

OFFICE OF ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

STATEMENT OF MANDATE
2010-11

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Message from the Minister and Deputy Minister

We are pleased to present the 2010-11 Statement of Mandate for the Office of Aboriginal Affairs.

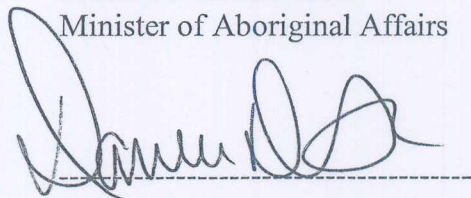
The Nova Scotia government is committed to working in partnership with the Mi'kmaq to build a better Nova Scotia, one that reflects the rich culture and history of Nova Scotia's first people and supports a prosperous future for the Mi'kmaq of today and the generations to come. At a meeting of the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs and the Nova Scotia Cabinet in November of this past year, the Assembly laid out their priorities. Their vision of good governance and greater self-reliance is one that we support and want to foster.

The work of the Office is vital to the future prosperity of Nova Scotia and to ensuring strong and stable relations with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia. Like all governments, Nova Scotia is facing significant fiscal and economic challenges in the coming few years. Despite this we will continue to make progress on addressing Aboriginal and treaty rights through the Made-in-Nova Scotia negotiation process and develop ever more effective processes in support of government's obligation to consult with the Mi'kmaq. We will continue to utilize the Tripartite Forum to build stronger linkages between governments and Mi'kmaq communities and organizations and foster collaborative solutions on social and economic matters.

In the short term, these efforts support the goals of government and will help position the province as we move out a recession into more stable economic times. In the longer term, our efforts will help to build a better, more inclusive Nova Scotia.

Wela'lin

Premier Darrell Dexter
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs

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Judith Sullivan-Corney
CEO/Deputy Minister, Aboriginal Affairs

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Judith Sullivan-Corney', written over a horizontal dashed line.

Mandate

The Office of Aboriginal Affairs was established to promote a co-ordinated approach within government on matters related to Aboriginal people, represent the interests of the Province in intergovernmental, multilateral initiatives and negotiations and provide research, analysis and policy advice to government on Aboriginal issues.

Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Office of Aboriginal Affairs to:

Lead Nova Scotia in Aboriginal Affairs by building mutual understanding, respect and a lasting relationship.

Vision

The vision of the Office of Aboriginal Affairs (OAA) is:

Partnership. Negotiation. Direction.

On our journey toward fair and meaningful relationships with Aboriginal Peoples, we strive to build an inclusive, informed and prosperous Nova Scotia.

Performance Measures

Aboriginal and Intergovernmental Relations				
Outcome	Measure	Data	2010/11 Target	Strategies to Achieve Target
The interests of Nova Scotians in inter-governmental, tripartite, and bilateral initiatives and negotiations are effectively represented	Increase in the percentage of government departments and agencies who agree that OAA effectively represents Nova Scotian's interests.	Inter-departmental Survey 32% strongly agreed 64% agreed 2004-05 base year	To increase the % of respondents who strongly agree.	-Ongoing participation and coordination of provincial role in the Mi'kmaq-Canada-Nova Scotia Tripartite Forum. -Ongoing participation and involvement in national (Aboriginal Affairs Working Group) and regional initiatives.
Improved relations between the Government of Nova Scotia and Aboriginal communities and organizations.	Increase in the percentage of departments and agencies who are satisfied with their working relationship with Aboriginal communities and organizations.	Inter-departmental Survey 15% were very satisfied 65% were somewhat satisfied 2004-05 base year	To increase the % of respondents who are very satisfied.	-Ongoing identification and coordination of cross- departmental Aboriginal issues. -Continuation of strategic advice and policy analysis to departments and agencies. -Working with departments and agencies to apply national strategies to provincial approaches.

