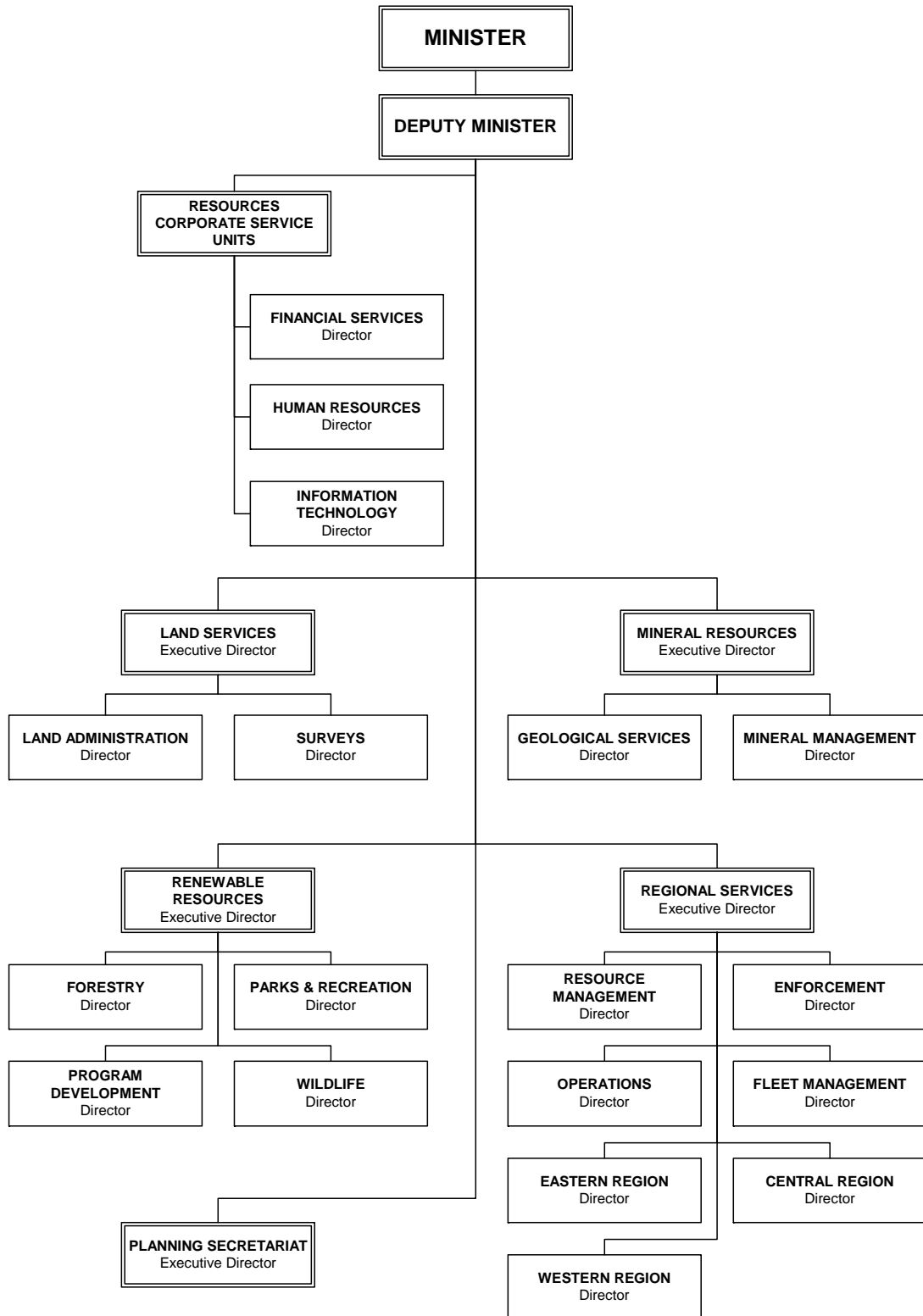


Department of Natural Resources



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Responsibilities

The Department of Natural Resources has broad responsibilities for the development, management, conservation, and protection of forest, mineral, parks, and wildlife resources and the administration of the province's Crown land. Nova Scotians look to Natural Resources for leadership on policy, programs, and services in these sectors. The resources of the department are organized into four branches and a Planning Secretariat, as well as hosting the Resources Corporate Services Unit.

