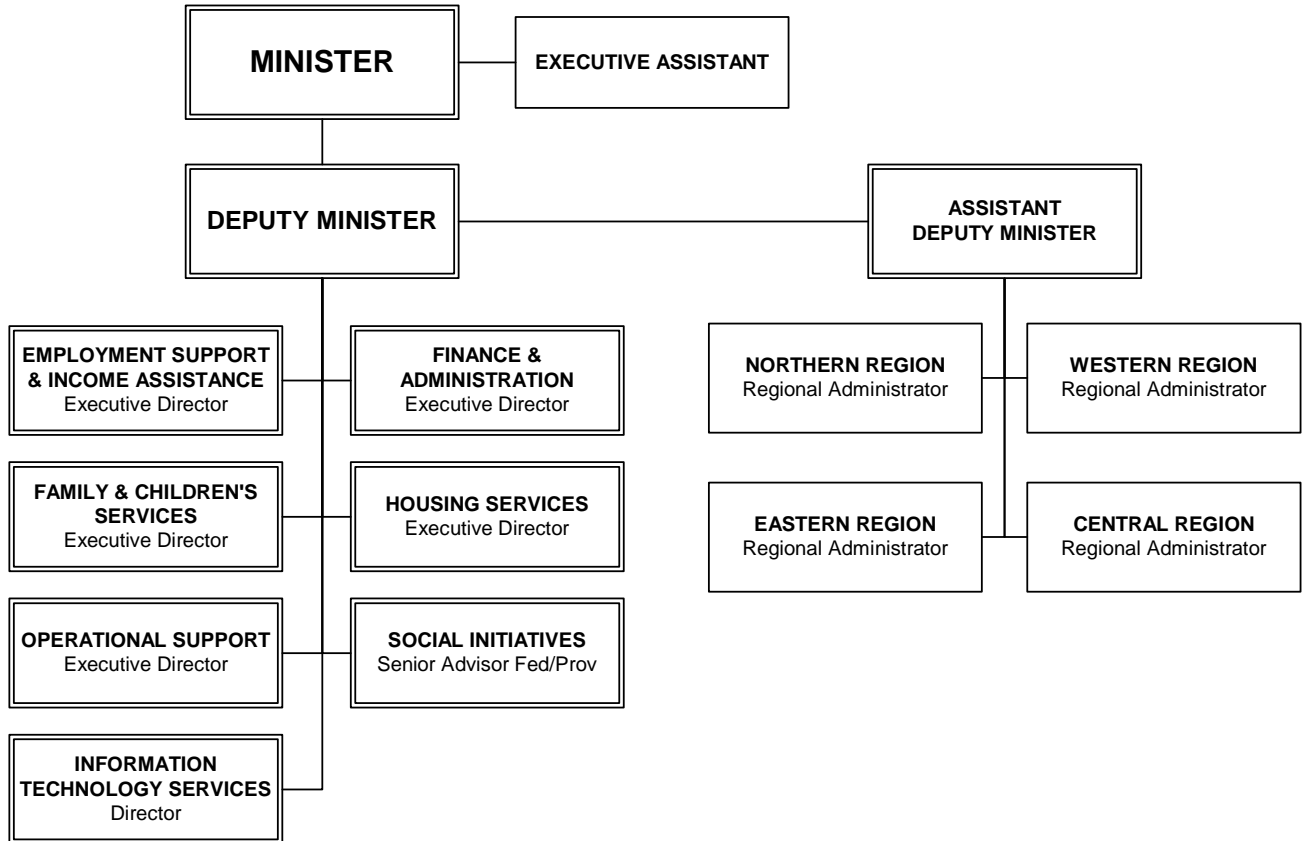


Department of Community Services



Responsibilities

The Department of Community Services is responsible for the delivery of a wide range of social services to Nova Scotians. The four major program areas are Housing Services, Employment Support and Income Assistance, Family and Children’s Services, and Community Support for Adults.

An estimated 10 per cent of Nova Scotians receive services directly from the 1,000 staff of the department located across the province. Many more are served by community agencies.

Services are delivered directly to clients from regional and district offices across the province as well as by children’s aid societies and housing authorities.

HOUSING SERVICES

The division is responsible for provincial housing initiatives, including

- grant and loan program delivery
- social housing operation
- residential land development

Services are provided through four regional offices and seven housing authorities.

EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT AND INCOME ASSISTANCE

The division provides a range of services to persons on social assistance and persons with disabilities. The three sections are

- Employment Support Services
- National Child Benefit
- Income Assistance

FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

The three sections of the Family and Children's Services Division provide a range of services to children, youth, and their families. These services provide community-based, protection, and prevention-oriented supports for both children and families.

They are provided through three sections:

- Child Welfare and Residential Services
- Early Childhood Development Services
- Community Outreach Services

OPERATIONAL SUPPORT DIVISION

This division brings together the department's planning and operational coordination functions to support and coordinate activities in the regions and program divisions:

- Operational Planning
- Policy, Support and Evaluation
- Appeals
- Legal Services
- Project Management Unit
- Emergency Social Services
- Community Supports for Adults

FEDERAL/PROVINCIAL SOCIAL INITIATIVES UNIT

The unit is responsible for negotiating arrangements between the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services and all other levels of government in the area of social services. Arrangements can be with the federal government, other provincial

governments, or aboriginal band councils. Ongoing files include the National Child Benefit, National Children's Agenda, and the Framework Agreement on Social Union.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

This division is responsible for administrative support and financial systems for the Head Office and field offices. The main sections are

- Accounting and Control
- Budgets and Results
- Human Resources
- Records Management
- Administrative Services

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

- Technology Infrastructure
- Business Solutions
- Production Support

REGIONAL OFFICES

Four regional operations deliver the department's programs and support the work of community-based agencies. In each region, district offices report to the Regional Administrator.

- Central Regional Office
- Northern Regional Office
- Eastern Regional Office
- Western Regional Office

Acts Administered

- *Adoption Information Act*
- *Children and Family Services Act*
- *Day Care Act*
- *Disabled Persons Commission Act*
- *Employment Support and Income Assistance Act*
- *Family Benefits Act*
- *Homes for Special Care Act*
- *Housing Act (as of August 1, 2000)*
- *Housing Development Corporation Act (as of August 1, 2000)*
- *Senior Citizens' Financial Aid Act*
- *Social Assistance Act*

