

Department of Natural Resources

Branch Responsibilities

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

GEOSCIENCE AND MINES BRANCH

The Geoscience and Mines Branch is responsible for implementing policies and programs dealing with the exploration, development, management and efficient use of mineral resources. The branch promotes scientific understanding of the geology of Nova Scotia for use by government, industry and the public, and provides a mineral rights tenure system that establishes legal rights to minerals for exploration and development. The branch also promotes the concepts of environmental responsibility and sustainable development, stewardship of the mineral resource sector, and integrated resource planning. In addition, the branch provides information to government and the public on risks and mitigation strategies of geo-hazards that may impact the health and safety of Nova Scotians. The responsibilities of the branch are carried out by two divisions:

- Geological Services Division
- Mineral Management Division

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. The branch also provides strategic/policy planning, research, information management, facilities management, services related to information, project and change management, as well as, evaluation and continuous improvement models. The responsibilities of the branch are carried out by four divisions:

- Information Management and Support Services Division
- Organizational Strategy and Renewal Division
- Strategic Policy and Planning Division
- Aboriginal Policy 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, regional geological services, 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 Natural Resources. 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

- *An Act to Confer Certain Powers Upon the Lieutenant Governor in Council and to Amend the Mines Act*
- *Beaches Act*
- *Beaches and Foreshores Act*
- *Community Easements Act*
- *Conservation Easements Act*
- *Crown Lands Act*
- *Endangered Species Act*
- *Forest Enhancement Act*
- *Forests Act*
- *Gypsum Mining Income Tax Act*
- *Indian Lands Act*
- *Kedgemakooge National Park Act*
- *Land Surveyors Act*
- *Land Titles Clarification Act*
- *Mines Act*
- *Mineral Resources Act*
- *Oak Island Treasure Act*
- *Off Highway Vehicles Act* (DNR 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*
- *Undersea Coal Mine Regulation Act*
- *Uranium Exploration and Mining Prohibition Act*
- *Woodsmen's Lien Act*

Administrative update: **November 7, 2017**
