

Statement of Mandate 2015–2016



Business



NOVA SCOTIA

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS

Statement of Mandate

2015-2016

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Message from the Minister

I am pleased to present the initial Statement of Mandate for the 2015/16 fiscal year for the new Department of Business which includes the Office of Regulatory and Service Effectiveness. The outcomes of the new Department and Office are built largely in response to a series of recent reports and recommendations outlining the areas of key opportunity for economic growth. As the Department is formed, the focus and outcomes will continue to be refined, to ensure that Nova Scotia is positioned to be the most favourable, service focussed jurisdiction in Canada.

The Department of Business is created to integrate and coordinate all government departments and agencies behind a common agenda for growth and to interface with the private and social enterprise sectors. The Department, and the Office will work collaboratively with these sectors and neighbouring regions towards ensuring a favourable and service focussed jurisdiction with a strong business climate.

The Honourable Mark Furey, Minister of Business

MANDATE

The Mandate of the Department is to lead and align all government efforts to expand business and social enterprise growth in Nova Scotia. The Department provides strategic direction and leadership to all provincial Government Departments, Crown Corporations and Agencies to achieve alignment on strategy and operations for business and social enterprise growth.

MISSION

In collaboration with the business community, the Department will lead the Province's private sector growth strategy; will integrate and coordinate government departments and agencies behind a common agenda for growth; and, will promote strategic sector development, innovation, entrepreneurship and social enterprise development.

VISION

Nova Scotia is recognized as the most favourable, service-focused jurisdiction in Canada in which to conduct sustainable, responsible, value-creating business and social enterprise.

STRATEGIC OUTCOMES

The Department's efforts are focussed on achieving specific strategic outcomes. The outcomes will be reviewed regularly to ensure continued relevance and to prioritize annual workplans in pursuit of the strategic outcomes.

1. To ensure all provincial government economic development-focussed departments, agencies and resources are coordinated in pursuit of the province's economic growth outcomes.
2. To proactively identify and remove regulatory and legislative barriers to business and economic growth.
3. To foster a competitive business climate which encourages economic growth.
4. To focus attention and resources on those sectors that offer the best opportunities for economic growth.

The strategic outcomes are long-term focused. As work continues towards these goals, the Department will continue to strategically align government resources; focus on areas where government can have most influence; and create a climate that enables Nova Scotia business to successfully compete in a global economy.

Objectives/Responsibilities:

1. To ensure all provincial government economic development-focussed departments, agencies and resources are coordinated in pursuit of the province's economic growth outcomes.
 - Alignment of all provincial departments, crown corporations and agencies behind a common agenda for economic renewal and business growth
 - Increase information sharing between departments and agencies
 - Increase ease of access to government services, programs and information
 - One-stop shop – make government advice, services and funding programs easier to access through one agency
 - lead collaboration to streamline government interface so businesses do not have to provide the same information multiple times when working with provincial government
 - 'Open for business' attitude that places a high priority on maintaining an effective, streamlined regulatory regime
 - Ensure the costs of services to business are clear, transparent, and reasonable

2. To proactively identify and remove regulatory and legislative barriers to business and economic growth.
 - An effective, service-oriented interface between the government and private sectors that supports economic growth, with clarity of roles and responsibilities
 - Promote a streamlined regulatory system that favors economic growth and protects the public interest and the environment
 - Enable government to be more responsive to business and social enterprise, increase processing speed, reduce response times, and ensure program requirements are clear
 - Undertake efforts with New Brunswick to jointly streamline and harmonize regulatory frameworks and reduce regulatory barriers between provinces that reduce regional competitiveness
 - Improve regional cooperation to enhance regional productivity and competitiveness
 - Improve service/expand and enhance online service to promote or support economic growth

3. To foster a competitive business climate which encourages economic growth.
 - Nova Scotia has a strong competitive position in the global marketplace focused on sectors of comparative advantage for our region
 - Strategic planning to improve the overall quality of the business climate in Nova Scotia and our region
 - Leadership on strategic planning and coordination of departments, crown corporations, and agencies behind a common agenda
 - Enhance Atlantic regional cooperation for competitiveness and economic growth
 - Provide input to the Department of Finance to support the alignment of tax policy and business growth objectives
 - Establish an outcomes-based measurement approach for provincial investment in economic growth

4. To focus attention and resources on those sectors that offer the best opportunities for economic growth.
 - A strategically-aligned sector development approach focussed in areas of comparative advantage for our region
 - Promote economic sector and cluster development in areas of competitive advantage
 - Promote an environment conducive to an expanded role for social enterprise
 - Promote new business formation

- Use effective business support programs to attract new businesses to Nova Scotia

GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES

Government has committed to lead, support or work with Nova Scotians to advance the shared goals and recommendations of the One Nova Scotia Commission's Report on Building Our New Economy, released in February 2014. This work is further guided by commitments in the September 2014 Speech from the Throne that identified four priorities: fiscal sustainability, economic growth, demographics and people, and education and skills training.

The new Department of Business is tasked with the achievement of many of these goals. The work of the Department will focus on creating the climate for business and social enterprise success in Nova Scotia and aligning provincial government departments, crown corporations and agencies behind a common agenda for economic growth.

Fiscal Sustainability:

Government is committed to balancing the budget by 2017-2018 and achieving ongoing, fiscal sustainability.

