



# Accountability Report 2020–21

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Intergovernmental Affairs

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Accountability Report 2020–2021

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## Accountability Statement

The Accountability Report of the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA), for the year 2020-21 ended March 31, 2021, is prepared pursuant to the *Finance Act* and government policies and guidelines. These authorities require the reporting of outcomes against the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs' Business Plan for the fiscal year just ended.

The reporting of the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs outcomes includes estimates, judgments and opinions by the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs management. We acknowledge that this Accountability Report is the responsibility of the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs management.

The report is, to the extent possible, a complete and accurate representation of outcomes relative to the goals and priorities set out in the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs 2020-21 Business Plan.

Original signed by \_\_\_\_\_

The Honourable Tim Houston  
Premier, Province of Nova Scotia  
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs  
Minister of Trade

Original signed by \_\_\_\_\_

Kelliann Dean  
Deputy Minister, Department of Intergovernmental Affairs

## Message from the Premier

In my role as Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA), I am pleased to present the IGA Accountability Report for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

IGA is responsible for managing Nova Scotia's relations with other governments, co-ordination of a corporate approach among departments on intergovernmental issues, and the development of strategic policy in support of the Province's trade objectives. The Department works to promote the Province's priorities, with an emphasis on engagement, collaboration, and alignment across government.

I would like to express my appreciation to Department staff for their commitment to the Province of Nova Scotia, and I look forward to working together in the coming year.



Sincerely,

Original signed by \_\_\_\_\_

The Honourable Tim Houston  
Premier of Nova Scotia  
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs  
Minister of Trade

## Mandate

IGA is the central co-ordinating agency responsible for:

- Advancing the Province's interests and managing its relations with the Government of Canada, provinces and territories, and foreign governments at the national and subnational levels
- Trade policy, interprovincial and international trade negotiations, agreements and disputes; development of the Province's strategic approach to international markets
- Co-ordination of the Province's intergovernmental priorities
- Protocol requirements; Military Relations
- Supporting the operation of Government House

### Core function areas:

Government of Canada Relations  
Federal/Provincial/Territorial Relations  
Atlantic Region Relations  
International Relations  
Canada-U.S. Relations

Trade Policy  
Military Relations  
Protocol Office  
Government House  
Corporate Initiatives

## Financial Summary

### Accountability Report – Financial Table and Variance Explanation

| Intergovernmental Affairs           | 2020-2021 Estimate   | 2020-2021 Actuals | 2020-2021 Variance |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Program &amp; Service Area</b>   |                      |                   |                    |
| <b>Departmental Expenses:</b>       | <i>(\$thousands)</i> |                   |                    |
| Administration                      | 2,971                | 2,585             | (386)              |
| Government House                    | 952                  | 979               | 27                 |
| Protocol Office                     | 662                  | 415               | (247)              |
| <b>Total: Departmental Expenses</b> | <b>4,585</b>         | <b>3,979</b>      | <b>(606)</b>       |
|                                     |                      |                   |                    |
| <b>Additional Information:</b>      |                      |                   |                    |
| Ordinary Recoveries                 | 330                  | 5                 | (325)              |
| <b>Total: Recoveries</b>            | <b>330</b>           | <b>5</b>          | <b>(325)</b>       |
|                                     |                      |                   |                    |
| Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs)      | <b>36.0</b>          | <b>32.8</b>       | <b>(3.2)</b>       |

**Departmental Expenses Variance Explanation:**

Intergovernmental Affairs expenses were \$606,000 lower than estimated. This was primarily due to the cancellation of the annual conference of the Southeastern U.S. - Canadian Provinces Alliance (N.S. was to host) and other operational savings due to COVID-19 restrictions.

**Recoveries Variance Explanation:**

Actual recoveries were lower than estimate due to conference cancellation (Southeastern United States-Canadian Provinces Alliance).

**Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs) Variance Explanation:**

Variance due to temporarily vacant positions.

