

Department of Lands and Forestry

Branch Responsibilities

The Department of Lands and Forestry (Lands and Forestry) has broad responsibilities relative to the management, development, conservation and protection of Nova Scotia's biodiversity, forest, and park resources and the administration of the province's Crown land. The department is organized into four branches.

LAND SERVICES BRANCH

The Land Services Branch provides service, advice and leadership on all aspects of the department's mandate related to the administration of Crown land by:

- Managing the land and resources in a balanced, sustainable manner that supports economic development and biodiversity;
- Collaborating with individuals, groups, and the Mi'kmaq to improve shared stewardship;
- Providing easy access to accurate land records and boundary information;
- Linking and sharing land and resource data to facilitate decision-making; and
- Promoting complementary ways to use Crown land.

The Land Services Branch also acts as land agent for Nova Scotia Environment (NSE), Office of Aboriginal Affairs (OAA) and Nova Scotia Business Inc. (NSBI); and provides expertise and leadership within the provincial government related to all aspects of land transactions.

The Land Services Branch is comprised of the following divisions and a special initiative:

- Land Administration Division
- Surveys Division
- Land Services Program Renewal

POLICY, PLANNING AND SUPPORT SERVICES BRANCH

The Policy, Planning and Support Services Branch provides planning and policy coordination support to the Deputy Minister and the department by ensuring that policies and plans developed within and across the department are coordinated, support the integrated management of our natural resources, and support the strategic direction of government. This includes a range of services related to strategic/policy planning, research, information management, facilities management, risk

management, as well as evaluation and continuous improvement models. The branch also provides leadership to support an integrated approach to Aboriginal relations with the department, and on the administration of the department's Occupational Health and Safety Program. The responsibilities of the branch are carried out by five divisions:

- Information Management and Support Services Division
- Organizational Strategy and Renewal Division
- Strategic Policy and Planning Division
- Aboriginal Policy Division
- Occupational Health and Safety Division

REGIONAL SERVICES BRANCH

The Regional Services Branch delivers programs and services on behalf of the department through an extensive network of field offices. These programs and services include wildlife management, forest management, Crown lands, surveys, extension and education, hunter safety, forest fire prevention, detection and suppression, monitoring of forest insects and diseases, operation and maintenance of Provincial Parks, and resource conservation. Regional Services is the service delivery branch of Lands and Forestry. The branch is broken down into three divisions and three regions:

- Parks, Outreach, and Service Delivery Division
- Forest Protection & Fleet Management Division
- Regions: Eastern, Western, and Central Division

RENEWABLE RESOURCES BRANCH

The Renewable Resources Branch provides coordination and leadership on conservation and sustainable use, management, and economic development, for the province's forests, biodiversity and wildlife. The branch is comprised of the following divisions:

- Forestry Division
- Economic Development & Trade Division
- Wildlife Division
- Resource Management Division

Acts Administered

- *Beaches Act*
- *Beaches and Foreshores Act*
- *Community Easements Act*
- *Conservation Easements Act*
- *Crown Lands Act*
- *Endangered Species Act*
- *Forest Enhancement Act*
- *Forests Act*
- *Indian Lands Act*
- *Kedgemakooge National Park Act*
- *Land Surveyors Act*
- *Land Titles Clarification Act*
- *Off Highway Vehicles Act* (Lands and Forestry has responsibility for all sections that do not fall under the *Motor Vehicles Act*)
- *Parks Development Act*
- *Primary Forest Products Act*
- *Provincial Parks Act*
- *Scalers Act*
- *Scott Maritimes Limited Agreement Act* (Repeal subject to proclamation)
- *Shubenacadie Canal Commission Act*
- *Trails Act*
- *Wildlife Act*

OTHER ACTS

- *Angling Act*
- *Private Ways Act*
- *Woodsmen's Lien Act*

Administrative update: **June 5, 2019**
