

# Annual Accountability Report



For the fiscal year  
**2005–2006**

Province of Nova Scotia

# Annual Accountability Report



NOVA SCOTIA

For the fiscal year  
**2005–2006**

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# Message from Premier Rodney MacDonald

Nova Scotia is becoming a strong contributor to the global economy, our people are talented citizens of the world, and we are building a prosperous and sustainable future through investments in education, business, and community.

The evidence is in our actions and commitment, and so I am pleased to introduce this Government of Nova Scotia Annual Accountability Report for the Fiscal Year 2005–2006.

In the pages that follow, you will see that in 2005–2006 we worked hard to create the right business climate for local businesses to grow and to welcome international firms establishing new roots. Together, they are creating rewarding jobs that generate increased revenue to pay for quality programs and services across the province.

Nova Scotia has been creating surpluses instead of deficits. We have been paying down our debt and investing in social and economic programs with the interest savings. We have better credit, resulting in a lower cost of borrowing and improved access to capital markets.

My government will continue to focus on careful fiscal, economic, and social policies so that individuals, families, and businesses can prosper and reach their full potential in safety and good health.

We are moving forward and staying true to our values. We are determined to be the greenest, most connected, most innovative, most balanced province in the country—a province that uses all of its advantages to become self-sufficient and to contribute to a stronger Canada.



The Honourable Rodney MacDonald  
Premier of Nova Scotia



# Annual Accountability Report

for the fiscal year 2005–2006

Province of Nova Scotia

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# Introduction

The Government of Nova Scotia's *Annual Accountability Report for the Fiscal Year 2005–2006* outlines the government's activities and achievements during the reporting period April 1, 2005, to March 31, 2006. The information contained in this report is linked to the priorities laid out in the *Government Business Plan* published in April 2005.

In that plan, government promised to continue its commitment to balanced budgets in 2005–2006, and it succeeded, enabling Nova Scotia to continue to free up money to invest in the province's growth. Living within our means is a good way to sustain growth for the future. A strong, stable economy creates the type of business climate that promotes business and attracts investors.

Throughout the year, government invested in strengthening our business climate and in building up the infrastructure that sustains our economy and our people. We are investing in schools, social programs, and healthy lifestyles; in highways, hospitals, and emergency preparedness.

We are boosting our capacity to export and to innovate through research and development and technology.

We are opening our doors to more immigrants, who can help increase the population and contribute to our vision for Nova Scotia of ongoing prosperity and the finest quality of life.

In 2005–2006, government worked toward accomplishing these objectives within the framework set out below. That framework represents the building blocks that are fundamental to the province's social and economic health and well-being:

- Learning Is Succeeding
  - Education
- Healthier Nova Scotians
  - Health and Health Care
- Building Greater Prosperity
  - The Economy
- Protecting What Nova Scotians Value
  - Families and Communities
  - The Environment
- Regulatory Reform
- Consultations and Other Initiatives

# Learning Is Succeeding: Education

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## Priorities for 2005–2006

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Education continued to be a top priority for the government in 2005–2006. Our goal was and is twofold: to help students acquire the knowledge and skills they need to enjoy a rewarding future here in Nova Scotia and to ensure that we retain and train a workforce large enough to produce an exceptional quality of life in this province.

In 2005–2006, the Department of Education continued to build a high-quality education system through our public schools, community colleges, and universities, at a time when Nova Scotia faced growing challenges such as decreasing school enrolments, expected teacher shortages in certain subject areas, and the need to replace outdated technology and equipment.

Some notable achievements during the year included reduced class sizes in the early years, more support for students with special needs, clearer testing to measure progress, and a new approach to professional learning for Nova Scotia teachers. The system is based on

professional learning communities within the context of the school accreditation process and school improvement plans.

The department publicly released its four-year plan Learning for Life II: Brighter Futures Together early in the 2005–2006 fiscal year. The plan builds on the remaining Learning for Life I commitments as well as those outlined in the government's *Blueprint for Building a Better Nova Scotia*.

Also in 2005–2006, the province responded to a review of the school board funding formula, which was designed to ensure that there is an equitable level of funding for all Nova Scotia students and that funding is allocated transparently among boards. The new formula will be fully implemented in 2007–2008.

Initiatives completed in 2005–2006 include a cap on all P–2 classes at 25 students per class, new mathematics learning resources in grades P–12, reading and writing programs for grades 6 and up, more financial support for school libraries, expansion of the Reading Recovery Program to all English grade 1 classes, comprehensive health education programming, and development of a healthy foods policy for schools.



Two other notable achievements during the year were the introduction of the initiative known as O<sub>2</sub>: Options and Opportunities for Student Success and the implementation of the Youth Apprenticeship Initiative.

In the post-secondary sector, the department put several key initiatives in place. These included the continuing expansion of the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC), the signing of new memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with universities and the NSCC for services and programs for people with disabilities and improvements to the student assistance program.

The department also continued to support the development of a skilled and knowledgeable workforce. As lead department for Skills Nova Scotia, the department is implementing initiatives in career development, youth employment and skill development, and workplace training and certification. Also, the Nova Scotia Career Development Initiative ensures that Nova Scotians are better able to access career development programs, services, and resources.

Through these and other priorities in 2005–2006, the Department of Education focused on its core mandate to provide excellence in education and training for personal fulfilment and for a productive, prosperous society.

## P-12 Funding

### **PRIORITY: Higher Standards**

*In 2005–2006 the Department of Education will “raise the bar,” setting and achieving higher learning standards.*  
(Education)

In 2005–2006 the Department of Education focused on higher standards for learning and teaching and for recognizing achievements both in and out of school that contribute to a student’s education. This focus included some of the initiatives noted below.

During the reporting period the department strengthened learning standards through activities in core French, online education in high schools, and additional funding to school boards for advanced course options.

For example, the department increased the number of schools offering grade 6 intensive French, continued an online grade 12 core French course and assisted with funding for school boards to offer Core French 12. The department also worked with school boards to develop new online courses in art and French-language economics and co-operated with community and university partners to create advanced courses in such areas



as advanced physics, chemistry, English, geography, history, and music.

**PRIORITY:  
New School Construction**

*New schools will be ready to welcome students during the 2005–2006 school year, and other school capital projects will be started during the year.*  
(Education)

The department has identified school capital needs through the continued operation of the School Capital Construction Committee, reporting to the government on prioritized capital funding needs. The delivery of school capital projects is ongoing. Three new schools were opened for students in September 2005: Kingswood Elementary School (Hammonds Plains South), Cumberland North Academy, and Spring Street Academy (Amherst Elementary).

Five new school construction projects were started or continued: Barrington Municipal High School, Rankin Iona School, Citadel High School (St. Patrick's/Queen Elizabeth High replacement), Oyster Pond Academy (Robert Jamieson School), and Western HRM High School (Sir John A. MacDonald replacement).

**PRIORITY:  
School Renovations  
or Expansions**

*In addition, 20 schools across the province will be improved or expanded during 2005–2006.*  
(Education)

Additions and alterations to enhance or replace major school buildings, on a priority basis, continued in 2005–2006. Four school renovation/addition projects were completed, and 16 addition/alteration projects were under way and will continue in 2006–2007. The province invested \$24 million under the multi-year program.

**PRIORITY:  
Strengthening Partnerships  
for Student Success:  
Unique Preschool Program**

*The Department of Education will pilot an early childhood education program. Up to 20 sites will be established in areas where access to other educational programs for 4-year-olds is limited and where school space is available to deliver the program.*  
(Education)

Pilots began in September 2005. They are now under way at 19 sites across the province and will continue through 2006–2007. In 2005–2006, the department invested \$750,000 in the preschool



program, which is staffed by two early childhood educators working with each group of up to 18 children. The program is activity-based rather than instructional and is designed to emphasize literacy, mathematics, and socialization skills.

**PRIORITY:**  
**Early Hiring Job Fairs**

*An annual early hiring job fair, involving the Department of Education, all Nova Scotia school boards, the Nova Scotia School Boards Association, the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, and the Nova Scotia Teachers Credit Union, will be held at the four Nova Scotia B.Ed-granting universities.*  
(Education)

Through this process, 32 Nova Scotia B.Ed graduates were hired early by Nova Scotia school boards.

At the request of the boards, the department also coordinated a recruitment process for the 22 graduating students from Dalhousie University's Speech Language Pathology (SLP) program; Nova Scotia school boards hired five SLP graduates through this process.

In addition, the department also coordinated school board attendance at a career fair at the Université de Moncton, to help school boards address their need for French teachers.

**PRIORITY:**  
**Cap on Class Sizes**

*In keeping with its commitments under the Learning for Life initiative to provide more time for teaching and learning, the province will expand its cap of 25 students per class to grade 2 classes and limit combined grade primary/1 classes to 20 students or provide an additional non-teaching adult in the classroom.*  
(Education)

The Department of Education invested more than \$2 million in this initiative in 2005–2006. In September 2005, it capped class sizes at 25 in grade 2 and capped combined grades primary/1 classes at 20 or provided an additional, non-teaching adult in classrooms with 21–25 students.

**PRIORITY:**  
**Standardized Curriculum**

*A standard curriculum for language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science in grade primary, jointly developed by the four Atlantic provinces, will come into play across Nova Scotia in 2005–2006.*  
(Education)

Implementation workshops took place throughout the year for lead teachers in grades primary to 2 and grade 7

social studies and French. Textbooks, curriculum guides, and teacher resources were provided.

**PRIORITY:**  
**Learning Options/Technology**

*Students will benefit from initiatives to improve learning options and make more technology available.*

(Education)

In 2005–2006, the department continued to implement Challenge for Excellence in co-operation with school boards.

Challenge for Excellence provides programming options, tools, and techniques to keep advanced learners intellectually stimulated and motivated. Video guides, background information and other professional resources were provided to lead teams in each school board.

In 2005–2006, the department made Reading Recovery accessible for all students targeted as needing the program, while training teacher leaders for Reading Recovery in French Immersion.

The department also purchased more books and learning resources—expenditures that expanded library collections and improved the ratio of library technician staff to students. The department also provided more teaching resources and textbooks, as part of

initiatives such as the Mathematics Strategy, the Literacy Success Strategy, and French second language programs.

In addition, the department provided resources to improve numeracy skills in grades 4 and 9 and introduced new math resources at the senior high level.

As of 2005–2006, \$1.9 million was targeted to support plans for learners in grades 7 and 8 who are struggling with reading or writing. These students did not meet expectations for achievement in reading and writing in the 2003 and 2004 administrations of the Elementary Literacy Assessment. Targeted funds are used to implement Literacy Support Plans for these students. The department also made learning programs available to prepare students to enter the working world and launched a Student Life/Work Portfolio for grade 7 students.

As part of O<sub>2</sub>: Options and Opportunities for Student Success, all school boards were provided with initial funding totaling \$640,000 to hire a community-based learning consultant and/or to support the new O<sub>2</sub> program and expand community-based learning.

In 2005–2006, development of career-related courses continued with pilots of Geomatics 12, Health and Human Services 12, Multimedia 12, and Tourism 12.



**PRIORITY:**  
**Assessment Tools**

*Students in grades 4 to 10 who have difficulty reading and/or writing English or French will benefit from better assessment tools and programs designed to help them become better learners. (Education)*

The department completed a number of learning resources in 2005–2006:

- Teaching in Action—Grades primary–3 (launched May 2005)
- *Literacy: A Home-School Communications Resource—Grades Primary–6* (distributed to all elementary schools)
- French classroom resources to support the writing program in grades 1 to 3

The department produced literacy kits for resource teachers to support the writing program in grades 8 and 9.

The department also produced *Let's Talk About* pamphlets for parents wanting to know about the grade 4–6 writing program. As part of the Literacy Success Strategy, the department funded 10 literacy mentors, with the goal being to provide targeted funding for 50 mentors.

Teachers in grades 3 to 6 with the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial took professional development opportunities to support teaching and assessment

strategies, while literacy mentors supported teachers in grades 3 to 9 with reading strategies.

**PRIORITY:**  
**Active Readers/Lecteurs actifs**

*The province will provide professional development to more than 100 teachers to support implementation of Active Readers/Lecteurs actifs 7–9 and help students acquire these critical learning skills. (Education)*

The department implemented the Active Readers/Lecteurs actifs program in grades 4 to 6 and in grades 7 to 9.

Implementation included print resources, as well as software programs, professional resources, and professional development for 100 lead teachers.

**PRIORITY:**

**New Funding Formula**

*A new funding formula is being sought for school boards that is fair, transparent and equitable. (Education)*

In April 2004, government engaged Bill Hogg, a former Deputy Minister of Finance, to undertake a study to develop a formula for the allocation of public education funding among school boards. The purpose of the study was to ensure an equitable level of funding to all Nova Scotia students and to develop and administer a formula that allocates funding transparently among boards.

Mr. Hogg conducted extensive consultations with school boards, the department, and interested parties during his review and completed a report in December 2004.

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**Safe, Healthy,  
Equipped Learning  
Environments**

**PRIORITY:**

**Code of Conduct**

*Over the next three years, all schools will adopt a code of conduct using guidelines developed by the province. This year, 100 schools will complete professional development for programming documents and guidelines that support implementation of the code of conduct.*

*(Education)*

Two hundred schools have received training to support implementation of Positive and Effective Behaviour Supports (PEBS), and the School Code of Conduct Guidelines. In addition, the Behaviour Incident Tracking Form pilot began in 11 schools in four school boards in April 2006.