## Measuring Our Performance; Responding to COVID-19

IGA provides corporate oversight, cross-departmental co-ordination and strategic leadership to advance the Province's intergovernmental objectives, relationships and opportunities. Through facilitation of a whole-of-government approach, IGA helps to create conditions to support economic and social outcomes in Nova Scotia, with an emphasis on intergovernmental and international relationships, trade and market development, and strategic stakeholder engagement.

During 2020-21, IGA prioritized intergovernmental and corporate activities to address the health, safety and economic needs of Nova Scotians resulting from impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Actions, outcomes and performance indicators in this report reflect significant efforts and achievements related to the Province's pandemic response. This included supporting an unprecedented level of intergovernmental collaboration among federal, provincial, and territorial leaders, and COVID-19 corporate initiatives within Government.

Many Nova Scotians suffered personal losses and faced challenges due to the pandemic, which also brought negative impacts for workers and businesses in certain sectors of the province's economy. COVID-19 restrictions resulted in the cancellation of many of IGA's scheduled in-person engagement and events. The Department swiftly transitioned to virtual platforms to support vital pandemic-related intergovernmental outreach, and to ensure continuity of IGA's activities and daily operations. IGA also participated in government-wide initiatives to protect Nova Scotians during the pandemic.

Outcomes, performance indicators and measurements in this report reflect IGA's responsibilities and role as a central agency, and note quantitative results achieved through collaborative initiatives. Highlights include the successful negotiation the (COVID-19) Safe Restart Agreement with the federal government, positive outcomes in trade dispute resolutions, provincial population growth, and the support of projects that enhance environmental sustainability and economic growth.

Support of the pandemic response and economic recovery will continue into 2021-22. Additional priority initiatives that span multiple fiscal years include: Clean Energy Road Map for the Atlantic Region; marine conservation and management; health care funding; ongoing implementation of trade agreements and engagement strategies in the province's major trade and export markets.

IGA conducts a biennial Client Satisfaction Survey to gather feedback on its performance. Responses to the 2020 survey indicated a 90% level of satisfaction with IGA's work among the Department's clients; the next survey will be undertaken in 2022.



## IGA Priorities in 2020-21

In 2020-21, IGA focused on the Province's response to COVID-19, continued to achieve outcomes to fulfill legislated and ministerial mandates, and supported initiatives to advance government strategic goals. IGA worked with partners in government, business, institutions, organizations and communities to align efforts and achieve results on key priorities that impacted multiple sectors of the province's economy and society.

### The Department's Priority Areas:

Priority 1: Co-ordination, collaboration and alignment within government

Priority 2: Advancing Nova Scotia's intergovernmental interests (nationally and globally)

Priority 3: A strategic approach to trade

Priority 4: Promoting and celebrating Nova Scotia and its people

## Priority 1: Co-ordination, collaboration and alignment within government

**Approach:** IGA led collaboration among departments to ensure alignment of efforts to advance Nova Scotia's intergovernmental objectives, relationships and opportunities.

### Actions:

- Led the development of the Province's priorities and planning to advance key issues including COVID-19 recovery, vaccination rollout and the Canada Health Transfer at First Ministers' Meetings (FMM)
- Created a Nova Scotia senior officials committee to liaise with key departments in the development of Nova Scotia's bilateral Safe Restart Agreement with the federal government
- Communicated regularly with senior leaders across government to ensure awareness of responses to COVID-19 by the federal government and other Provincial-Territorial (PT) governments
- Fostered ongoing discussions and shared updates across government on intergovernmental issues, particularly COVID-19, through meetings of IGA's Senior Officials Intergovernmental Committee (SOIC)
- Established and chaired SOIC working groups on Bilateral Agreements and on the Canada Health Transfer; provided departments with advice on their bilateral agreements with the federal, PT and foreign sub-national governments

