

Department of Intergovernmental Affairs

Mission Statement

The Department of Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA) receives its mandate from the *Public Service Act*. The Department is responsible for coordinating and advancing the Province's interests with the Government of Canada, other provinces, and foreign governments at the national and sub-national levels. It is also focused on serving as a central point of contact for the coordination of the Province's intergovernmental priorities, the development of trade policy, military relations, protocol requirements, and the operation of Government House.

Sectoral Responsibilities

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL-TERRITORIAL RELATIONS

Intergovernmental Affairs advances the Province's priorities by engaging with the federal government, collaborating with other provinces and territories regionally and nationally on shared priorities, and supporting the Premier's leadership and participation in intergovernmental forums. IGA also supports Nova Scotia government departments working on initiatives with other governments in Canada, and in identifying opportunities and potential issues. Work is undertaken to ensure that the Province is effective in enhancing intergovernmental collaboration for the benefit of Nova Scotians.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Intergovernmental Affairs is responsible for coordinating and leading the Province's international relations. International Relations ensures a corporate approach to Nova Scotia's trade promotion, investment attraction and other interests. It also supports inbound and outbound activities, including trade missions and visits to Nova Scotia by delegations from priority markets.

CANADA-UNITED STATES RELATIONS

Addresses Nova Scotia's important relationship with the United States. The U.S. represents the Province's principal export market, where cultural and familial linkages run deep and the economies are integrated.

TRADE POLICY

Intergovernmental Affairs, through the Minister of Trade, is responsible for all matters relating to trade policy, interprovincial and international trade negotiations, agreements and disputes and the development of the Province's strategic approach to international markets. Advancing this mandate requires extensive engagement across government to maximize opportunities resulting from trade agreements and to minimize risks to the province through trade agreement compliance.

MILITARY RELATIONS

IGA supports the Minister responsible for Military Relations and provides the Government of Nova Scotia with a means to communicate and work directly with the headquarters, offices, and agencies of the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces in Nova Scotia, and Veterans Affairs Canada. Departmental responsibility and accountability for the Province's defence, military, and veterans-related activities are managed by Military Relations.

PROTOCOL AND HONOURS SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat coordinates official ceremonies, events and foreign-official visits through consultations with ministers, departmental stakeholders and the federal government. It also provides protocol related advice to departments, non-governmental organizations and the general public, and administers the Order of Nova Scotia.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor / Government House is mandated to serve, support and maintain with excellence the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia and Government House. IGA provides support to the Office, which ensures the operational and constitutional mandates, and the symbolic role of the Lieutenant Governor as The King of Canada's representative in Nova Scotia, are fully met.

Administrative update: **May 27, 2022**
