting and celebrating Nova Scotia and its people

Priority 1: Co-ordination, collaboration and alignment within government

Approach: IGA led collaboration among departments to ensure alignment of efforts to advance Nova Scotia's intergovernmental objectives, relationships and opportunities.

Actions:

- Co-ordinated interdepartmental preparation for Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) meetings, First Ministers Meetings (FMM) and consultations by the Government of Canada, to ensure alignment on the Province's objectives and opportunities
- Led the development of provincial priorities and participation in national and regional intergovernmental forums, including: Council of the Federation (COF), FMM, Council of Atlantic Premiers (CAP), Ministerial Committee on Internal Trade, and the Atlantic Growth Strategy (AGS)

- Led planning and worked with senior officials from departments and stakeholders to develop Nova Scotia's position for major FPT initiatives
- Advised departments on their bilateral agreements with the federal government, other provinces and territories
- Led co-ordination on several cross-department files, including Marine Protected Areas, Ocean and Marine Management, and Council of the Federation issues
- Provided strategic operational support for trade missions to ensure mission agendas reflected alignment with government's trade agenda
- Developed policy advice and intelligence for government officials in preparation for meetings with national and international government decision-makers
- Collaborated with departments on key Canada-U.S. priorities
- Monitored and provided analysis on U.S. political issues with potential impacts for Nova Scotia interests
- Chaired N.S. Senior Officials Intergovernmental Committee, comprising representatives of multiple departments; provided updates/input on key (FPT) files, particularly premiers' forums, Canada-U.S. issues, trade developments, and FPT measures regarding COVID-19
- Prepared and distributed three weekly information/analysis reports to departments and clients, including the Strategic Intelligence Report on trade matters, the Canada-U.S. Relations Update, and the FPT Brief, which was launched in March 2020. The FPT Brief provides updates on FPT meetings, federal legislation of interest, and resource materials
- Provided trade risk assessments on numerous corporate policy initiatives, including on forestry, mining, and municipal matters
- Led corporate initiatives on trade intelligence, and data analysis and reporting
- Continued implementation of Nova Scotia-Europe and Nova Scotia-China engagement strategies (multi-year initiatives)
- Co-chaired Strategic Markets Committee with Nova Scotia Business Inc., bringing together officials from multiple departments to report on activities and align strategic market initiatives
- Co-ordinated Nova Scotia's engagement with federal, provincial and territorial governments as the COVID-19 crisis emerged. IGA played a critical leadership role coordinating activities among key departments and agencies. Activities included the timely dissemination of vital information, and seeking input and views from senior government officials that informed the Province's policy position on various matters

Outcomes:

- The approach to engaging with other governments was co-ordinated, consistent, and provided a corporate perspective in departmental dealings in regional, national and international settings
- As a result of strong collaboration within government, Nova Scotia's positions and interests were well presented and understood in domestic, regional, national and global intergovernmental relationships
- Government strategic priorities were supported, such as inclusive economic growth, population growth, increased exports, and opportunities for all Nova Scotians
- Departments were aware of IGA role, and support/services available from the Department

- Corporate clients were provided with strong support, including rapid response co-ordination when extraordinary circumstances arose
- Strategic engagement/stakeholder outreach occurred on major files and issues of importance to Nova Scotia's interests
- Nova Scotia's interests in relation to the COVID-19 crisis were considered and acted upon through a co-ordinated corporate approach

Performance indicators/measurement:

- Departments and agencies shared information and context on issues that assisted in the planning and execution of actions, in alignment with government strategic direction
- Departments received access to IGA services and support on key files
- Department officials were connected, through IGA committee activities, with colleagues who lead major and/or inter-related files in other departments and agencies

Priority 2: Advancing Nova Scotia's intergovernmental interests

Approach: Strategic leadership by IGA ensured Nova Scotia's priorities and interests were advanced domestically and internationally through participation in intergovernmental forums and organizations, prioritization of strong intergovernmental relationships, leveraging of trade agreements, and engagement with key partners and stakeholders.