- Worked closely with departments to strategically prepare and to co-ordinate priorities for additional federal-provincial-territorial (FPT) meetings and consultations by the Government of Canada
- Co-ordinated the Province's preparations for Atlantic regional discussions, including the Council of Atlantic Premiers (CAP) and initiatives under the Atlantic Growth Strategy (AGS)
- Facilitated the development of the Province's co-ordinated approach to engagement with the federal government on marine conservation and management
- Collaborated with departments on Canada-U.S. priorities, including with the Department of Health and Wellness regarding issues related to Canada-U.S. border restrictions
- Monitored and provided analysis of the U.S. Presidential election and relevant gubernatorial elections; advised officials and departments of implications for the interests of Nova Scotia and of Canada

#### Outcomes:

- Nova Scotia's response to the COVID-19 pandemic was co-ordinated and aligned through a corporate approach
- The approach to engaging with other governments was co-ordinated, consistent, and provided a corporate perspective in departmental dealings in regional, national and international settings
- Nova Scotia's priorities and positions on major FPT initiatives and in intergovernmental engagement were well presented and understood
- Departments were engaged and well informed regarding FPT decisions and measures related to the pandemic
- The Province's FPT relationships were significantly strengthened as a result of the increased frequency and levels of FPT engagement
- Departments were informed of relevant U.S. political developments and potential impacts on Nova Scotia
- Government officials were provided with strategic support, advice and information on issues and in preparation for meetings with national and international decision-makers

#### Performance indicators/measurement:

- IGA co-ordinated provincial participation in more than 75 intergovernmental conferences (FMM, FPT, PT, CAP) during 2020-21, primarily in response to COVID-19
- Departments received access to IGA services and support and advice on key files
- IGA's corporate clients expressed strong satisfaction (90% of respondents) with IGA's work, as noted in the Department's biennial Client Satisfaction Survey, which gathers feedback on IGA's performance

## Priority 2: Advancing Nova Scotia's intergovernmental interests

**Approach:** Strategic leadership by IGA ensured Nova Scotia's priorities and interests were advanced domestically and internationally through intergovernmental forums and organizations, the prioritization of strong intergovernmental relationships, leveraging of trade agreements, and engagement with key partners and stakeholders.

### Government of Canada, Federal-Provincial-Territorial, Atlantic Region

#### Actions:

- Provided advice and decision support for 28 First Ministers' Meetings, 35 Council of the Federation (COF) meetings, and 16 Council of Atlantic Premiers meetings, to ensure a collaborative response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Led Nova Scotia's negotiations of the \$19-billion FPT Safe Restart Agreement, which assisted provinces and territories in reopening in 2020 and preparing for pandemic's second wave
- Supported the Council of Atlantic Premiers throughout Atlantic Bubble discussions to ease border restrictions within the region following the first wave of the pandemic
- Promoted Nova Scotia's interests through the Nova Scotia-Government of Canada Co-ordination Table on Ocean and Marine Management, which is co-chaired by IGA; encouraged a renewed approach to engagement on marine protected areas and other marine conservation initiatives and targets
- Co-chaired, with the federal government, work on the Clean Power Road Map, including meetings with other governments, power utilities, and Nova Scotia departments, to develop clean power initiatives in the Atlantic Region

#### Outcomes:

- The protection of Nova Scotians and the Province's interests and priorities were considered in federal COVID-19 assistance programs, particularly the Safe Restart Agreement
- Nova Scotia received its fair share of federal assistance funding
- Nova Scotia is regarded as a collaborative and dependable partner in FPT initiatives; the Province's interests were advanced at regional, interprovincial, and national levels
- The Clean Power Road Map initiative will enhance clean energy transmission in Atlantic Canada, and reflects the Province's clean energy priorities; the final report is expected in 2021-22
- Forums such as the Council of Atlantic Premiers and the Council of the Federation have been strengthened