**PRIORITY:**  
**Information Technology**

*In 2005–2006, the province will modernize its technology inventory and continue to refurbish computers for the classroom through technology recycling.* (Education)

The Information Economy Initiative Extension provided 1,502 new computers and accessories. In addition, the Technology Recycling Program provided 4,834 refurbished computers, while schools and school boards purchased more than 1,400 new computers in addition to those provided by the province.

**PRIORITY:**  
**Distance Education**

*Funding for an additional 50 online education seats in small high schools will be introduced, and three new courses will be in development.* (Education)

Funding was provided for 79 students in small high schools to enrol in online courses, as well as to school boards to help with the development of new online courses: Economie 11/12 (Conseil scolaire acadien provincial) and Art 10. The department also assisted with funding to school boards to offer Core French 12.

An online course is taught by a teacher who posts course notes and assignments

and interacts with students through a course website. In some cases, there can be live instruction through an online video feed.

**PRIORITY:**  
**Copyright Legislation**

*The province will encourage the federal government to ensure that amendments to copyright legislation address the needs of students and teachers to access publicly available digital material on the Internet for classroom use.* (Education)

The Department of Education assumed chairmanship of the national Copyright Consortium Steering Committee in June 2004 and in 2005–2006 continued to be involved through the committee in discussions with the federal government on legislative change related to educational use of the Internet in classrooms.

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## Celebrating Our Diversity

### **PRIORITY:** **African Heritage Literature**

*In 2005–2006, the province will offer a range of classes that celebrate Nova Scotia’s diverse cultures and heritage. For example, a curriculum guide and learning resources for the grade 12 African Heritage Literature course will be distributed.* (Education)

African Heritage Literature 12 was implemented in a pilot stage in 2004–2005 and 2005–2006, and additional learning resources reflecting cultural diversity were provided to schools.

Curriculum for this course is currently being modified, and the department is rewriting the curriculum guide to match the curriculum for English 12. The course name will be changed to English 12: African Heritage. Currently, this course is an elective for students. With the change, it will be equivalent to English 12 and will satisfy the requirement in the public school program for a student to take English 12.

### **PRIORITY:** **Implementation of BLAC Report Recommendations**

To further support implementation of the BLAC Report on Education: Redressing Inequity—Empowering Black Learners, the department put several initiatives into place. These included forming a partnership with the Nova Scotia Community College to pilot a transition year program for African Nova Scotian youth, hiring more student support workers, providing community workshops, tutor training sessions, and a customized job training grant, and giving logistical support and services to the Council on African Canadian Education (CACE).

### **PRIORITY:** **Mi’kmaw Culture**

*The province will improve its Mi’kmaw culture program by developing new resources for Mi’kmaw Language 7 and developing a draft curriculum guide for Mi’kmaw Language 9.* (Education)

The department completed the grade 7 Mi’kmaw language guide, which it will circulate in the 2006–2007 school year.

In 2005–2006, the province identified a demonstration site—the East Antigonish Education Centre—where best practices regarding First Nation learners will be studied in 2006–2007.



To increase support further for First Nation learners, the Department of Education in 2005–2006 developed a Home/School Liaison Pilot project at Hants East Rural High School, which will run throughout the 2006–2007 school year.

### **How Do We Rate?**

**PRIORITY:**  
**Provincial Exams and Language Assessments**

*At the senior high school level, provincial examinations will be administered in language arts, science, and mathematics. Assessments of French language training—both as a first and as a second language—will increase.*  
(Education)

Provincial exams were administered in June and January, according to the examination schedule. Work continues on science examinations.

The department prepared study guides in French and English for mathematics exams and distributed them to schools. French first language and French Immersion assessments for math and language arts are in development.

Provincial exams were created to give every student the same opportunity to demonstrate how well they are prepared for any future educational endeavours.

By testing, we are able to identify where things are going well and where more attention or change is needed. We can then invest our resources in areas where teachers and students need them the most.

**PRIORITY:**  
**Physical Activity Levels**

*In 2005–2006, the province will survey students in grades 3, 7, and 11 to gauge their physical activity levels and compare them to a similar survey carried out in 2002.*  
(Health Promotion and Protection)

In 2005–2006, the Department of Health Promotion and Protection and the Department of Education teamed up to conduct a second study on the physical activity of children and youth. The data was collected and analysed in 2005. Results will be reported in 2006 and will be compared to the first study to assess the effectiveness of policies and programs promoting healthy eating and physical activity for children and youth.



**PRIORITY:**  
**Physical Education**

*In 2005–2006, the province will provide additional support to implement physical education programs in grades primary to 9 and develop new programs for grades 10 through 12. (Education)*

A new curriculum for senior high physical education is under way. Its implementation is expected to begin in grade 10 by fall 2007.

The province will continue to emphasize personal health and to encourage students to make healthy life choices.

During the year, the department continued to increase the number of qualified physical education teachers in grades 3 to 6. The five-year goal is to fund an additional 60 qualified, full-time equivalent physical education positions for grades 3 to 9.

The province's first School Health Coordinator was hired in March 2006. The department provided funding support totaling \$512,000 to enable each school board to hire an Active Healthy Living Consultant for the 2005–2006 school year. The consultants will implement health education and physical education programming as well as related initiatives in active healthy living.

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**Learning Beyond  
the Classroom**

**PRIORITY:**  
**Skilled and  
Adaptable Workforce**

*The province will develop strategies to develop a skilled and adaptable workforce. (Education)*

In 2005–2006, the Department of Education continued as the lead for the province's Skills Nova Scotia corporate strategic framework. The department also continued development of a prior learning assessment and recognition (PLAR) initiative, continued to develop the Apprenticeship Workplace Mentoring Initiative, and responded to the need for accurate and up-to-date labour market information (LMI) through a number of initiatives.

A plan was developed to ensure that Nova Scotians are better able to access career development programs, services, and resources needed to succeed in the labour market. The department also enhanced employer engagement in workplace training and certification through a number of initiatives.

Several youth apprenticeship initiatives were introduced to allow youth to experience careers in the skilled trades, build important workplace skills, and



make more-informed career choices. Policies and procedures also have been developed to register and monitor youth apprentices in the apprenticeship training system. The department also worked with partners to increase opportunities for African Nova Scotian youth to utilize the apprenticeship program. Through the Nova Scotia School for Adult Learning, the province will continue to encourage adults who did not complete their schooling during their youth to improve their skills.

The department advanced a number of adult learning and literacy strategies for Nova Scotia, such as consultations on the Adult Learning Program and revising portions of the curriculum. The department also initiated a pilot between Chignecto-Central Regional School Board and the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) for online high school credits for adult learners and began local projects that link adult literacy organizations and seniors. Education also worked with partners to implement a health literacy awareness initiative. To promote the Nova Scotia School for Adult Learning (NSSAL), the department engaged in various promotional events as well.

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## Post-secondary Learning

### **PRIORITY: Nova Scotia Community College**

*Additional funds will be invested to support program and enrolment growth at the Nova Scotia Community College. (Education)*

In 2005–2006, the department worked with the NSCC to increase enrolment and establish protocols to develop new core programs and modify existing ones. New operating funding for the year amounted to \$7 million, and a new Academic Plan will begin in 2007. The department provided support for new program processes, and the Minister of Education approved five proposals for new programs to begin in 2007.

**PRIORITY:**  
**Student Assistance Program**

*Improvements to the Student Assistance Program will include increased loan limits, debt-management measures, targeted grants to students in under-represented groups, and changes to parental contribution requirements.*  
(Education)

Education and training are key drivers of competitiveness. According to the latest report from the World Economic Forum, when governments make education more affordable, they create a skilled and competitive workforce and make their universities a magnet for the best and brightest.

In partnership with the Canada Student Loan Program, Nova Scotia made significant changes in its Student Assistance Program in 2005–2006. It decreased parental contribution rates, improved debt management measures (including improvements to interest relief), and provided new grants to students from low-income families and students with permanent disabilities.

A steering committee is examining future funding and delivery of the program. Options include a direct-lend model through which the province would lend directly to students.

**PRIORITY:**  
**Strengthen Agricultural Education**

*The province, through the Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC) will consider proposals for new degree and other education programs relevant to agriculture and rural society and will continue to revise and update its current B.Sc. (Agr.) and M.Sc. degrees. Research and innovation activities supporting agriculture, food, environment, and related sectors will be emphasized, including expansion of post-graduate training opportunities.*  
(Agriculture and Fisheries)

During the reporting period, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries conducted research for the development of an online distance education model for NSAC. It also conducted reviews of the Bachelor of Science in Agriculture degree program, along with several of its technical diploma programs in consultation with industry, resulting in the introduction of five new Diploma in Enterprise Management programs and a new Veterinary Technology program. A new Bachelor of Technology in Applied Science degree was introduced at NSAC, which works with an Acadia University program to address a provincial shortage



in well-trained technology teachers.

This will in turn encourage high school students to pursue careers in technology and will ultimately support rural and other sectors. Three new bachelor programs and a Ph.D. program were developed for implementation in 2007 or 2008, pending approvals and funding.

Growth of the research program at NSAC continued in this reporting period. A total of \$5.79 million in research grants was received by NSAC faculty, including a first-time grant from the Canadian Institute of Health Research, attesting to the relevance and quality of research programs at NSAC. The construction of a new poultry research facility also began, supported by a competitive grant process involving national, provincial, and industry funding sources.

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## Education: Measuring Our Performance

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### P-12 COMPUTER RATIO

One of the department's core business areas is P-12 education. The P-12 computer ratio is one of the measures for a desired outcome that falls within this core business area.

#### What Does This Measure Tell Us?

There are three measures that can be included for this item. The first reports the ratio of total students to total computers. The second reports the ratio of total students to current computers, where current computers are defined as those with a Pentium III 450 MHz processor (6 GB hard drive, 128 MB RAM) or better. The last measure reports the number of classrooms with three or more current computers.

The Information Economy Initiative (IEI) Extension has provided 1,502 new computers to grade 8 classrooms throughout Nova Scotia. An additional 4,834 computers were provided to schools through the Technology Recycling Program, a private-public partnership that refurbishes used computer equipment for distribution to schools throughout

## Learning Is Succeeding

Nova Scotia. These computers support student learning and achievement in the Nova Scotia Public School Program and help prepare students to function and

compete in today's labour market where technology and communications are so important.

### P-12 Computer Ratio and Number of Classes with Three or More Computers

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Ratio of Total Students to Total Computers	6.2	5.1	4.4	3.8	3.5
Ratio of Total Students to Current Computers	9.3	6.7	5.4	4.4	4.7
Number of Classrooms with Three or More Current Computers	2,066	2,111	2,856	3,136	3,051

Source: Nova Scotia Department of Education, March 31 figures.

### REPORTING ON 2005–2006 TARGETS

Overall, the ratio of students to all computers has continued to improve since the baseline year. More students have access to more computers in our schools. As of March 31, 2006, there were 3.5 students for every computer, and 4.7 students for every computer with Pentium III or better. A total of 3,051 classrooms, or 36 per cent overall, had three or more current computers. The computers are now one year older than last year, and the definition of current computer was revised, with the result that the ratio of students to current computers has changed slightly. The age of the computers also affects the number of classrooms with three or more current computers.

### Where Do We Want to Go/ Be in the Future?

Target ratios vary from 8:1 in grades primary–2 to 2.5:1 in grades 7–12. We need to replace approximately 7,000 older computers per year. Both the IEI and the Technology Recycling Program will help provide computers to our schools.

### NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BLAC REPORT THAT HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED

One of the department's core business areas is P–12 Education. The number of recommendations of the Black Learners Advisory Committee (BLAC) Report on Education that have been implemented is one of the measures for a desired outcome that falls within this core business area.



### What Does This Measure Tell Us?

This measure tracks the number of recommendations that have been implemented to date. Note that it does not indicate which recommendations are more important than others.

The BLAC Report on Education was completed in 1994. The report is intended to assist government in creating an education system that is equitable, accessible, and inclusive for all learners. Recommendations in the report encompass preschool through to post-secondary education, as well as adult education. The Minister's response to the 30 recommendations contained in the report was released in 1995. The department has reviewed the status of the BLAC Report and has developed a strategy for full implementation. Implementation to date has resulted in a number of actions to address the inequalities of education access and outcomes for the African Nova Scotian population.

### **REPORTING ON 2005–2006 TARGETS**

As of 2005–2006, 25 of the 30 recommendations in the BLAC Report have been initiated and/or implemented.

### Where Do We Want to Go/ Be in the Future?

It is expected that by 2007–2008, all of the recommendations will have been initiated and/or implemented.

### **STUDENT ASSISTANCE LEVELS**

One of the department's core business areas is post-secondary education. The maximum level of student assistance available per week of study is one of the measures for a desired outcome that falls within this core business area.

### What Does This Measure Tell Us?

This measure replaces the measures "Average Nova Scotia Student Loan Amount" and "Number of Nova Scotia Student Loans Issued" in order to reflect recent changes to the structure of the Nova Scotia student assistance system.