Government of Canada, Federal-Provincial-Territorial, Atlantic Region

Actions:

- Provided effective engagement to advance Nova Scotia's FPT priorities and interests; continued advocacy with the federal government locally and in Ottawa
- Led collaboration with Government of Canada to establish the Nova Scotia-Canada Co-ordination Table on Ocean and Marine Management, to enhance understanding between the two levels of government regarding the federal Marine Protected Areas process, and marine planning for the region
- Chaired the FPT Committee on Internal Trade and related committees; supported Trade Minister in hosting meetings of the Ministers of Trade
- Supported Nova Scotia's participation in COF forums and meetings, where the Province's positions on major issues, including international trade, health care, environmental assessments were advanced
- Provided ongoing support for the AGS, a key federal-provincial initiative to stimulate the economy across the Atlantic region. Work in 2019-20 centred around the Atlantic Clean Energy Road Map, co-chaired by IGA, which will outline a collective vision for how jurisdictions will collaborate over the coming decades to build a clean power network across Atlantic Canada. In 2019-20, Quebec became a partner in this work.
- Supported Nova Scotia's participation in CAP; major initiatives in 2019-20 included work to finalize the Atlantic Domestic Homicide Review Network, and the Memorandum of Understanding on Trade and Procurement
- COVID-19: Led participation in intergovernmental forums (conducted virtually), which increased dramatically in frequency to prepare for and respond to the pandemic,

including: weekly First Ministers teleconferences to share information and develop FPT responses; COF meetings to discuss issues and align PT approaches where appropriate; CAP meetings to co-ordinate and align responses in the Atlantic Region

Outcomes:

- Nova Scotia's interests were considered in federal policy development, including on issues of importance such as environment, skilled workforce/ immigration, innovation, clean growth and climate change; infrastructure; trade and investment
- Nova Scotia engaged and collaborated with other provinces on priority issues within the Federation and the region; opportunities for Nova Scotia were leveraged in areas such as the Oceans Supercluster and the expansion of broadband services
- Opportunities provided by the Atlantic Immigration Pilot were maximized, helping to boost Nova Scotia's population to record levels
- Nova Scotia worked as a collaborative partner on Marine Protected Areas and marine management issues and activities

United States

Actions:

- Maximized participation in cross-border platforms, events and forums, such as the Conference of the Southeastern United States – Canadian Provinces Alliance (SEUS-CP), Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG/ECP), the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment, and Seafood Expo North America, to reinforce the benefits of the Canada-U.S. relationship
- Continued advocacy and supported efforts to ratify and prepare for implementation of the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement
- Advocated the removal of tariffs on steel and aluminum products with federal and U.S. officials due to impacts on N.S. businesses and sectors
- As host of the Working Group Meeting of the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment, Nova Scotia facilitated collaborative leadership on cross-border environmental issues
- Advocated Nova Scotia's cross-border interests when appropriate, including the Nova Scotia-Maine ferry
- Led the Province's participation in the Government of Canada's FPT approach to U.S. advocacy
- Undertook extensive planning in preparation for hosting the SEUS-CP annual conference in 2020 (cancelled due to COVID-19)
- Briefed and engaged with the U.S. Consulate General in Halifax

Outcomes:

- The important Canada-United States trade relationship was reinforced through the ratification of CUSMA, establishing a new framework that encourages investment, and maintains market access and export growth opportunities for N.S. business sectors
- Nova Scotia's relationships in the U.S. were maintained and enhanced; the Province's interests were effectively represented in the broader Canada-U.S. relationship

- Exports increased for most Nova Scotia businesses and sectors; the U.S. and Canada reached agreement to remove cross-border steel and aluminum tariffs
- Nova Scotia's cross-border policy interests and priorities were understood and adequately addressed in the United States and within Canada, and effectively represented in the broader Canada-U.S. relationship
- Advocacy with sub-national leaders in the United States assisted in advancing pan-Canadian positions

International

Actions:

