



Accountability Report 2021–22

Advanced Education


NOVA SCOTIA

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Accountability Report 2021–2022

ISBN: 978-1-77448-390-9

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1. Accountability Statement

The Accountability Report of the Department of Advanced Education for the year ended March 31, 2022 is prepared pursuant to the Finance Act and government policies and guidelines. These authorities require the reporting of outcomes against relevant sections of the Department of Labour and Advanced Education's Business Plan for the fiscal year just ended. The reporting of the Department of Advanced Education outcomes necessarily includes estimates, judgments and opinions by Department management.

We acknowledge that this Accountability Report is the responsibility of Department management. The report is, to the extent possible, a complete and accurate representation of outcomes relative to the goals and priorities set out in relevant sections of the Department of Labour and Advanced Education's 2021-2022 Business Plan.

Original signed by:

Honourable Brian Wong
Minister

Original signed by:

Nancy MacLellan
Deputy Minister

2. Message from Minister and Deputy Minister

It is with pleasure that we share with Nova Scotians, the 2021-22 Accountability Report for the Department of Advanced Education.

In August 2021, one of the first actions Premier Houston took after entering office was to create the Department of Advanced Education. This change spoke to government's focus on fostering a robust post-secondary education system in Nova Scotia. A strong higher education system is a key contributor to the province's prosperity.

Throughout the past year, Advanced Education has played a vital role in supporting students and post-secondary education in Nova Scotia. The Department's work has supported solutions in the health care sector by increasing the number of training seats in the Bachelor of Nursing Program, provided non-repayable grants to students to assist with the extra costs associated with COVID 19, and continued to champion diversity and inclusion by advancing the Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action for post-secondary education. We are also excited to share that in January 2022, the Department welcomed NS GovLab. NS GovLab uses social innovation theory and methods to test and learn from new ideas and will be working to develop an Innovation Framework that will guide and balance the Department's innovation portfolio.

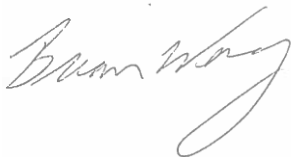
Each day, we strive to support a strong, responsive and innovative post-secondary education sector and facilitate an accessible, high-quality and accountable post-secondary education system that furthers the social and economic growth of the province.

As an organization, the Department of Advanced Education envisions a collaborative and inclusive post-secondary education system that focuses on helping all learners thrive. Therefore, we strive to be proactive, solution-oriented, and have embedded principles of equity, diversity, cultural competency, and inclusion into our work and actions.

We continue to align our post-secondary sector efforts and set clear and measurable investments into research and innovation, supports to improve health care in the province, education, training, skills development, and investments in our youth.

As we look forward to the future, we will continue to build on our successes and deliver solutions for Nova Scotians across the province. We want to thank our community partners and our department team, for their commitment, especially during our first year as a new department. We look forward to continuing our work, so that all Nova Scotians have the opportunity to learn, grow, work, live and thrive in Nova Scotia.

Original signed by:



Honourable Brian Wong
Minister

Original signed by:



Nancy MacLellan
Deputy Minister

3. Financial Results

Advanced Education	2021-2022 Estimate	2021-2022 Actual	2021-2022 Variance
Program & Service Area	(\$ thousands)		
Department Expenses:			
Administration	313	401	88
Policy and Corporate Services	80	348	268
Program Service and Delivery	59,384	65,635	6,251
Nova Scotia Community College	154,436	165,593	11,157
Grants to Universities	443,590	574,480	130,890
Total: Departmental Expenses Advanced Education	\$657,803	\$806,457	\$148,654
Additional Information:			
Ordinary Revenues	(6,313)	(6,418)	(105)
Fees and Other Charges	(40)	(67)	(27)
Ordinary Recoveries	(13,392)	(12,349)	1,043
Total: Revenue, Fees and Recoveries Advanced Education	(\$19,745)	(\$18,834)	\$911
TCA Purchase Requirements	\$30,299	\$34,897	\$4,598
Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs)	70.7	58.8	(11.9)