RENEWABLE RESOURCES BRANCH

The Renewable Resources Branch is responsible for the integrated development, management, and conservation of the province's forests, parks, and wildlife resources. To meet these responsibilities it provides coordination and leadership on policy, planning, and program development including industry development and resource promotion, marketing, resource inventories and research, and the preparation of strategies and plans. The branch comprises the following divisions:

- Forestry Division
- Parks and Recreation Division
- Program Development Division
- Wildlife Division

MINERAL RESOURCES BRANCH

The Mineral Resources Branch is responsible for implementing policies and programs dealing with the exploration, development, management, and efficient use of mineral resources. The branch promotes scientific understanding of the geology of Nova Scotia for use by government, industry, and the public and provides a mineral rights tenure system that establishes legal rights to minerals for exploration and development. The branch also promotes the concepts of environmental responsibility and sustainable development, stewardship of the minerals resource sector, and integrated resource planning. The branch consists of two divisions:

- Geological Services Division
- Mineral Management Division

REGIONAL SERVICES BRANCH

The Regional Services Branch delivers department programs and services through an extensive network of field offices. These programs and services include forest management programs, Crown land surveys, regional geological services, extension and education, hunter safety, forest fire prevention, detection, and suppression, monitoring of forest insects and diseases, operation and maintenance of Provincial Parks, and resource conservation enforcement. The branch is responsible for

departmental vehicle fleet maintenance, and the air fleet. Enforcement services are also provided to several other provincial government departments. In addition, the branch provides general field services for the Department of Environment and Labour's protected areas program. The branch comprises the following divisions:

- Resource Management Division
- Enforcement Division
- Operations Division
- Fleet Management Division
- Eastern Region
- Central Region
- Western Region

LAND SERVICES BRANCH

The land mass of the Province of Nova Scotia comprises approximately 12 million acres of which 3.5 million acres are administered and controlled by the Department of Natural Resources as provincial Crown land. In addition, the department administers inland submerged lands and submerged lands along the province's 9000 kilometres of coastline. The Land Services Branch administers approximately 20 statues and provides service, advice, and leadership on all land-related matters concerning the department, as well as providing advice and service to other departments.

The branch consists of the following divisions:

- Land Administration Division
- Surveys Division

PLANNING SECRETARIAT

The secretariat provides planning and policy coordination support to the Deputy Minister and the department by ensuring that policies and plans developed within and across the department are coordinated, support the integrated management of our natural resources, and are compatible with and support the strategic direction of government. The Planning Secretariat also provides administrative, planning, research, information management, information distribution, graphics, mapping, and communication services.

RESOURCES CORPORATE SERVICES UNIT

Corporate Services Units (CSU) were created in March 1996. The Resources Corporate Services Units (RCSU) provide financial, human resources, and information technology-related services to the Department of Natural Resources, as well as to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Department of Environment and Labour, the Department of Energy, the Utility and Review Board, the Nova Scotia Securities Commission, and the Emergency Measures Organization. Information Technology-related services are also provided to the Department of Finance, the Public Service Commission, Communications Nova Scotia, and a number of other offices and agencies including: Protocol Office, Executive Council, Premier's Office, Treasury and Policy Board, Office of the Speaker, Legislative Library, Caucus Offices, Office of the Ombudsman, Aboriginal Affairs, Intergovernmental Affairs, Lieutenant Governor, Hansard Reporting Services, Office of the Auditor General, Legislative Counsel, Legislative Television, Legislative Committee's Office, and the Elections Office.

Acts Administered

- An Act to Confer Certain Powers Upon the Lieutenant Governor in Council and to Amend the *Mines Act*
- *Beaches Act*
- *Beaches and Foreshores Act*
- *Blueberry Associations Act*
- *Bowaters Mersey Agreement Act*
- *Conservation Easements Act*
- *Crown Lands Act*
- *Endangered Species Act*
- *Forest Enhancement Act*
- *Forests Act*
- *Gypsum Mining Income Tax Act*
- *Halifax Power and Pulp Company Limited Agreement Act*
- *Indian Lands Act*
- *Kedgemakooge National Park Act*
- *Land Holdings Disclosure Act*
- *Land Surveyors Act*
- *Land Titles Clarification Act*
- *Mineral Resources Act*
- *Parks Development Act*
- *Primary Forest Products Marketing Act*
- *Provincial Parks Act*

- *Scalers Act*
- *Scott Maritimes Limited Agreement (1965) Act*
- *Special Places Protection Act* (DNR has responsibility for ecological sites only—the act is in the process of being transferred to DEL)
- *Stora Forest Industries Limited Agreement Act*
- *Trails Act*
- *Treasure Trove Act*
- *Wildlife Act*

OTHER ACTS

- *Angling Act*
- *Private Ways Act*
- *Woodsmen's Lien Act*