- Launched the Nova Scotia-Europe Engagement Strategy, a framework to strengthen and expand longstanding historical, business and cultural ties with Europe
- Supported Premier's mission to Europe, which included visits to Ireland, Portugal, the Netherlands, Belgium and France
- Assisted in hosting the visit to Nova Scotia of the Ambassador of the European Union (EU) to Canada, including meetings with senior N.S. government officials
- In collaboration with the Nova Scotia Tourism Agency and Halifax Stanfield International Airport, secured an agreement under the China-Nova Scotia tourism initiative to introduce a direct, non-stop charter flight between Guangzhou and Halifax (2020 implementation delayed due to COVID-19 travel restrictions)
- Supported Premier's visit to Ottawa for meetings with 28 EU ambassadors, to build and enhance relationships in strategic regions of Europe
- Welcomed ambassadors of 18 European countries during the year; programs included meetings with government officials, and leaders of institutions and businesses reflecting key sectors of Nova Scotia's economy
- Provided Protocol support for incoming and outgoing trade missions, including advice, selection of gifts from the Artisans Gift Bank, welcoming dignitaries and organization of high-level events
- Continued implementation of the Nova Scotia-China Engagement Strategy through development of trade and investment opportunities with partners in China, including Premier's mission to China to promote N.S. exports and tourism
- Second mission to southeast Asia in 2019-20 included exploration of additional markets in China, Japan and Korea; focused on export diversification, enhanced government relations, and partnerships in education, seafood, agri-food, culture, and tourism
- Supported the Province in hosting meetings in Ottawa with China's Ambassador to Canada
- Supported the launch in Halifax of the Atlantic Chapter of the China-Canada Business Council
- Attended the Shandong International Friendship Cities Conference for Cooperation and Development
- Engagement with the Honorary Consular Corps in Nova Scotia was strengthened, strategically leveraging connections to overseas markets

- Assisted in organizing the visit to Nova Scotia of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Outcomes:

- Engagement in government-to-government and government-to-business relations globally ensured effective and positive international government relations
- Access to global markets was enhanced/maintained for most N.S. exporters
- Nova Scotia-China trade increased to a record level; intergovernmental relationships at the sub-national level remained strong
- Total exports of Nova Scotia goods and services increased in value; the percentage of total exports to non-U.S. destinations continued an incremental annual increase that has occurred over the past several years

Performance indicators/measurements:

- Nova Scotia's interests were supported through partnership investment and opportunities for businesses/organizations available via Canada's Ocean Supercluster
- Policies and program investments of the Atlantic Growth Strategy provided benefits to N.S., including development of a regional clean energy framework
- Nova Scotia exports to the U.S. increased by 4.1% in value during 2019, to \$3.8 billion
- International goods exports rose to \$6 billion in 2019, an increase of 5.7% over 2018
- Exports to China leaped by approximately 25% to \$994 million, compared to the 2018 level
- Nova Scotia's total goods exports to non-U.S. destinations rose to 38.5% in 2019, compared to 37% in 2018

Priority 3: Strategic approach to trade

Approach: Nova Scotia's trade and sector interests were supported by strategic trade policy; the Province's interests were advanced in domestic and international negotiations and disputes; technical analysis supported the development of Nova Scotia's strategic market priorities

Actions:

- Promoted opportunities provided by the domestic Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA); worked to advance Nova Scotia's interests as part of key initiatives under the agreement, including financial services, regulatory co-operation and alcoholic beverages
- Raised awareness of opportunities to be provided by CUSMA, and trade agreements in Europe (including CETA), and the Comprehensive Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)
- Engaged with federal officials on N.S. sector interests regarding the implementation of CUSMA

- Continued to monitor U.S. trade actions that have potential to impact Nova Scotia exporters, particularly in the seafood, manufacturing, forestry, and steel/aluminum sectors; outreached to stakeholders as needed, providing advice and sharing information
- As co-chair of the FPT Committee on Internal Trade (interprovincial), advanced national work in the areas of alcoholic beverages, financial services, CFTA party-specific exceptions and regulatory co-operation
- Co-chaired the FPT Committee on Direct-to-Consumer sales of alcohol working group with the federal government
- Advanced Nova Scotia's interests in ongoing trade disputes respecting wine (World Trade Organization), Resolute/Supercalendared Paper (North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)), and Fabricated Structural Steel (U.S. Countervail/Anti-Dumping investigation)
- Monitored global trade developments, engaged with Federal officials, and provided N.S. departments with assessments of trade risks associated with Brexit, fisheries policies in the U.S., Canada-China relations and U.S.-China trade
- Continued to inform and support businesses seeking access programs to mitigate the impact of cross-border tariffs the U.S. and Canada on steel and aluminum products
- Provided detailed strategic analysis of trade data, sector opportunities and impacts to support trade negotiations, issues and disputes, particularly in Nova Scotia's major export markets: United States, Asia and Europe, and in emerging markets
- Provided technical analysis, trade risk management advice and issues management services to departments