Increased assistance levels allow students to try to meet the increased cost of post-secondary education. Loan assistance available had not changed for approximately 10 years. As a result, the difference grew between the amount of assistance students need and the amount they can access from our program. Student assistance helps to fill this unmet need in the costs of post-secondary education.

### **REPORTING ON 2005–2006 TARGETS**

In 2005–2006 the maximum amount available increased to \$360 per week of study from \$315 per week. As a result of the increased assistance levels, the Nova Scotia Student Assistance Office issued a total of approximately \$146.4 million in provincial and federal loans, compared

with approximately \$135 million in 2004–2005.

### Where Do We Want to Go/ Be in the Future?

By working to lower costs (such as tuition) while improving assistance levels, the department's goal is to make post-secondary education more affordable and more accessible to more Nova Scotians.

## **NOVA SCOTIA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE PERFORMANCE**

### What Does This Measure Tell Us?

There are four key indicators of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College's performance presented in this measure, namely: enrolment, international students, graduates employed in their field of study or pursuing further education within one year of graduation, and value of research and infrastructure grants. These indicators serve as a reflection of the quality of academic programming at the college. An increasing enrolment base at NSAC indicates a level of confidence in the quality of academic programming at the university. The objective of an international program is to share the knowledge and expertise in agriculture and environmental science education with other countries and to expose Canadian students to international business and culture through international exchange. This better equips students to work in a global environment, benefiting

Nova Scotia's agriculture industries as a result. A high percentage of graduates employed in their field of study or pursuing further education within one year of graduation reflects the quality of the academic programming at NSAC. Finally, the ability to generate new knowledge through research is vital for the growth of the province's agriculture sector. The funding received by NSAC researchers contributes to the development of a highly skilled, competitive workforce, thereby supporting innovation and growth in agriculture.

### Where Are We Now?

Total enrolment at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in 2005–2006 was 758. Of this number, 26 were international students. This marks a slight increase in overall enrolment from the previous year, when 753 students were enrolled at NSAC. However, the number of international students decreased by one. As of November 30, 2005, 90 per cent of graduates were employed in their field of study or pursuing further education within one year of graduation. This number is slightly below the target of 94 per cent. However, it matches the rate from the previous year. In addition, as of November 30, 2005, research grants at NSAC totalled \$5.79 million. The university recently received two Atlantic Innovation Fund grants worth up to \$3.9 million. This \$5.79 million in total



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funding is down slightly from \$6.5 million in the previous year.

### Where Do We Want To Be?

NSAC has set a target enrolment of 820 students by 2007–2008, with 57 international students enrolled. With regard to the percentage of graduates employed in their field or pursuing further education within one year of graduation, initial targets were to see this percentage rise to 95 per cent by 2007–2008.

However, as of last year, NSAC has discontinued tracking data pertaining to this measure due to problems with survey methodology and reliability of the data. The target value of research grants awarded to NSAC researchers is \$6.1 million by 2006–2007 and \$6.5 million by 2007–2008.



# ***Healthier Nova Scotians:*** **Health and Health Care**

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## **Priorities for 2005–2006**

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Government continues to make investments to help Nova Scotians enjoy access to quality health care. The Department of Health continues to have the largest budget in government, with a rate of growth that also is higher than in other departments. The province is taking action to help more people get and stay healthy, to improve our citizens' health and welfare overall, and to reduce the financial strains on the health-care system.

In February 2006, the government announced a new and free-standing Department of Health Promotion and Protection to consolidate the activities of Nova Scotia Health Promotion with the Department of Health's Public Health Branch and the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health. The creation of the new department provides a strong foundation for the development and implementation of an integrated public health system that emphasizes both the promotion and the protection of Nova Scotians' health and well-being.

Throughout 2005–2006, the government made improvements in continuing care, wait times measurement, and access to care and made real progress toward achieving a fully electronic health records management system.

The Department of Health consulted with over 1,400 Nova Scotians to collect their ideas and better understand the needs for long-term care and home care, both now and in the future. The work formed the foundation for a 10-year plan for the expansion and improvement of these services.

The year 2005–2006 saw the culmination of two years of planning, investment, and implementation of primary health-care initiatives, with the help of federal funding.

One initiative was the continuation of coordinator positions within the district health authorities (DHAs) to plan and implement community projects. Another was the development and expansion of new information management systems for providers and patients.

During the year, Nova Scotia became the first jurisdiction in Canada to establish a province-wide digital network for diagnostic images such as X-rays and CT scans, with the completion of the Picture



Archiving and Communications System (PACS). The province also implemented the Nova Scotia Hospital Information System in 34 hospitals across the province, in co-operation with the district health authorities.

In October 2005, Nova Scotia became one of the first provinces in Canada to launch a wait-times website. The site provides patients and their families with important information on treatment and services that can help them make important decisions on where to access health-care services.

In December 2005, Nova Scotia participated with other provinces and territories in the announcement of evidence-based wait-time benchmarks, another important milestone on the journey to improve access to care. These advances, together with investments in equipment and services—such as four new magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) units—are helping to ensure that Nova Scotians get access to appropriate care sooner.

**PRIORITY:**  
**Health System Challenges:**  
**Multi-year funding**

*In 2005–2006, the province will honour its multi-year funding commitment for hospitals and other services provided by the district health authorities (DHAs). (Health)*

The Department of Health increased the operating budgets of the DHAs for 2005–2006 by \$102 million over 2004–2005, including \$46 million for labour costs. Once again, in 2005–2006, the DHAs received an increase of 7 per cent for their non-wage expenses, in the amount of \$25 million. This allows health-care providers to better plan for cost increases. It directly affects patient care by enabling the DHAs to operate the hospitals, clinics, and services that Nova Scotians need in order to get high-quality health care and shorter wait times for many tests and treatments.

**PRIORITY:**

**Recruiting Health Providers:  
Doctors**

*The province will support an increase in the number of medical school seats at Dalhousie University to maintain funding for a class size of 90 medical students. (Health)*

In 2005–2006, the Department of Health continued to fund eight additional seats in the undergraduate medical program at Dalhousie University. Each class, beginning with the 2003–2004 undergraduate medical class, has contained an additional eight seats, for a total enrolment of 90 students in each of these classes. This increase in the number of positions in undergraduate medicine at Dalhousie is intended to increase the supply of locally trained physicians in Nova Scotia for the coming years.

**PRIORITY:**

**Recruiting Health Providers:  
Nurses**

*Under the province's Nursing Strategy, the Department of Health will hire approximately 80 per cent of Nova Scotia's roughly 200 nursing school graduates. (Health)*

Nova Scotia has been successful in retaining over 80 per cent of its new graduates, the majority of whom have found full-time employment.

**PRIORITY:**

**Recruiting Health Providers:  
Supporting New Medical Teams**

*The province will invest \$650,000 in the formation of community-based, collaborative teams of health-care providers, which are considered key to the renewal of primary health care. (Health)*

District health authorities continue their commitment to developing innovative primary care initiatives, including the recent relocation of the Duffus Health Centre in Halifax to accommodate an expanded team and services. The centre is the former Duffus Street medical practice, expanded on the basis of an enhanced model of service delivery that includes health promotion and chronic disease-



management activities through an interdisciplinary team.

In addition, physician remuneration through an alternative payment plan (APP) and electronic patient record system have been implemented. Together, these initiatives will result in improved and increased access to primary health care.

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## An Ounce of Prevention ...

### **PRIORITY:**

#### **Acute Care Health Facilities: New MRI Units**

*Using special funding made available for diagnostic equipment under the First Ministers' Health Accords, health facilities will see improvements in 2005–2006. The province will add new magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) units in Antigonish, Kentville, New Glasgow, and Yarmouth, which will begin operation in 2006–2007.* (Health)

Six new MRI units were purchased—one for each of the new sites and two replacement units for the Capital District Health Authority.

The new equipment will bring this service closer to home for residents in more rural

areas of the province. The new MRIs respond to a commitment by the first ministers to improve patient access to this diagnostic imaging.

During the reporting period, individual DHAs achieved progress in construction/renovation activity, recruiting, and training MRI technologists, and raising community funding.

In the meantime, the provincial project management committee that developed the RFP and evaluation process also began examining policy issues related to physician referral and patient access.

### **PRIORITY:**

#### **New Acute Care Patient Beds**

*The province will fund 21 new medical and surgical in-patient beds in Kentville.* (Health)

The Annapolis Valley DHA developed architectural designs for the expansion of the Valley Regional Hospital during the reporting period. Twenty-one new acute care beds will be operational upon completion of the project, which is expected early in 2007. The hospital expansion will help correct a space shortage in the district, particularly the need for more beds and an expanded emergency room. The new beds and added space will reduce the number of patients occupying emergency room beds while awaiting admission to a hospital unit for ongoing acute medical care.

**PRIORITY:**

**Restorative Care Beds**

*Fifty more restorative care beds will be added across the province. (Health)*

Some progress has been made toward bringing the 50 restorative care beds and related services closer to those they serve. The Department of Health has been working with the district health authorities to decide the placement of the beds, which will be spread out over a number of different locations. Final decisions are expected during the 2006–2007 fiscal year.

**PRIORITY:**

**Newborns and Hearing**

*Newborns will benefit from universal hearing screening, which will begin in 2005–2006. (Health)*

The Sound Start program provided \$275,000 in 2005–2006 for universal access to hearing screening for newborns across the province. In addition, the funding contributed to shorter wait times for reviewing preschoolers' speech, language, and literacy skills. The program identifies hearing disorders early to enhance the effectiveness of treatment.

**PRIORITY:**

**Early Behaviour Intervention**

*A \$4-million early intensive behaviour intervention program will help more than 300 families whose children are diagnosed as autistic. (Health)*

Five DHAs and the IWK Health Centre implemented the Early Intensive Behavioural Intervention Program (EIBI) in 2005–2006. As EIBI treatment teams are trained in the remainder of the province, increasing numbers of children and families will receive treatment. The second component of the treatment model was introduced to clinical teams, partners, stakeholders, and families in March 2006. Advanced training will be provided in 2006–2007.

Before the implementation of EIBI, no publicly funded treatment program was available for children with autism. Evidence from the research suggests that providing treatment at an early age produces the most promising results.



**PRIORITY:  
Children with Disabilities**

*This fiscal year, an expanded program at the IWK Health Centre will provide more physical rehabilitation services to children with disabilities.* (Health)

In 2005–2006, the province implemented an expanded second phase of its program known as Physical Rehabilitation for Children with Disabilities. The provincial plan, led by the IWK, began in 2004. The program enables the IWK to partner with district health authorities to help provide follow-up services and care for children with disabilities closer to home.

**PRIORITY:  
Breakfast Programs**

*The province will increase its funding for breakfast programs in schools.* (Health Promotion and Protection)

During the reporting period, the Department of Health Promotion and Protection committed \$750,000 to enhance and expand breakfast programs for elementary school-aged children in Nova Scotia.

HPP provided a grant to the Breakfast For Learning Program (BFL), a national organization with provincial councils. BFL hired a registered dietitian to support

development of the Provincial Breakfast Program's framework and implementation.

HPP distributed funding to school boards for better breakfast programs. Schools with children in grades primary–6 were eligible to apply directly to their school boards for the Provincial Breakfast Program. Grants were distributed based on participation rates and levels of readiness to engage BFL's best practice standards.

HPP also supported the Provincial Breakfast Program initiative through workshops and training with school boards.

**PRIORITY:  
Healthy Foods in Schools**

*Healthy Foods in Schools programs will see more healthy snacks and meals added to the menu.* (Health Promotion and Protection; Education)

The province is helping schools switch to healthier food options in cafeterias, canteens, and vending machines.

The provincial Food and Nutrition Policy is the result of broad public feedback, extensive research, and stakeholder collaboration throughout 2004, 2005, and 2006.

The policy covers all grades and all aspects of food in the schools: foods offered at school cafeterias, canteens,

or vending machines, the kinds of foods that are offered through fundraising, the best portion sizes, making time for students to eat, nutrition education, identifying who is vulnerable to poor nutrition, etc.

The Department of Education led the policy work, supported by its many partners: HPP, the Department of Agriculture, the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, the Nova Scotia School Boards Association, individual schools boards, the Nova Scotia Federation of Home and School Associations, and other key stakeholders.

In addition to public consultations on the policy framework, focus groups were held in each of the eight provincial school boards, along with sessions for students and members of the food industry. Over 1,000 responses were received from students, parents, educators, school boards, health professionals, the food industry, and the public at large. This feedback formed part of the final recommendations for the policy and the implementation schedule that was presented to the Minister of Education and the Minister responsible for Health Promotion and Protection in March 2006.

**PRIORITY:**  
**Healthy Eating and  
Physical Activity**

*The province will provide grants to school boards and district health authorities to promote healthy eating and physical activity for young Nova Scotians. (Health Promotion and Protection)*

Health Promotion and Protection provided \$500,000 to partnerships of school boards and DHAs to implement the provincial Health Promoting Schools program, which has healthy eating and physical activity as its initial focus.

All school boards received the funding, including the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial and the Mi'kmaw school board.

The Nova Scotia Food Security Project at Mount Saint Vincent University received \$40,000 to work on food security initiatives in the province.