## United States

### Actions:

- Engaged with U.S. stakeholders by participating in events through virtual platforms, including the Embassy of Canada Washington Tree Lighting and the Working Group of the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment (GOMC)
- Monitored and developed positions on cross-border issues arising from the pandemic, including the Canada-U.S. border closure, and the Nova Scotia-Maine seasonal ferry service
- As Secretariat of the GMOC, facilitated collaborative leadership on cross-border environmental issues
- Conducted outreach to key elected officials in the U.S. following America's 2020 elections
- Continued to monitor U.S. trade actions that have potential to impact Nova Scotia exporters, particularly in the seafood, manufacturing and forestry sectors
- Monitored ongoing implementation of the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA), which maintains access to the vital U.S. market for Nova Scotia exporters
- Advocated Nova Scotia's cross-border interests, when appropriate, through virtual outreach
- Briefed and engaged with the U.S. Consulate General in Halifax
- Planned for the annual conference of the New England Governors/Eastern Canadian Premiers in 2021, which occurred virtually due to COVID-19 restrictions

### Outcomes:

- Nova Scotia maintained engagement with stakeholders in the Canada-U.S. relationship on issues of importance
- Nova Scotia's interests were effectively represented in the broader Canada-U.S. relationship
- Advocacy with sub-national leaders in the United States assisted in advancing pan-Canadian positions
- Nova Scotia's climate change, marine conservation and clean energy priorities were highlighted as part of engagement activities, particularly through the GOMC

## International

### Actions:

- Supported virtual trade missions and engagement with foreign dignitaries and officials, including forestry missions to Sweden, Finland and Maine
- In partnership with Nova Scotia Business Inc. (NSBI), co-ordinated a strategic approach by the Province to growth and develop major and emerging trade markets

- Continued activities to implement the Nova Scotia-China and Nova Scotia-Europe engagement strategies; advanced formal partnerships to create mutually beneficial trade, investment, cultural and educational opportunities, including:
  - Signed a formal twinning agreement with the Chinese province of Fujian
  - Supported three roundtable discussions with provincial officials from Fujian and Shandong, China related to COVID-19
  - Supported the visit to Nova Scotia by the Consul General of France for Atlantic Canada; explored prospects for exchanges between Nova Scotia and France
- Strengthened engagement with the Honorary Consular Corps in Nova Scotia to discuss trade issues and opportunities, align efforts, and utilize invaluable relationships and connections to overseas markets
- Welcomed two inbound virtual missions from Scotland regarding business opportunities in Nova Scotia
- Organized discussions with the British High Commissioner to strengthen Nova Scotia-U.K. relations and to discuss trade, investment and partnership opportunities
- Raised awareness about strong educational institutions in the province; continued to promote Nova Scotia as a priority destination for students and immigration
- Supported and promoted labour market opportunities and strategic immigration programs as part of international engagement activities

#### Outcomes:

- Virtual trade mission agendas reflected strategic goals and sector/market opportunities, particularly for Nova Scotia's forestry industry
- Strategic programs to address Nova Scotia's labour market needs, particularly in health care, continued to generate significant responses
- While export levels declined in 2020 due to pandemic-related restrictions and measures, trade data for the first four months of 2021 reflects strong recovery in global exports, particularly in the seafood sector

#### Performance indicators/measurements:

- The Province received \$289 million in funding from the Safe Restart Agreement, which was used to provide services to Nova Scotians during the pandemic, including COVID-19 testing, contact tracing, health care system capacity, personal protection equipment, child care, and supports for vulnerable citizens
- Nova Scotia was lauded internationally as the safest jurisdiction in North America during the 2020 peak of pandemic; COVID-19 testing rates were the highest per-capita in Canada
- Nova Scotia's international goods exports dropped 14 per cent during 2020 as border restrictions and lockdowns impacted the movement and production of goods

- Year-to-date export data for 2021 shows a strong recovery for Nova Scotia's exports, which have increased by 26.6% to \$2.46 billion during Jan-May of 2021, compared to \$1.94 billion during the same period in 2020
- Nova Scotia's global exports of fresh and frozen lobster rose by 37% to \$482 million during the first five months of 2021, compared to \$351 million during the same period in 2020

### Priority 3: Strategic approach to trade

**Approach:** Nova Scotia's trade and sector interests were supported by strategic trade policy; the Province's interests were advanced in domestic and international negotiations and disputes; impacts of COVID-19 on the province's exports were monitored and analysed.