Departmental Expenses Variance Explanation:

The Department of Advanced Education's actual spend for 2021-22 was \$148.7 million or 22.6 per cent higher than budget primarily due to: \$65.0 million in University Infrastructure grant funding to invest in deferred maintenance at CBU, St. FX, Acadia and Université Sainte-Anne; a \$35.0 million investment in CBU Centre for Discovery and Innovation; an additional \$25.0 million investment in Research Nova Scotia; \$5.0 million to undertake appropriate planning for the CBU Strategic Health Initiative; \$3.6 million increase in upfront grants in the Student Loan Program; \$4.0 million for the relocation of the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) Marconi Campus (replacement value of CBRM firehall); \$3.0 million for Nova Scotia Community College Academic Union (NSCCAU) wage settlement retro payment; \$2.3 million increase to Student Loan program provision for uncollectible accounts (bad debt); a \$2.0 million investment in the NSCC Medical Laboratory Technology Program; \$2.0 million in COVID-19 related expenses to support NSCC; and \$1.4 million in COVID-19 assistance for post-secondary accessibility students (carry forward funding from 20/21 provided under the Workforce Development Agreement, fully recoverable from the Federal Government).

Revenue, Fees and Recoveries Variance Explanation:

The Department of Advanced Education recoveries were \$1.0 million lower than budget primarily due to: \$2.6 million in decreased recoveries from the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission; and a decrease of \$1.0 million of amounts collected on previously written off Student Assistance accounts and interest collected on Student Assistance accounts placed in collections. These decreases are partially offset by (\$1.4 million) of Federal Workforce Development Agreement COVID-19 funding carried forward from 20/21; and (\$1.2 million) of additional funding from the Federal Canada Student Grant for services and equipment for post-secondary students with disabilities.

TCA Purchase Requirement Variance Explanation:

The Department of Advanced Education TCA purchase requirements were \$4.6 million higher than budget primarily due to costs originally planned for 2020-21 being incurred in 2021-22: \$3.3 million for the NSCC Marconi Campus Building and Land; and \$554 thousand for NSCC Capital repairs (prior year COVID funding). As well, in year funding was approved for NSCC Campus Residences, actuals for 2021-22 were \$727 thousand.

Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs) Variance Explanation:

The Department of Advanced Education FTEs were (11.9) lower than budget primarily due to temporary vacancies.

4. Measuring our Performance

Advanced Education's Vision:

We envision a high-quality, collaborative, and inclusive post-secondary education system that is focused on helping all learners thrive.

Our Envisioned Future:

We envision a future in which learners are thriving and our post-secondary education system is inclusive and innovative and where the Nova Scotia Department of Advanced Education is a key partner and contributor, specifically...

- Participation in post-secondary education from underrepresented groups has increased. Accessibility has been improved and the Department has made strides in addressing financial, technology and other barriers. All partners have demonstrated leadership in integrating equity, diversity and inclusion best practices into their culture and processes. We have achieved the post-secondary education related Calls to Action from the Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada. Equity-seeking groups are over-represented in their participation rates in post-secondary education.
- Post-secondary education institutions, private and public sector employers, labour market experts and other departments are working in collaboration to anticipate and meet needs. Flexible learning models are offered, and work-integrated learning is widely practiced. Key sectors (like health care) are partners in the system.
- More people are thriving because of the opportunities created from their post-secondary education throughout their life span.
- International students remain in Nova Scotia because they feel welcome and have opportunities open to them.
- As an organization, the Department of Advanced Education is proactive; has embedded principles of equity, diversity, cultural competency, and inclusion in all its work and actions; and has a diverse staff compliment at all levels that is representative of the population it serves.

Advanced Education's Mission:

We facilitate a proactive and inclusive post-secondary system through which people learn, grow, and thrive.

