



# **Accountability Report**

## 2023–24

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Priorities and Planning



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Accountability Report 2023–2024

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## Accountability Statement

The Accountability Report of the Office of Priorities and Planning for the year ended March 31, 2024, is prepared pursuant to the *Finance Act* and government policies and guidelines. The reporting of the Office outcomes necessarily includes estimates, judgments, and opinions by the Office of Priorities and Planning management.

We acknowledge that this Accountability Report is the responsibility of the Office of Priorities and Planning 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 Office of Priorities and Planning 2023-24 Business Plan.

*Original signed by:*

Original Signed by

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Premier  
The Honourable Tim Houston

Original Signed by

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Deputy Minister  
Jennifer Church

## Introduction

This document reports on the activities of the Office of Priorities and Planning as outlined in the 2023-24 Business Plan.

## Measuring Performance

The Office of Priorities and Planning (OPP) works across departments to advance government's policy agenda by communicating and enabling the priority objectives of the Executive Council (Cabinet). It works closely with departments and agencies to translate government's priorities into policies, plans, programs, and initiatives intended to produce measurable results. As a central agency, OPP helps the government deliver results on priority objectives including growing the population to two million people by 2060, increasing annual gross domestic product (GDP) and continuing to improve our standard of living. OPP also encourages systems modernization to enable better and faster solutions for Nova Scotians. The Office does so by:

- Articulating and communicating government's ambitious policy agenda across the public service and to partners.
- Fostering alignment, engagement, and collaboration across the system to achieve priorities.
- Providing Executive Council (Cabinet), Executive Deputy Ministers and Deputy Ministers with timely, accurate and meaningful data, information and analysis on which to base decisions, programs, policies and initiatives.
- Monitoring organizational performance and progress toward priority objectives and outcomes.

In fiscal 2023-24 OPP contributed to government's objectives in several primary areas.

### Strategic Support

OPP created tools and provided services that enabled the public service and its partners to understand, prioritize, and focus on solutions for Nova Scotians in government's priority areas. It provided policy information, analysis and advice to identify potential impacts and support government in realizing sustainable outcomes. The Office supported various leadership committees, and fostered engagement, coordination and collaboration towards shared goals.

### Strategic Foresight

In 2023-24 OPP used Strategic Foresight, a structured, systemic approach, to explore possible futures that inform government's present-day policies and decisions, anticipate abrupt and unexpected change and help futureproof our province. Strategic foresight and other approaches were used by OPP to identify information and data insights that aided in addressing complex problems and developing better solutions for Nova Scotians in areas such as population growth, labour force development, economic growth, healthcare transformation and social advancement.

### Projects & Initiatives

OPP engaged in projects and initiatives that required horizontal or system-wide approaches and support to achieve the priority objectives of government. This included organizing and facilitating conversations, collaboratively developing project plans and providing relevant and timely information to support decision makers

### Alignment

In the last fiscal year, OPP worked across the public service to align policy and program initiatives, work on horizontal issues and contribute to government's intended outcomes. The Office also supported, championed, and built horizontal and cross-departmental capacity.

### Performance

OPP provided Cabinet, Executive Deputy Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Senior Officials with access to timely, accurate and meaningful data, analysis and insights to inform decision making. The Office engaged in ongoing work to modernize government systems and approaches and how the Province monitors organizational performance and progress toward government's policy agenda and commitments.

## Financial Summary and Variance Explanation

	2023-2024 Estimate	2023-2024 Actuals	2023-2024 Variance
<b>Office of Priorities and Planning</b>	<i>(\$thousands)</i>		
<b>Departmental Expenses:</b>			
Strategy and Corporate Services	2,120	2,112	(8)
<b>Total: Departmental Expenses</b>	<b>2,120</b>	<b>2,112</b>	<b>(8)</b>
<b>Additional Information:</b>			
Ordinary Revenue	-	-	-
Fees and Other Charges	-	-	-
Ordinary Recoveries	177	467	290
<b>Total: Revenue, Fees and Recoveries</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>290</b>
TCA Purchase Requirements	-	-	-
Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs)	<b>12.5</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>(1.6)</b>
<b><u>Departmental Expenses Variance Explanation:</u></b>			
Actual expenses were \$8 thousand lower than Estimate primarily due to increased less chargeable from other departments.			
<b><u>Revenues, Fees, and Recoveries Variance Explanation:</u></b>			
Actual recoveries were \$290 thousand higher than Estimate primarily due to recoverable salaries related to external secondments with the Nova Scotia Health Authority and the Tamarack Institute.			
<b><u>Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs) Variance Explanation:</u></b>			
FTE variance due to temporary staff vacancies.			

## Annual Report Public Interest Disclosure of Wrongdoing Act

### Annual Report under Section 18 of the *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 Priorities & Planning:

Information Required under Section 18 of the Act	Fiscal Year 2023-2024
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