Recognizing the importance of local action, grants totalling \$180,000 went to the district health authorities to support local implementation of Healthy Eating Nova Scotia.

A grant in the amount of \$400,000 was awarded to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Nova Scotia and the Canadian Cancer Society, Nova Scotia Division, to support the fruit and



## Annual Accountability

vegetables priority of Healthy Eating Nova Scotia. Key stakeholders were consulted to identify the best ways to reach the goal of increasing the availability of fruits and vegetables and their consumption, as well as how best to improve access to these healthy foods for low-income Nova Scotians.

District health authorities also received financial support from the government to sustain healthy eating initiatives such as breastfeeding. Grants totalling \$55,000 were provided to the DHAs for initiatives specific to breastfeeding and the Baby Friendly Initiative (BFI). The funding was used by DHAs to support local breastfeeding efforts in acute care, public health, and community organizations.

**PRIORITY:**  
**Public Health Nutritionist**

*With help from the province, each district health authority will have an additional public health nutritionist, who will help implement the Healthy Eating Nova Scotia Strategy in the public school system.*

(Health Promotion and Protection)

Each of the nine district health authorities hired an additional public health nutritionist as a result of an investment from HPP of \$360,000 in 2005–2006. This investment increased the public health

nutrition capacity at the local level and supported the implementation of all four priority areas of the Healthy Eating Nova Scotia strategy.

**PRIORITY:**  
**Wait Times for Breast Screening**

*The Nova Scotia Breast Screening Program and the district health authorities will collaborate this year on lowering wait times for both screening and diagnostic testing, providing a more accurate picture of screening rates across the province.*  
(Health)

Ultimately, this project will improve mammography services for patients. The project will examine and plan for the implementation of full-field digital mammography across Nova Scotia over the next five to seven years. As a result, wait times for both screening and diagnostic testing will drop, and we will have more accurate information about screening rates in the province.

The decision to move to digital mammography equipment for both fixed and mobile sites in the province was taken as the result of a provincial review conducted in 2005–2006 in order to develop a province-wide plan for the future.



A vendor for the equipment was selected in the fall of 2005, and the first digital unit was purchased for the Cape Breton DHA mobile van.

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## **New Initiatives in Health Care**

### **PRIORITY: New Mental Health Act**

*The province hopes to see the new Mental Health Act become law in 2005–2006. (Health)*

Bill 203 (formerly Bill 109), the Involuntary Psychiatric Treatment Act, passed third reading in October 2005 and received royal assent on December 8, 2005. As required by the regulations of the bill, a request for proposals was issued in March 2006 to obtain a Patient Rights Advisor Service. Development of regulations and education sessions began in 2005–2006 and will continue into 2006–2007, in preparation for proclamation of the bill.

This legislation will ensure that patients who are declared incompetent will receive mental health services as required and will have access to a rights advisor.

### **PRIORITY: Income-Based Drug Coverage for Diabetics**

*During 2005–2006, an income-based program will be designed for families with low incomes and no prescription drug coverage. (Health)*

This program was implemented on January 1, 2006, and to date, more than 1,600 families have been enrolled. The program was initially conducted manually, but has been quickly automated to allow direct billing to the program. In Nova Scotia, almost 6 per cent of the population has diabetes, making Nova Scotia the province with the second-highest incidence of diabetes in Canada.

The new funding will cover insulin, oral diabetic drugs, glucose test strips, syringes, needles, and lancets.

Eligibility is based on family income and size. The program targets families with low incomes and no prescription coverage for the drugs and supplies needed to prevent or delay the onset of complications from the disease.

Left untreated, diabetes can lead to complications such as heart disease, kidney failure, blindness, and amputation.



**PRIORITY:  
Dialysis Capacity**

*The province will continue to develop a long-term management strategy for dialysis. (Health)*

The provincial dialysis group has identified four priorities: infrastructure, satellite dialysis programming, peritoneal dialysis, and risk modification.

An external review of satellite dialysis recommended an enhanced satellite dialysis case model, which will be piloted in the new satellite location in Antigonish by December 2006.

**PRIORITY:  
Pain Management Services**

*Because of a growing wait list for chronic pain management services, the province will expand the services. (Health)*

An action plan has been approved, a coordinator has been hired to implement the plan, and a provincial implementation committee is in place to ensure an open and transparent process as the services are expanded.

Expanding pain management services will increase access and reduce wait times by enabling people with chronic pain to access services closer to home.

**PRIORITY:  
Strokes and  
Treatment Outcomes**

*In 2005–2006, the province will pilot a comprehensive program involving stroke prevention, emergency services, acute care and rehabilitation. (Health)*

A stroke program has been implemented in the South West Nova DHA under the guidance of a local steering committee, and lessons learned will be shared with other DHAs.

The program includes a secondary stroke prevention clinic, a stroke team, clustering of stroke patients within the medical unit, professional education based on a needs assessment, and a public awareness campaign on the warning signs of stroke. A stroke physician consultant oversees the program, along with the stroke care coordinator.

Provincial guidelines for acute stroke care have been drafted and circulated throughout the province for feedback. A provincial stroke audit is under way to learn more about the status of stroke care in Nova Scotia and to provide baseline data for Cardiovascular Health Nova Scotia.

A professional education partnership with the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Nova Scotia and the Atlantic Health Promotion Research Centre is also under way to

conduct a needs assessment of health professionals and an interventions plan.

**PRIORITY:**  
**Continuing Care:**  
**Health Care Costs**

*Fiscal 2005–2006 will be the first full year of operation for the \$31-million cost-of-care initiative announced in the 2004–2005 budget. Under this initiative, the province pays the full cost of health-care services for seniors residing in nursing homes. (Health)*

On January 1, 2005, the government began covering the health-care costs of residents of long-term care facilities under the mandate of the Department of Health. Long-term care policy changes were evaluated by an external consultant, who found the outcomes of the changes to be generally as intended. The majority of residents and families indicated that they were better off than before and that the process of financial assessment was less intrusive than it had been.

**PRIORITY:**  
**Palliative Care**

*Responding to a long-standing service gap in palliative care services in the Yarmouth area, the province will provide funding in 2005–2006 to add a coordinator and support the development of an interdisciplinary palliative care team. (Health)*

In 2005–2006, the Department of Health provided funding to the South West Nova District Health Authority to add a palliative care coordinator and to support the development of an interdisciplinary palliative care team. The approach will be consistent with the work of the Provincial Hospice Palliative Care Project and will serve people living with a life-threatening illness or grieving the loss of a loved one.



## Beyond the Hospital

**PRIORITY:**  
**Prescription Monitoring Program**

*A new prescription monitoring program will replace the old and inefficient manual tracking system with up-to-date technology and faster data collection. (Health)*

The computerized information system became operational in June 2005, and the first pharmacies went online in November 2005. This system provides real-time data, instant messaging, management of the triplicate prescription pads, maintenance of a provider registry, and refined data analysis. Analysis includes profiles of patients, prescribers, prescribing patterns, and specific drugs.

**PRIORITY:**  
**Gaming Strategy**

*Nova Scotia's gaming strategy will focus on the treatment and prevention of problem gambling. (Health Promotion and Protection; Nova Scotia Gaming Corporation; Health)*

Announced in April 2005, A Better Balance: Nova Scotia's First Gaming Strategy is a comprehensive five-year plan that focuses on the treatment and prevention of problem gambling.

The strategy includes seven initiatives led by HPP and a \$3-million investment for more treatment resources.

Among the projects conducted in 2005–2006 were two ad campaigns directing at-risk gamblers to the Problem Gambling Help Line (PGHL). Calls to the PGHL increased 50 per cent over 2004 levels.

District health authorities also received \$1.4 million from HPP to improve prevention and treatment of problem gambling.

**PRIORITY:**  
**Provincial Alcohol Strategy**

*The province is developing a strategy to reduce the number of drinkers in Nova Scotia who abuse alcohol and will fund five program coordinators as well as resources at the level of the district health authorities. (Health Promotion and Protection)*

HPP provided funding to the district health authorities in 2005–2006 to help address alcohol issues specific to their districts and to hire five alcohol specialists across the districts.

HPP continues to work in partnership with Addiction Services in all districts of the province to develop the basis for a provincial alcohol strategy. In 2005–2006,

HPP, in conjunction with the Alcohol Task Group, released two foundational documents: *The Alcohol Indicators Report for Nova Scotia* and *The Cost of Substance Abuse in Canada 2002*.

*The Alcohol Indicators Report* provides a framework for a provincial monitoring system for alcohol use and related harms. It contains the critical evidentiary component for a provincial strategy.

*The Cost of Substance Abuse* provides information on the scope and burden of alcohol abuse. Here alcohol abuse is defined as alcohol use that results in illness and death.

During the reporting period, HPP also completed research into the patterns and context of alcohol use among young adults (19–29).

**PRIORITY:  
Youth Health Centres**

*Investments will be made to establish more teen health centres across the province over the next five years.*  
(Health Promotion and Protection)

In 2004, the Public Health Division, then in the Department of Health, completed the first system-wide standards in Canada that are specifically related to youth health centres. In 2005–2006, Public Health, HPP, in partnership with youth, educators, departments of health, school

board representatives, youth health centres, and other youth-servicing organizations, developed a companion document to the standards, entitled *Guidelines for Youth Health Centres: Developing and Maintaining Partnerships; Orientation and Continuing Education; Policies and Procedures for Services; and Informed Consent and Privacy*. The guidelines are intended to further help youth health centres reach the system-wide standards already established for youth health centres in Nova Scotia.

**PRIORITY:  
Emergency Preparedness  
and Response:  
Emergency Health Services**

*A comprehensive “all-hazards” strategy will bring together all levels of the health sector to address threats such as infectious disease or the threat of terrorism and natural or other disasters.* (Health)

Over and above helping Nova Scotians address more commonplace health-care needs, the province is preparing for a major emergency, should one occur.

In March 2006, the Department of Health established the Preparedness, Planning and Equipment Resource Working Group (PP&ERWG). Emergency Health Services is responsible for the health emergency model that is approved within the



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department. The PP&ERWG is one of the working groups within the model. Membership in this working group comes from almost every branch of the Department of Health, as well as representatives from the DHAs, municipal and provincial emergency management offices, the Department of Community Services and others such as the RCMP. The PP&ERWG created two sub-groups: Contingency Planning and Physical Resources. The Contingency Planning sub-group began work on educating its membership on the assorted contingency plans that will be required for a health-care sector response. The Physical Resources sub-group began building a stockpile of personal protective equipment for use in the event of a pandemic, and designed a warehousing proposal for these items. This is the surge inventory that will be required by the DHAs.

All work done by the PP&ERWG and its sub-groups is directed toward ensuring that there will be an adequate health-care sector response for the population of Nova Scotia during any emergency, by having appropriate contingency plans in place and adequate resources for use by the health-care sector.

The departments also established the Critical Issues Communications Working Group (CICWG). Its goals are to instill and maintain public confidence in the public health system, especially its ability to

respond to and manage the appearance of pandemic influenza. The working group also aims to provide accurate, rapid and complete information before, during and after an outbreak and the general health risk it poses.

The Working Group is increasing awareness of pandemic influenza and ensuring appropriate planning in the event of an outbreak.

The Health System Emergency Planners Working Group (HSEPWG) has been created to enhance Nova Scotia's emergency preparedness and response capacity across the health sector. Essential to improvement were self-evaluations and review of the states of preparedness of the DHAs in 2004 and 2005.

This working group also has outlined the accessibility protocol for medical care for individuals in emergency shelters, and has been delivering training to the health emergency planning community. The group has also begun the very important work of developing a mutual aid agreement for the sharing of resources in emergency situations, designing an emergency exercise, and developing standards. All of these tasks have enhanced relationships and lines of communication among health emergency planners throughout the province.

**PRIORITY:  
Emergency Preparedness  
and Response:  
Pandemic Influenza**

*Our comprehensive “all-hazards” strategy would bring together all levels of the health sector to address infectious disease threats such as SARS, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (the human form of bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or BSE), West Nile virus, and influenza, as well as the threats of terrorism and other natural and unnatural disasters.*  
(Health Promotion and Protection)

Extensive pandemic influenza preparedness work has been done by the Office of Health Promotion and Protection, providing the foundation on which to continue development of a coordinated operational plan.

The Department of Health and HPP are jointly sponsoring the Pandemic Health Services Influenza Planning Project. It emphasizes system-wide planning as well as integration and development of consistent, informed communication among stakeholders. A pandemic influenza project management office has been created to facilitate this work.

**PRIORITY:  
Emergency Preparedness  
and Response: Public Safety**

*The province will increase its Emergency Management Office funding allocation to ensure that Nova Scotia has the capacity to carry out its emergency preparedness and public safety protection plans.*  
(Emergency Management Office)

In 2005–2006, the province earmarked \$57,000 for Joint Emergency Operations Centre upgrades, including multimedia systems, modular cubicles and related equipment. These upgrades will help take EMO into the 21st century by supporting the E-team disaster management information system. This means decision makers will have up-to-the-minute access to critical information, a crucial step to ensure public safety.

Additionally, staffing levels within the Emergency Management Office have been enhanced by the addition of a critical infrastructure planner, a federal/provincial liaison officer and an emergency management training officer. These positions directly support the delivery of emergency management programs throughout the province.