Advanced Education's Mandate:

- We facilitate a post-secondary education system where learners receive high-quality education that meets their learning needs and allows them to thrive as members of vibrant communities and a successful province.
- We ensure that post-secondary education is accessible to all learners by removing barriers, including financial; by ensuring the system is equitable, diverse, inclusive; and by advancing the Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action for post-secondary education.
- We work in collaboration and partnership to support research & innovation and ensure our post-secondary education system proactively addresses the changing needs of the economy and contributes to social and economic growth.

Advanced Education's Strategic Priorities:

- Support improving health care in the province.
- Foster an accessible post-secondary education system.
- Support diversity, inclusion and advancing the Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action for post-secondary education.
- Advance research and innovation.
- Facilitate a high quality, accountable post-secondary education system that furthers the social and economic growth of the province.

Key Initiatives in 2021-22 that support our Strategic Priorities

Support Improving Health Care in the Province

Nursing School Training Seat Expansion

- Throughout 2021-22 Advanced Education, in collaboration with the Department of Health of Wellness (DHW), worked to ensure:
 - An additional 80 training seats will be available in the Bachelor of Science Nursing program for the 2022-23 academic year at Dalhousie University (26 seats), St. Francis Xavier University (26 seats), and Cape Breton University (28 seats).
 - Additional Practical Nursing seats will be available at the NSCC (on average, 120 additional seats each year).
 - An additional 25 Nurse Practitioner seats will be available at Dalhousie University.

- The Department and DHW collaborated to expand the eligibility criteria to allow more Licensed Practical Nurses who are registered in Nova Scotia to qualify for the Bachelor of Science Nursing programs at Cape Breton University and St. Francis Xavier University in the 2022-23 academic year.
- The Department and DHW continue to work together to support initiatives to further expand post-secondary training options in the field of nursing.

Mi'kmaq / Indigenous & African Nova Scotian Nursing School Initiative

- In the 2021-22 academic year, an in-community pre-nursing program officially started in Eskasoni First Nation with funding from Advanced Education and academic support from Cape Breton University.
- Advanced Education continues to collaborate on initiatives to improve the recruitment and retention of Mi'kmaq and other Indigenous, and African Nova Scotian students in nursing and other health professions.

Medical School Training Seat Expansion

- The Department has been working with DHW to provide more rural Nova Scotian students access to training seats in the field of medicine, in an effort to support an increase in rural family doctors. In fall 2021, Dalhousie medical school reported 79 Nova Scotian students in the medical program, which includes the 16 rural seat expansion which was launched in 2019.
- For fall 2022, the Department and DHW are supporting a partnership between Cape Breton University and Dalhousie University for five new medical school training seats. These seats are designated for students who live in rural Nova Scotia and commit to practicing family medicine in a rural Nova Scotia community for at least five years after they graduate.

CCA training expansion and exploring other programming to address current and future health care needs

- In collaboration with the Department of Seniors and Long-Term Care, Advanced Education has been exploring ways to expand the number of students in the Continuing Care Assistant (CCA) program. In 2021-22, the Province announced a \$3.1 million investment in tuition rebates for current CCA students.
- Three private career colleges have implemented Progressive Education CCA training program options which operate in partnership with local long-term care facilities, providing students the opportunity of a 'work and earn' model of training. Conventional CCA program deliveries sited at, or in partnership with, long-term care facilities and home care agencies continue to be delivered.
- There has also been a significant increase in the number of students enrolling in CCA training programs in Nova Scotia since February 2022, when the Province announced a boost in salaries for CCAs.

Foster an Accessible Post-Secondary Education System

MyPATH Portal - Nova Scotia Student Assistance

- This project will improve the content available to students in the Student Assistance online student portal by including information related to student loan repayment and the Nova Scotia Loan Forgiveness program. During 2021-22, stakeholder consultations and user interviews to inform redesign were completed.
- In 2022-23, the project will begin development and implementation stages.

