



# Accountability Report 2021–22

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Intergovernmental Affairs



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Accountability Report 2021–2022

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## Accountability Statement

The Accountability Report of the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA), for the year 2021-22, ended March 31, 2022, 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 2021-22 Business Plan.

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

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

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

Geoff MacLellan  
Deputy Minister, Department of Intergovernmental Affairs

## Message from the Premier

As Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA), and Minister of Trade, I am pleased to present the IGA Accountability Report for the 2021-22 fiscal year.

IGA is responsible for managing Nova Scotia's relations with other governments, co-ordinating a corporate approach among departments on intergovernmental issues, and developing 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.



During 2021-22, IGA led intergovernmental work and supported efforts across government to advance the Province's key priorities: access to health care, increasing our population, and positioning the province for economic growth. This ongoing work will help to build healthy, diverse, and prosperous communities across the province.

IGA's ministerial mandate priorities in 2021-22 included:

- Promoting the Province of Nova Scotia across Canada and around the world to support increased global and interprovincial trade
- Advocating an increase of the federal government's investment in health care funding through the Canada Health Transfer
- Seeking federal funding to support the Province's environmental and economic sustainable development initiatives
- As Chair of the Council of Atlantic Premiers, promoting regional alignment on health care funding and recruitment issues, joining efforts on population growth strategies, and regional initiatives to advance the Province's clean energy objectives
- Supporting the Minister responsible for Military Relations through recognition of the military's vital contribution in Nova Scotia, and working with federal partners to promote the defence sector as a tool for economic growth and innovation

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Mandate

IGA is the central 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
- Developing the Province's strategic approach to global markets, trade policy, international and interprovincial trade negotiations, agreements, and disputes
- Co-ordinating the Province's intergovernmental priorities
- Military Relations
- Protocol requirements
- Supporting the operation of Government House

### IGA Divisions:

Canadian Intergovernmental Relations, Corporate Services  
International Relations and Trade  
Protocol and Honours Secretariat

### IGA Core Function Areas:

Government of Canada Relations  
Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) Relations  
Atlantic Regional Relations  
International Relations  
Trade Policy

Canada-U.S. Relations  
Military Relations  
Protocol  
Corporate Initiatives  
Government House

## Financial Summary

### 2021-22 IGA Financial Summary

<b>Intergovernmental Affairs</b>			
<b>Departmental Expenses Summary (\$ thousands)</b>			
	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2021-22</b>
<b>Programs and Services</b>	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Administration	3,030	2,765	(265)
Government House	966	1,012	46
Protocol Office	485	561	76
<b>Total - Departmental Expenses</b>	<b>4,481</b>	<b>4,338</b>	<b>(143)</b>
<b>Ordinary Recoveries</b>	130	1	(129)
<b><u>Funded Staff (# of FTEs)</u></b>			
<b>Department Funded Staff</b>	35.5	30.9	(4.6)

**Departmental Expenses Variance Explanation:**

Intergovernmental Affairs expenses were \$143,000 lower than the estimate, primarily due to the cancellation of the in-person component of the annual conference of the New England Governors-Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG/ECP), which Nova Scotia was to host.

**Recoveries Variance Explanation:**

Actual recoveries were lower than the estimate, primarily due to the cancellation of the NEG/ECP conference (N.S. was to host).

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

Variance due to temporarily vacant positions.

## Measuring Our Performance

### Overview:

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

IGA is committed to meeting its ministerial and legislated mandates, and to working collaboratively with departments to support their priorities. Our key files include work that will span several fiscal years. Outcomes and results in this report reflect IGA's responsibilities as a central agency, capturing the Department's direct efforts plus progress on top priorities achieved through collaboration across government. IGA is focused on results that will help to build healthy, prosperous communities across Nova Scotia.

