

Department of Intergovernmental Affairs

Mission Statement

The Department of Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA) receives its mandate from the *Public Service Act*. The Act states that - under the direction of its Minister - the department is responsible for coordinating and advancing the Province's interests with the Government of Canada, other provinces, and foreign governments at the national and sub-national levels. It is also focused on serving as a central point of contact for the coordination of the Province's intergovernmental priorities and protocol requirements, support to the Ministers responsible for Military Relations, and the operation of the Government House.

Core Businesses

Intergovernmental Affairs advances Nova Scotia's intergovernmental priorities by engaging with other federal, provincial or international governments on an ongoing basis.

Sectoral Responsibilities

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL-TERRITORIAL RELATIONS

Support Nova Scotia government departments in their dealings with other governments in Canada, and in identifying opportunities and potential issues. Work is undertaken to ensure that the Province is effective in enhancing intergovernmental collaboration for the benefit of Nova Scotians.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Intergovernmental Affairs is responsible for coordinating and leading the Province's international relations. International Relations ensures a corporate approach to Nova Scotia's trade promotion, investment attraction and other interests. It also supports inbound and outbound activities, including trade missions and the visit to Nova Scotia of delegations from priority markets.

CANADA-UNITED STATES RELATIONS

Addresses Nova Scotia's important relationship with the United States (US). The US represents the Province's principal export market, where cultural and familial linkages run deep and the economies are integrated.

TRADE POLICY

Intergovernmental Affairs, through the Minister of Trade, is responsible for all matters relating to trade policy, interprovincial and international trade negotiations, agreements and disputes and the development of the Province's strategic approach to international markets. Advancing this mandate requires extensive engagement across government to maximize opportunities resulting from trade agreements and to minimize risks to the province through trade agreement compliance.

MILITARY RELATIONS

The Premier, as Minister responsible for Military Relations, provides the Government of Nova Scotia with a means to communicate and work directly with the headquarters, offices, and agencies of the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Forces in Nova Scotia. Departmental responsibility and accountability for the Province's defence, military, and veterans related activities are managed by Intergovernmental Affairs.

THE PROTOCOL OFFICE

The Protocol Office coordinates official ceremonies, events and foreign-official visits through consultations with ministers, departmental stakeholders and the federal government. It also provides protocol related advice to departments, non-governmental organizations and the general public, and manages / administers the Province's public recognition programs, the Order of Nova Scotia and the Premier's Congratulatory Message Service.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE

The responsibilities of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor / Government House are to serve, support and maintain with excellence the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia and Government House. The Office of the Lieutenant Governor will ensure that its mandate – to support the constitutional and symbolic role of the Lieutenant Governor as The Queen of Canada's representative in Nova Scotia – is fully met.

Administrative update: **November 2, 2017**
