



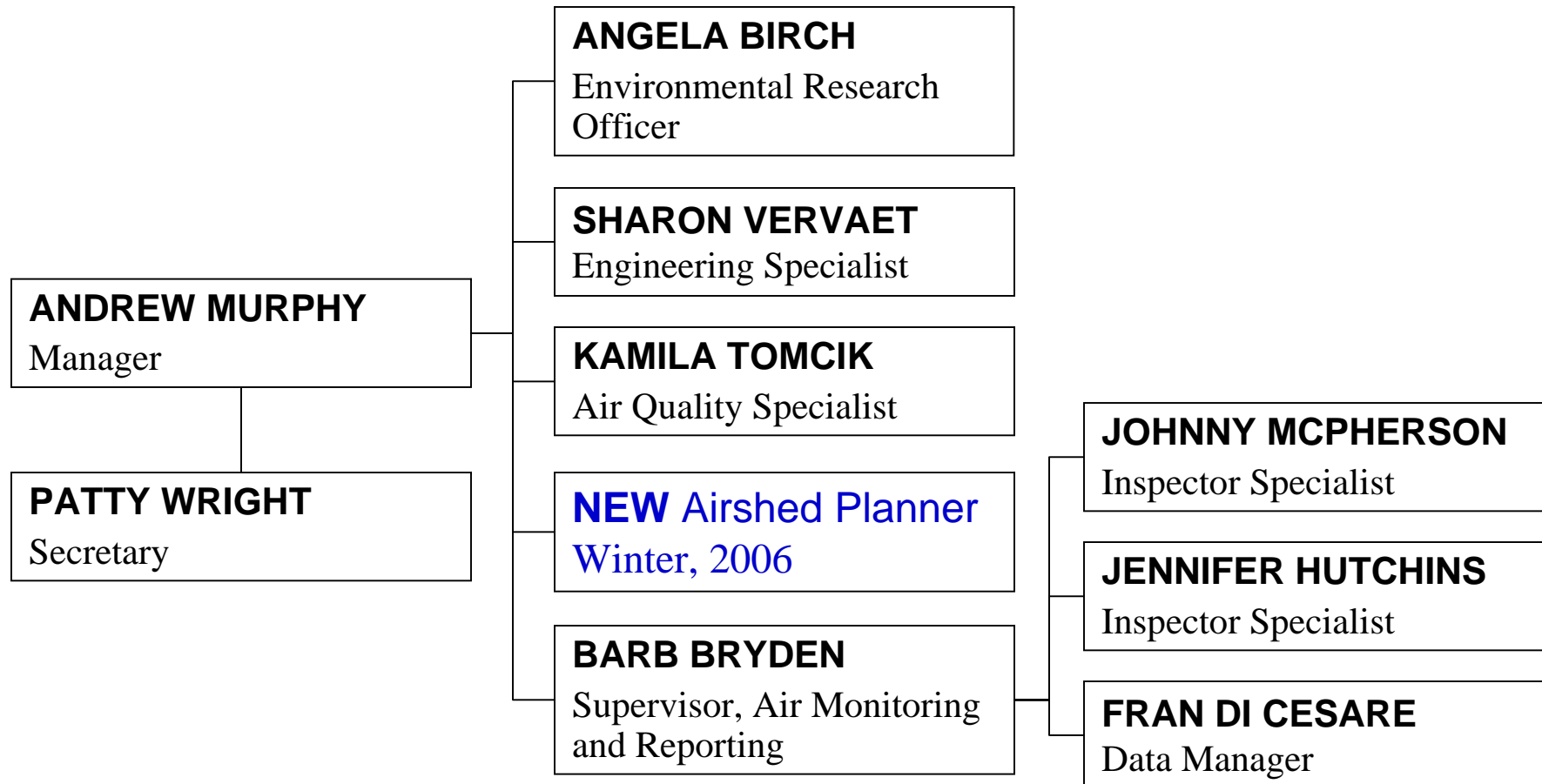
# Air Quality Branch

Striving to Improve  
Outdoor Air Quality in Nova Scotia

March 8, 2006



# Air Quality Branch Staff



# Mandate

## Energy Strategy and NEG/ECP

Commitments to reduce emissions from the generation and consumption of energy:

- 25% SO<sub>2</sub> reduction by NSPI in 2005, further 25% in 2010
- 25% SO<sub>2</sub> reduction in cap for everyone else in 2005, further 25% reduction in 2010  
(facilities must submit emission reduction plans in 2007)
- 20% NO<sub>x</sub> reduction by NSPI in 2009
- 2% limit on sulphur content in heavy fuel oils (July 1, 2005)
- Province to comply with CWS (mercury, O<sub>3</sub>, PM) by 2010
- Province to monitor and model the effects of air emissions

# Air Quality Branch Goal

To improve air quality in Nova Scotia.

## Priorities



1. Education
2. Approvals
3. Airshed Management
  
4. An effective monitoring network that supports the 3 priorities

# Priority: Education

Informing the public about air quality issues through

- Working with NGOs to increase education capacity
- Air Quality issue of Planet Action Club for Kids (PACK) newsletter (Clean Nova Scotia) (will reach 20,000 kids)
- Youth Conservation Corps projects, 2006
- Anti-idling presentation booth in the community
- Developing air quality brochure
- Open house in Pictou (Clean Air Day, 2005)
- Air Quality Forum (March 8, 2006)



# Priority: Approvals

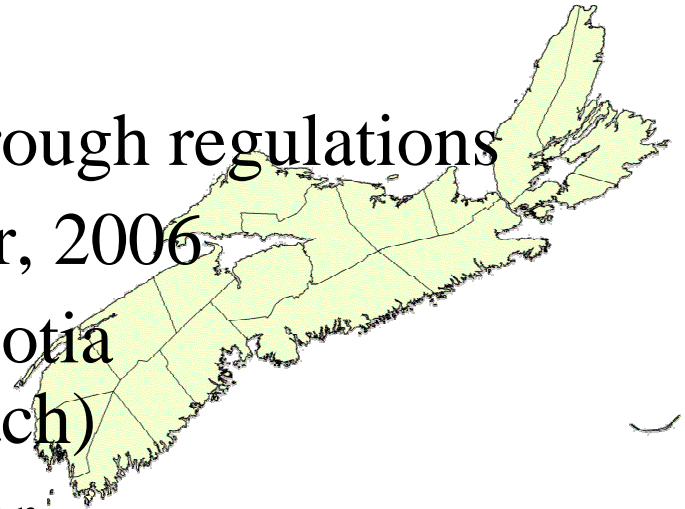
- Supporting the development and update of air quality conditions for industrial operational approvals



# Priority: Airshed Management

Developing Nova Scotia's approach to Airshed Management

- Implementing commitments through regulations
- **NEW** Airshed Planner – Winter, 2006
- Identifying airsheds in Nova Scotia (using science-informed approach)
- Working with industry and other stakeholders to reduce air emissions
- Understanding transboundary and local sources
- Understanding health effects



# Monitoring and Reporting

- Improving the network
- Issuing a current Air Quality Index (AQI)
- Providing public access to current and historical air quality data through provincial website



# Integrated with other jurisdictions

- Air pollution does not stop at national or provincial borders
- Province works closely with other jurisdictions to share data and expertise
- Benefit from shared resources: funding, scientific research, modelling, health studies, forecasting services
  - Air Management Committee (AMC)
  - Canada-wide Standards (mercury, O<sub>3</sub>, PM)
  - Air Quality & Health Index (AQHI)
  - National Air Pollution Surveillance Network (NAPS)

# Air Quality Branch Challenges

- Strengthening relationships with regions
- Developing Nova Scotia's approach to airshed management and air quality science
- Implementing activities to ensure achievement of CWS for particulate matter and ozone by 2010
- Addressing post-2010
- Addressing acid precipitation