In this report, IGA's work is presented in four Priority Action categories:

Priority 1: Advancing Nova Scotia's intergovernmental interests

Priority 2: A strategic approach to trade

Priority 3: Co-ordination, collaboration and alignment within government

Priority 4: Military Relations; Protocol

## Priority 1: Advancing Nova Scotia's intergovernmental interests

### Canadian

Mandate focus: Health care funding and access; funding for sustainable development initiatives; increasing global trade and supporting population growth; chairing the Council of Atlantic Premiers.

### Actions:

- Advocated, with Council of the Federation colleagues, a sustainable health care funding partnership with the federal government, including a federal government increase to the Canada Health Transfer to cover 35% of total health care costs
- Helped to secure additional federal funding for expansions in long-term care homes to enhance infection prevention and controls
- Led work with other departments to develop Nova Scotia's position in preparation for negotiations on health care funding



- Supported the Premier's mission to Ottawa in November to meet with the Prime Minister and federal ministers of Infrastructure, Immigration, Finance, Health, Mental Health and Addictions, and Environment, to begin discussions on Nova Scotia priorities and common interests between the Province of Nova Scotia and the Government of Canada
- Nova Scotia's Premier became chair of the Council of the Atlantic Premiers in January 2022
- Through the Council of Atlantic Premiers, led regional efforts to address immigration, labour market needs and workforce development, particularly on the recruitment of health care professionals
- Led work with other Atlantic premiers on energy security, and to advance clean energy solutions within the region
- Advanced the development of a Clean Energy Road Map for the Atlantic region as co-chair, with Natural Resources Canada of the Clean Power Planning Committee, an initiative of the Atlantic Growth Strategy
- Provided support and briefings to the Premier for meetings the Council of Atlantic Premiers and of the Council of the Federation
- Worked with regional federal ministers to advocate for Nova Scotia and Atlantic priorities in energy, immigration, and infrastructure
- Announced the Award for Innovation in Mental Health and Addictions Care in Nova Scotia, launched at the Council of the Federation meeting in February

## [International](#)

Mandate focus: Utilize international engagement and relationships to support growth in Nova Scotia's exports, and to promote strategic programs aimed at growing our population.

### [Actions:](#)

- Met with European ambassadors to further advance mutually beneficial trade, investment, cultural and educational opportunities between Nova Scotia and Europe, specifically in energy
- Welcomed two virtual missions from Scotland to discuss business opportunities in Nova Scotia
- Prepared for the Premier's Mission to Europe, which occurred in May 2022
- Supported and promoted labour market opportunities and strategic immigration programs as part of international engagement activities
- Raised awareness about strong educational institutions in the province; continued to promote Nova Scotia as a priority destination for immigration and international students

- With support from Protocol, strengthened engagement with the Consular Corps in Nova Scotia to discuss trade issues and opportunities, align efforts, and utilize invaluable relationships and connections to overseas markets
- In partnership with Nova Scotia Business Inc., co-ordinated a strategic approach by the Province to grow and develop major and emerging trade markets

### [United States](#)

Mandate focus: Support efforts to increase trade and investment opportunities and cross-border collaboration in Nova Scotia's largest export market.

#### Actions:

- Supported the Premier's international mission to Boston and Washington, D.C., to advance Nova Scotia's key cross-border interests; met with Canada's Ambassador to the United States, members of the U.S. Congress, and business leaders
- As part of the Mission, attended the Tree for Washington and Tree for Boston events, which showcased several Nova Scotia industries
- Provided significant support in the development of the Nova Scotia-Louisiana Memorandum of Understanding, which highlights the shared history between the Acadian and Cajun communities and aims to increase collaboration in business, tourism, cultural and education sectors
- Raised awareness of existing opportunities in Nova Scotia to United States officials, stakeholders, and industry representatives through bilateral meetings, roundtables, and cross-border platforms
- Continued to lead Nova Scotia's work as co-chair of the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment; advanced Nova Scotia's objectives on sustainable use of resources and other cross-border environmental issues
- Continued to monitor U.S. trade actions that have potential to impact Nova Scotia exporters, particularly in the seafood, manufacturing, and energy sectors

