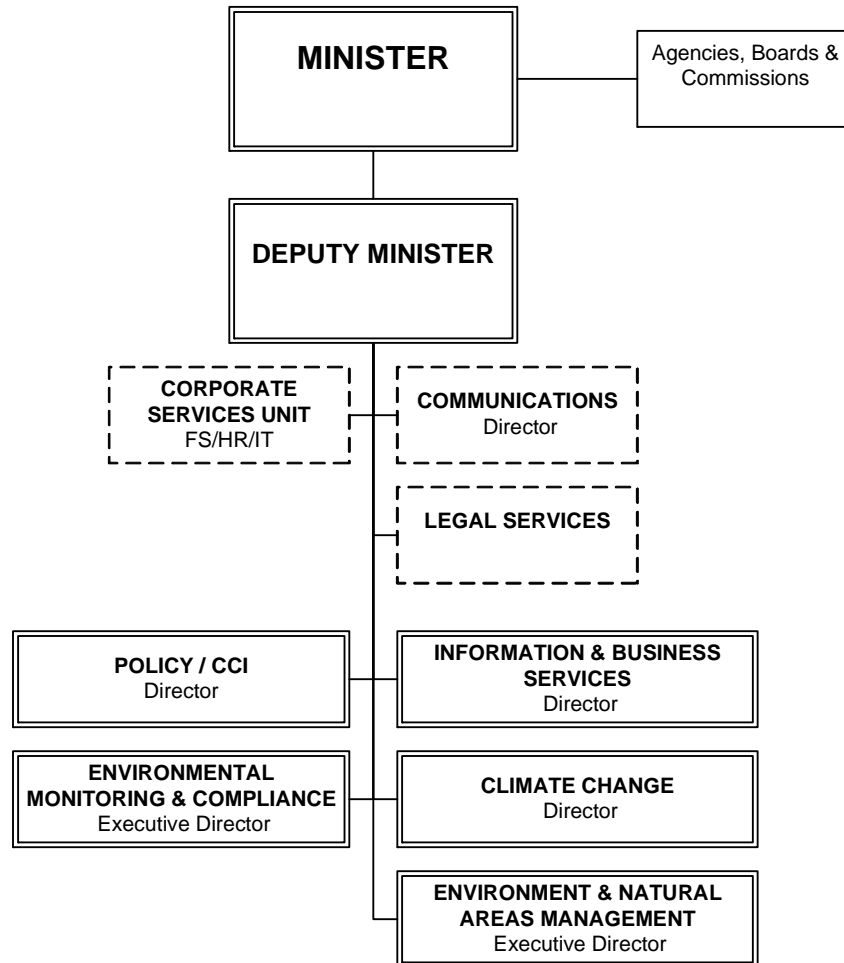


# Department of Environment



## Responsibilities

### **POLICY/COMPETITIVENESS AND COMPLIANCE INITIATIVE**

The division provides coordination of policy and planning for the department, including legislative review and policy development, preparation of briefing material for the minister and deputy minister, research and policy analysis, and departmental liaison for national and international issues.

As part of the policy division, the Competitive and Compliance (CCI) Initiative encourages and supports good regulatory practices. Working in conjunction with the Department of Labour and Workforce Development, CCI ensures that regulatory

efforts are well designed, clearly communicated, and consistently enforced. The initiative aims to improve the protection of the public interest, and increase the competitiveness of Nova Scotian businesses.

Responsible for licensing, regulating, and controlling gaming activities, liquor-licensed establishments, and amusement activities throughout Nova Scotia.

#### **INFORMATION AND BUSINESS SERVICES**

The division is responsible for providing the information management, learning and business services that support departmental operations. It facilitates public access to departmental records in keeping with legal and privacy requirements; develops and supports information management systems; performs website maintenance and operates the departmental library; retains and disposes of departmental records in accordance with policy; provides specialized training to department employees; coordinates departmental purchasing; and manages the department's facilities, office space, and equipment inventory. The IBS division is also responsible for the department's occupational health and safety program.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE**

The division promotes the protection and responsible development of the environment through regulatory and non-regulatory means, and in a manner that supports Nova Scotia's business competitiveness. Services are provided to the public through a network of regional offices, and include processing applications, inspection and monitoring of approvals, investigation and enforcement activities, implementation of departmental strategies, and responding to public issues and complaints.

#### **CLIMATE CHANGE**

The division is responsible for developing Nova Scotia's climate change migration and adaptation policies. In collaboration with public, private, and government stakeholders, the division assesses greenhouse gas reduction opportunities, sets priorities, and develops or supports strategies designed to reduce emissions and prepare Nova Scotians for climate change. The division also works in cooperation with the federal government and key industry stakeholders on setting emission targets, reduction timelines, and implementing regulations for large point source emitters. It is also active in funding and developing programs designed to increase public awareness and understanding of climate change and its impact on the environment.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL AREAS MANAGEMENT**

The division promotes the sustainable management of the environment through the development and implementation of plans, standards, guidelines, and policies for the management and protection of Nova Scotia's air, water, and land resources. Services areas include environmental and home assessments, hazardous substances management, designation and management of protected areas, environmental trade and innovation, air quality, waste-resource management, drinking water standards, water-resource management, and environmental outreach.

## **CORPORATE SERVICES UNIT**

### **Legal Services**

Under the umbrella of the Department of Justice, the Legal Services division provides legal advice, representation, and assistance when required by the minister, deputy minister, or any division of the department. The unit also provides regulatory drafting, legislation support, and legal education services.

### **Communications**

The division provides strategic communications planning and advice for the department. It is responsible for all external communications functions, including issues management, advertising, and media relations. It shares responsibility within the department for internal communications. The day-to-day functions of the division include preparing communications plans, writing news releases and speeches, planning and executing special events like news conferences, and providing input and advice on print and electronic publications.

### **Corporate Services Unit**

The Province's corporate services units provide shared financial, human resources, and information technology services to their respective client organizations. Nova Scotia Environment is served by the Resources CSU, which also supports the departments of Agriculture, Energy, Natural Resources, Fisheries and Aquaculture, and Labour and Workforce Development, as well as several provincial agencies, boards, and commissions.

**AGENCIES, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND TRIBUNALS**

- Advisory Committee on the Protection of Special Places
- Environmental Assessment Board
- Environmental Trust Fund Board
- On-Site Services Advisory Board
- Resource Recovery Fund Board
- Roundtable on Environmental and Sustainable Prosperity

**Acts Administered**

*Environment Act*

*Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act*

*Special Places Protection Act* (The act is jointly administered with Departments of  
Tourism, Culture and Heritage and Natural Resources)

*Water Resources Protection Act*

*Wilderness Areas Protection Act*