**PRIORITY:**  
**Food Safety**

*To make Nova Scotia's food-processing industry safer and healthier the province will review its livestock health regulations to meet new food safety responsibilities developed with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. (Agriculture)*

The department began working with industry and government partners on implementation of new federal regulations designed to strengthen security of meat production by removing Specified Risk Materials from the food chain.

In addition, full implementation of the Food Safety provisions of the provincial Health Protection Act is expected by the end of the 2007–2008 fiscal year. These regulations make food hygiene training mandatory for food handlers, and provide increased powers for food inspectors.

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## Measuring Our Performance: Health

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**Percentage of Senior Nova Scotians (65 years and older) Who Received a Flu Shot in the Past Year**

One of HPP's core business areas is Health Protection and Public Health. One measure for health protection and public health is the percentage of senior Nova Scotians who received a flu shot in the past year.

This measure was originally provided in the 2005–2006 Department of Health Business Plan, however, the measure moved to the 2005–2006 Health Promotion and Protection Accountability Report with the creation of the new department.

### What Does the Measure Tell Us?

Vaccination coverage is measured by calculating the percentage of people (age 65 years and older) who reported having their last flu shot during the past year. By increasing the number of people who receive flu shots, we can decrease the burden of illness on vulnerable populations, such as the elderly, and reduce the strain on the health system at the same time.



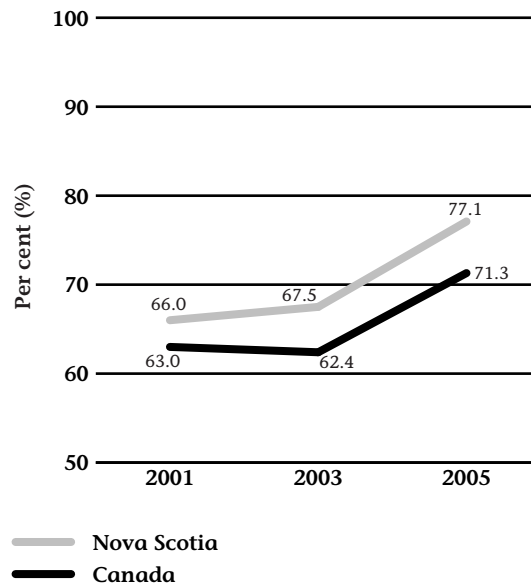
### Where Are We Now?

Using the CCHS, in 2005, 77 per cent of the Nova Scotian population over 65 years of age reported having had a flu shot in the last year, as compared with the national rate of 71 per cent. This shows an improvement since 2001, when 66 per cent of Nova Scotians reported receiving flu shots. Decreases in the hospitalization of people with influenza and pneumonia may also reflect the success of immunization programs and aggressive public awareness campaigns.

### Where Do We Want to Be in the Future?

Vaccination coverage is important in promoting and maintaining public health and preventing the spread of infectious disease. By 2005–2006, the province aimed to increase the percentage of senior citizens receiving a flu shot to 80 per cent. National targets are currently being developed through the National Immunization Strategy and it is expected that provincial deputy ministers will endorse these new targets.

**Percentage of Senior Nova Scotians (65+) — Received Flu Shot**



Source: National Population Health Survey and Canadian Community Health Survey, Statistics Canada.



## **Decreasing Number of Seniors Hospitalized for Pneumonia/Flu**

One of HPP's core business areas is health protection and public health. One measure for health protection and public health is the percentage of senior Nova Scotians hospitalized for pneumonia and influenza.

This measure was originally provided in the 2005–2006 Department of Health Business Plan. It was moved to the 2005–2006 Health Promotion and Protection Accountability Report with the creation of the new department.

### **What Does the Measure Tell Us?**

Calculating the age standardized rate of people aged 65 years or older who are hospitalized for pneumonia and influenza can help to assess the success of programs, such as vaccination, to prevent illness altogether or contain its severity and permit management outside of hospital.

### **Changes to Measures**

On April 1, 2001, the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) began to phase in the ICD-10-CA classification system for capturing information on hospital patients as well as new Coding Standards. This system replaced the previous ICD-9-CM classification. Data collected prior to 2000-01 are no longer comparable to data collected following

this date. This necessitated creating a new Nova Scotia baseline of 2001–2002. Comparable provincial and national data are not available after April 1, 2006 because of the change of classification systems and the inconsistent use of new coding standards.

### **Where Are We Now?**

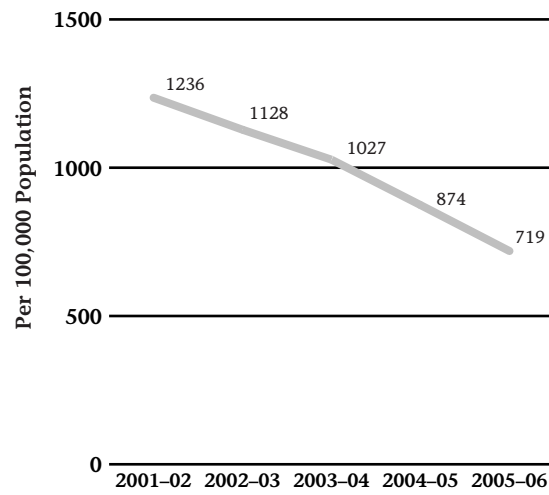
During the year 2005–2006, 719 people per 100,000 population aged 65 years or older were hospitalized for pneumonia and influenza. This shows a significant decrease since 2001–2002 when 1,236 people were hospitalized.

### **Where Do We Want to Be in the Future?**

The department's target was to reduce the number of hospitalizations for pneumonia and influenza to levels consistent with or below the Canadian average of 1998–1999. However, changes in classification system and reporting standards make comparisons challenging between provinces and with the national rate. Further, because there is a lag in the release of data by the Canadian Institute for Health Information, the availability of comparable data is still to be determined. HPP will re-evaluate the use of this indicator in future reports.

HPP will continue to work towards increased vaccination coverage of the population aged 65 years or older.

***Hospitalization of Senior  
Nova Scotians (65+):  
Pneumonia and Flu***



Source: Department of Health.

# Building Greater Prosperity: The Economy

## Priorities for 2005–2006

The 2005–2006 *Government of Nova Scotia Business Plan* stated that “Our commitment to Nova Scotians begins with fiscal responsibility. This spring, the province will introduce its fourth consecutive balanced budget.”

In 2005–2006, the budget was balanced for the fourth year in a row. The document tabled on April 26, 2005, projected a surplus of \$63.3 million and delivered an actual surplus of \$228.1 million, which was entirely applied to the provincial debt.

Higher-than-expected surpluses over the years since 2001–2002—the province’s last deficit year-end—have allowed us to apply money against the net direct debt.

The 2005–2006 budget included \$61.1 million allocated to the debt to fulfil the requirements of the provincial debt reduction plan. This included a \$4.0-million debt retirement contingency and \$57.1 million in deferred revenue from the Offshore Offset Agreement, in keeping with the government’s

commitment that all monies from the Offshore Agreement with the federal government would be applied to the debt.

On June 30, 2005, the province received \$830 million from the Parliament of Canada for the Offshore Offset Agreement. This cash payment was used in its entirety to pay down provincial debt.

The Offshore Agreement frees up more than \$50 million a year for improvements to education, health care, and social programs—money that used to go to our lenders as interest payments. Our commitment to fiscal responsibility is a major part of our competitive advantage as a province and has important social ramifications as well.

In 2005–2006, three of our major lenders upgraded our credit rating to A, A1, and A+, citing the same reason in various ways—the province’s continued progress in debt reduction, ongoing fiscal prudence, and a disciplined fiscal plan.

In the same way that we are closing the gap on debt, we are closing the gap between employment and unemployment. In 2006 in Nova Scotia, the unemployment rate stood at 8.1 per cent, well below the double digits of just a few decades ago.



## Annual Accountability

Nova Scotia Business Inc.'s clients posted a record year, for example, with up to 5,000 jobs expected to be created and maintained over the next five years.

As this section of the report notes, innovation and research and development are part of the reason we are growing, and that is why we decided to keep investing in innovation in 2005 and beyond.

The Nova Scotia of today is home to more than 1,400 information and communication technology companies, and we have a widely deployed and reliable digital broadband network.

More than 500 firms in the province offer products and services related to the environmental industry, and we are home to more than 2,300 researchers in the life sciences. We have leading universities and one of the few brain repair centres in the world.

We are providing the global research community with technology to observe the state of our oceans. We are developing and exporting finger-touch technology to electronically transfer patient information from the scene of an emergency to clinical specialists. We are designing and building components for satellites, jet airliners, and submarines.

At the same time, we are combining innovative new approaches to older industries, helping to preserve the balance

between past, present, and future. For example, we are home to North America's largest privately owned marine research and development facility, the world's largest supplier of Omega-3 supplements. And we are using fish by-products to heat our buildings and fuel transit buses in Halifax.

During the period covered by this report, we also placed our focus on improving trade and competitiveness, the business climate overall, the labour force, and economic infrastructure such as our transportation network.

And we continued to revamp our economic growth strategy in 2005–2006, so that we can find the best ways to place even more emphasis on productivity through innovation: more ways to keep the balance between the old and the new that defines Nova Scotia's high quality of life.

**PRIORITY:  
Innovation**

*In 2005–2006, the province will continue to invest in the Nova Scotia Research and Innovation Trust (NSRIT). (Economic Development)*

In fiscal 2005–2006, the province invested \$10 million in the NSRIT. The funding covers the period 2005–2007. The chief beneficiaries of the NSRIT are the universities and colleges, researchers, and the industrial sector.

The NSRIT was established by the province in 2001 to support Nova Scotia's research and development capacity by providing funds for research infrastructure. By tapping into federal grant programs and other project proponents, the province leverages its NSRIT investment by more than 100 per cent.

These research dollars stimulate Nova Scotia's innovation environment, which fosters the development of new products, new technologies, and new services to markets around the world. Research and development activity acts as a focal point for attracting highly qualified people to our province.

Technology and innovation now run through all industries, all activities, all generations—from farmers to pharmacists, from the military to global leaders like Michelin and RIM to our

corner stores, and from students to their parents and grandparents.

Innovation and technology permeate our lives, making a focus on technology and innovation part of the winning package in an increasingly complex global economy.

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**Bringing Nova Scotia to the World and the World to Nova Scotia**

**PRIORITY:  
Brand Nova Scotia/  
Come to Life**

*Come to Life, a key element in building greater prosperity in the province, will focus on the key attributes of the province in 2005–2006. These brand messages will establish a unique, consistent identity for many government programs and initiatives and private-sector services and products, which will quickly associate them with Nova Scotia. (Economic Development)*

The objective of Come to Life is to attract investment, tourism, and immigrants to Nova Scotia's variety, innovation, lifestyle, and related attributes, as well as to encourage Nova Scotians to come back to the province for the same reasons.



In 2005–2006, the province implemented a detailed operational plan. The government put the Come to Life message into a wide range of communications products, including television ads, portal development, and the province's signature publication, *Open to the World*.

Nova Scotia entered into agreements with a dozen private-sector companies and associations that are committed to working with the provincial brand and established six teams of influential individuals in major cities across Canada and in Boston to support the Come to Life program.

### **PRIORITY: Tourism**

*Through Brand Nova Scotia and other initiatives in 2005–2006, the province will work to increase its tourism revenues by \$50 million. Growth will come through product development, sales, and marketing, expected to generate returns on investment at least equal to those of 2004–2005.*

(Tourism, Culture and Heritage)

Based on preliminary data from Statistics Canada, tourism revenues totalled \$1.29 billion in 2005, down slightly (1.8 per cent) over 2004 (\$1.314 billion).

Most jurisdictions in Canada were visited by fewer American visitors in 2005–2006, and Nova Scotia's tourism industry was

no exception. The industry faced a number of distinct challenges during the year, including poor weather at the beginning of the summer, rising gas prices throughout North America, a strong Canadian dollar, and the loss of the Scotia Prince ferry service between Portland and Yarmouth. The tourism industry, with annual revenues that hover around \$1.3 billion, is an important element of the provincial economy, with 3,400 businesses and approximately 33,000 jobs across the province.

### **PRIORITY: Trade and Export**

*To bring more of Nova Scotia to the world, the province's Export and Trade Strategy will increase its investment in connecting the small and medium-sized enterprises in the province with buyers around the world.* (Economic Development, Nova Scotia Business Inc.)

In 2004–2005, Economic Development provided \$100,000 to 30 companies, through the Service Export Program, to help them improve their export offerings.

In 2005–2006, the province invested \$275,000 in 47 market visits that produced close to \$5 million in sales for participating service companies. The Service Export Program went from a pilot project to a full program offering in 2005–2006.

OED led the development of the provincial trade strategy in co-operation with a multi-departmental provincial trade committee. That committee and NSBI will implement the components, such as the Service Export Program.

