

Special Warrant Fact Sheet

The Government of Nova Scotia has approved a Special Warrant for \$1.13 billion to provide the authority to fund operating and capital expenses up to October 31, 2009.

Spending through to March 31, 2010 will be authorized in the fall through the provincial budget for 2009-2010.

Special warrants are used to authorize government spending in the absence of an approved budget, or where an expenditure is needed that is not part of the budget.

Operating Expenses

Departments have provided estimates of the funding requirements needed to carry them through until October 31, 2009. These amounts are over and above the 50 per cent of previously approved budget allowed under section 27 of the Provincial Finance Act.

Authority of \$881 million has been approved to cover anticipated government expenses up to October 31.

Without the Special Warrant, some departments could exceed the level of expenditure allowable by legislation prior to the 2009-2010 budget being passed.

The warrant covers known commitments that are ordinary and usual to ensure the public good.

Tangible Capital Assets

The special warrant issued on July 2 authorizes \$250 million for known Tangible Capital Assets (TCA) commitments until October 31. It will allow existing projects to continue and provide the authority for projects which are able to leverage federal dollars.

In May the TCA appropriation for 2009-2010 reached its 50 per cent limit; half of the \$341 million spent in 2008-2009. A special warrant of \$130 million in the TCA appropriation was issued to cover capital spending contracts until approximately July 1, 2009.

Total approved TCA spending is now \$552 million.

Section 27 of the Provincial Finance Act allows departments to spend only up to 50 per cent of the previously approved budget total prior to the next budget being passed. Section 29 allows for the issuance of Special Warrants.

Special warrants are used to ensure the public good by providing the authority to continue with ordinary and usual functions of government.

Without the Special Warrant, some departments could exceed the level of expenditure allowable by legislation prior to the 2009-2010 budget being passed.

2009-2010 Operating Expenses

Agriculture	\$ 6,576,000	Ordinary and Usual Expenses
Community Services	\$ 100,100,000	Ordinary and Usual Expenses
Economic and Rural Development	\$ 12,689,000	Ordinary and Usual Expenses
Education	\$ 80,245,000	Ordinary and Usual Expenses
Energy	\$ 13,466,000	Ordinary and Usual Expenses
Environment	\$ 10,377,000	Ordinary and Usual Expenses
Fisheries and Aquaculture	\$ 4,150,000	Ordinary and Usual Expenses
Health	\$ 401,450,300	Ordinary and Usual Expenses
Health Promotion and Protection	\$ 3,880,200	Ordinary and Usual Expenses
Justice	\$ 16,220,157	Ordinary and Usual Expenses
Labour and Workforce Development	\$ 110,878,000	Ordinary and usual expenses, plus additional funds not included in the preceding year's authority for federally recoverable Labour Market and Labour Market Development Programs
Department of Natural Resources	\$ 20,526,000	Ordinary and Usual Expenses
Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations	\$ 20,000,000	Ordinary and Usual Expenses
Tourism, Culture and Heritage	\$ 13,900,000	Ordinary and Usual Expenses
Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal	\$ 34,436,000	Ordinary and Usual Expenses

Chief Information Office	\$ 10,398,000	Ordinary and Usual Expenses Reallocated to the CIO Office
Communications Nova Scotia	\$ 681,801	Ordinary and Usual Expenses
Emergency Management Office of Nova Scotia	\$ 5,946,000	Ordinary and Usual Expenses
Aboriginal Affairs	\$ 134,749	Ordinary and Usual Expenses
African Nova Scotian Affairs	\$ 50,000	Ordinary and Usual Expenses
Council of Atlantic Premiers	\$ 379,310	Ordinary and Usual Expenses
Intergovernmental Affairs	\$ 94,419	Ordinary and Usual Expenses
Gaelic Affairs	\$ 8,397	Ordinary and Usual Expenses
Office of the Premier	\$ 97,609	Ordinary and Usual Expenses
Public Service Commission	\$ 1,476,318	Ordinary and Usual Expenses
Treasury and Policy Board	\$ 336,159	Ordinary and Usual Expenses
Voluntary Planning	\$ 26,991	Ordinary and Usual Expenses
FOIPOP Review Office	\$ 52,174	Ordinary and Usual Expenses
Human Rights Commission	\$ 120,613	Ordinary and Usual Expenses
Legislative Services	\$ 5,000,000	Election Expenses
NS Advisory Council of the Status of Women	\$ 51,827	Ordinary and Usual Expenses
Nova Scotia Business Inc.	\$ 4,988,000	Ordinary and Usual Expenses
NS Police Complaints Commission	\$ 60,429	Ordinary and Usual Expenses
Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board	\$ 320,000	Ordinary and Usual Expenses
Office of the Auditor General	\$ 270,000	Ordinary and Usual Expenses
Public Prosecution Service	\$ 1,390,200	Ordinary and Usual Expenses
Tangible Capital Assets	\$ 250,901,000	
TOTAL SPECIAL WARRANT	\$1,131,677,653	

2009-2010 Tangible Capital Assets (\$ thousands)

Category	May 13	July 2
Buildings	23,206	23,995
Bluenose	350	850
Highways	126,323	325,000
IT	27,390	28,161
Lands and Land Improvements	10,193	9,993
Schools	99,264	150,342
Vehicles and Equipment	13,142	13,279
Total	299,868	551,620
Less: 50 % of 2008 – 2009	(170,719)	(170,719)
Less: Special Warrant May 13	(130,000)	(130,000)
Special Warrant Approved		250,901