



Business Plan

2019–20

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Message from the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

The Department of Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA) manages Nova Scotia's strategic interests nationally and internationally. The Department also coordinates protocol requirements, military relations and the operation of Government House.

During fiscal 2019/20, IGA will continue to proactively engage the Government of Canada on critical issues. Through the Council of the Federation (CoF), Nova Scotia will advance federal-provincial-territorial priorities and co-lead an aggressive agenda on behalf of Premiers to further encourage regulatory harmonization and red-tape reduction that is proven to help businesses be more competitive by streamlining processes, and saving time and money.

Nova Scotia will also advance common regional priorities through the Council of Atlantic Premiers (CAP) and work with provincial and federal counterparts to implement the Atlantic Growth Strategy (AGS).

Under the leadership of the Minister of Trade, Nova Scotia will advance national and international trade policy objectives and chair the Ministerial Committee on Internal Trade. The implementation of trade agreements is critical to the continued growth and prosperity of Nova Scotia's economy and supports the development of existing and new export activity as well as trade diversification. IGA's trade policy team will continue to support the negotiation/implementation of several key trade agreements including the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA), the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) and the Comprehensive Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), and domestically, the Canada Free Trade Agreement (CFTA).

The province will build on growth and success in China by continuing to implement the Nova Scotia China Engagement Strategy, strengthening relationships and pursuing opportunities for a direct flight between China and Nova Scotia. Given the importance of the US as Nova Scotia's top export market, the province will continue to strengthen Nova Scotia-US relations. And, to maximize opportunities related to CETA, IGA will coordinate the development of a Nova Scotia Europe engagement strategy.

During this fiscal year, the Department will continue to recognize the importance of Canada's military in Nova Scotia and will finalize the establishment of the Veterans Advocacy office.

The Department of Intergovernmental Affairs Business Plan 2019-2020

Through the efforts of IGA, Nova Scotia continues to be well-positioned to ensure our national and international interests are promoted and opportunities are maximized for continued growth and prosperity.

Original signed by

Honourable Stephen McNeil, MLA
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Minister responsible for Military Relations

Mandate

Intergovernmental Affairs is the central coordinating agency responsible for managing the Province's relations with other governments, and for promoting understanding of Nova Scotia's opportunities in the broader national and international context. Its primary role is to ensure that the Province's approach with other governments is consistent, and to ensure a corporate perspective in all departmental dealings in regional, national and international settings.

The Department of Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA) receives its mandate from sections 46D and 46E of the *Public Service Act*. The Act states that - under the direction of its Minister - the department is responsible for coordinating and advancing the province's interests with the Government of Canada, other provinces, and foreign governments at the national and sub-national levels.

The department also has responsibility for trade policy, interprovincial and international trade negotiations, agreements and disputes and the development of the Province's strategic approach to international markets for administrative purposes, pursuant to Sections 4 and 7 of the Public Service Act, effective June 15, 2017.

It is also the central point of contact for the coordination of the province's intergovernmental priorities and protocol requirements, Military Relations, and the operation of Government House.

Core Business Functions / Areas

Intergovernmental Affairs advances Nova Scotia's intergovernmental priorities by continuously engaging with provincial, federal and international governments.

In 2019-2020, the Department will focus on the following core business functions / areas:

Government of Canada Relations

Intergovernmental Affairs supports Nova Scotia's relations with the Federal government and advises departments in their interactions with their federal counterparts.

Outcome

Nova Scotia is recognized as a leader and partner within the Confederation; one that is effective in influencing federal policy decisions to support its priority interests to the benefit of Nova Scotians.