**PRIORITY:  
Immigration**

*In 2005–2006, the Office of Immigration will begin to inform Nova Scotians about the importance of immigration to our future prosperity, while attracting and retaining greater numbers of educated, skilled, and productive immigrants to Nova Scotia. (Immigration)*

The first full fiscal year of existence of the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration was 2005–2006. During that inaugural year, the foundation was laid for future growth and implementation of the immigration strategy's five-year plan. The government officially established the Office of Immigration, developed a funding framework, and increased funding for immigrant settlement programming. The department created new partnerships with settlement and community groups, businesses, regional development authorities, municipalities, post-secondary institutions, and other stakeholders. The office also increased its capacity to process applications to the Nova Scotia Nominee

Program, to address expected labour shortages, and to expand the province's capacity to generate wealth.

The province's immigration strategy aims to reverse the decline in the number of immigrants coming to Nova Scotia and to more than double the number who move to Nova Scotia by 2010. The objective is to increase that figure from 1,474 in 2004 to 3,600 per year.

The strategy also sets a retention target—Nova Scotia wants to ensure that 70 per cent of the immigrants who arrive here during the 2006–2011 census period make the province their permanent home.

We have already seen results in reversing the downward trend—1,929 immigrants have come to Nova Scotia in 2006 to date, up from 1,770 in 2005. Immigration will increase our population of entrepreneurs, wage earners, and consumers, which in turn will fill skills gaps, as well as create businesses, employment growth, and opportunities.





**PRIORITY:**  
**Nova Scotia Nominee Program**

*In 2005–2006, the province will issue 200 Nominee certificates, inviting 200 immigrant families to become residents of Nova Scotia. (Immigration)*

The Office of Immigration successfully negotiated an increase with the federal government in the number of nominations the province can issue every year, as defined by the Canada/Nova Scotia Agreement on Provincial Nominees. Negotiations with Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) raised the allowable limit from 200 nominees a year to 400 for the 2005 calendar year.

The actual number who received nominee certificates in 2005 was 303, a 52 per cent increase over the previous allowable limit of 200.

The Office of Immigration also increased its capacity to process nominee applications by hiring three more nominee officers.

**PRIORITY:**  
**Tax System Review**

*A competitive tax regime is essential if businesses are to grow and prosper. The province will review its taxation system and the overall level of tax burden, with a view to ensuring efficiency, promoting competitiveness, and responding to the social needs of Nova Scotians within the fiscal resources available. (Finance)*

The Department of Finance carried out foundation research on the province's tax competitiveness, efficiency, and social responsiveness during the reporting period. This research included acquiring detailed taxpayer profile information, reviewing Nova Scotia's tax competitiveness, stating principles of tax policy, and scanning public positions on Nova Scotia's taxes.

In addition, focus groups and online surveys were conducted to gather perspectives from business leaders throughout the province. The research enabled the department to evaluate long-term tax measures, in preparation for 2006–2007 budget announcements on personal income taxes and the large corporations tax.

**PRIORITY:  
Business Occupancy  
Assessment Tax**

*In 2005–2006, the province will begin to eliminate its Business Occupancy Assessment Tax (BOAT). (Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations)*

The province passed the Municipal Law Amendment Act in the fall of 2005 to phase out the BOAT. Like many changes, this one involved intensive consultation with business. It also involved collaboration with the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities.

Elimination of the BOAT is in different phases, to be completed over the next eight years, depending on how a business is classified. Most businesses are in the 50 per cent group (those whose occupancy tax is 50 per cent of their commercial assessment). The BOAT for this category of business will be phased out over the next five years.

Those in the 75 per cent group will see their BOAT phased out over eight years. This group includes banks, insurance companies, and other financial institutions.

For restaurants, hotels and motels, car dealerships, service stations, and camping establishments, the BOAT is gone, having been eliminated effective April 1, 2006.

Ultimately, elimination of the BOAT will improve tax collection, reduce reporting requirements (paperwork), and make the commercial property taxation system more equitable and the business environment more competitive.

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**Maintaining our  
Transportation  
Infrastructure**

**PRIORITY:  
4Rs Program**

*Because Nova Scotia's roads infrastructure is a major component of our prosperity strategy, in 2005–2006 the province will increase the resurfacing, restoration, rehabilitation and reconstruction work on provincial highways. (Transportation and Public Works)*

Every year for the past seven years, Nova Scotia has increased its budget to improve highways, roads, and bridges. In 2005–2006, the government invested \$306.5 million in the highway system.

In 2005–2006, there was an increase of \$625,000 for maintenance improvements under the 4Rs program and a \$30-million increase in the highway capital program.



The 4Rs program includes resurfacing, restoration, rehabilitation, and reconstruction on provincial highways. Funding for road improvements under the 4Rs program is expected to rise by 10 per cent between 2004–2005 and 2007–2008.

### **PRIORITY:**

#### **100-Series Highway System**

*The current multi-year plan to expand Nova Scotia's 100-series highway system will improve public safety, expand transportation capacity, and stimulate economic growth. Seven projects are scheduled across the province in 2005–2006.*

(Transportation and Public Works)

The seven projects, worth approximately \$25 million, were active as follows in 2005–2006:

- Highway 101 twinning, St. Croix to Avonport
- Highway 101, elimination of at-grade intersections
- Highway 103 twinning, Otter Lake to Tantallon
- Highway 103, new alignment at Barrington
- Highway 104 twinning, New Glasgow to Pine Tree Road
- Highway 118, new interchange at Wright Avenue Extension
- Highway 125 twinning, Coxheath to Sydney River

Twinning of Highway 101 continued, with the construction of the St. Croix River bridge and Avonport Interchange modifications. Clearing was 95 per cent completed in 2005–2006.

The Trunk 1 structure at Joggins was 70 per cent completed under a contract with Dexter Construction. Clearing took place in March 2006.

Twinning of Highway 103 continued, with the preparation of two paving tenders, which were called in March 2006.

The new highway at Barrington continued, with construction of the last small grading section, the interchange structure, the Barrington River structure, and the paving.

Clearing took place in March 2006 on the Highway 104 project from New Glasgow to Pine Tree Road.

The Highway 118 Wright Avenue project was 50 per cent completed in 2005–2006.

Twinning of Highway 125 has been postponed until 2008–2009. However, the Coxheath Interchange structure and Sydney River bridge widening were 80 per cent completed during the reporting period. The ramps and paving of the interchange are scheduled for completion in 2006.

**PRIORITY:**

**Road Improvement  
Money Program (RIM)**

*In addition to improving the 100-series highways, the province promised to repair and upgrade many rural roads and highways as well in 2005–2006, doubling the Road Improvement Money Program (RIM) by 2007–2008. (Transportation and Public Works)*

RIM includes things like patching asphalt, ditching and gravelling, repairing shoulders, cutting brush, and installing guardrails. In 2005–2006, the province spent a total of \$15 million of RIM funding, up \$2.5 million from the year previous. Funding under the program is in the process of going from \$10 million to \$20 over four years; 2005–2006 was year two.

Sixty-eight tenders were called under the 2005–2006 program, with 93 per cent of the contracts being awarded across the province. Examples included contracts awarded to Aberdeen Paving Ltd. for ditching and gravelling in Shelburne County, to Lafarge Canada Inc. for asphalt spreader patching and shouldering in Annapolis West, and to Welshtown Forestry Ltd. for guardrails on various roads in Pictou, Cumberland, and Colchester Counties.

**PRIORITY:**

**Bridge Replacement Program**

*The province will continue its five-year, \$50-million steel-truss bridge replacement program in 2005–2006, undertaking more than \$10-million worth of projects. (Transportation and Public Works)*

The bridge replacement program continued in 2005–2006, with 11 projects completed, at a total cost of \$11.8 million:

- Bayers Mill Bridge—\$0.46 million
- Black Brook Bridge—\$0.78 million
- Lower Eel Creek Bridge—\$0.97 million
- Vernon Bridge—\$2.06 million
- Simpson's Bridge—\$0.5 million
- Bruhm Bridge—\$0.56 million
- Clydesdale Bridge—\$0.94 million
- Marydale Bridge—\$0.48 million
- Port Clyde Bridge—\$1.58 million
- Carleton Bridge—\$1.21 million
- East Kempt Bridge—\$2.31 million



**PRIORITY:**  
**Cape Breton Rail Line**

*In 2005–2006, the province will invest in the Cape Breton rail line, an investment that will ensure that businesses in the region can prosper from opportunities as they arise.*  
(Economic Development)

Good, dependable transportation infrastructure is essential to attract and retain industry and build prosperity.

Recognizing the importance of the railway to transportation infrastructure in Cape Breton, the province provides Cape Breton Rail Lines with up to \$2 million in support each year.

In 2005–2006, the rail company requested and received \$1.1 million in support.

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**Building Prosperous Communities**

**PRIORITY:**  
**Regional Development Authorities (RDAs)**

*For the first time in five years, the province will increase RDA funding, while matching funds are expected from the Government of Canada and the municipal sector.*  
(Economic Development)

The province increased its contribution to core operating funding for Nova Scotia's network of 14 regional development authorities by 25 per cent in 2005–2006, an increase matched by the federal and municipal governments.

RDAs are charged with attracting new business and investment to their communities, mainly in rural Nova Scotia. They help communities develop local planning capability, institutional capacity, community entrepreneurship, and the essential infrastructure to sustain business, investment, and opportunity for rural economies and citizens of those areas.

**PRIORITY:**

**Offshore Resource Agreement**

*In order to capitalize on the revenue opportunities from Nova Scotia's offshore, the province will increase the investment attractiveness of the offshore to petroleum exploration and development companies as well as the service and supply sector. (Energy)*

In February 2005, the province signed the Offshore Resources Revenue Agreement, making Nova Scotia the principal beneficiary of Nova Scotia's offshore petroleum resource revenues and guaranteeing the province 100 per cent of offshore revenues for all projects for 16 years.

Nova Scotia is taking control of the research and development efforts that will help shape its offshore energy future. In 2005–2006, the province invested more than \$6 million in research and development, new online delivery models, and laboratory equipment to secure better access to scientific information and ultimately generate more wealth and energy from offshore Nova Scotia.

Two new, non-profit research associations have been established. OETR (Offshore Energy Technical Research) will encourage research into Nova Scotia's offshore petroleum geology. OEER (Offshore Energy

and Environmental Research) will sponsor studies on a variety of environmental matters including the effects of energy exploration on the marine environment. Each of the new associations has been given \$2.6 million in initial funding from the province, for a total of \$5.2 million.

Assisting with the promotion of Nova Scotia's offshore is a \$1-million grant to the Canada/Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board. The board maintains a large amount of data related to offshore geology in its data archive, core storage, and laboratory facility, known as the core lab. The board will use the grant to expand its core lab and upgrade its capacity to manage digital information.

**PRIORITY:**

**Supplier Development Program**

*The Supplier Development Program's funding will grow in 2005–2006 to help small and medium sized businesses tap into the government market, worth approximately \$1 billion a year, when all levels of government are considered. (Economic Development)*

Eighty per cent of the \$1 billion spent by the public sector on goods, services, and construction in our province is purchased from Nova Scotia businesses.



The supplier development program helps small operators learn how to bid on government goods and services so they can be more successful in securing contracts from this major customer.

In 2005–2006, this work continued, with additional funding to hire another staff person to work with the manufacturing sector to promote local product specifications.

Also during the year, the Office of Economic Development sponsored six reverse trade shows, which connect suppliers with government purchasers. The shows took place across the province, attracting about a hundred businesspeople per event and as many as 14 public-sector organizations interested in making contact with Nova Scotia suppliers.

**PRIORITY:**  
**A New Growth Strategy  
for Aquaculture**

*The province will launch the first new aquaculture growth strategy in more than 10 years.*  
(Agriculture and Fisheries)

During the reporting period, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries engaged aquaculture operators and other stakeholders in consultations to determine how best to develop the industry. They also continued to develop the proposed Aquaculture Framework Agreement (AFA)

to create environmentally sustainable and economically viable opportunities for the aquaculture sector.

The AFA will improve governance, enhance public confidence, and provide a business climate to encourage private-sector investment. Programs for business risk management, research and development, commercialization, and infrastructure development will build a climate for aquaculture growth. Aquaculture is one of the fastest-growing food-producing sectors and is an increasing contributor to our rural and coastal communities.

**PRIORITY:**  
**Aquaculture Site Applications**

*The province is working with the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans to make the aquaculture site application process more effective and efficient.*

(Agriculture and Fisheries)

Phase I of the Guysborough County Sustainable Aquaculture Initiative involved multi-stakeholder input and consultation to develop an interactive geographic information systems (GIS) database designed to facilitate the siting of new aquaculture sites.

Phase II of the project is now under way as a pilot project to use the GIS database

to assist with the application of three new mussel farm leases.

In addition, the department is working closely with other federal and provincial agencies to harmonize and streamline the application process for finfish sites and expects to have a revised application and guidebook completed in 2007.

**PRIORITY:  
Sustaining Farm Life:  
Business Risk Management**

*The province will continue to migrate farms from legacy safety net programs, such as crop insurance, to new programs that are cost-shared with the federal government, namely, the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization program and the Production Insurance program. (Agriculture and Fisheries)*

Business risk management (BRM) is an essential component of any agricultural enterprise. The Department of Agriculture works with the industry in provision of BRM initiatives through the Canada/Nova Scotia Implementation Agreement of the Agricultural Policy Framework.

Initiatives include the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) and Production Insurance (PI) programs. The CAIS program is a government/producer cost-shared program that provides protection for both small

and large drops in farming income. As of November 2006, and as reported for the 2004 tax year, 879 completed applications had been received by CAIS administration.

The Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission administers PI for Nova Scotia. In 2005–2006, the commission made the third-highest indemnity in its 36-year history, totalling \$1.107 million. The commission is developing new features for existing plans and designing new insurance plans for forages, poultry, and damage caused by wildlife, to be introduced in 2007–2008.

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## **Measuring Our Performance: The Economy**

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### **Market Growth**

What does this measure tell us?

This measure points to key indicators of market growth in the agriculture, aquaculture, and fisheries industries. The measure includes the value of the aquaculture industry, the sport-fishing industry, fish product exports, boat building (domestic), boat building (export), agricultural production, agriculture and fisheries exports, and capital expenditures in agriculture and fisheries.





### Where are we now?

The farm gate value of aquaculture output in 2005 was \$44 million, which is up from \$29 million the previous year. This increase is primarily due to a rebound of the finfish sector. The total export value of fish products was \$1.04 billion, while the total export value of agriculture and fisheries overall was \$1.3 billion. A slight decrease occurred from the previous year in both cases. This can be attributed to the continuing strength of the Canadian dollar relative to the American dollar.

The value of domestic boat building was \$40 million, down from just under \$60 million in 2004. A substantial part of domestic sales are fishing boats, and it is felt that low fish prices and uncertainty in some fisheries combined to cause this decrease. The value of export sales from boat building was \$35 million, up slightly from \$25 million in 2004, but below sales for the period 2001–2003. The strengthening Canadian dollar is cited as the primary cause of declining export sales. US trade barriers such as the Jones Act, which requires all vessels engaged in US coastwise trade to be US built, also hindered sales in that market.

The value of agricultural production in Nova Scotia in 2005 was \$433.2 million, which is up approximately \$6 million from the previous year. As well, the dollar value of total capital expenditures in

agriculture and fisheries was \$123.1 million, up from a total of \$121.5 million in 2004. The last year for which figures are available to indicate the dollar value of the sport-fishing industry in Nova Scotia is 2000, when it was valued at \$82 million. Because the department relies on a survey conducted every five years for this particular statistic, a more up-to-date figure will be available for the 2006–2007 Government Accountability Report.

### Where do we want to be?

Improving economic competitiveness in Nova Scotia's agriculture, fisheries, and aquaculture industries remains a priority. The following targets express where Nova Scotia aims to be by 2007–2008: value of the aquaculture industry, \$55 million; value of the sport-fishing industry, \$83 million; value of fish product exports, \$1.2 billion; value of boat building, domestic, \$55 million; value of boat building, export, \$35 million; value of agricultural production, \$420 million; value of agriculture and fisheries exports, \$1.5 billion; capital expenditures in agriculture and fisheries, \$120 million.

Note that due to the strength of the Canadian dollar in recent years, the targets established for the value of fish product exports and the value of agriculture and fisheries exports have been adjusted down from the original targets.

**Farms Protected  
by Canadian Agricultural  
Income Stabilization Program:  
Business Risk Management  
Coverage**

What does this measure tell us?

Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) and Production Insurance (PI) fall under the category of business risk management (BRM) programming. Together, BRM programs are designed to address income losses due to uncontrollable events and to enhance farmers' capacity to manage risk. The Department of Agriculture continues to encourage greater participation in these programs. The CAIS figure is presented as a percentage of the provincial farm reference margin protected by CAIS. The PI figure represents the total amount of coverage for which producers are insured.

Where are we now?

The most up-to-date figures currently available for CAIS are for the 2004 year, with 78 per cent of the farm reference margin being protected. Total insurance coverage in 2005–2006 was \$51 million.

Where do we want to be?

The department aims to have 82 per cent of the provincial farm reference margin protected by CAIS by 2006–2007, and 86 per cent by 2007–2008. Meanwhile, the target for total insurance coverage by 2006–2007 is \$84 million, and for 2007–2008 it is \$86 million.

# ***Protecting What Nova Scotians Value:*** **Families and Communities** **The Environment**

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## **Priorities for 2005–2006**

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Nova Scotians weave a complex tapestry of ages, abilities, communities, and cultures. Despite our differences, we share common values, which the government is committed to protecting.

These values include respect for the safety and security of our citizens and communities; support for families and their children; the welfare of our seniors and persons with disabilities; affordable housing; a clean environment; pride in our diversity.

In 2005–2006, the government took action on all these fronts. We took steps to reduce youth crime, which included the Nunn Inquiry into the death of Theresa McEvoy and the call for changes to the federal Youth Criminal Justice Act.

A new provincial Police Act came into effect in January 2006. This legislation supports the clear connection between governance and policing services. During the year, the

Department of Justice also introduced the Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act. Once this Act is proclaimed, complaints from the community could result in court orders to close locations that are home to prostitution, illegal liquor, drugs, or gambling.

Other initiatives to protect what we value include the release in 2005–2006 of the Nova Scotia Elder Abuse Strategy and the Strategy for Positive Aging in Nova Scotia. These strategies mark major milestones on our journey to improve the future for seniors in Nova Scotia. Our agenda is ambitious, but it must be achieved in order to prepare the province for the near-doubling of our seniors' population in the next 20 years.

During the year, we took action on early learning initiatives for the province's children, to give them the best start in life. We also made improvements in support for low-income children, their families, and people with disabilities who need extra help with income and employment. Additional housing support was also made available during the year.



## Annual Accountability

The environment continued to get our attention in 2005–2006, as we targeted reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, continued cleaning up the Sydney Tar Ponds, and took action on the excess use of salt on our roads.

We made investments in French language services during the year, boosted the capacity of the Office of African Nova Scotian Affairs, and made sure the language training programs are in place that will be needed by the increasing number of immigrant families we are welcoming to this province.

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### **Preserving Family Life**

#### **PRIORITY: Childhood Development**

*The province will expand funding to create new child-care spaces, revise the eligible income scale for the Child Care Subsidy Program, and examine the operational grants it provides to child-care centres.*  
(Community Services)

During the 2005–2006 reporting period, the Department of Community Services invested in early learning and early childhood development initiatives in the areas of licensed child-care centres, family resource centres, and additional

community resources such as non-profit, community-based agencies focusing on child-care information and support.

For example, an additional 590 child-care spaces were created, over \$4 million was distributed to 220 full day licensed child-care centres for the recruitment and retention of staff, and a grant of \$350,000 was made available to Early Intervention Nova Scotia for the Partnerships for Inclusion project to support the inclusion of children with special needs in licensed child-care centres.

#### **PRIORITY: Maintenance Enforcement**

*The Department of Justice will hire new staff to reduce the backlog in the Maintenance Enforcement Program so that single parents receive the support they need.* (Justice)

Last year, the department collected approximately \$53 million on behalf of clients in the Maintenance Enforcement Program. To increase the efficiency of the program, more staff were added, and a review of all files was conducted to remove those that are no longer active.

**PRIORITY:**

**Parent Education**

*The province will develop a parent education framework, a related training strategy, and an inventory of parent education programs to enhance accessibility to quality education programs offered by family resources.*

(Community Services)

Grants totalling \$890,000 went to Family Resource Centres across the province for early language and cognitive development programs, while \$340,000 in funding was provided to the centres specifically for parent education and support programs.

Early Childhood Education grants totalling \$1 million were provided to early childhood training institutions. At the same time, non-profit community-based agencies received \$650,000 to help them meet their focus on child-care information and support for parents and child-care providers.

**PRIORITY:**

**Energy-Efficient Homes**

*The province will help low-income home owners through the Energy Efficient Housing Program. (Energy)*

The province invested almost \$1.2 million to help low-income home owners in 2005–2006. Everyone who participated in the Keep the Heat program (approximately 37,000 people) received an Energy Savings Kit.

The Department of Energy, along with Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, continued delivery of Keep the Heat (Home Heating Rebate and Energy Efficiency Program).

In addition, the department developed a pilot electronic thermostat replacement initiative, which was offered to all program participants. A total of 4,100 applications have been received.



**PRIORITY:**  
**Affordable Housing Program**

*To ensure that low- and moderate-income Nova Scotians have access to affordable housing, the province will add up to 200 new rental units, as well as repair and renovate 40 existing rental properties and up to 100 resident-owned homes.*  
(Community Services)

Commitments under Phase I of the Affordable Housing Program Agreement totalling \$37.26 million supported the creation/preservation of more than 900 additional affordable housing units across the province.

Investments will continue under Phase II of this agreement, which will fund \$18.9 million in housing improvements over the next three years.

**PRIORITY:**  
**Supporting Adults with Disabilities**

*The province will continue its commitment to Community Supports for Adults renewal projects, with the launch or expansion of three key programs: Direct Family Support, Alternative Family Support, and Supported Apartments.*  
(Community Services)

The Department of Community Services phased in the new Direct Family Support Program. Work also began with the Department of Health, to reassess the clients in Health's In-Home Support Program, for possible admission to Direct Family Support.

The Independent Living Support Program (renamed from the Supported Apartment Program) was implemented in the Eastern Region in January 2006, while the Alternative Family Support Program was to follow in April 2006.

**PRIORITY:**

**Income Assistance**

*The Department of Community Services will continue to assess the Income Assistance Personal Allowance rate on a regular basis and also increase funding for shelter rates.*

(Community Services)

For the second consecutive year, the department increased the Income Assistance Personal Allowance Rate for food and other basic personal needs. As of October 2005, the monthly Personal Allowance Rate increased by \$6 from \$184 to \$190.

In addition, the monthly shelter rates were increased by \$25 for a single person in a boarding situation and by \$50 for a single employable person in a rent or own situation.

**PRIORITY:**

**Client Feedback**

*The Department of Community Services will seek the opinions and insights of clients to continue to strengthen its programs and services.*

(Community Services)

The Department of Community Services developed a client satisfaction survey for implementation in the spring of 2006. A pilot project was completed in February

2006 to assess the use of client suggestion boxes as a means of obtaining feedback, and the opinions and insights of parents and members of the early childhood sector were obtained to help inform the development of the child-care plan.

**PRIORITY:**

**Community Transportation Assistance Program**

*The province will increase the funding it provides to the Community Transportation Assistance Program (CTAP) by \$153,000. (Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations)*

Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations increased the funding level for this program by \$153,000 in 2005–2006, to a total of \$550,000. The program helps community groups in rural Nova Scotia provide bus services to people with disabilities, seniors, and disadvantaged persons.

The \$153,000 in new funding covers operating as well as capital costs. It helped the department provide operating grants for inclusive transportation to 10 rural communities during the year. The capital portion of the program awarded grants of \$20,000 each to community transportation groups to purchase five new accessible vehicles to serve people living in their areas.



**PRIORITY:**  
**Positive Aging**

*The province will invest more than \$200,000 to further the work of the Task Force on Aging and to coordinate government policies, programs, and services that affect seniors. These include healthy, active lifestyles for seniors, an elder abuse prevention strategy, and the Nova Scotia Seniors Literacy Project. (Seniors' Secretariat)*

Two strategy papers were released during the reporting period. They include the *Strategy for Positive Aging in Nova Scotia*, which is a guide for helping all sectors create senior-friendly communities, and the *Nova Scotia Elder Abuse Strategy: Towards Awareness and Prevention*. This document provides the framework for elder abuse prevention efforts in the province over the next several years.

Activities were also undertaken by the Nova Scotia Seniors Secretariat and Health Promotion and Protection to help seniors live active, healthy lifestyles. The activities include the first Nova Scotia 55+ Games, Physical Activity Enhancement Grants, the 50+ Expo, initiatives to prevent falls, and the government's *Programs for Seniors* directory.

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**A Healthy, Clean Environment**

**PRIORITY:**  
**Greenhouse Gas Reductions**

*The province will help ensure that Canada achieves real greenhouse gas reductions that are cost-effective and do not impose undue burden on Nova Scotia. (Energy)*

The Department of Energy developed *Cleaner Energy Choices ... the Green Energy Framework*, as a basis for discussion with Ottawa on climate change funding. The department also led a delegation, including about a dozen Nova Scotia business interests, to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Montreal in December 2005.

The province undertook several other initiatives as well. The Department of Energy completed an issues paper entitled *Climate Change Impacts on Nova Scotia*, worked with the Climate Change Adaptation and Impacts Regional Network, and funded Halifax Regional Municipality's Climate Smart Project as well as the Climate Change Centre at Clean Nova Scotia.

In addition to these climate change projects, the department funded a wide variety of energy efficiency and renewable



energy initiatives that resulted in reductions in greenhouse gases and other air emissions.

**PRIORITY:  
Sydney Tar Ponds**

*In 2005–2006, the province will continue to remediate the Sydney tar ponds. (Sydney Tar Ponds Agency)*

The Sydney Tar Ponds Agency continued with a full schedule of remediation activities during the period covered by this report. In July 2005, the agency started rerouting Coke Ovens Brook. Also in the summer, the agency completed the relocation of the Victoria Road water main and awarded the cleanup design for the cooling pond.

An extensive air monitoring regime continued throughout the fiscal year, and the Master Health and Safety Plan was updated. The agency delivered the Environmental Impact Statement to the Environmental Assessment Panel in December 2005 and completed the design of Battery Point Barrier before March 31, 2006.

