

# Nova Scotia Free Trade and Mobility Within Canada Act

PRESENTATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR, SKILLS AND IMMIGRATION

JUNE 17, 2025

# Agenda

- Free Trade and Mobility within Canada Act
  - Overview
  - Status update as of June 11, 2025
  - Link to FRPA
- High-level overview of the draft regulations
- Questions

# Free Trade and Mobility Within Canada Act

(FTMWCA)

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- **Purpose:** to remove all barriers to trade in goods, services and investment between the Province and other jurisdictions in Canada.
- **Reciprocation:** Trade and labour mobility is intended to be with a reciprocating jurisdiction.
  - “Reciprocating jurisdiction” means a signatory to the Canadian Free Trade Agreement.
  - It is another jurisdiction that has passed similar legislation or is taking other satisfactory steps for the FTMWCA to apply.
  - All goods manufactured, produced or approved for use by a reciprocating jurisdiction will not be subject to additional fees/testing by Nova Scotia.
- If there is a conflict between this Act or the regulations and any other enactment, this Act and the regulations prevail.

## Mutual Recognition of Goods

- **Objective:** To ensure that a good can be legally sold or used in one jurisdiction and be sold/used in another, without having to meet additional compositional, labelling, packaging, certification or inspection requirements.
  - FTMWCA implies automatic recognition for reciprocating jurisdictions.
  - As part of a Committee on Internal Trade (CIT) workstream to develop a mutual recognition agreement (MRA) for goods, jurisdictions are developing a list of goods where there may be additional requirements imposed for sale or use.

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## Labour Mobility

- A person is entitled to a license or certification in Nova Scotia if that person holds an **equivalent license or certification** by a regulatory body in a reciprocating jurisdiction.
  - Individual must provide evidence of good standing, no outstanding complaints, and liability insurance to regulators.
  - Regulators must provide a license or certification within 10 business days.
- Nova Scotia will not apply any party-specific exceptions.
- This Act does not apply to regulated health professions as defined in the Patient Access to Care Act (PACA).
- Free Trade and Mobility within Canada Act

# Free Trade and Mobility Within Canada Act

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## Labour Equivalence Not Clear

- **Regulators can decide if a licence is equivalent by looking at:**
  - The person's scope of practice.
  - Educational requirements.
  - Professional experience.
  - Ongoing training or certification (like safety courses or professional development).
  - **NOTE:** Do not require exams or tests as part of this process. Reasons will be required if applications are rejected or if extra steps are required to determine equivalence.
- **If Qualifications do not fully match:**
  - If the licence from another province is missing key requirements, the regulations will specify the extra steps permissible to help the applicant meet Nova Scotia's standards.

# Current Situation (sample as of June 11, 2025)

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## Legislation

- **Alberta** Labour Mobility Act requires regulatory authorities to make registration decisions within 20 business days and limits what such regulatory authorities may ask of applicants.
- **British Columbia** Economic Stabilization (Tariff Response) Act recognizes goods and services from other jurisdictions as equivalent to those in BC. It does not address party-specific exceptions or labour mobility. This Act received Royal assent but will not be enacted until regulations are complete.
- **Canada** introduced the Canadian Economy: An Act to enact the Free Trade and Labour Mobility in Canada Act and the Building Canada Act.
- **Manitoba** Fair Trade in Canada (Internal Trade Mutual Recognition) Act recognizes goods and services from other jurisdictions as equivalent to those in Manitoba.
- **New Brunswick** has agreed to allow direct-to-consumer alcohol sales and allow workers in regulated professions to begin working immediately while the licensing is in progress (Fair Registration Practices in Regulated Professions Act amendments ).
- **Ontario** Free Trade and Mobility Act and Labour Mobility Act to prohibit regulatory authorities from requiring additional training, experience, exams or assessments, or any other requirements. the regulatory authority must provide written receipt within 10 business days of receiving the application. The individual may begin working for up to six months, while their application is processed.
- **Prince Edward Island** Interprovincial Trade and Mobility Act recognizes goods from other jurisdictions as equivalent to those in PEI. Regulatory bodies must process applications within 10 business days.
- **Quebec** Act to Facilitate the Trade of Goods and Mobility recognizes goods that are commercialized, used or consumed in other provinces and territories to be commercialized, used or consumed in Quebec without any further requirement.

# Current Situation (sample as of June 11, 2025)

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## Memorandums of Understanding

- **Manitoba and British Columbia** will sign by July 1 to ensure mutual recognition of other provinces by Canada Day.
- **Newfoundland and Labrador and New Brunswick** to improve labour mobility, flow of goods, services, and investment that will contribute to sustained economic activity.
- **Ontario and Alberta** will strive to ensure that a good or equivalent service or registered worker that is deemed acceptable for sale, use or work in either province is deemed acceptable for sale, use or work in the other. **Ontario and Manitoba** will strive to ensure that a good or equivalent service or registered worker that is deemed acceptable for sale, use or work in either province is deemed acceptable for sale, use or work in the other.
- **Ontario and New Brunswick** to work together to identify options to align regulated occupations and registration.
- **Ontario and Nova Scotia** There will be no barriers of free trade between the provinces upon their respective internal trade legislation receiving Royal Assent.
- **Ontario and PEI** will strive to ensure that a good or equivalent service or registered worker that is deemed acceptable for sale, use or work in either province is deemed acceptable for sale, use or work in the other.
- **Ontario and Saskatchewan** will strive to ensure that a good or equivalent service or registered worker that is deemed acceptable for sale, use or work in either province is deemed acceptable for sale, use or work in the other.



# Current Situation (as of June 11, 2025)

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## Reciprocating Jurisdictions



- If not a reciprocating jurisdiction, the CFTA rules still apply.
- The drafting of the associated regulations is underway.

# Fair Registration Practices Act

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- **Fair Registration Practices Act** (FRPA) applies to 47 regulating bodies, covering 83 occupations, including 20 compulsory or licensed trades.
- **Purpose:** Ensure that registration practices of regulating bodies are: “...transparent, objective, impartial and procedurally fair.”
  - Applies to three applicant types: New, interprovincial and international.
  - The reciprocating jurisdictions will be added to include a fourth application type.
- As of December 2023, 138,371 individuals were licensed to practice in the 83 occupations / approximately 26% of NS’s total labour force (539,600).
- Among the 47 regulating bodies in Nova Scotia, there were 10,592 new licenses issued, 7,317 interprovincial issued, and 20,931 issued to international applicants, in 2023.
- In 2023, 71% of regulating bodies were able to grant a decision on an interprovincial applicant in 5 days or less and 81% for 10 days and under.
- 2024 data is received, and the analysis is underway. The new report is scheduled to be released in the fall.

# Overview of Draft Regulations

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## Definitions

- goods and services that are approved for use are still subject to Nova Scotia regulatory frameworks and to outright bans
- licence/certificate equivalency determined by reference to scope of practice and objectives of occupational regulation
- person and corporations/other organizations

## Good standing, insurance, and evidence that may be required

- regulatory bodies may dispense with requirement of evidence of good character and insurance where appropriate to do so
- regulatory bodies may require evidence of occupational restrictions or limitations placed by home regulator
- developing a list of other evidence that regulatory bodies may require, potentially including information pertaining to scope of occupation, other regulatory requirements in home jurisdiction

Questions?