### Priority 1 Outcomes and Results:

- Immigration objectives under the Atlantic Growth Strategy were achieved, including the transition of a pilot program into the expanded Atlantic Immigration Program
- Regional alignment on health priorities was advanced among Atlantic provinces
- In March, the Clean Power Planning Committee (co-chaired by Nova Scotia Intergovernmental Affairs and Natural Resources Canada) released the Clean Power Roadmap for Atlantic Canada, which outlines paths for collaboration among the federal government and Atlantic provinces to phase out coal fired power, and to increase the generation and sharing of clean electricity in the region
- Nova Scotia hosted the first in-person meeting of the Council of Atlantic Premiers in two years and established regular discussions between CAP and federal regional ministers on common areas of interest
- Strategic programs to address Nova Scotia's labour market needs, particularly the recruitment of health care professionals, were advanced regionally, nationally and in global engagement, and continue to generate significant responses
- Nova Scotia's population reached 1,007,049 million by March 31, 2022; record growth of 4,436 people during January to March reflected the highest quarterly growth in population since 1971<sup>1</sup>
- As part of the Mission to the U.S., Nova Scotia's Premier advanced the Province's trade and economic objectives with key U.S. stakeholders and elected officials

### Priority 2: Strategic approach to trade

Mandate focus: Trade policy supported growth in Nova Scotia's global exports; advanced work to reduce interprovincial trade barriers; supported the Province's interests in domestic and international negotiations and disputes.

#### Actions:

- Engaged with federal negotiators and stakeholders to advance Nova Scotia's interests in the Canada - United Kingdom trade negotiations
- Advanced Nova Scotia's interests in ongoing litigation on softwood lumber and NAFTA Chapter 11 disputes involving Nova Scotia
- Monitored the development of measures that act as a potential barrier to Nova Scotia exports; provided strategic advice to departments and stakeholders
- Advanced Nova Scotia's objective to reduce interprovincial trade barriers through work with other provinces to implement Canadian Free Trade Agreement initiatives
- Engaged with federal negotiators to advance Nova Scotia's interests in the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiations

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<sup>1</sup> Statistics Canada (2022). Population estimates, quarterly. Table 17-10-00091-10.

- Engaged with federal officials in the ongoing implementation of the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement, the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, and other bilateral free trade agreements
- Monitored the developments of other potential bilateral agreements, including with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Pacific Alliance, India, and Indonesia
- Monitored developments related to environmental sustainability and climate change ambition in the context of trade
- Advised provincial departments on trade risk assessments associated with Canada's and Nova Scotia's trade commitments

### Priority 2 Outcomes and Results:

- Nova Scotia's interests to ensure a level playing field in the global fisheries industry were advanced
- Nova Scotia's objectives to preserve market access and remove trade barriers to the United Kingdom, while protecting sensitive sectors, were advanced
- Awareness of Nova Scotia's interests and concerns remained high among federal trade officials
- Stakeholders were kept informed of critical issues for Nova Scotia trade, allowing for agile responses
- Trade compliance risks were considered in the Province's trade policy and program development
- International goods exports reached a record \$6.2 billion in 2021, an increase of 18 percent from 2020 and two percent from 2019<sup>2</sup>
- International goods exports to destinations other than the United States and China reached 24.4 percent as exports to European and other Asian markets increased<sup>3</sup>
- Interprovincial exports of goods and services reached \$8.2 billion in 2020 (the most recent available figure)<sup>4</sup>
- Nova Scotia's exclusion from U.S. duties on softwood lumber was maintained, with exports reaching a record \$244 million in 2021<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Industry Canada (2022). Trade Data Online.

<sup>3</sup> *ibid*

<sup>4</sup> Statistics Canada (2022). Gross domestic product, expenditure-based, provincial and territorial, annual. Table 36-10-0222-01.

