

Provincial organizational framework

The Natural Products Marketing Council is an independent administrative and adjudicative agency, but has integrated connections to the provincial government. In its administrative role, Council is supported by Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture staff working under the Minister of Agriculture within the Policy & Corporate Services Branch of the Department. A Nova Scotia Department of Justice solicitor provides legal advice to Council.

Council supervises the implementation of the *Natural Products Act* and the *Dairy Industry Act* through the operation of individual commodity boards. As self-governed organizations, commodity boards may be empowered to make orders and develop regulations for the governance of their industries. Regulation must be approved by Council and may be subject to the approval of either the Minister or Governor in Council in certain circumstances.

Council interfaces with staff in the Agriculture and Food Operations Branch to support regulations that address product quality and food safety. Council is also a resource that the Government may engage to provide general policy information within its area of expertise. Council staff interacts with stakeholders across the Department of Agriculture on an ongoing basis by providing information on legislation, regulations and commodities within its jurisdiction.