Outcomes:

- Trade agreement provisions were leveraged to the advantage of Nova Scotia businesses to grow exports and secure new market opportunities
- Nova Scotia remained strongly engaged with Government of Canada officials involved in the negotiation, implementation and enforcement of international trade agreements
- Federal negotiators were made aware of, and advised on, Nova Scotia interests and sector concerns in relation to international trade agreements and issues
- Trade compliance risks and compliance issues were anticipated and mitigated; internal and international dispute resolution mechanisms and tribunals were utilized to defend Nova Scotia's markets and interests
- Access to existing markets was protected and/or enhanced for most sectors under trade agreements and dispute resolution outcomes

Performance indicators/measurement:

- As a result of CUSMA, Nova Scotia businesses have maintained access to key supply chains in the U.S. market that is identical, or similar, to the level under NAFTA
- Exports to the EU (including the United Kingdom) were \$527 million. According to research by Global Affairs Canada, Nova Scotia exports to CETA countries increased by 25 percent following the agreement coming into force.
- Nova Scotia's continued leadership on interprovincial trade led to significant progress in breaking down barriers related to alcoholic beverages and regulatory co-operation
- Interprovincial exports of goods and services continued to show strong growth, increasing to \$8.7B in 2018 (most recent available figures) bolstered by the CFTA. Ontario and Quebec are Nova Scotia's second and third largest export markets

- Nova Scotia's advocacy position was reflected in the federal government's decision to remove safeguards on global steel imports of importance to Nova Scotia.
- Qualifying businesses that were impacted by U.S.-Canada tariffs on steel and aluminum products successfully accessed refund programs

Priority 4: Promoting and celebrating Nova Scotia and its people

Approach: Nova Scotia was broadly promoted as a unique and vibrant destination for immigration, tourism and international students. Historical, cultural and military traditions were celebrated; the talents and accomplishments of Nova Scotians were recognized.

Actions:

- Promoted and leveraged Nova Scotia's vibrant and diverse culture as an economic opportunity through inclusion in agenda and event planning for trade missions and incoming visits by foreign officials
- Promoted Nova Scotia as a trading partner, and as a prime destination for tourists, immigrants and international students, as part of international engagement and trade mission activities
- Military Relations worked with leadership of the Department of National Defence, the Canadian Armed Forces and the Department of Veterans Affairs in Nova Scotia on issues of mutual importance
- Military Relations supported participation in military and veteran-related events honouring service to Canada; supported organizations and groups that assist veterans and military members in Nova Scotia
- Assisted in the launch of an exhibition in China of the works of Maud Lewis and six contemporary N.S. artists
- Celebrated excellence among Nova Scotians through the Order of Nova Scotia awards program
- Recognized milestones celebrated by Nova Scotians through the Premier's congratulatory message service
- Profiled and promoted the works of talented artisans within the province and globally through the Artisans Gift Bank; added additional works produced by Indigenous and African-Nova Scotian artists to the inventory
- Educational opportunities and partnerships/research agreements were sought for institutions and international students as part of trade mission activities
- Collaborated with the Nova Scotia Tourism Agency and Halifax Stanfield International Airport to promote Nova Scotia as a travel destination in specific markets of interest
- Supported the visit to Nova Scotia of the Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team (Red Arrows), reinforcing the province's cultural and military ties with the United Kingdom
- Protocol advice and support was provided to departments, the public and the consular community

Outcomes:

- The unique talents of Nova Scotian artists and artisans were promoted in global markets
- Nova Scotia experienced immigration growth in the number of immigrants and international post-secondary students in the province

- The talents, accomplishments and dedication of outstanding citizens were recognized
- The importance of the role and contribution of the military and veterans to Nova Scotia was reinforced through engagement with military and veterans' communities and participation in commemorative events
- Official visits of foreign dignitaries and delegations were co-ordinated with departments and external stakeholders; opportunities were pursued to profile and advance Nova Scotia's objectives and interests

Performance indicators/measurements:

- Nova Scotia welcomed 7,600 immigrants, an increase of more than 25% over 2018; interprovincial migration rose by 10% to 19,000 people
- The province's population hit a record of 977,000 people by the end of 2019, up 1.2% compared to 2018
- The Association of Atlantic Universities enrolment report for 2019-20 indicated Nova Scotia institutions had 11,817 international students, an increase of 24.2% from the previous year
- International diplomats, officials and trade delegations were welcomed with appropriate protocol procedures and connected with program elements that align with N.S. priorities and interests
- More than 1,500 Nova Scotians were congratulated through the dispatch of commemorative and congratulatory certificates.

Government House

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor / Government House serves and supports the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia and maintains the historic Government House.

Actions:

- Government House/The Office of the Lieutenant-Governor supported the Lieutenant Governor in fulfilling prescribed constitutional duties, including:
 - a) Granted Royal Assent to 51 Bills
 - b) presided over three Royal Assent ceremonies;
 - c) approved 369 Orders-in-Council
- Presided over the swearing-in of members of the Executive Council
- Presided over the swearing-in of the new Chief Justice of Nova Scotia and Administrator of the Province
- Executed the programs associated with the Lieutenant Governor's role to
 - a) celebrate and recognize deserving Nova Scotians
 - b) present Lieutenant Governor's awards in 14 categories and recognize 85 patron organizations
 - c) promote excellence in Nova Scotia in the arts, education, products, and other areas of society, business and community service
- In partnership with the Executive Council Office, implemented detailed continuity of executive government plan in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Established the Lieutenant Governor's Award for Culinary Excellence in partnership with the Nova Scotia Community College
- Dispatched 720 commemorative certificates to Nova Scotians marking milestone events

- Enhanced Nova Scotia's diplomatic presence and outreach with the diplomatic community through participation in events for visiting Commonwealth and foreign diplomatic representatives and military forces, including courtesy calls and visits to foreign warships
- Hosted more than 100 events, ceremonies, and receptions at Government House, with 14,000 people attending events and tours
- Carried out a comprehensive program throughout the province, including regional visits and attendance at 179 external events
- Promoted the foundational Crown-Indigenous Relationship by holding and attending various events involving the Mi'kmaq, including the hosting of the Treaty Day Flag Raising, and meeting with the new Grand Chief of the Mi'kmaq
- Co-ordinated the visit of His Excellency the Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda
- Commemorated the 75th Anniversary of D-Day by coordinating the visit of Her Excellency the Governor General with the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General, Department of National Defense, and Veteran Affairs Canada
- Commemorated the 75th anniversary of Canada's contribution to the liberation of the Netherlands, in partnership with the Netherlands Ambassador to Canada

Outcomes:

- The Lieutenant Governor was supported in the delivery of the legal function of the position within the legislature and in events at Government House; the mandate to support the constitutional and ceremonial role of The Queen of Canada's representative in Nova Scotia was fully met
- The Lieutenant Governor was supported in the organization and hosting of public recognition events, and outreach to members of the diplomatic community and visitors
- Support was provided to communities and Nova Scotians through the celebration and recognition of talents, accomplishments, milestones, history, heritage and culture

Performance indicators/measurements:

- Government House met its federal and provincial obligations and operated within its mandate and funding allocation
- Community activities, events and functions were supported

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.

The following is a summary of disclosures received by the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs:

Information Required under Section 18 of the Act	Fiscal Year 2019-2020
The number of disclosures received	0
The number of findings of wrongdoing	0
Details of each wrongdoing	n/a
Recommendations and actions taken on each wrongdoing	n/a