

Department of Environment

Environment's role is to protect the environment, human health and animal health through regulatory excellence, conservation, partnership and promotion.

Core functions of the department:

- Develop programs and deliver services to enhance the protection of the environment, human, and animal health
- Develop legislation, regulations and policies based on sound scientific knowledge and expertise
- Educate, inspect and enforce to ensure compliance with legislation and regulations
- Proactively respond to environmental, animal, and human health risks
- Process notifications, applications, and approvals for regulated activities

Responsibilities

INSPECTION, COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

The Inspection, Compliance and Enforcement (ICE) Division is responsible for the delivery of compliance programming to protect the environment, human health and farm animal health. Compliance staff in Nova Scotia Environment includes: Environment Inspectors, Conservation Officers, Public Health Officers, Meat Inspectors and Farm Animal Welfare Inspectors.

Regional Integration, Compliance and Operations Branch

The ICE Division is supported by the Regional Integration, Compliance and Operations (RICO) Branch, which advances compliance and protection efforts by ensuring the effective and consistent implementation of all operation and compliance services and activities. This branch coordinates corporate deliverables for all regions and provides direction for the integration of departmental and government priorities in divisional program planning and operations.

SUSTAINABILITY AND APPLIED SCIENCE DIVISION

Driven by scientific and technical evidence, the Sustainability and Applied Science (SAS) Division provides strategic leadership and maintenance of our mandated programs, as well as subject matter expertise and advice. SAS works proactively to ensure that programs function well and meet their intended outcomes through promotion, education and training resources, and working with other divisions to develop and improve policy and regulatory management tools.

Air Quality, Climate Change and Resource Management Branch

The Air Quality, Climate Change and Resource Management Branch focuses activities on reducing the sources and effects of global climate change and helps to protect Nova Scotians from the harmful effects of air, land and water pollutants. This branch is leading the development of a made in Nova Scotia cap and trade program to enable the reduction of greenhouse gases.

The branch is responsible for fulfilling the department's regulatory and programming obligations relating to contaminated sites, hazardous materials, pesticides and solid waste. This includes: ensuring that contaminated sites are identified and remediated; working to protect Nova Scotians from the harmful effects of hazardous materials through their use or disposal; and certifying that businesses and applicators involved in the pesticide sector receive necessary education and testing. Staff work closely with municipalities, academia, organizations and the business sector to achieve the Province of Nova Scotia's solid waste goals.

Environmental Health and Food Safety Branch

The Environmental Health and Food Safety Branch develops and leads the Province's strategic approach to managing risks to public health associated with environmental health hazards, food establishments, and the provincial meat inspection and food supply system. It takes a lead departmental role in the province's response to food-related emergencies, including outbreak of communicable and food-borne disease. The branch considers a broad range of environmental health and food safety issues through a public health lens, inclusive of health promotion and compliance promotion programs. It is also responsible to lead a strategic approach to ensure the humane treatment of farm animals, including those in the food supply system. Branch staff serve as principal advisors for areas of environmental health, food safety and farm animal health and welfare.

Protected Areas and Ecosystems Branch

The Protected Areas and Ecosystems Branch is responsible for planning and managing Nova Scotia's wilderness areas and nature reserves, coordinating Canadian Heritage Rivers in Nova Scotia, supporting private land conservation, and providing for the conservation of wetlands. The branch provides programs to ensure the protection of biological diversity (while supporting opportunities for wilderness recreation, tourism, and research) and delivering social and economic benefits to Nova Scotians.

Industrial Management, Water and Wastewater Branch

The Industrial Management, Water and Wastewater Branch is comprised of the Water Management Unit and the Industrial Management Unit. The Water Management Unit is responsible for the requirements and protocols that ensure the safety of drinking water. This includes source water protection, education and technical support to supply owners. This unit is also responsible for water resources management and protection. Through monitoring, education and tools, they support decisions that protect water, and they develop standards and regulations for activities that may affect water quality and quantity for ecological and human uses.

The Industrial Management Unit focuses on the development of various regulatory management tools such as regulations, standards, guidelines and policies that support the effective management of the many industry-related programs and activities, including wastewater, that fall under the *Environment Act* and associated regulations. The unit is also responsible for effectively managing the environmental regulation of larger industrial development activities such as those associated with Nova Scotia Power and Michelin Canada.

POLICY DIVISION

The Policy Division provides consistent, centralized services across the department. Comprised of six separate groups, the Policy Division's key role can be summarized as coordinator, collaborator, and enabler to ensure the department's key priorities and commitments continue to be met.

Policy and Planning Branch

The Policy and Planning Branch provides policy support to all divisions and programs by assisting teams in analyzing issues and problems, establishing performance indicators, considering consultation methods, selecting policy tools, and assessing the potential impacts of new or revised regulatory tools. This branch also: leads planning across the department (including development of corporate plans and reporting); maintains departmental policies and procedures; and oversees the ministerial appointments process.

Quality Branch

Comprised of a Quality and Business Applications Team, this branch supports quality programming across the department through efforts to promote program level quality, process efficiency and targeted reviews. The branch is also responsible

for overseeing the appeals process for administrator decisions made under the *Environment Act* and supports business applications systems integral to the implementation of the department's mandate.

Environmental Assessment Branch

The Environmental Assessment (EA) Branch leads the evaluation of the potential environmental effects of major developments to determine if and how the development can proceed, informing the Minister's decision on the environmental acceptability of proposed undertakings.

Information & Support Services Branch

The Information and Support Services Branch coordinates and implements: the records and information management program; the Environmental Registry service (and other information requests); facilities and lease management; and other administrative services. The branch also provides advice on all aspects of information and business services, and is the department's liaison with the corporate Information Access and Privacy Services Unit.

Safety & Training Unit

The Safety and Training Unit provides subject matter expertise in matters of health & safety, leads the department's Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) program. This unit also: supports emergency preparedness (fire and medical response); coordinates the business continuity plan, and liaises with external agencies in OHS matters; and delivers department-wide training.

Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Tribunals

- Environmental Assessment Review Panel
- On-Site Services Advisory Board
- Resource Recovery Fund Board
- Round Table on the Environment and Sustainable Prosperity

Acts Administered

- *Anti-idling Act*
- *Environment Act*
- *Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act*
- *Health Protection Act (Part II)*
- *Importation of Hydraulic Fracturing Wastewater Prohibition Act*
- *Non-essential Pesticides Control Act*

- *Special Places Protection Act* (The act is jointly administered with Departments of Communities, Culture and Heritage and Natural Resources)
- *Voluntary Carbon Emissions Offset Fund Act*
- *Water Resources Protection Act*
- *Wilderness Areas Protection Act*

The Minister of Environment has authority for inspection, compliance and enforcement under the following legislation:

- *Meat Inspection Act*
- *Animal Protection Act*
- *Fur Industry Act*
- *Health Protection Act (Part I)*
- *Tobacco Access Act*
- *Smoke-free Places Act*
- *Tanning Beds Act*
- *Snow Sport Helmet Act*
- *Safe Body Art Act*
- *Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act*
- *Fish Harvester Organizations Support Act*
- *Beaches Act*
- *Crown Lands Act*
- *Endangered Species Act*
- *Forests Act*
- *Mineral Resources Act*
- *Provincial Parks Act*
- *Scalers Act*
- *Trails Act*
- *Wildlife Act*
- *Liquor Control Act*
- *Off-Highway Vehicles Act*
- *Motor Vehicle Act* (Parking Violations, Emergency Vehicle/Equipment Use)

Administrative update: **November 10, 2017**