#### Actions:

- Advanced Nova Scotia's interests in World Trade Organization (WTO) matters and disputes
- Defended Nova Scotia's Emerging Wine Regions Policy at the WTO; achieved an outcome that led to Australia withdrawing all claims
- Advocated and proactively represented Nova Scotia's interests with the Government of Canada, the United Kingdom (U.K.) High Commission, and stakeholders in the negotiation of the Canada-U.K. Trade Continuity Agreement, which came into force on April 1, 2021
- Co-led national work through the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA) on direct-to-consumer sales of alcohol
- Continued to advance Nova Scotia's interests as part of key initiatives under the CFTA, including financial services, cannabis, regulatory co-operation, and alcoholic beverages
- Provided detailed strategic analysis of trade data in the context of COVID-19:
  - Monitored impacts in Nova Scotia's major export markets (the U.S., Asia, and Europe-U.K.)
  - Monitored various pandemic-related measures implemented by China and other countries, in relation to potential impacts and trade barriers on Nova Scotia's exports
  - Analysed sector opportunities and impacts to support trade negotiations, issues and disputes, and the development of potential new markets
- Defended Nova Scotia's interests in ongoing North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) investment disputes
- Provided leadership and engaged with the Government of Canada, PTs and stakeholders on several U.S. trade actions that had the potential to impact N.S.

exporters, particularly in the seafood, blueberry, pharmaceuticals and medical devices, and forestry sectors

- Defended Nova Scotia's blueberry sector, in collaboration with industry, Global Affairs Canada, and legal counsel, during the U.S. International Trade Commission's safeguard investigation; a finding of no injury eliminated this risk to the province's sector
- Monitored developments related to environmental sustainability and climate change ambition in the context of trade
- Monitored developments related to Canada's inclusive approach to trade
- Monitored the ongoing implementation of the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CETA)
- Provided trade risk and issues management services to departments

#### Outcomes:

- Access to key international markets for Nova Scotia's important blueberry and wine industries was maintained, following the resolution of trade disputes
- Nova Scotia remained strongly engaged with federal officials involved in the negotiation, implementation and enforcement of international trade agreements
- Awareness of Nova Scotia's interests and concerns remained high among federal trade officials
- Trade compliance risks were proactively mitigated; Nova Scotia's interests were defended, utilizing internal and international dispute resolution mechanisms and tribunals

#### Performance indicators/measurement:

- Access to the U.K. market was maintained for Nova Scotia exporters as a result of the successful negotiation of the Nova Canada-U.K. Trade Continuity Agreement
- Nova Scotia's vital blueberry sector maintained access to the key U.S. market after the successful defense of the industry during a U.S. safeguards investigation; export of frozen blueberries to the U.S. in 2020 were \$31.7 million
- Exports of lumber and gypsum to the United States rose by 38% and 26% respectively in 2020, reflecting strong demand in the U.S. construction industry
- Total exports of services (interprovincial, \$4.6 billion; international, \$2.4 billion) reached \$7 billion in 2019 (the most recent available figures), reflecting an increase of 2.9% over 2018 levels

## Priority 4: Promoting and celebrating Nova Scotia and its people

**Approach:** Historical, military, and multi-cultural traditions and contributions were celebrated; the talents and accomplishments of Nova Scotians were recognized; tragic

losses during 2020 were memorialized. The promotion of Nova Scotia continued as part of virtual engagement activities.

