

Handout: List of Provincial Responsibilities

Agriculture

The Department of Agriculture is responsible for providing sustainable agriculture and food industries to all Nova Scotians. The department monitors crops, horticulture, livestock, poultry, agri-food processing and organic food.

Communities, Culture and Heritage

The Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage is responsible for the well-being of Nova Scotia's diverse communities through the promotion, development, preservation and celebration of culture, heritage, identity and languages.

Community Services

The Department of Community Services is responsible for the social and economic well-being of all Nova Scotians and maintains a social service system that promotes independence, self-reliance, and security. The department administers adoption, foster care, child care, income assistance and employment support, affordable public housing and care for seniors and those with disabilities.

Economic and Rural Development and Tourism

The Department of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism is responsible for productivity and innovation, investment, workforce development, tourism, procurement and international commerce. Department priorities include providing the skills to create good jobs, growing the economy through innovation and helping businesses be more competitive globally.

Education and Early Childhood Development

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is responsible for providing the province with a publicly funded school system that offers high quality educational programs and student services in both official languages. The department is also responsible for early learning programs, creating school resources, assessing student achievement, special education and school libraries.

Energy

The Department of Energy is responsible for ensuring Nova Scotians benefit from the province's energy sector, enabling businesses to compete in the energy industry and educating Nova Scotians on energy issues. The department focuses on business and technology, communications and public education, energy markets, resource assessment, fiscal affairs and strategic policy, planning and services.

Environment

The Department of Environment is responsible for the protection of the environment. The department inspects and monitors air quality, drinking water, pests and pesticides, wetlands, recycling and waste and climate change.

Finance

The Department of Finance is responsible for managing the province's financial affairs and policies. The department provides Nova Scotia with a yearly budget, regular fiscal updates, and revenue and economic forecasting and analysis. It also administers provincial tax and rebate programs, investments, pension plans and regulates insurance and financial institutions.

Fisheries and Aquaculture

The Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture is responsible for managing, promoting, supporting and developing the fishing, aquaculture and seafood processing industries in the province. The department works to contribute to the economic, environmental and social prosperity of Nova Scotia's coastal and rural communities.

Health and Wellness

The Department of Health and Wellness is responsible for providing health care and offering programs and services that protect and promote health, and treat illness. These services include addiction services, out-patient care, e-health, emergency health services, family physicians, mental health services, nursing, pharmacare and public health.

Intergovernmental Affairs

The Department of Intergovernmental Affairs is responsible for providing leadership in the development of corporate strategies for Nova Scotia's relations with other governments and organizations. The department advances the interests of Nova Scotia by creating and pursuing intergovernmental opportunities and identifying and addressing challenges through relationships with other departments, governments, and key non-governmental organizations.

Justice

The Department of Justice is responsible for keeping the province safe through crime prevention and the justice system. The department is responsible for criminal justice and family law, court administration, legal aid, police and correctional services, emergency and social services, criminal record checks and victim assistance.

Labour and Advanced Education

The Department of Labour and Advanced Education is responsible for delivering effective and efficient regulatory management for the protection of the health and safety of Nova Scotians. The department supports and monitors activities like workplace safety, fire safety, alcohol and gaming, pensions, apprenticeship and adult education.

Natural Resources

The Department of Natural Resources is responsible for developing, managing, conserving and protecting forests, minerals, parks and wildlife resources in Nova Scotia. The department's goals include conserving the diversity of Nova Scotia's natural environment, supporting Nova Scotia's economy through the sustainable development of natural resources and improving the quality of life in Nova Scotia.

Public Service Commission

The Public Service Commission is responsible for establishing policies, programs, standards, and procedures in the area of human resource management for the Government of Nova Scotia. The department provides leadership, strategic direction and expertise in human resource management to support a strong Nova Scotia public service.

Seniors

The Department of Seniors is responsible for ensuring the inclusion, well-being, and independence of seniors in Nova Scotia by facilitating the development of policies on aging and programs for seniors across government and through by providing and coordinating strategic planning, support, services, programs and information.

Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations

Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations are responsible for making government services more accessible and convenient and maintaining the legislative framework in which municipalities operate. The department provides advice, assistance and program support to municipalities, and programs include the registry of motor vehicles, business programs, statistics, alcohol and tobacco taxes and land registration.

Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal

The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal is responsible for building and maintaining quality provincial infrastructure, including highways, bridges, government buildings and environmental remediation projects.