To support this work in 2015-2016, the Department will:

- Develop goals, targets, success measures, and sunset clauses to ensure that programs/regulations only last as long as they are effective
- Develop new outcome agreements with crown corporations (InnovaCorp & NSBI) and economic development agencies
- Develop new alignment agreements with government departments

Economy:

Government recognizes that creating good, sustainable jobs for Nova Scotians is the role of the private sector and social enterprises. The role of government is to create a climate that fosters private sector and social enterprise economic growth.

To support this work in 2015-2016, the Department will:

- Begin a three-year work plan to promote a structured regulatory framework that supports economic growth and protects the public interest and the environment
- In collaboration with the private sector, develop and implement a private sector growth plan

Education:

Government's focus includes efforts to continually improve opportunities for skills development and knowledge through post-secondary education, training and apprenticeship.

In 2015-2016, the Department will:

- Ensure alignment of workforce development policies and programs with economic development objectives
- Coordinate and align with the public education system in the promotion of entrepreneurship and skills required for future economic growth

Demographics and People:

Government has committed to increase net interprovincial in-migration and international immigration levels and to enhance wellness and health initiatives. The commitment also includes promises to enhance workforce participation of youth, older workers and marginalized communities; and enhance communities and social well-being.

In 2015-2016, the Department will:

- Work to establish operational linkages between the private sector and post-secondary institutions
- Promote entrepreneurship and new business formation as a means to enhance provincial economic growth and workforce participation
- Promote social enterprise as a pathway to sustainable economic growth and value

BUDGET CONTEXT

	2014-2015	2014-2015	2015-2016
	Estimate	Forecast	Estimate
Program & Service Area	(\$thousands)	(\$thousands)	(\$thousands)
Gross Departmental Expenses:			
Senior Management			3,346
Business Strategy and Planning			1,340
Operational Leadership, Coordination and Alignment			46,632
Sectoral Development and Entrepreneurship			1,458
Regulatory and Service Effectiveness Office			1,474
Crown Corporations			59,893
Total Gross Departmental Expenses			114,143
Additional Information:			
Ordinary Revenue			238
Fees and Other Charges			
Ordinary Recoveries			
TCA Purchase Requirements			
Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs)			36.0

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The following is presented for planning purposes. It is anticipated that outcomes, priorities and targets will continue to be refined as the Department becomes established.

Outcome(s)	Annual Priorities (actions to achieve outcome)	Targets Recommended by Report of the One Nova Scotia Commission
<p>All provincial government economic development-focussed departments, agencies and resources are coordinated in pursuit of the province's economic growth outcomes.</p>	<p>Alignment of all provincial departments and agencies behind a common agenda for economic growth and renewal</p> <p>Policy and program coordination and alignment between government departments and other levels of government</p> <p>Ensure business has access to regular and clear updates on application process; respond to information requests on a timely basis; better communicate program requirements, consider designated navigator to help business access government programs and services</p> <p>Implement a robust tracking system/client management system for requests and applications to provide certainty for businesses and ensure ease of access to critical information and program requirements</p>	<p>R&D partnerships with post-secondary institutions to reach 2,000 per year by 2025</p> <p>65% of adult Nova Scotians will have post-secondary education or training by 2025</p> <p>Additional metrics will be established as the Department develops its workplan</p>
<p>Regulatory and legislative barriers to business and economic growth are identified and removed.</p>	<p>An effective service oriented interface between the government and private sectors that supports economic growth, with clarity of roles and responsibilities</p> <p>Comprehensive review of regulatory system</p>	<p>Annual accountability reports to be made public each year demonstrating progress</p> <p>Additional metrics will be established as the Department develops its workplan</p>

Outcome(s)	Annual Priorities (actions to achieve outcome)	Targets Recommended by Report of the One Nova Scotia Commission
	<p>Three year regulatory modernization plan</p> <p>Implementation of recommendations 2.1-2.16 of the 2014 Broten Report</p> <p>Implement objectives of NB Memorandum of Agreement for Regulatory and Service Effectiveness</p>	
<p>A competitive business climate which encourages economic growth.</p>	<p>NS has a strong competitive position in the global marketplace focused on sectors of comparative advantage for our region.</p> <p>In collaboration with industry, develop and implement a private sector growth plan to define a common agenda for business growth</p> <p>Develop goals, targets, success measures, and sunset clauses to ensure that programs/regulations only last as long as they are effective</p> <p>new outcome agreements with economic development agencies</p> <p>new alignment agreements with economic departments</p> <p>export growth strategy is developed with NSBI</p>	<p>Number of business exporting to increase by 50% by 2025.</p> <p>Value of exports to increase by 50% by 2025</p> <p>4,200 new business start-ups per year</p> <p>Additional metrics will be established as the Department develops its workplan</p>
<p>Attention and resources are focussed on those sectors that offer the best opportunities for economic growth.</p>	<p>A strategically aligned sector development approach focused in areas of comparative advantage for our region</p> <p>Regularly monitor and measure business support programs to</p>	<p>Tourism business revenues to increase to \$4 billion by 2025</p> <p>Fisheries and agricultural exports will double by 2025.</p> <p>Additional metrics will be established as the Department develops its workplan</p>

Outcome(s)	Annual Priorities (actions to achieve outcome)	Targets Recommended by Report of the One Nova Scotia Commission
	<p>ensure the objectives of the program are met over the long-term</p> <p>Develop rigorous program evaluation regime to improve and replace existing programs</p> <p>Initiate establishment of centers for business incubation & innovation for growth areas</p> <p>Develop programs to expand availability of venture capital</p> <p>Promote new business formation and entrepreneurship</p>	