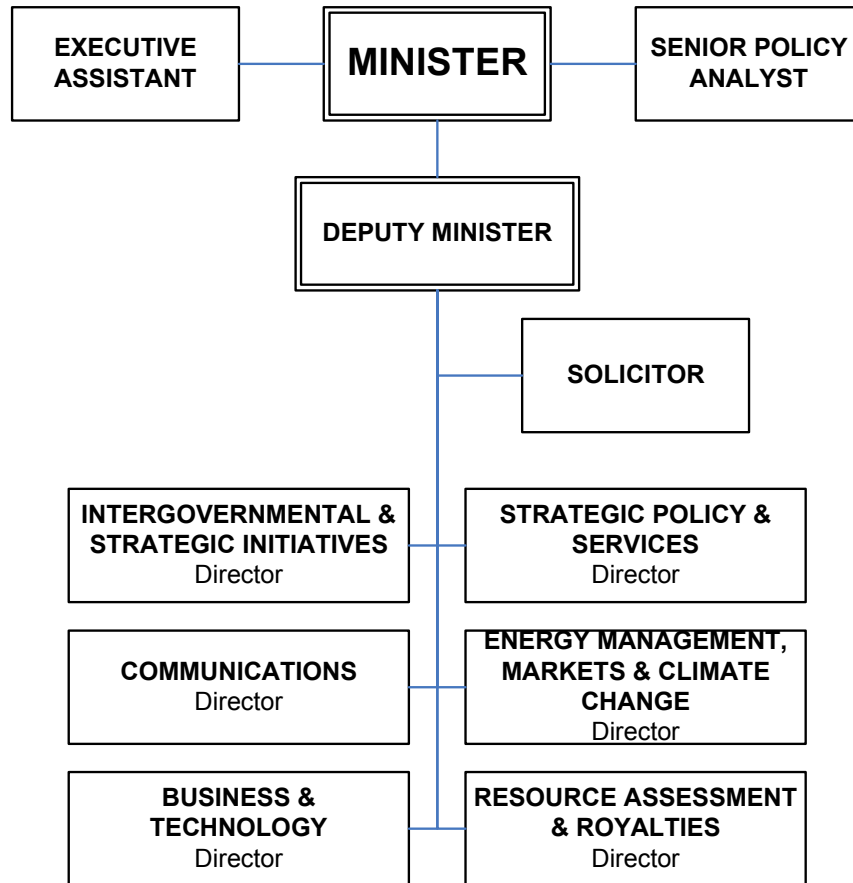


Department of Energy



Responsibilities

The Nova Scotia Department of Energy was created in June 2002 to serve as the government’s focal point in the development of the province’s energy resources, as outlined in the Energy Strategy. The department is a consolidation of the Nova Scotia Petroleum Directorate and the energy-related activities of the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources.

Mission

The Energy Department’s mission is to deliver maximum economic, social, and environmental benefits from the energy sector by creating partnerships with governments, industry, other provincial departments and local communities to develop, establish and manage the province’s energy policies.

Executive

Minister

Deputy Minister

ENERGY MANAGEMENT, MARKETS, AND CLIMATE CHANGE (EMMCC)

The department implements policies and programs dealing with a wide range of issues related to natural gas transmission, distribution and use; electricity generation, transmission, distribution and use; refined petroleum products; energy efficiency; and alternative energy. It develops policy advice, delivers programs, and represents the interests of Nova Scotians before other levels of government and regulators.

The department continues to be active as part of the national process considering implementation issues following ratification of the Kyoto Protocol. It is important to maintain competitiveness for Nova Scotia's industry and to recognize the actions that have already been taken to reduce emissions. As more becomes known on the specifics of Nova Scotia's obligations, the department will make ongoing adjustments to its provincial Climate Change Strategy.

STRATEGIC POLICY AND SERVICES

The department is responsible for the coordination of energy policies, strategies, plans, and services. In order to carry out these tasks, the department gathers information on Nova Scotia and other jurisdictions' experiences, policies and activities as well as the general business climate for energy investments and analyses them for effectiveness and implications for meeting public policy objectives and relevance to Nova Scotia's energy sector.

RESOURCE ASSESSMENT AND ROYALTIES

The department is responsible for the development of policy, legislation, and regulations for the exploration and development of the province's offshore and onshore petroleum resources, which includes the administration of the royalty regulations and agreements. In the onshore, the department administers the granting of petroleum rights and coordinates the regulation of exploration activity. The Canada–Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board regulates day-to-day offshore petroleum activity, while the department promotes Nova Scotia's onshore and offshore petroleum potential.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

The energy sector is marked by intergovernmental responsibilities, especially with respect to management of the offshore area, aboriginal interests, marine environmental issues, research and development, and climate change. The department is responsible for ensuring Nova Scotia's relationships with its government partners and other interested parties are properly managed and co-ordinated in a manner which builds trust and respect.

BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY

The department promotes investment in the energy-related capabilities of Nova Scotia. It provides opportunities for local companies to meet potential joint venture partners and participate in investment missions abroad. The department strives to maximize business opportunities for local suppliers of goods and services and identifies areas of labour demands and possible skill shortages to develop strategic approaches and undertake partnerships in training projects and initiatives.

COMMUNICATIONS - INFORMING NOVA SCOTIANS

Energy use and development are important to all Nova Scotians. Public information programs help create a higher level of public understanding of issues such as climate change, the exploration and development of oil and natural gas, and electricity and renewable energy. Public education initiatives include video, print resources, and training for educators; an extensive Web site offering a library of publications and other energy-related information; and public education working groups to help identify innovative ways to educate Nova Scotians on energy issues.

Acts Administered

See <www.gov.ns.ca/energy/> for a detailed listing.

Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Resources Accord Implementation (Nova Scotia) Act

Energy-efficient Appliances Act

Energy Resources Conservation Act

Gas Distribution Act

Offshore Petroleum Royalty Act

Petroleum Resources Act

Petroleum Resources Removal Permit Act

Pipeline Act

Underground Hydrocarbons Storage Act

Other

Environmental Assessment Regulations

Fuel Safety Regulation (Amendment)

Gas Fitter Trade Regulations

Natural Gas Transmission Pipeline Assessment Regulations