Accessibility and Electronic Service Enhancement Design

- This project will improve the accessibility of the Student Assistance online student portal by using the most modern technology, that is both mobile friendly and compatible with assistive technology software to support access for students with disabilities.
- As a result of intersecting objectives, the project was rolled into the MyPATH work, and will be implemented in 2022-23.

COVID-19 Response Grant

- In 2021-22, approximately 11,000 students with higher financial need who were eligible for Nova Scotia Student Assistance received an additional one-time non-repayable grant of \$875.
- The COVID-19 Response Grant was provided to help address the extra costs students may have incurred during the pandemic such as moving to new learning platforms, as well as challenges in obtaining summer employment and part-time jobs.

Nova Scotia Graduate Scholarship Program

- In 2021-22, Advanced Education provided a total of \$3.7 million for 310 graduate scholarships at Dalhousie University (247 scholarships), Saint Mary's University (29 scholarships), Mount Saint Vincent University (10 scholarships), Acadia University (9 scholarships), St. Francis Xavier University (9 scholarships), NSCAD University (2 scholarships), University of Kings College (2 scholarships), and Atlantic School of Theology (2 scholarships).
- The Graduate Scholarship Program supports graduate level scholarships for research and innovation, ranging in value from \$10,000 to \$15,000. Through these scholarships, Nova Scotia benefits from academic and business research and development activities that align with provincial priority areas of research such as health and wellness, ocean science and technology, clean technology, resource sectors and social innovation.

Support Diversity, Inclusion and Advancing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action for Post-Secondary Education

E-Mental health supports for PSE students

- In 2021-22, a new online peer support platform, Togetherall, was introduced to the HealthyMindsNS suite of e-mental health tools and services.
- Advanced Education led two social media campaigns to increase student awareness of the e-mental health supports – one in the fall semester that highlighted the resources available through HealthyMindsNS, and one in the winter semester that featured student testimonials. Post-secondary institutions, student unions and student organizations were engaged in the campaigns to help extend their reach.
- Vendor data shows an increase in the uptake of the e-mental health tools and resources when compared to the same time in 2020-21. This increased use may be attributed to a greater awareness of the e-mental health resources and demonstrates an ongoing need. Student organizations continue to identify mental health and wellbeing as a priority.

Sexual Violence Prevention on University and NSCC Campuses

- Advanced Education continues to support the universities and the NSCC as they implement the recommendations in the *Changing the Culture of Acceptance* (2017) report, through the provision of funding for the Sexual Violence Prevention Grant. This grant supports primary prevention efforts that build capacity at our post-secondary institutions for the prevention of sexual violence on campuses.
- The Provincial Sexual Violence Prevention Committee continues to meet to collaborate and share best practices on sexual violence prevention initiatives. The committee also reviews and provides feedback on any proposals for grant funding submitted to Advanced Education.
- In 2021-22, Advanced Education approved nine proposals (two of which were deferred until 2022-23 due to COVID-19) that support primary prevention of sexual violence on campuses. Some of the approved initiatives included:
 - continued support for a provincial Post-Secondary Sexual Violence Prevention Coordinator position, which is focused on collaborating with key partners to implement the *Changing the Culture of Acceptance* (2017) report recommendations;
 - support for the fourth phase of the Culture and Perspectives on Sexual Assault Policy (CAPSAP) research program will produce a media-rich web-training and resource for university-based service and care providers which addresses what it means to be survivor-centric in campus communities where students bring a multitude of cultural lenses to sexual assault prevention and response (<https://supportsurvivors.ca/>);

- o expansion of the Man-Made program as a primary prevention tool, through engaging with male-identifying students in ending sexualized violence on Nova Scotia campuses;
- o support for a Waves of Change Provincial Chair, which is focused on to continuing the development and delivery the Waves of Change program;
- o support for Sexual Violence Response Training, which would focus on sexual violence response training to build institutional capacity to respond to sexual violence;
- o continued support for peer-based Student Liaison positions (rebranded as Student Sexual Health & Safety Educators) at each university and the NSCC;
- o support for collaborative Student Sexual Health & Safety Educator training, which would focus on building Student Educator capacity, fostering collaboration between institutions, and fielding feedback about the Waves of Change program;
- o support year two of the Sexual Violence Prevention Advisor position, which is a shared position between Mount Saint Vincent University, Cape Breton University, NSCAD, and Atlantic School of Theology.