#### Actions:

- Military Relations worked with the Department of National Defence to advance the Seamless Canada initiative, which provides support services for military personnel and family members who relocate to Nova Scotia
- Commemorated the Nova Scotia mass shooting tragedy
- Engaged with Veterans Affairs Canada and other groups to advocate issues of importance to veterans
- Provided Protocol advice and support to departments, the public, and the consular community
- Worked with the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) to commemorate significant events, including the Cyclone helicopter “Stalker 22” tragedy, and the repatriation ceremony honouring Captain Jenn Casey, who died in the crash of a Snowbird aircraft
- Co-ordinated the participation/representation of the Premier at CAF events
- Supported foreign embassies in maintaining consular services for international students, immigrants and foreign citizens living in Nova Scotia; facilitated liaison with the Department of Health and Wellness regarding pandemic issues
- Celebrated excellence among Nova Scotians through the Order of Nova Scotia; enhanced outreach through virtual platforms
- Promoted Nova Scotia as a unique, safe, and vibrant destination for immigrants, international students and future tourists, as part of virtual engagement, to prepare for anticipated reductions in pandemic restrictions
- Supported population growth by promoting Nova Scotia’s vibrant and diverse cultures in agenda development and event planning for virtual international trade missions
- Secured educational opportunities and partnerships/research agreements for institutions and international students as part of virtual engagement activities
- Developed pandemic protocols to enable clients to safely maintain access to the Government Gift Bank service; continued to increase the representation of Indigenous, African-Nova Scotian and other diverse artists in the Gift Bank product inventory
- Recognized milestones celebrated by Nova Scotians, including retiring CAF members, through the Premier’s Congratulatory Message Service

#### Outcomes:

- The talents, accomplishments and dedication of outstanding citizens were recognized



- The importance of the role and contribution of the military and veterans to Nova Scotia was reinforced through engagement with military and veterans' communities and participation in commemorative and memorial events
- Opportunities were pursued, through increased virtual outreach, to profile and advance Nova Scotia's objectives and interests
- Anticipated growth in immigrants, international students and tourism stalled due to global travel restrictions
- Nova Scotia's population growth continued, due in part to strong interprovincial migration

#### Performance indicators/measurements:

- Nova Scotia's population hit a record 982,326 people at the end of 2020-21
- The province's population grew by 2,877 in the fourth quarter of the fiscal year, the largest increase in the fourth quarter since 1971
- Net interprovincial migration reached 1,870 people during the fourth quarter, the highest level reported since 1984
- Nova Scotia retained more than 1,000 international students following graduation, replicating similar results in the previous two years
- More than 1,200 Nova Scotians were congratulated through the commemorative/congratulatory certificate service

## Corporate Initiatives

IGA leads co-ordination, strategic planning and cross-departmental collaboration to advance the Province's objectives, relationships and opportunities. In addition to mandated responsibilities, IGA participated in corporate initiatives, partnerships and projects that advanced government priorities and supported the government-wide pandemic response.

#### Corporate initiatives and projects:

- Produced a podcast featuring a new virtual care model that provides non-urgent mental health services in Cape Breton, improving access and reducing wait times; released as part of the "*Promising Practices*" podcast series by Canada's Premiers to highlight best practices, and help reduce stigma associated with mental illness
- Produced and presented "*Bubbles, borders and a trailblazing response: Nova Scotia in action against COVID-19*" at the annual innovation festival hosted by the Province's Outpost for Public Sector Innovation
- Enhanced workforce development and planning to support the public sector Diversity and Inclusion strategy

Additionally, during 2021 IGA officials worked as part of COVID-19 corporate teams that:

- Secured access to supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE) required for health care workers and citizens
- Supported vulnerable citizens (including seniors, people with disabilities, those experiencing sudden job losses) who faced urgent challenges such as food insecurity, transportation and housing needs during pandemic lockdowns
- Responded to digital access challenges for low-income families, including to support children transitioning to online learning
- Assisted in responding to a dramatic increase in specific and often time-sensitive inquiries to the Province from citizens regarding border access, public health concerns, self-isolation requirements, and myriad other pandemic-related issues during the initial lockdown

## Government House

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor/Government House serves and supports the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia and maintains historic Government House.