<sup>5</sup> Industry Canada (2022).

## Priority 3: Co-ordination, collaboration and alignment within government

Mandate focus: Lead collaboration and horizontal co-ordination among departments to ensure alignment on priorities and intergovernmental outreach.

### Actions:

- Worked closely and strategically with Nova Scotia government departments to provide advice to senior decision makers on key FPT files
- Fostered ongoing discussions and updates across government on intergovernmental issues (including the federal budget, federal mandate letters, and the offshore boundary) through the Senior Officials Intergovernmental Committee (SOIC)
- Developed guidelines for negotiating bilateral agreements with the federal government through SOIC's Working Group on Bilateral Agreements
- Led co-ordination for FPT meetings, First Ministers' Meetings and consultations by the Government of Canada, to ensure alignment on the Province's objectives and opportunities
- Co-ordinated the Province's efforts to plan for future development in offshore renewable energy opportunities
- Worked closely and strategically with departments developing bilateral agreements
- Co-ordinated the Province's efforts to respond to federal marine conservation initiatives
- Provided departments with advice and information intergovernmental files, and trade policy and compliance matters

### Priority 3 Outcomes and Results:

- Alignment and consistency were ensured within government
- Nova Scotia's interests were advanced at regional, provincial and territorial, and national levels
- Departments received access to IGA services and support, and advice on key intergovernmental and trade-related files
- A consistent approach was provided to guide the development of bilateral agreements
- Government officials were provided with strategic support and advice in preparation for meetings with national and international decision-makers

## Priority 4: Military Relations; Protocol

Mandate focus: Recognize the military's important contributions to Nova Scotia; work with partners to support growth in the defence sector; provide protocol services.

### Actions:

- Maintained strong working relationships with senior members of the Department of National Defence, the Canadian Armed Forces, and Veterans Affairs Canada to address areas of mutual importance
- Supported the Minister responsible for Military Relations; facilitated the Province's participation in memorial, ceremonial, and military events
- Engaged with defence sector stakeholders on opportunities for economic growth
- Provided protocol support to the Premier in hosting the Council of Atlantic Premiers
- Provided secretariat support to the Order of Nova Scotia Program, which recognizes outstanding and exceptional achievements by Nova Scotians
- Provided protocol advice and support to departments, the public, and the consular community
- Supported engagement with the Consular Corps in Nova Scotia

### Priority 4 Outcomes and Results:

- The important contributions of Nova Scotia's military members, veterans and their families were recognized through the Province's participation in memorial and military events
- The significant economic impacts of the defence sector were recognized; growth opportunities are being explored with partners
- The talents, accomplishments and contributions of Nova Scotians were recognized

## Corporate Initiatives

IGA worked to advance and support corporate initiatives and public sector objectives of the Province of Nova Scotia.

### Actions:

- Supported the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) objectives of the Public Service Commission through workforce development and planning, and by hosting an EDI event for IGA staff
- Provided French language services to support IGA correspondence with Acadian and Francophone Nova Scotians, and engagement with international stakeholders
- Collaborated with departments in support of the public sector Accessibility Plan, designed to prevent and remove barriers for employees with disabilities

## Government House

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

### Actions:

- Organized and executed the Executive Council swearing-in ceremony, in cooperation with the Executive Council Office
- 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
- Continued to promote the foundational Crown-Indigenous relationship through engagement with Indigenous leaders, and involvement in events involving the Mi'kmaq, including the annual Treaty Day event
- Supported African Nova Scotian Affairs and African Nova Scotian organizations during events for African Heritage Month
- Dispatched 643 commemorative certificates to Nova Scotians who were marking milestone events

### Outcomes and Results:

- The Lieutenant Governor was supported in the discharge of legal, constitutional, and ceremonial duties
- The talents, accomplishments, and contributions of Nova Scotians were recognized through the Lieutenant Governor's Awards, certificates, and other events

## 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 2021-22
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