

# Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage

## Mandate

The Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage (CCH) is responsible for contributing to the well-being and prosperity of Nova Scotia's diverse and creative communities through the promotion, development, preservation and celebration of our culture, heritage, identity and languages, and by providing leadership, expertise and innovation to our stakeholders.

## Vision

Nova Scotia is an acknowledged leader in Canada as a place where cultural identity, expression, and economy prosper. A place where all people honour and embrace diversity and heritage, and thrive through unbridled creativity and community cohesion.

## Mission

The Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage supports our internal and external stakeholders and communities with best practice services and programs and policies that preserve and provide access to Nova Scotia's life-long learning, culture, heritage, identity and languages.

## Core Business by Division – An Overview

### **ARCHIVES, MUSEUMS AND LIBRARIES**

CCH strengthens communities by supporting life-long learning and preserving, protecting, presenting and promoting Nova Scotia's arts, culture and heritage. Through these efforts, our heritage comes alive and we share our passions and connect with others.

#### **Public Archives of Nova Scotia**

As the documentary heritage institution for the province, the Nova Scotia Archives serves as the permanent repository for the archival records of the Government of Nova Scotia. The Archives acquires and preserves provincially-significant archival records from the private sector, delivers a range of professional, client-centred

reference services, develops and maintains two Internet web sites (NS Archives and Nova Scotia Historical Vital Statistics), and provides strategic support and financial assistance to strengthen the provincial archival community.

#### **Nova Scotia Museum**

The Nova Scotia Museum oversees the operation of the 28 provincial museum sites that make up the Nova Scotia Museum. Their work includes maintaining relationships with the local management groups that operate 17 museum sites and the direct operation of 11 museums with civil service staff who offer a wide range of public programs. The 28 sites range from purpose-built museums to historic houses, living farms and villages to industrial mills. The provincial museum collection consists of over a million artifacts and specimens. Other assets include a fleet of on the water vessels and over 230 buildings that cover a range of architectural styles and periods.

#### **Nova Scotia Provincial Library**

The Nova Scotia Provincial Library leads and supports Nova Scotia's public libraries, ensuring they remain vibrant and deliver innovative and sustainable services for Nova Scotians. This includes providing centralized services for libraries, facilitating resource sharing and collaboration, and acting as a liaison between library leaders and the Province of Nova Scotia.

### **CULTURE AND HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT**

The division actively supports the development of Nova Scotia's arts, culture and heritage sectors through investment programs, advice and other support. The division works to foster development within a wide range of industry and community-based cultural interests and events. Staff work in partnership with Nova Scotia's cultural industries, various interests engaged in event hosting, and our artistic, cultural and heritage communities to enhance cultural, economic and social growth.

#### **Development Programs**

Administers funding to community, culture and heritage based organizations, professional and emerging artists, and individuals by way of a broad range of programs. Culture and Heritage Development works with various stakeholder groups on culture and heritage projects and provides advice and support on broad sector development.

### **Arts Nova Scotia**

Arts Nova Scotia is the provincial funding agency that provides support to professional artists and arts organizations, arts education programs and a number of arts awards and prizes.

### **Events**

The Festival and Community Event development fund seeks to improve the sustainability and event hosting capacity of unique community events and to support home-grown events that promote or strengthen the unique character of the community.

The Major Event Hosting program aims to support a diverse calendar of large-scale major sport and cultural events. The objectives of the program are to invest in major sport and culture events of national and international significance, providing quantifiable and measurable cultural, sport, social and economic returns. Communities, Culture and Heritage is also responsible for the Nova Scotia Event Strategy on the Events Nova Scotia website at <https://events.novascotia.ca/about/events-strategy>.

### **ACADIAN AFFAIRS AND FRANCOPHONIE**

The Office of Acadian Affairs was formally established in 2004 by the *French-language Services Act* which confirmed the provincial government's commitment to provide for the delivery of French-language services to contribute to the preservation and growth of the Acadian and francophone community. In 2011, Acadian Affairs became a division of Communities, Culture and Heritage.

In 2016, its name was changed to the Office of Acadian Affairs and Francophonie, to strengthen the reach of the office and to better reflect the population. It is responsible for implementing the *French-language Services Act*, chairing the French-language Services Coordinating Committee and advising and supporting government departments, offices, agencies, and Crown corporations in the development and delivery of French-language services. The Office strives to ensure that the Government is aware of the needs of the Acadian and francophone community and that these needs are addressed in the development of programs, policies and services. The Office works to recognize the contribution of the Acadian and francophone community and acts as a liaison between this community and the provincial government. The Office develops partnerships with Acadian and francophone agencies at provincial, national and international levels which contribute to the growth of the community.

### **AFRICAN NOVA SCOTIAN AFFAIRS**

There are more than 48 African Nova Scotian communities in our province. African Nova Scotian Affairs works with government and the African Nova Scotian community to enhance cultural understanding and assist in the delivery of services that meet the unique needs of African Nova Scotians.

It is the connecting point to the community, promoting African Nova Scotian priorities and bringing people together to share in cultural experiences. African Nova Scotian Affairs contributes to government decision-making and facilitates positive change on behalf of African Nova Scotians. It also works in partnership with departments, agencies and other organizations to develop solutions that support the ongoing well-being of African Nova Scotians. ANSA is an advocate for African Nova Scotians, encouraging dialogue and involvement between government and the community.