### Actions:

- Supported the Lieutenant Governor in fulfilling prescribed constitutional duties, including the approval of 338 Orders-in-Council and 13 Proclamations, and the appointment of 120 notaries public
- In partnership with the Executive Council Office, implemented protocols to ensure the continued processing of official documents during the pandemic
- Organized and executed two Executive Council swearing-in ceremonies, in cooperation with the Executive Council Office
- Engaged with a record number of Nova Scotians and Canadians via virtual platforms, notably through the production of 55 video messages that garnered more than 30,000 online views
- Continued to promote the foundational Crown-Indigenous relationship through the acquisition of a ceremonial Eagle Feather for use during appropriate ceremonies, contact between the Lieutenant Governor and Indigenous leaders throughout the pandemic, and the annual Treaty Day event
- Commemorated those who lost their lives in the Nova Scotia mass shooting and the CAF Cyclone helicopter “Stalker 22” crash in the Ionian Sea
- Supported African Nova Scotian Affairs and African Nova Scotian organizations during events for African Heritage Month; provided video messages for two African Nova Scotian music associations, and for the unveiling of the Royal Canadian Mint coin honouring Nova Scotia’s Black Loyalists

- Executed the programs associated with the Lieutenant Governor's role to
  - celebrate and recognize deserving Nova Scotians
  - present Lieutenant Governor's awards in 14 categories; recognize 85 patron organizations
  - promote excellence in Nova Scotia in the arts, education, products and other areas of society, business and community service
- Presented quadra-lingual Community Service plaques to 13 Indigenous communities and 69 municipalities in recognition of services provided during the pandemic
- Initiated a virtual tour of the main floor of Government House, providing online public access to the history and heritage of the province
- Executed virtual and modified in-person events in honour of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Battle of the Atlantic and the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day
- Executed programs and flag raising ceremonies for key celebrations and commemorations, including African Heritage Month, Canada Day, Halifax Pride, National Acadian Day, Treaty Day, Remembrance Day, la Journée internationale de la Francophonie
- Established the *Prix d'excellence du lieutenant-gouverneur pour l'Acadie et la francophonie de la Nouvelle-Écosse*, in partnership with Acadian and Francophonie Affairs
- Dispatched 755 commemorative certificates to Nova Scotians marking milestone events
- Carried out an abridged program of 38 external events/community visits
- Initiated planning for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022
- Created a comprehensive Government House occupational health and safety plan specific to the pandemic

#### Outcomes:

- The Lieutenant Governor was supported in the delivery of the legal function of the position in the legislature, and the programs of Government House; the mandate to support the constitutional and ceremonial role of The Queen of Canada's representative in Nova Scotia was fully met
- The Lieutenant Governor was supported in the organization and hosting of public recognition events, including through increased virtual platforms and engagement, to reach a record number of members of the public
- Support was provided to communities and Nova Scotians through the celebration and recognition of talents, accomplishments, milestones, history, heritage, and culture

#### Performance indicators/measurements:

- Government House met its federal and provincial obligations, and operated within its mandate and funding allocations

- The Lieutenant Governor’s programs and community outreach were supported through virtual and (modified) in-person activities

## Public Interest Disclosure of Wrongdoing Act

*The Public Interest Disclosure 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. The Act also protects employees who do disclose from reprisals, by enabling them to lay a complaint of reprisal with the Labor Board. A Wrongdoing for the purposes of the Act is: a) a contravention of provincial or federal laws or regulations; b) a misuse or gross mismanagement of public funds or assets; c) an act or omission that creates an imminent risk of a substantial and specific danger to the life, health or safety of persons or the environment; or d) directing or counselling someone to commit a wrongdoing.

The following is a summary of disclosures received by the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs:

| Information Required under Section 18 of the Act     | Fiscal Year 2020-21 |
|--|---------------------|
| 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                 |