Unama'ki Pathways in Technology Early College High School (PTECH)

- Advanced Education, NSCC, and Department of Education and Early Childhood Development continue to participate on the Steering Committee that oversees this pilot program, which provides Mi'kmaq and Indigenous students with the opportunity to earn a high school diploma and a NSCC diploma, at no cost to the student, in an information technology program area, while simultaneously gaining valuable industry experience. Students will graduate with the skills and knowledge necessary to continue their studies or to step seamlessly into competitive jobs in the IT field.
- In 2021-22, P-TECH students started their second NSCC college level course on Logic and Programming (90 hours). Students completed this course virtually with an Instructor. Math tutoring was offered weekly.
- The Ulnooweg Education Centre (UEC) team members mentored students in Robotic Arm & AI programming labs over 2-days. Workshops took place in Eskasoni and Wagmatcook.
- The P-TECH program participated in *Here We Code*, which was organized by Dalhousie University's Faculty of Computer Science, in partnership with many like-minded organizations such as SuperNOVA, Techsploration, Brilliant Labs, MK, Ulnooweg, and more. These organizations hosted and promoted various innovation and technology events throughout the month of May 2022. P-TECH students were encouraged to attend or host an event.

Strategic Plan on Recruitment and Retention of Mi'kmaq and Indigenous Post-Secondary Students

- In collaboration with the universities and Nova Scotia's Mi'kmaq and Indigenous people, the Department's Director of Mi'kmaq and Indigenous Post-Secondary Student Recruitment and Retention has assisted in developing programs that have positively impacted participation and retention of students in post-secondary education.
- Through work with Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey (MK), the Aboriginal Apprenticeship Agency, and the Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration (LSI) a forum for networking and discussion was formed to identify and address barriers and gaps in trades and employment opportunities for Mi'kmaw people.
- Further work continues into 2022-23 that will continue the advancement of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action.

Develop a Framework for Recruitment and Retention of Post-Secondary Students of African descent

- In 2021-22, Advanced Education partnered with the Departments of Labour, Skills and Immigration and Education and Early Childhood Development, the Council of Nova Scotia University Presidents, and the NSCC to develop a framework for post-secondary recruitment and retention that supports racial equity and equal opportunities for students of African descent.
- The Framework will be developed during the 2022-23 fiscal year and will ensure an Afrocentric approach that supports racial equity and equal opportunities for students of African descent. It will ensure a provincial approach to implementing the Scarborough Charter and become a promising practice to influence change in university and NSCC processes and culture.

Advance Research and Innovation

Research Nova Scotia (Research NS)

- The Department continues to provide annual funding to Research NS to support the organization's operations and to advance the research priorities of the Province, through the Research Opportunities Fund. Research NS takes a mission-oriented approach to seek out partners who are working toward common goals for Nova Scotia. Below are some examples of such collaboration:
 - Research NS partnered with the Forestry Innovation Transition Trust (FITT) to develop a forestry research agenda to bring focus to forestry in Nova Scotia. This resulted in a framework for FITT and other funders to use in selecting research projects that will support the province's forestry goals. Further, a new research funding program, co-funded by FITT and Research NS, has been developed to seek out, convene, build capacity for and support forest-related research in Nova Scotia.