Coordination and Policy Advice				
Outcome	Measure	Data	2010/11 Target	Strategies to Achieve Target
Coordination and advice being provided to departments and agencies that is effective.	Departments and agencies satisfaction with the advice and support provided by OAA.	Interdepartmental Survey 75% were satisfied 2004-05 base year	80%	Provide research and policy advice that is timely, accurate and useful.

Negotiations				
Outcome	Measure	Data	2010/11 Target	Strategies to Achieve Target
Progress toward resolution of Aboriginal rights, Aboriginal title and treaty-related issues.	Progress on substantive negotiations of priority topics.	Work plans and progress	Development of concept papers and key issues for each priority negotiation topic. Where appropriate develop interim measures.	Continue negotiation table meetings. Continue Working Group meetings Provide support to the development of background information and examination of options and interim measures.
	Public Participation (processes for information sharing and input by public and stakeholder regarding negotiations).	Survey of key informants conducted in 2007-08.	Continue to promote the Made-Nova Scotia-Process externally and internally: Meetings and other communications with key stakeholders and departmental contacts.	Provide regular updates about the negotiation process on OAA website Continue departmental meetings to foster a cooperative, supportive approach to address the issues.

Public Education and Awareness				
Outcome	Measure	Data	2010/11 Target	Strategies to Achieve Target
An enhanced level of awareness and understanding of Aboriginal issues in Nova Scotia.	An increasing percentage of Nova Scotians who feel informed and knowledgeable of Aboriginal issues in Nova Scotia.	Regular survey data 41% of Nova Scotians feel informed (2009 base year)	Increase of 10% in Nova Scotians who feel informed about Aboriginal issues in Nova Scotia.	Develop and implement strategies to enhance Nova Scotians' understanding and awareness of issues related to Aboriginal people in Nova Scotia.
	An increasing percentage of government employees who strongly agree that OAA enhances awareness of Mi'kmaq culture.	Interdepartmental survey 33% strongly agreed. 2004-05 base year	Increase in the percentage of government employees who strongly agree.	Develop and implement strategies to enhance employee's understanding and awareness of issues related to Aboriginal people in Nova Scotia.
	Qualitative assessment of government employees' satisfaction with Aboriginal cultural awareness training.	Training evaluations (On-going qualitative results)	Maintain current levels of success	Develop a program that can be fluid according to the needs of the participants. Identify alternative training that can be accessed.

Consultation				
Outcome	Measure	Base Year Data	2010-11 Target	Strategies to Achieve Target
Consultation between the provincial government and the Mi'kmaq that is effective, transparent and efficient	Consultation Terms of Reference - to address consultation between the Mi'kmaq, Canada and NS for government approvals and activities that may impact Aboriginal or Treaty Rights.	Evaluation of Terms of Reference (ToR) (2008-09)	Implement changes identified in ToR Evaluation Operate under ToR during year-three of trial period. Revised ToR finalized and formally adopted by all parties.	ToR Evaluation Document Recommendations for Deputy Ministers Advisory Committee (DMAC) and Cabinet Renewed ToR Protocol Bi-monthly consultation meetings Coordinate/facilitate consultations between the Mi'kmaq and various provincial departments on key projects.
Capacity to undertake consultation efforts within other provincial government departments is improved	Interim Policy Guidance on Consultation	Work progress Enhanced set of consultation tools and risk assessment approach for consultation.	Training and learning seminars Departmental operational consultation guidelines Written risk assessments completed	Identify and deliver targeted training sessions to specific departments and the broader stakeholder groups. Provide templates, advice, on operational guidelines. Timely completion of risk assessments

Financial Context and Budget

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS			
	2009-2010 Estimate	2009-2010 Forecast	2010-11 Estimate
Program and Service Area	(\$thousands)	(\$thousands)	(\$thousands)
Total Program Expenses:			
Aboriginal Affairs	\$3,785	\$3,785	\$4,115
Total Program Expenses	\$3,785	\$3,785	\$4,115
Provincial Funded Staff (FTE's)	14.0	12.7	15.0