Goals

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- a. To lead, coordinate and provide effective approaches to developing Nova Scotia positions and strategies on federal policy
- b. To influence Government of Canada policy and decision making
- c. To provide effective engagement in advancing Nova Scotia's federal-provincial priorities and interests, and,
- d. To foster an intergovernmental community within the government of Nova Scotia

Actions

- a. Continue to participate in the Atlantic Growth Strategy by identifying opportunities for cooperation with other governments, coordinating advice from other departments in government, and offering strategic analysis. Key areas of focus are: infrastructure, climate change and clean growth, immigration and skills development, innovation and, trade and investment
- b. Participate in First Ministers' Meetings
- c. Provide advice on bilateral agreements with the federal government and other provinces and territories; and,
- d. Provide strategic direction for Nova Scotia's federal-provincial relations and support departments in their federal-provincial-territorial discussions.

Performance measures

- a. Clients are satisfied with approaches used to develop and coordinate Nova Scotia positions and engagement with the Government of Canada;
- b. Clients feel Intergovernmental Affairs effectively engaged the Government of Canada in constructive dialogue in priority areas; and,
- c. Clients feel Intergovernmental Affairs has influenced federal-provincial-territorial discussions directly or indirectly through institutional mechanisms (e.g., Council of the Federation, the Council of Atlantic Premiers, First Ministers' Meetings / Conferences).

Provincial-Territorial Relations

IGA supports provincial and territorial forums such as the Council of Atlantic Premiers and the Council of the Federation. It also supports the Nova Scotia government in its dealings with provincial and territorial governments and in identifying opportunities and potential issues. Work is undertaken to ensure that the Province is effective in enhancing intergovernmental collaboration for the benefit of Nova Scotians.

Outcome

Nova Scotia is recognized as a leader and partner within the Confederation; one that is effective in influencing interprovincial-territorial policy decisions to support its priority interests to the benefit of Nova Scotians.

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Goals

- a. To provide quality advice on Provincial/Territorial interests and positions impacting Nova Scotia;
- b. To identify and advance P/T opportunities for strategic collaboration on FPT programs and services;
- c. To support the Province in demonstrating regional leadership and collaboration on key files of interest to the province; and,
- d. To ensure a coordinated and consistent approach in the Province's relations with other provincial and territorial governments to advance Nova Scotia's interests in collaboration with NS government departments and agencies.

Actions

In 2019-2020 Intergovernmental Affairs, will:

- a. Collaborate with Atlantic Premiers through the Council of Atlantic Premiers (CAP). Specific priority areas for Nova Scotia include: health collaboration, red tape reduction, joint procurement, energy cooperation, and Atlantic workforce development;
- b. Advance Nova Scotia's federal-provincial-territorial priorities through the Council of the Federation (CoF). Key areas of focus for CoF are: Government of Canada relations, Canada-US relations, Internal and International Trade, and Workforce Development. Canada's premiers will also engage with National Indigenous Leaders on strategic policy matters; and,
- c. Provide strategic direction for Nova Scotia's federal-provincial relations and support departments in their federal-provincial-territorial discussions.

Performance Measurement

- a. Clients are satisfied with approaches used to develop and coordinate Nova Scotia positions and engagement with the Government of Canada, provinces and territories;
- b. Clients feel Intergovernmental Affairs effectively engaged the Government of Canada, provinces and territories in constructive dialogue in priority areas; and,
- c. Clients feel Intergovernmental Affairs has influenced federal-provincial-territorial discussions directly or indirectly through institutional mechanisms (e.g., Council of the Federation, the Council of Atlantic Premiers, First Ministers' Meetings / Conferences).

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International Relations

IGA is responsible for coordinating and leading Nova Scotia's international relations. This ensures a corporate approach to Nova Scotia's trade promotion, investment attraction and other interests. It also supports inbound and outbound activities, including trade missions and visits to Nova Scotia of delegations from priority markets.

Outcomes

- a. A whole-of-government approach that advances Nova Scotia's global interests and priorities;
- b. International relationships and diplomatic ties with key government and business decision makers/influencers that benefit Nova Scotia by leveraging opportunities, addressing challenges and removing barriers to business; and,
- c. Trade and investment opportunities are supported and enhanced.