- Research NS has partnered with Net Zero Atlantic to support the design and delivery of an energy systems modelling tool that will help clarify the pathways toward achieving our provincial emissions targets. The Net Zero Atlantic project team has created a user friendly platform that enables policy makers, industry, and researchers to test different scenarios and better understand what policies, decisions and changes are necessary to achieve net zero. Research NS's funding allowed Net Zero Atlantic to bring other regional partners to the table, increasing the project from Nova Scotia to all four Atlantic provinces and attracting additional federal funding.
- In a partnership between Research NS, Cape Breton University, Nova Scotia Health and Dr. Ken Rockwood, the Centre of Excellence for Healthy Aging was created at Cape Breton University. Research NS's involvement built upon the funding awarded by Dr. Ken Rockwood as part of his Ryman Prize winnings, creating a centre that will build capacity for Nova Scotia's health care system.

Post-Secondary Education Sandboxes

- Post-Secondary Education Sandboxes were not able to deliver the annual Creativity and Innovation Bootcamp due to COVID-19 public health measures.
- Sandboxes adapted to deliver individual sandbox programming and events virtually that help foster an entrepreneurial mindset and job ready skills for sandbox student participants.

Post-Secondary Innovation Team / Working Groups

- The Post-Secondary Innovation Team was formed in 2015, as a collaborative partnership between Government, Nova Scotia's universities and the Nova Scotia Community College to find collaborative approaches to strengthen the competitive advantage of Nova Scotia's post-secondary sector and to align the efforts of the universities and the NSCC in supporting Provincial government priorities.
- In 2021-22 the Innovation Team and its working groups continue to advance initiatives that address four key areas:
 - Student Recruitment and Retention
 - Entrepreneurship and Experiential Learning
 - Social Equity
 - Cultural Innovation (this working group completed its work in 2021-22 and presented its final report to the Innovation Team at its March 2022 meeting).
- In 2021-22, Advanced Education, through the Innovation Team approved eight projects valued at a total of \$1,919,800. Highlights of approved projects include:
 - Study and Stay CONNECT builds upon the success and lessons learned from previous iterations of the Study and Stay programs and leverages technology to increase program capacity with the intention that more students will be able to access supports, engage with their communities

and develop career-readiness skills that will better position them to find work and remain in Nova Scotia. 500 international students will be recruited annually, with 100 students selected each year for the pinnacle program.

- Onboarding MyCreds™ at all ten universities and the NSCC will create the digital infrastructure so that all institutions and all students (prospective, enrolled and graduated) in Nova Scotia have access to an online, trusted, security-compliant network (MyCreds™) to exchange students' official documents and data.
- Change Lab Action Research Initiative (CLARI) was approved to fund 27 campus-community engagement projects that bring students, faculty and community partners together to address community issues and research, as well as a community research conference.

Mitacs Programs

- Mitacs connects industry (including not-for-profits) and academia, through high-quality work-integrated learning opportunities for university and community college students. Mitacs works with over 150 universities and colleges across Canada, thousands of companies, federal, provincial, territorial and municipal governments, hospitals, and leading international research institutes.
- In 2021-22, Advanced Education provided \$1 million which supported 250 internships and leveraged \$1.5 million in federal funding. Mitacs' presence in Nova Scotia has grown significantly over the past seven years, from 50 internship units in 2014-15 to 620 internship units in 2020-21 with funding from Advanced Education, Nova Scotia Business Inc. (NSBI) and additional federal funding.

Working with partners, develop an innovation framework that will guide and balance the Department's innovation portfolio

- NS GovLab is a provincial public sector social innovation lab that joined the Department in 2021-22 to support Advanced Education's strategic goals around advancing research and innovation.
- NS GovLab is developing an Innovation Framework to guide and balance the Department's innovation portfolio across multiple types of innovation; establish a process for institutional, organizational and eco-system learning; and enhance the use of intersectional lenses, anti-oppressive practices and decolonial approaches in the development and delivery of innovation initiatives and programs.

