



# **Accountability Report**

## 2023–24

---

Office of the Premier/ Executive  
Council Office



© Crown copyright, Province of Nova Scotia, July 2024

Accountability Report 2023–2024

ISBN 978-1-77448-663-4

Contents

**Accountability Statement..... 3**  
**Introduction ..... 4**  
**Measuring Performance..... 4**  
**Financial Results..... 6**  
***Public Interest Disclosure of Wrongdoing Act ..... 7***

## Accountability Statement

The Accountability Report for the Office of the Premier/Executive Council Office (Offices) for the year ended March 31, 2024, is prepared pursuant to the *Finance Act* and government policies and guidelines. The reporting of the Offices' outcomes necessarily includes estimates, judgments, and opinions by the Offices' management.

We acknowledge that this Accountability Report is the responsibility of the Office of the Premier/Executive Council Office 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 Offices' 2023-2024 Business Plan.

*(original signed by)*

---

The Honourable Tim Houston  
Premier of Nova Scotia  
President of the Executive Council

*(original signed by)*

---

Jeannine Lagassé  
Clerk of the Executive Council

*(original signed by)*

---

Tracey Taweel  
Deputy Minister of the Office of the Premier

## Introduction

This document reports on the activities of the Office of the Premier/Executive Council Office as outlined in the 2023-24 Business Plan.

## Measuring Performance

The Executive Council Office (ECO) leads the execution of government's mandate and ensures alignment of priorities through objective analysis and advice to the Executive Council (Cabinet) and its Committees. ECO supports Cabinet by facilitating government's decision-making process, delivering clear direction to departments, developing and advancing corporate priorities and plans, and providing corporate leadership for agencies, boards and commissions.

In 2023-2024, ECO identified four priority actions which were achieved through the following:

- Supported more than 800 submissions to the Executive Council through collaboration with government departments to ensure clear and concise submissions that were aligned with government's strategic direction.
- Effectively communicated decisions and direction in a timely manner and supported informed decision making.
- Facilitated collaboration across government to support corporate horizontal government initiatives.
- Strengthened corporate governance and oversight by providing policy leadership and guidance on departmental business planning and accountability reporting.
- Developed and initiated a centralized appointment process for Agencies, Boards and Commissions (ABC), resulting in faster processing time for board appointments and reduction in administrative burden for departments. From April 1, 2023, to March 1, 2024, there were 662 appointments to provincial ABCs, of which 256 appointees disclosed one or more diverse characteristics (roughly 40% appointments).
- Continued to work with partners to find and remove barriers that persons with disabilities face when applying to ABCs, a commitment under the 2022-2025 Government of Nova Scotia Accessibility Plan.

- Developed facilitative leadership across departments in support of integrated human-centered holistic policy design (including systems, frameworks, processes, structures, governance and service decisions).
- Continued support of key departmental engagement processes with external stakeholders and community partners and collaboration between government and Restorative Research, Education and Innovation Lab on complex relational issues.
- Coordinated the cross-departmental response to the Mass Casualty Commission Final Report recommendations. In partnership with federal government, supported the work of the Progress Monitoring Committee Chair and Members.
- Provided operational and administrative support to the Office of the Premier, overseeing business continuity planning, human resources, budgeting and security.

## Financial Results

Office of the Premier/Executive Council Office

	2023-2024 Estimate	2023-2024 Actuals	2023-2024 Variance
<b>Executive Council Office/ Office of the Premier</b>	<i>(\$thousands)</i>		
<b>Departmental Expenses:</b>			
Executive Council Office/ Office of the Premier	6,849	6,747	(102)
<b>Total: Departmental Expenses</b>	<b>6,849</b>	<b>6,747</b>	<b>(102)</b>
<b>Additional Information:</b>			
Ordinary Revenue	-	-	-
Fees and Other Charges	-	-	-
Ordinary Recoveries	30	1	(29)
<b>Total: Revenue, Fees, and Recoveries</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>(29)</b>
TCA Purchase Requirements	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs)	<b>47.0</b>	<b>46.2</b>	<b>(0.8)</b>
<b>Departmental Expenses Variance Explanation:</b>			
Actual expenses were \$102 thousand lower than Estimate primarily due to operating savings.			
<b>Revenues, Fees, and Recoveries Variance Explanation:</b>			
Actual recoveries were \$29 thousand lower than Estimate primarily due to lower than anticipated Gift Bank purchases from external agencies.			
<b>Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs) Variance Explanation:</b>			
FTE variance due to temporary staff vacancies.			

## **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 Office of the Premier/Executive Council Office.

<b>Information Required under Section 18 of the Act</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2023-2024</b>
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