### **GAELIC AFFAIRS**

Gaelic language and culture have been part of Nova Scotia's diversity since the early 1700s. More than 200,000 Nova Scotians have connections to Gaelic-speaking settlers and many more participate in cultural activities such as music, dance and art.

Gaelic Affairs works to promote and develop Gaelic language and culture, ensuring it continues to be a vibrant part of our communities and economy. Gaelic Affairs assists and supports community initiatives and projects, facilitates and creates dialogue between government, community, regional and international partners regarding areas of importance to Gaelic development. The Office advocates for improved services and programs that reflect the needs of the community and promotes Gaelic's value and its contribution to the diversity of the province.

### **POLICY AND CORPORATE SERVICES**

The division works to support corporate accountability, governance, and best practices in all departmental operational areas. This group provides a centralized service area of expertise which is available to all divisions.

#### **Business Administration**

The Business Administration Unit provides corporate financial services and general administration services to Policy and Corporate Services and acts as the liaison between Policy and Corporate Services and departments such as Service Nova Scotia and Internal Services, Department of Finance and Treasury Board, etc.

### **Information, Risk and Business Solutions**

The Information, Risk and Business Solutions unit supports all divisions in Communities, Culture and Heritage. Acting as a liaison with other departments including Service Nova Scotia and Internal Services, the Public Service Commission and the Emergency Management Office, this unit provides vital business advice and assistance to our teams.

### **Policy**

The Policy unit ensures the department's alignment with government priorities working with central agencies such as Executive Council Office, other divisions within Communities, Culture and Heritage as well as boards and agencies. The unit reviews and coordinates the approvals of submissions to Cabinet, legislative changes and Business Planning.

### **Research and Government Relations**

Rigorous qualitative and quantitative culture research and collaboration activities helps to strengthen and grow the culture sector by raising awareness of culture and informing government decisions. The team connects with other government partners including municipalities on culture research, and performs a liaison role with Intergovernmental Affairs and leads CCH research and planning. The unit supports Nova Scotia's participation in the Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) Culture and Heritage annual meetings as well as ongoing work supported by 14 federal-provincial working groups.

### **SAP Grants Management**

The Grants Management unit is accountable for the strategic alignment of information technology, processes and transactional services required to support all divisions in the management of funding programs and investments. This unit is also responsible for providing coordinated departmental reporting, as well as advice and preparation of budget, forecast and expenses.

### **Strategic Initiatives**

The unit oversees strategic cross-departmental and/or inter-governmental projects and initiatives to further culture awareness, appreciation and participation by engaging with key staff across the department, as well as with external stakeholders as appropriate, and establishing project teams.

### **Culture Action Plan**

Launched in 2017, the Culture Action Plan continues to guide every decision, priority, investment and action undertaken by the department. Through the Culture Action Plan the department continues to find opportunities to align and collaborate in order to make meaningful impact for Nova Scotians across the province.

### **COMMUNITIES, SPORT AND RECREATION**

Communities, Sport and Recreation leads government efforts and collaborates with communities to improve the quality of life for Nova Scotians. The division helps communities gain access to programs that support cultural diversity and identity and social inclusion; promote health living, and welcoming and accessible communities; build and enhance organizational capacity and community transportation; and encourages participation in physical activity, sport and recreation. The division also provides key financial and human resource support for the Lieutenant Governor's Community Spirit Awards, Nova Scotia Heritage Day and the provincial volunteer recognition events. It supports the sector by creating opportunities for partners to effectively achieve outcomes that improve the quality of life for Nova Scotians. The division focuses on developing partnerships, creating jobs and fostering sustainability which contribute to a community's health, well-being and social prosperity. The division offers funding opportunities for communities to enhance publicly used assets such as facilities (recreation, Legions, community centers, public spaces, trails, outdoor sport facilities) and programs.

The division works with emerging and established volunteer and not-profit sector boards to strengthen their role in the community, with a focus on increasing their understanding and use of government resources.

## **Additional Business**

### **THE ART GALLERY OF NOVA SCOTIA**

The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia is an agency of the Province of Nova Scotia. Its mandate is to develop a collection, exhibition program, and public program that brings Nova Scotians and visitors in contact with contemporary and historic art that is associated with the province while also introducing art from across the region, the country, and other nations and cultures.

The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia is the largest art museum in Atlantic Canada. With locations in downtown Halifax and downtown Yarmouth, the gallery houses the Province's art collection and offers a range of exhibitions and programming.

## **Acts Administered**

*Art Gallery of Nova Scotia Act*  
*Arts Nova Scotia Act*  
*Boxing Authority Act*  
*Cemeteries and Monuments Protection Act*  
*Community Spirit Act*  
*Creative Nova Scotia Leadership Council Act*  
*Gaelic College Foundation Act*  
*Gaming Control Act*  
*Heritage Property Act*  
*French-language Services Act / Loi sur les services en français*  
*Libraries Act*  
*Multiculturalism Act*  
*Nova Scotia Museum Act*  
*Nova Scotia Tartan Act*  
*Public Archives Act*  
*Schooner Bluenose Foundation Act*  
*Sherbrooke Restoration Commission Act*  
*Special Places Protection Act*  
*Status of the Artist Act*  
*Volunteer Services Act*  
*Volunteer Protection Act*

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Administrative update: **February 23, 2020**

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