Goals

- a. To support Nova Scotia's international interests through strategic analyses, policy advice and interdepartmental coordination;
- b. To advance Nova Scotia's government and economic interests with priority countries and regions;
- c. To maximize Nova Scotia's interests through international business development opportunities, investment attraction, research and education exchanges and trade opportunities;
- d. To continue strengthening trade relations with China, building on the 2018 sister province agreement with Guangdong Province; and,
- e. To help businesses realize the benefits of the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and the recently signed Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

Actions

In 2019-2020, Intergovernmental Affairs will:

- a. Launch and begin to implement the Nova Scotia - Europe engagement strategy; and,
- b. Continue to implement the Nova Scotia-China Engagement Strategy, which includes reporting on outcome measures and managing Nova Scotia's Memorandums of Understanding with the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Canada.

The Department of Intergovernmental Affairs Business Plan 2019-2020 Performance Measurement

- a. Nova Scotia - Europe strategy launched;
- b. Nova Scotia-China strategy implementation continued;
- c. Total value of Nova Scotia's international and inter-provincial exports has increased; and,
- d. Nova Scotia's trade balance (internationally and interprovincially) has increased.

Canada-United States Relations

This core function addresses Nova Scotia's important relationship with the United States (US). The US represents the Province's principal export market, where cultural and familial linkages are extensive, and the economies are integrated.

Outcomes

- a. Ensuring Nova Scotia's cross-border policy interests and priorities are understood and adequately addressed; and,
- b. Nova Scotia maintains / enhances trade and leverages opportunities presented by strategic partnerships, meetings, forums and events related to Canada-US relations.

Goals

- a. To advocate for the importance and value of the Canada-US relationship to Nova Scotia;
- b. To encourage open trade and a secure and efficient border; and
- c. To continue to engage with the wider Canada-US stakeholder community to ensure Nova Scotia's key priorities/concerns are known and understood

Actions

In 2019-2020, Intergovernmental Affairs will:

- a. Promote better understanding of the importance of Canada-US collaboration in areas of interest to Nova Scotia, such as trade, energy and the environment;
- b. Maximize the value of platforms like the annual Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG / ECP), the Southeastern United States / Canadian Provinces Alliance (SEUS / CP), the National Governors Association (NGA) and others, including the office of the U.S. Consulate General in Halifax, to reinforce the benefits of the Canada-US trade relationship;
- c. Host the Working Meeting of the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment, July 10-11, in Halifax.

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- d. Actively participate in trade missions/events that present opportunities to advocate to US decision-makers; and,
- e. Continue to collaborate with federal government posts in the US, as well as the other governments in Canada.

Performance Measurement

- a. Nova Scotia's policy interests in trade, energy and environment are advanced and understood;
- b. Nova Scotia is an active participant in cross-border events and missions; and,
- c. Trade in key sectors is maintained or increased.

Trade Policy

Intergovernmental Affairs, through the Minister of Trade, is responsible for all matters relating to trade policy, interprovincial and international trade negotiations, agreements and disputes, and the development of the Province's strategic approach to international markets. Advancing this mandate requires extensive engagement across government to maximize opportunities resulting from trade agreements and to minimize risks to the province through trade agreement compliance.

Outcomes

- a. Nova Scotia's interests are advanced, and the government of Nova Scotia is a constructive collaborator in the negotiation of domestic and international trade agreements;
- b. Trade risks and compliance issues are anticipated and mitigated; and
- c. Nova Scotia's interests are effectively managed in trade disputes.

