



An update from the Department of Health Promotion and Protection (HPP) - July 19, 2006

A message from Deputy Minister Bob Fowler:

Our budget:

The Department of Health Promotion and Protection now has its 2006-07 funding in place with the official passage of the government budget in the House of Assembly on Friday, July 14. Our budget definitely reflects the commitment this government is making to help Nova Scotians lead healthier lives.

Our total budget is \$36.3 million, reflecting the government's promise to double our funding for 2006-07. Our department's budget was ably defended during the Estimates debate by Minister Barry Barnet. We are fortunate to have a Minister who brings such a high level of enthusiasm to our work and who supports us at every venue. At several points during the Estimates discussions, Minister Barnet reiterated his personal vision for HPP that we lead Nova Scotians on a quest to become the healthiest province in the country.

The Minister understands the challenge of this vision and fully appreciates the work required of HPP staff and stakeholders to make this vision a reality. It is the work of our dedicated partners and stakeholders that provide the means for our initiatives to reach Nova Scotians in the communities where they live, work and play.

Here are some highlights from this years budget:

- An investment of \$200,000 will ensure the Health Promoting Schools program continues.
- An additional \$400,000 goes to the Healthy Eating budget.
- \$2.4 million will support a broad range of improvements to our Physical Activity, Sport and Recreation programs.
- \$800,000 will provide stability to the Youth Health Centres around the province.
- Addiction prevention and treatment continues to be a priority with \$469,000 for education and support services.
- The injury prevention strategy will expand with an investment of \$255,000.
- One million dollars is in this budget to begin the renewal of the province's public health system and to support the transition work needed to fully form the Department of Health Promotion and Protection.

To view the complete budget visit <http://www.gov.ns.ca/finance/budget06/default.asp>

New people coming on staff:

We continue to grow. We have a new mandate and an increasing budget. That presents opportunities that need adequate resources to meet. Ultimately the goal is a healthier Nova Scotia.

Our focus has been on filling existing and new positions. Please welcome these new Health Promotion and Protection staff who are listed here with their start dates:

Addictions:

Robert Graham, Manager of Problem Gambling, July 10

Wanda MacDonald, Manager of Prevention and Treatment Services, July 24

Esmeralda Bond, Secretary II, July 17 (Casual)

Games Secretariat:

Tracey Williams, Senior Director, May 15

Lindsay Hugenholtz, Director, May 15

Aaron Nutting, Sport Consultant, Hosting, July 17

Physical Activity, Sport and Recreation:

Jennifer Annett, Off-Highway Vehicle Consultant, July 31

Stephen Gallant, Acting Director of Sport, May 1

Public Health:

Elaine Holmes, Coordinator of Communicable Disease, June 26

Maria Kuttner, Project Manager, Inspection Services, August 1

Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention:

Michelle Murton, School Nutritionist, July 10

Executive:

Bonnie Slaunwhite, Secretary III (Term)

Positions springing from the Public Health Review Recommendations:

Public Health Leader - recruitment to begin this summer

Director, Transition Planning, recruitment begins shortly

Project Manager, Public Health Laboratory, recruitment begins shortly

Project Coordinator, Public Health Information System, recruitment begins shortly

Public Health Information Systems Expertise, recruitment begins shortly

Other recruiting now underway:

Addictions - Problem Gambling:

Coordinator, Problem Gambling Prevention and Community Education

Coordinator, Problem Gambling Treatment Services
Research and Statistical Officer III
Secretary I

Policy and Planning:
Manager, Evaluation and Research
Research and Statistical Officer (Casual)

Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention:
Early Childhood Nutritionist

Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health:
Infomatician
Medical Officer of Health, Sydney/Antigonish
Nurse Consultant, Communicable Disease/Prevention and Control

Public Health:
Public Health Application Specialist

Communications and Social Marketing:
Webmaster

Sport and Recreation:
Secretary II

We've come a long way in a short time

I think it's timely to reflect on all that HPP has accomplished. Together with our stakeholders and partners we have successfully:

- completed and released the alcohol indicators report
- hired chronic disease coordinators throughout the province
- begun work on a comprehensive workplace health strategy
- built momentum for injury prevention work in road safety, suicide prevention and preventing falls
- announced a provincial breastfeeding policy
- launched a social marketing campaign aimed at parents of children 0-12
- created a Games Secretariat to support the Canada Games and the Commonwealth Games
- begun the long journey toward the renewal of Nova Scotia's public health system
- filled the complement of Medical Officers of Health with the exception of one position for which we are now recruiting

On our new department:

Many of you are wondering what's going on to define the structure of the Department of Health Promotion and Protection.

The original transition team has been temporarily put on hold as we work on what the structure

of the new department will be. Another committee comprised of public health experts from the districts and on staff are meeting to determine this.

As recommended in the Public Health Review report, there is consensus within this group that dividing our work into “responsibility centres” is the way to go to promote easy pathways between the districts and Halifax and to allow us to work together smoothly across disciplines.

Two meetings have been held with lively discussions. There are no quick answers, but we hope to move forward with a decided structure when the new public health leader arrives later this year.

And finally . . .

I personally feel very proud that we in Nova Scotia are at the cutting edge in Canada of helping to make our population healthier over the long term. I hope you share that pride. You deserve to.

The work we do in this department is critical; in the short time I’ve been here staff, stakeholders, and our partners alike have all demonstrated passion, professionalism, dedication and creativity. I’ve said many times this is an exciting time to be part of the Department of Health Promotion and Protection. In all my years in government, I have not seen the growth, enthusiasm and potential that I see here now. We have a great team and we look forward to working with our partners and stakeholders to make Nova Scotia the healthiest province in the country.

Bob Fowler
Deputy Minister
Department of Health Promotion and Protection

A message from Assistant Deputy Minister Duff Montgomerie:

As we have indicated in previous updates we are currently undergoing a revamp of our website and newsletter to better reflect our new department and all that it stands for. We have conducted a survey and contracted a firm and will be working over the summer months to develop, build and launch our new website and newsletter. This will be the last HPP newsletter using this format and we are looking forward to launching the updated version in mid-September. Please note that HPP will not be sending out a newsletter for the month of August but will return better than ever in the fall.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer and we look forward to communicating with you in the fall.

Duff Montgomerie
Assistant Deputy Minister
Department of Health Promotion and Protection

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