

Fewer Permits. Faster Permit Improvements

The Fewer Permits. Faster project has improved half of the province's 300 or so permits. Some improvements required legislative and/or regulatory change while others required policy change.

Below is an overview of the categories of improvements, a list of the permits requiring **legislative and/or regulatory** change, the type of improvement, and a description/ rationale for the change.

Categories of Improvements:

- **Eliminated** – A low risk activity that no longer needs to be regulated by Government. A permit is no longer required; the activity can be undertaken without seeking permission / approval from Government.
- **Permit Eliminated, now Requires Notification** – A low-risk activity that no longer requires a permit but before engaging in the activity, Government must be notified.
- **Renewals** – The permit remains, but renewal timelines have been extended to reduce administrative burden.
- **Streamlined** – The permit remains, but the application process has been simplified and streamlined to reduce administrative burden.
- **Enabled to move online** – Changes to regulations were required to enable the permit application to be moved online when the system is ready.

Permits Eliminated and/or Eliminated and Moved to Notification Requiring Legislative or Regulatory change

Permit	Improvement	Description / Rationale for Improvement
Foraging Personal (wrack/storm tossed seaweed)	Eliminated	Department policy will allow small scale foraging for seaweed for personal use. A permit was previously required for foraging seaweed for personal use. This activity was deemed low-risk and, as a result, the permit is no longer necessary. Public guidance to be developed.
Foraging Personal (Non-Timber Forest Products: forest plant, tree and mushroom resources)	Eliminated	Department policy will allow small scale foraging for personal use. A permit was required to forage non-timber forest products (e.g., mushrooms/ berries) for personal use. This activity was deemed low-risk and, as a result, the permit is no longer necessary. Public guidance to be developed.
Roadside Memorial Permit	Eliminated	A permit was required to place a memorial within 100 m of a provincial highway. The permit was refundable. This activity was deemed low-risk and, as a result, this permit is no longer necessary.
Work Within Highway Right of Way Permit	Permit Eliminated – Now Requires Notification	Construction, installation, or activity (e.g., driveway) within the right of way of a provincial highway has moved from a permitting process to a notification process. The notification requires the applicant to specify the purpose of their work, while ensuring the Minister continues to have the authority to set the terms and conditions as needed, to uphold safety requirements and protect the integrity of the highway infrastructure.
Litter Clean up Permit	Permit Eliminated – Now Requires Notification	Individuals or groups collecting roadside litter along provincial roads were required to obtain a permit. Experts deemed this activity low risk and it has been moved to a notification.
Temporary Food Service Event Permit	Permit Eliminated – Now Requires Notification	Only applies to festivals and events that serve food to the public on a temporary basis (duration of less than 14 days). Before this change, if a festival organizer or community organization wished to serve food as part of a temporary event, they needed to submit a permit application form. With this change, they will proactively notify the Department and attest that they will comply with Nova Scotia's stringent food safety standards and the Food Safety Regulations to ensure served food is safe. Public Health Inspectors' work to

Permit	Improvement	Description / Rationale for Improvement
		inspect and audit these temporary food events will continue as well to ensure food safety is maintained.
Collector Licence	Eliminated	Collection agencies must have a Collection Agency Licence to employ people to collect debt in Nova Scotia on behalf of other companies. A Collector Licence was also required for individuals employed by a collection agency to trace debtors or collect money from debtors in Nova Scotia on behalf of other companies. The requirement for individual licencing in addition to agency licencing was duplicative and has been eliminated.
Debt Management Agent Licence	Eliminated	Debt management agencies must have a Debt Management Agency Licence to employ people to work with debtors or manage debt in Nova Scotia. A debt management agency works with a debtor to make arrangements with creditors, negotiate with creditors or distribute money owed to creditors for a fee, commission or other remuneration that is paid by the debtor. A Debt Management Agent Licence was also required for individuals employed by a debt management agency to act for or deal with debtors or manage debt in Nova Scotia. The requirement for individual licencing in addition to agency licencing was duplicative and has been eliminated.
Cemetery Permit	Eliminated	The expansion of an existing cemetery or the construction of a new cemetery was designated as an activity requiring an approval from the Minister. This activity was deemed low risk and is also subject to a number of other approvals. As a result, this permit is no longer necessary.
Topsoil Permit	Eliminated	A topsoil removal operation where a ground disturbance or excavation greater than 1 hectare is made for the purpose of removing topsoil was designated as an activity requiring an approval from the Minister. This approval applied to both private and commercial removal of topsoil, though private removal of topsoil at this scale is rare. This activity was deemed low-risk and, as a result, this permit is no longer necessary.
Municipal Sewage Permit	Eliminated	Outfalls and storage areas for sewage are already regulated under approvals for treatment plants and collection systems; so duplication in regulation was removed.
Registered and Public Drinking Water Supply	Eliminated	Registration is required for anyone who owns, operates, or maintains a public drinking water supply. This included some low risk locations—such as food shops, workplaces, and public washrooms that only use water for toilets and hand-washing—where the use of drinking water presents minimal risk to public health or is already effectively overseen through other regulatory programs. As a result, registration is no longer required for these low risk facilities.
Removal of Beach Aggregate for Commercial Use	Eliminated	This permit was required to remove aggregate (fill, sand, gravel, etc.) from beaches for commercial use or sale. This permit was no longer in use, as removing large quantities of sand or stone can be detrimental to our beaches and the biodiversity they support, and businesses rarely applied for this permit. As a result, the permit was eliminated and the activity disallowed. In rare cases where removal is needed, Cabinet can still approve the work. For example, if a storm moves large rocks onto a provincial park beach, the department could request Cabinet approval to have the material removed.