Goals

- a. To promote Nova Scotia's interests in domestic and international trade negotiations and agreements;
- b. To cultivate existing trade ties and advance new trade opportunities; and,
- c. To lead nationally on the internal trade file as Chair of the Committee on Internal Trade for 2019, and as COF co-champion on Internal Trade

Actions

In 2019-2020, Intergovernmental Affairs will:

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- a. Advance Nova Scotia's commercial and economic interests in negotiating and implementing internal and international trade agreements, specifically:
 - i. Work with the Government of Canada, provinces, territories and Nova Scotia government departments in the ratification and implementation of the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA);
 - ii. Sustain and continue momentum in the implementation of the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA) and serve as chair of the Committee on Internal Trade (CIT) until January 2020;
 - iii. Advance Nova Scotia's interests in the implementation of the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA), through participation in various related committee structures;
 - iv. Work with the Government of Canada and other provinces and territories to maintain preferential market access to the United Kingdom (UK);
 - v. Monitor developments and engage, as appropriate, on other potential multi-lateral and bilateral free trade initiatives, including WTO reform and FTA discussions with the Pacific Alliance (Chile, Colombia, Mexico, and Peru), MERCOSUR (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay), ASEAN (Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Brunei and India);
 - vi. Work with NSBI and other government partners to advise on the implementation on Comprehensive Agreement for Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP); and,
 - vii. Work towards a strategic partnership with Nova Scotia Municipalities on international relations and trade.
- b. Advocate Nova Scotia's interests on dispute settlement matters, .
- c. Support government's export growth objectives by leading projects to improve the access to and sharing of information, tools, and data across government and with Nova Scotian exporters on trade data, market intelligence, emerging trends and insights.

Performance Measurement

- a. Percentage of clients satisfied with Trade Policy services that support Nova Scotia's private sector growth objectives.

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Military Relations

The Premier, as Minister responsible for Military Relations, provides the Government of Nova Scotia with a means to communicate and work directly with the headquarters, offices, and agencies of the Department of National Defence, the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) and the Department of Veterans Affairs in Nova Scotia. Departmental responsibility and accountability for the Province's defence, military and veterans related activities are managed by Intergovernmental Affairs.

Outcomes

- a. Ensure that there is shared understanding of Nova Scotia's defence, military and veteran-related priorities; and,
- b. Nova Scotia is actively engaged with the defence, military and veteran communities in the province.

Goals

- a. To provide strategic advice and support;
- b. To establish the Veterans Advocacy Office; and,
- c. To develop and maintain relationships with senior members of the Department of National Defence, CAF and the Department of Veterans Affairs to identify areas for collaboration.

Actions

In 2019-2020 Intergovernmental Affairs, will:

- a. Ensure that policies continue to have a positive impact in Nova Scotia with respect to employment, international relations, public safety and security, trade, research and development, and opportunities for business development, attraction and retention.
- b. Continue to ensure a shared understanding of military priorities that would be mutually beneficial to Canada and to Nova Scotia, and regularly advocate on behalf of the Province's veterans;
- c. Establish the Veterans' Advocacy Office to work with government partners to better support our veterans' post-service working careers;
- d. Commemorate significant military and veteran-related milestones and announcements; and,
- e. Support the work of organizations and groups who are committed to paying tribute to the brave Nova Scotians who have served Canada.

The Department of Intergovernmental Affairs Business Plan 2019-2020 Performance Measurement

- a. Success of advocacy on behalf of the Province's veterans; and,
- b. The number of significant military and veteran-related milestones and announcements commemorated.

The Protocol Office

The Protocol Office coordinates official ceremonies, events and visits of foreign dignitaries through consultations with ministers, departmental stakeholders and the Government of Canada. It also provides protocol-related advice to departments, non-governmental organizations and the general public, and manages / administers the Province's public recognition programs - the Order of Nova Scotia and the Premier's Congratulatory Message Service.

Outcomes

- a. Nova Scotia's interests and priorities are communicated to other foreign governments; and,
- b. Nova Scotia has a positive national and international profile.

Goals

- a. To promote the interests of the Province to foreign governments; and,
- b. To increase the profile of the Province and its people.