Facilitate a High Quality, Accountable Post-Secondary Education System that furthers the Social and Economic Growth of the province

Computer Science Program enhancement

- In March 2021, government announced that Dalhousie University, Acadia University, Saint Mary's University and St. Francis Xavier University would receive funding support totaling \$16.8 million to enhance or increase their respective computer science programming, with the goal of producing more digital talent in Nova Scotia.
- During 2021-22, Advanced Education worked with the universities to advance the program enhancements, which included the *Here We Code* awareness campaign and the recruitment of additional computer science faculty.

NSCC Marconi Campus relocation

- Construction of the new Sydney Waterfront campus of the NSCC has been ongoing throughout 2021-22. The new campus is scheduled to open for fall 2024.
- During 2021-22, Advanced Education has been working in collaboration with Public Works to determine potential future uses for the old Marconi campus location.

Nova Scotia Micro-Credentials Framework

- Advanced Education participates on the Working Group created to oversee this initiative. A Project Director position was created this fiscal year and the position began in the early Fall of 2021. In collaboration with the Project Director, the Working Group, have since agreed upon key components of the framework. This framework will create the conditions to ensure micro-credential providers can be innovative, agile, responsive, and quick to market while also aligning with relevant pan-Canadian and global work.
- responsive, and quick to market while also aligning with relevant pan-Canadian and global work.
- In addition to identifying the key components of the framework, sub committees have been formed to further work on each of the components. LSI and the Project Director continue to seek out opportunities to test the framework with Industry and post-secondary partners.

Student Housing Strategy

- Advanced Education, in collaboration with Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing (DMAH), has committed to developing a Student Housing Strategy to address the specific housing needs of post-secondary students. The strategy will take into account housing best practices, jurisdictional information and an internal analysis of data and programming. The findings from the provincial housing needs assessment, being lead by DMAH, will also feed into this work, once available.

5. Supplemental Information and Appendices

Key / interesting facts about Advanced Education

- The Nova Scotia University Student Bursary Program provided \$23.5 M in 2021-22 to offset tuition costs for Nova Scotian students studying at Nova Scotia universities. The Province provides \$128.50 per 3-hour credit course, or \$1,283 for a full course load of 10 courses.
- In 2021-22, the Province added \$25 million to Research Nova Scotia and the Research Opportunities Fund to support research opportunities in Nova Scotia linked to government priorities like economic growth, population growth, health innovation and mental health.
- Government invested \$105 million to improve infrastructure, foster research and enhance healthcare and training at the province's rural universities. St. Francis Xavier University, Acadia University, Université Sainte-Anne and Cape Breton University received funding towards deferred maintenance, construction of a Centre for Discovery and Innovation at CBU, and execution of a strategic health initiative.
- The Private Career Colleges division of Advanced Education is responsible for the regulation of private career colleges and language schools across the province. The division reviews and approves occupational-training programs, completes inspections, compliance reviews, and program performance monitoring. As of March 2022, there were 41 actively registered private career colleges operating at more than 80 sites and offering 175 approved occupational-training programs. There are ten language schools across the province. In 2021-22, the sector experienced an increase in distance and hybrid program delivery options, including more in-community Continuing Care Assistant training.
- The NSCC has 14 campuses and 3 community learning centres located across Nova Scotia, in addition to an e-campus for online learning. NSCC offers a variety of learning opportunities, offering more than 130 programs and hundreds of courses to nearly 20,000 students each year.
- Nova Scotia is home to 10 world class universities that offer a wide range of post-secondary experiences. Annual total enrolment is over 45,000 students, more than half of which come from other Canadian provinces or internationally.

6. Public Interest Disclosure of Wrongdoing Act

The *Public Interest 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. Section 18 of the Act states:

Each deputy head shall prepare an annual report of disclosures, including any findings of wrongdoing, recommendations and actions taken and shall make this report available to the public.

The following table is a summary of disclosures received by the Department of Advanced Education:

Information Required Under Section 18 of the Act	Fiscal Year 2021-22
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