



Better Policy for Better Regulation Program

The Better Policy for Better Regulation program will help government staff implement the Regulatory Management Policy (RMP). The RMP is a new policy introduced to the Management Manual 300 in 2009.

This training is a “*Made in Nova Scotia—How To*” guide to effective decision making, especially as it relates to regulation.

It gives government staff practical methods for examining and addressing issues. In this training, participants are encouraged to work with real issues from their own work environments.

The Better Policy for Better Regulation training package trains policy analysts and regulators within the provincial government to change the way we ‘think and do’ regulation. This training takes participants through a series of modules designed to make them think critically about the problem they are trying to solve and the solutions they are proposing.

The training includes modules on:

- problem identification,
- performance measurement,
- consultation, and
- instrument selection.

Each module highlights an aspect of the Regulatory Management Policy and demonstrates how and why the policy should be used.

Problem Identification

Defining the problem(s) is a critical first step in addressing an issue. Every other step in addressing the issue depends on correctly identifying the problem(s) in the beginning. A misunderstanding of what the problem is will lead to faulty performance measures, inadequate consultation and inappropriate solutions. There is also a greater chance of unintended consequences.

The problem identification module helps government determine whether or not it should intervene and if so, how.

In this module participants are guided through a process that helps identify the root causes of a problem including what behaviors caused the problem. Evidence gathering is part of this process and is essential in demonstrating the extent of the problem and level of risk associated with it.

Performance Measurement

Performance measurement plays an integral role in both the design and improvement of programs. It helps to define success from the outset and helps to ensure we continue on a path to achieve our stated objectives.

In this module participants are encouraged to focus on the outcomes of any potential action they may take.

Emphasizing that *what* the organization achieves may be more important than *how* they achieve it. Focusing on the outcomes and the behaviour changes required to address the problem, participants are given advice on how to develop effective performance measures.

Consultation

Engaging stakeholders in defining the problem and considering what solutions may work increases transparency and ultimately leads to more effective solutions.

In this module, participants are given advice on how to determine who their stakeholders are and how they should be engaged. Participants are also shown where consultation fits in throughout a regulatory management process.



Instrument Selection

The method chosen to solve a problem is crucial to effectively addressing it. The approach that is selected may be mainly voluntary, economic or regulatory in nature, depending on the problem being addressed.

In this module, participants are introduced to a cache of instruments that can be used in addressing problems. The best approach for addressing a problem is to have a mix of the types of instruments that are available.

Participants engage in discussions on each instrument and analyze them to determine whether or not a given instrument is appropriate in a particular situation and if so, what the advantages and disadvantages are.

Who Should Take this Training?

All staff in the provincial government who are engaged in policy analysis and regulation should take this training.

This training encourages innovative decision making through the promotion of critical thinking, stakeholder engagement and evaluation.

This training would also be helpful for program managers and senior managers, as policy analysts and regulators will look to them for support and guidance in developing solutions to problems.

Why Should I take this Training?

The intent of the Regulatory Management Policy is to create a culture of continuous improvement in regulatory quality.

By understanding and using the policy and its guiding principles, you will be able to think critically about a problem and what could or should be done by government, if anything.

The benefits of this cultural change for government are:

- Time and resources of businesses, citizens and government are optimally utilized by only recommending regulation when it is the best option;
- Regulation makes a positive impact, by minimizing unnecessary work (inside and

- outside government);
- Transparency and predictability of the regulatory process are improved—which will lead to better input from stakeholders and understanding (both internally and externally).

An added benefit of this training involves coordination with Cabinet and Treasury and Policy Board (TPB). When a submission is made to Cabinet, TPB staff review the submission to ensure it adheres to the Regulatory Management Policy. With this training, you will be able to create submissions using the RMP—therefore anticipating the information TPB staff and Cabinet are looking for.

The Better Policy for Better Regulation program and the RMP support Nova Scotia's Better Regulation Initiative (BRI). BRI strives to use regulation only when it benefits and protects Nova Scotia's citizens and businesses while making it easier to do business in the province.

To learn more about the Better Regulation Initiative and the Regulatory Management Policy, visit our website at www.gov.ns.ca/betterregulation.

To sign up for training, please use LearnNet or call us at 424-8625.

Quotes from Better Regulators:

If I had known before what I know now, we would have made very different decisions about our regulations.

This step you refer to — defining the problem — that is a new concept for us. We always assumed we knew the problem based on the issue that was raised.

Thank you for pointing me toward the Regulatory Management Training Workshop. I thought the content was excellent, and that the delivery methods were innovative! Everyone at my table felt the same way. Three days later, my colleague was still walking around our offices carrying his Instrument Selection reference guide.



Better Regulation Initiative