Actions

In 2019-2020, the Protocol Office will:

- a. Manage the anticipated full schedule of official visits for the upcoming year in a way that maximizes alignment with Intergovernmental Affairs goals and trade priorities;
- b. Continue to facilitate the MOU between the Province's Consular Corps and Intergovernmental Affairs;
- c. Update and improve the administration of the Gift Bank to achieve maximum benefit; and,
- d. Administer the Order of Nova Scotia and help celebrate leading Nova Scotia citizens.

Performance Measurement

- a. Official visits are coordinated with key departmental stakeholders to ensure the interests of the Province are identified, profiled and advanced;
- b. Number of opportunities identified and acted upon;
- c. The positive public profile generated from the Order of Nova Scotia, Premier's Congratulatory Certificate Service and artisans showcased through sales at the Artisan Gift Bank; and
- d. Official events are organized on time, within budget, and with positive reception (i.e. number of events organized, and feedback provided).

Government House

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor / Government House will continue in its mission to serve, support and maintain with excellence the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia and Government House. The Office of the Lieutenant Governor will ensure that its mandate – to support the constitutional and symbolic role of the Lieutenant Governor as The Queen of Canada's representative in Nova Scotia – is fully met. The Lieutenant Governor will be supported in the delivery of the legal function of the position within the legislature and in events at Government House. His Honour will also be supported in the organization and hosting of public recognition events and outreach to the diplomatic community and general public.

Outcome

- a. The constitutionally defined and legal function of the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia is fulfilled.

Goals

- a. To fulfill the constitutionally defined and legal function of the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia; and,
- b. To support communities and the people in Nova Scotia by celebrating their accomplishments, people and history.

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In 2019-2020, Government House will:

- a. Oversee the continuing mandate of His Honour, the Honourable Arthur J. LeBlanc, including events with various citizens, stakeholder groups and communities;
- b. Participate in enhancing Nova Scotia's diplomatic presence through events involving visiting foreign representatives and military forces, including courtesy calls and visits to foreign warships;
- c. Continue to promote the foundational Crown-Indigenous Relationship through holding and attending various events involving the Mi'kmaq;
- d. Execute the programs associated with the Lieutenant Governor's role to celebrate and recognize deserving Nova Scotians;
- e. Execute the Lieutenant Governor's program in relation to the Lieutenant Governor's nine awards and 85 patron organizations;
- f. Assist the Lieutenant Governor in establishing an award for culinary excellence with the Nova Scotia Community College;
- g. Execute the programs associated with the Lieutenant Governor's role to promote excellence in Nova Scotia including the arts, products, and other areas that benefit from the Patronage of the Lieutenant Governor;
- h. Execute commemorative programs for key anniversaries notably the 75th anniversary of D-Day, and the 50th anniversary of the introduction of official bilingualism, commemorations of International Francophonie Day;
- i. Execute programs for key celebrations and commemorations, including African Heritage Month, Canada Day, Treaty Day, National Acadian Day, Remembrance Day;
- j. Effectively manage the historic Government House facility;
- k. Carry out a comprehensive program including regional visits throughout the Province; and,
- l. Promote Government House as the "Ceremonial Home of All Nova Scotians" by conducting 150 to 200 events annually that will permit attendance by the public of approximately 14,000 per year.

Performance Measurement

- a. Government House meets its federal and provincial obligations and operates within its mandate and funding allocation; and,
- b. Number of relevant community activities/events and functions supported.

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor will ensure that its operations are executed in compliance

The Department of Intergovernmental Affairs Business Plan 2019-2020
with the policies regarding finances, safety, security, and human resources as promulgated by
Government of Nova Scotia.

Financial Summary (\$ thousands)

Programs and Services	2018-2019 Estimate	2018-2019 Forecast	2019-2020 Estimate
Administration	2,674	2,720	2,654
Government House	886	910	943
Protocol	500	430	596
Total - Departmental Expenses	4,060	4,060	4,193
Ordinary Recoveries	30	31	30
Funded Staff (# of FTEs)			
Department Funded Staff	35.0	30.8	35.7