Other Permit Improvements Requiring Regulatory Change

Permit	Improvement	Description / Rationale for Improvement
Fur Farm Operating License	Renewals	Required by anyone in Nova Scotia who wants to engage in the commercial production of ranched fur-bearing animals. Previously, the license renewal period was 2 years. This renewal period has been extended to 5 years.

Permit	Improvement	Description / Rationale for Improvement
Game Farm License	Renewals	Required by anyone in Nova Scotia who wants to keep, rear and sell game animals for commercial purposes (including wild boar, bison, emu, ostrich, and rhea). Previously, the license renewal period was annual. This renewal period has been extended to 5 years.
Deer Farmer License	Renewals	Required by anyone in Nova Scotia who wants to keep, rear and sell elk, red deer, sika or fallow deer for food production. Previously, the license renewal period was annual. This renewal period has been extended to 5 years.
Deer Meat Processor License	Renewals	Required by anyone in Nova Scotia who operates a deer farming business that slaughters elk, red deer, sika, or fallow deer, and/or processes venison, velvet, or other farmed-deer products for wholesale or retail sale. Previously, the license renewal period was annual. This renewal period has been extended to 5 years.
Fish buyer and processor licensing	Streamlined	Required for commercial fish buyers and processors in Nova Scotia. The Department lifted the moratorium on issuing new fish buyer and processor licences in the province, increasing opportunities for market access. The Department also implemented new regulations and licensing conditions to support regulatory compliance and sector growth.
Aquaculture licensing	Streamlined	Required for marine and land-based aquaculture activities in Nova Scotia. A full regulatory review resulted in a number of improvements to the regulations, including to streamline the decision-making process for shellfish and aquatic plant aquaculture applications.
Weapons Discharge Permit	Renewals	This permit is required for persons with disabilities who want to discharge a firearm from a vehicle while hunting wildlife. If the person is permanently disabled, the permit will now apply indefinitely, removing the requirement for annual renewal.
Captive Wildlife Permit	Renewals	Required to keep live wildlife, either native or "exotic" (not native to Nova Scotia), in captivity. Wildlife permits for specialized use (i.e. zoos, rehabilitation, research) will now be valid for up to 3 years, instead of requiring annual renewal.
Falconry Breeding Permit	Renewals	Required to breed a bird of prey (raptor) commercially for use in the sport or business of falconry, which includes falcons, merlins, hawks, etc. This permit will now be valid for up to 3 years, instead of requiring annual renewal.
Falconry Permit	Renewals	Required to keep a bird of prey (raptor) for use in the sport or business of falconry, which includes falcons, merlins, hawks, etc. This permit is now valid for up to 3 years, instead of requiring annual renewal.
Fur Buyers License	Renewals	Required to buy and sell skins or pelts of furbearing animals and / or bear parts. This permit will now be valid for up to 2 years, instead of requiring annual renewal.
Hide Dealer (Deer and Moose) License	Renewals	Required to buy or sell the green hides of deer or moose in Nova Scotia. This permit will now be valid for up to 2 years, instead of requiring annual renewal.
Taxidermist License	Renewals	Required to engage in the business of taxidermy in Nova Scotia. This permit will now be valid for up to 2 years, instead of requiring annual renewal.
Base License (Wildlife Habitat Stamp) – for All Hunting and Fur Harvesting	Enabled to Move Online	Required to hunt, trap or snare any species of wildlife in Nova Scotia. Application and processing of the licence has now been enabled to be moved online.
Hunting License: Small Game	Enabled to Move Online	Required to hunt ring-necked pheasants, ruffed grouse, and migratory game birds (ducks, geese, woodcock, and Wilson or common snipe) in Nova Scotia. Application and processing of the licence has now been enabled to be moved online.
Hunting License: Deer (General)	Enabled to Move Online	Required to hunt deer in Nova Scotia.

Permit	Improvement	Description / Rationale for Improvement
		Application and processing of the licence has now been enabled to be moved online.
Hunting License: Antlerless Deer	Enabled to Move Online	Required to hunt an antlerless deer in Nova Scotia in specific zones where otherwise only antlered deer can be harvested. Licences are awarded by a limited draw. Application and processing of the licence has now been enabled to be moved online.
Hunting License: Deer (Archery and Muzzleloader)	Enabled to Move Online	Required to hunt deer in Nova Scotia using archery and muzzleloader weapons. Application and processing of the licence has now been enabled to be moved online.
Hunting License: Bonus Deer Hunting Stamp	Enabled to Move Online	In specific deer management zones where an increased harvest is desired, after hunting a deer, hunters are eligible to receive a bonus stamp allowing an additional deer to be taken. Application and processing of the licence has now been enabled to be moved online.
Hunting License: Moose	Enabled to Move Online	Required by Nova Scotia residents to hunt moose in Nova Scotia. Moose hunting is currently restricted to Inverness and Victoria Counties of Cape Breton Island. Application and processing of the licence has now been enabled to be moved online.
Hunting License: Bear	Enabled to Move Online	Required to hunt bear in Nova Scotia. Application and processing of the licence has now been enabled to be moved online.
Hunting License: Bear Snaring	Enabled to Move Online	Required to snare bear in Nova Scotia. Application and processing of the licence has now been enabled to be moved online.
Fur Harvester Licence	Enabled to Move Online	Required to trap, snare, hunt, or possess any furbearing animal in Nova Scotia. Application and processing of the licence has now been enabled to be moved online.