**PRIORITY:  
Salt-Management Plan**

*Work will continue in 2005–2006 on implementing a comprehensive salt-management plan to reduce the use of salt on our roads and lessen its environmental impact. (Transportation and Public Works)*

All activities that could potentially result in the release of road salt into the environment—such as storage and handling and application of salt on roads—have been reviewed and best practices developed. The next step will be to monitor these management practices and compare results against performance targets.

Some progress has been made against the targets. For example, Transportation and Public Works has increased the number of trucks equipped with electronic spreader controls, as well as the number of winter maintenance facilities that have brine production capability.

The province completed and submitted the 2005 salt management annual report to Environment Canada in July 2005, and the Transportation Association of Canada conducted a train-the-trainer session for TPW in October of that year. This session provided TPW staff with the information required to train district personnel on



winter maintenance technologies and salt management.

**PRIORITY:  
Farm Environmental  
Responsibility**

*We will continue to engage farmers in the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) initiative.*  
(Agriculture and Fisheries)

Environmental stewardship is an ongoing priority for agriculture and has multiple focal areas. During the reporting period, implementation of the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) became part of a collateral agreement signed with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada—the Canada/Nova Scotia Environmental Farm Stewardship Program.

Support for farms is available for a list of 30 beneficial management practices (BMPs) designed to reduce environmental risk. The EFP and BMPs are built on scientific research and innovative technology and incorporate nutrient management planning, revised manure management guidelines, and on-farm water management.

**PRIORITY:  
Aquaculture and  
the Environment**

*The province is committed to ensuring that aquaculture is environmentally sustainable. The Environmental Monitoring Program (EMP) helps to ensure this.* (Agriculture and Fisheries)

The Environmental Monitoring Program uses a risk-based approach which recognizes that increased risk requires increased monitoring. The approach has proven to be very effective in demonstrating environmental sustainability for the province's aquaculture industry, which is quite diverse. Results from the first three years of the program have shown limited or no negative environmental impact within aquaculture sites and no effect on the surrounding bays. The findings from the 2006 season are expected to be similar.

**PRIORITY:  
Fish Habitat Restoration**

*A new program will be launched through a \$5 levy added to fishing licences to restore freshwater fish habitats and improve access to the recreational fishery.*  
(Agriculture and Fisheries)

The Nova Scotia Sportfish Habitat Fund was created in 2005 with the full support of all the provincial angling associations to

provide seed funding to improve freshwater fish habitat and access to recreational fishing opportunities. Revenues from licence sales provided \$205,000, which was matched by other grants and donations through volunteers, resulting in a total of \$600,000 to restore aquatic habitat. Individual habitat projects were carried out through the Adopt-a-Stream program.

**PRIORITY:  
Recreational Fisheries**

*The province will invest \$500,000 to promote and develop the recreational fishery with special emphasis on improving opportunities to angle for Atlantic salmon. (Agriculture and Fisheries)*

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries worked to attract new anglers and to increase participation in sport fishing for residents and tourists alike. The department invested \$500,000 in five promotional programs, which were initiated or expanded to target youth, women, tourists, and development associations and to highlight urban angling opportunities.

A program to enhance selected Atlantic salmon rivers through stocking was developed in consultation with volunteer organizations and the federal government. A strategic plan was developed to enhance six rivers across the province.

In addition to the new salmon enhancement program, the Fraser Mills and McGowan Lake hatcheries continued to produce trout and landlocked salmon to support angling opportunities across the province. Approximately 865,000 brook, brown, and rainbow trout, as well as landlocked salmon, were stocked during the period covered by this report.

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**Safe Communities**

**PRIORITY:  
Policing**

*The province will improve intelligence-based policing capacity, public safety, and security in collaboration with public safety partners. (Justice)*

Nova Scotians are benefiting from provincial efforts to improve intelligence-based policy, public safety, and security. These efforts include a \$6-million investment to be spent over four years, bringing municipal police forces into a national system of intelligence-based policing, as well as the introduction and passing of the Cross-border Policing Act. This act will make it easier for police to investigate crimes that cross provincial boundaries.

A new Police Act that came into effect in January 2006 defines the roles and responsibilities of the Minister of Justice, police chiefs, and municipal police



boards. It also authorizes the creation of police advisory boards in communities served by the RCMP, to provide advice to the RCMP and municipalities regarding law enforcement and crime prevention.

Also in 2005–2006, government proclaimed a new Correctional Services Act and introduced the Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act. The Correctional Services Act will provide greater protection for victims and their families. For example, Corrections staff will be able to tell them where an offender is being held in custody, the terms of a conditional release or parole, and other details surrounding the offender's release.

The Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act, to be proclaimed in early 2007, will empower Nova Scotians to seek community safety orders to shut down criminal activities in their neighbourhoods. The legislation will also make it easier for inspectors to get inside so-called "fortified buildings" that are often used to hide evidence of illegal activities.

**PRIORITY:**

**Off-Highway Vehicle Safety**

*The province will address the recommendations of the Task Force on Off-Highway Vehicles. (Natural Resources)*

An action plan to respond to the recommendations made by the Off-highway Vehicle Task Force was completed in 2005–2006. All 39 recommendations were accepted, and a schedule was provided to implement each recommendation.

In December 2005, government passed Bill 275, which accelerated the timeline for completing parts of the action plan. Work was completed on the OHV Safety and Training Regulations, the OHV Vulnerable Areas Licensing Regulations, the OHV Fees Regulations, and the OHV General Regulations, which were required on April 1, 2006, as a result of Bill 275.

Additional resources were also allocated to the Department of Natural Resources to provide increased ATV enforcement services. Twelve enforcement officers were added and assigned to a specialized off-highway vehicle unit and stationed across the province to concentrate on OHV-related enforcement activities.

**PRIORITY:  
Protection from  
Impaired Drivers**

*The province will improve efforts to reduce impaired driving.*

(Justice)

In 2005–2006, the Department of Justice continued its commitment to improve road safety by working with partners to reduce impaired driving. This included expanding roadside sobriety tests.

Scheduled checkpoints with municipal police and RCMP continued throughout the year, including a month-long series of checkpoints in December focusing on impaired driving.

The department also invested \$110,000 to help eight police agencies purchase Datamaster Breathalysers. Meantime, the department continues to explore the use of ignition interlock devices.

**PRIORITY:  
Safer Commercial Vehicles,  
Safer Highways**

*Additional funding for monitoring commercial trucking will translate into safer vehicles on the highway and reduced wear and tear on the roads from overweight vehicles. The funds will be used to hire additional compliance officers and to keep the scale houses open longer.*

(Transportation and Public Works)

Work began in 2005–2006 on hiring and equipping eight new compliance officers. They are expected to be in place early in 2006–2007.

The hours of operation at the scale houses have increased and will continue to increase as training of the new officers proceeds on a phased-in basis. The objective is to have all scale houses open 120 hours per week (i.e., 24 hours a day, five days a week) by January 1, 2007.



**PRIORITY:**  
**Access to Legal Aid**

*The province will improve representation of Legal Aid clients by allocating more money for Legal Aid services and increasing the amount of time a Legal Aid lawyer can invest in a case. An enhancement of justice infrastructure will also be made.* (Justice)

Access to justice is a fundamental service requiring ongoing investment. To this end, the Department of Justice increased funding for legal aid by \$1.4 million in 2005–2006.

The department also made infrastructure improvements, with the opening of a new \$12-million Justice Centre in Port Hawkesbury, and continued with plans to construct a Lunenburg County and Yarmouth Justice Centre. For the first time, these communities will have justice-related services under one roof.

**PRIORITY:**  
**Reduce Youth Crime**

*The province will try to reduce youth crime by seeking changes to Canada's Youth Criminal Justice Act. The province will also implement community-based programming and supervision of high-risk, high-needs youth, while pursuing the establishment of a province-wide youth court.* (Justice)

Youth crime has been an area of concern for many Nova Scotians. During this reporting period, the Department of Justice has lobbied for changes to the Youth Criminal Justice Act, explored options for a youth attendance centre, and organized a conference that focused on keeping sentenced youth in school.

To enhance community correctional services, a new senior probation officer is now directly responsible for a youth specialist team in Halifax Regional Municipality, and youth specialists have also been identified in each operational area outside Halifax.

The department also has developed a two-day training event to assist restorative justice practitioners and continues to pursue the establishment of a province-wide youth court.

**PRIORITY:**

**Nunn Inquiry**

*The province will hold a full, independent, and public inquiry into the death of Theresa McEvoy of Halifax.*

(Justice)

The Department of Justice announced an independent public inquiry into the release of a youth who was later charged in the death of Theresa McEvoy of Halifax. Ms. McEvoy was killed when her car was struck by another vehicle.

Justice Merlin Nunn was appointed as inquiry commissioner in June 2005. The inquiry began in October 2005 and heard testimony throughout the winter of 2006. The inquiry was called to help prevent similar tragedies, and it has given a renewed momentum to addressing the root causes of crime and the need to change the federal Youth Criminal Justice Act to better protect Nova Scotians. The province will be finalizing an official response to the recommendations made.

**PRIORITY:**

**Reduce Family Violence**

*The province will address family violence through training, case coordination, and education.*

(Justice)

In co-operation with the Departments of Community Services and Health and the Public Prosecution Service, the Department of Justice worked on initiatives aimed at reducing family violence. These included researching best practices and recommending better ways to process cases involving violence between spouses or intimate partners. In addition, a new resource guide has been prepared to assist police in their response to spousal/intimate partner violence.

The Department of Justice opened a Family Law Information Centre in Halifax in April 2005, which makes legal information available to clients without charge. A similar centre opened in Sydney in January 2005.

The Respectful Relationships Program was made available in more communities throughout the province during the period covered by this report.



**PRIORITY:**  
**Protect Child Witnesses**

*The province will reduce the strain experienced by young or otherwise vulnerable witnesses in our justice system. (Justice)*

To support the implementation of Bill C-2—Protection of Children and Other Vulnerable Persons—the Department of Justice facilitated the work of a Child Victim Witness Committee. The act will strengthen existing child pornography provisions, increase protection of youth against sexual exploitation, and facilitate testimony by children and other vulnerable victims and witnesses.

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**Inclusive Communities**

**PRIORITY:**  
**French Language Services**

*The Office of Acadian Affairs will receive the additional resources it needs to help government comply with the French Language Services Act. (Acadian Affairs)*

With additional resources this year, the Office of Acadian Affairs continued to provide advice and support to government on the development and delivery of French programs, policies, and services.

For example, the office expanded the translation services offered to government with over 400,000 words translated in-house and more than 100,000 words translated by outside sources. The office provided more than 150 public servants with French language training, and also worked with the French-language Services Coordinating Committee to develop the Nova Scotia Strategic Plan for French-language Services and to negotiate a \$5-million Canada/Nova Scotia Agreement on French-language Services with Canadian Heritage, for the period 2005–2009.

**PRIORITY:**  
**African Nova Scotian Affairs**

*The province will increase staff numbers at the Office of African Nova Scotian Affairs, appoint a full-time chief executive officer, and provide funding for services to the African Nova Scotian community. (African Nova Scotian Affairs)*

The Office of African Nova Scotian Affairs was established in August 2005 to assist, support, and enhance the provincial government's delivery of services to African Nova Scotians. A chief executive officer, along with support staff, was hired during the current reporting period. The office is now working in partnership with a number of government departments



and agencies supporting the development of several African Nova Scotian community projects. These include a feasibility study for the reconstruction of the Seaview Church and Africville Interpretive Centre.

African Nova Scotian Affairs is also implementing a variety of educational programs, such as Positive Parenting workshops and a math and science exploration project known as Imhotep's Legacy. The project is a university/community partnership that promotes educational, social, and personal development of young African Nova Scotian learners by engaging them in math and science after-school activities.

Imhotep's Legacy is funded by Dalhousie University's Department of Physics and Atmospheric Science and its Black Student Advising Centre, as well as by the Department of Education's African Canadian Services division and the Office of African Nova Scotian Affairs.

Imhotep pioneered the development of pyramid building in Egypt nearly 5,000 years ago. His legacy is found in the past achievement and present potential of generations of people of African descent.

**PRIORITY:  
Language Training  
for Immigrants**

*As part of its mandate to attract more immigrants to Nova Scotia, in 2005–2006 the Office of Immigration will make a \$250,000 investment in primary–grade 12 language training programs, to help immigrant children adapt to their new homeland.*

(Immigration)

In 2005–2006, \$250,000 was provided to the Department of Education for English as a second language (ESL) in the public schools. This was in addition to the \$500,000 that the Office of Immigration invested during the year in 11 targeted language-training programs. These targeted programs included training for engineers and medical professionals, English tutoring, second-language tutoring at home and in classrooms, and an advanced program of language training and introduction to post-secondary education, which helps immigrants enter university or community college.



**PRIORITY:**  
**Women in Politics**

*The province would like to see more women active in politics and will work toward increasing the number of women represented on municipal councils and in the House of Assembly and the House of Commons. (Status of Women)*

The Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women developed and coordinated a second, non-partisan Campaign School for Women in December 2005, attracting 28 women. The school was designed to give women the practical knowledge and skills necessary for them to begin participating in the political life of the province.

The next Campaign School for Women is scheduled for spring 2007.

The advisory council also worked with the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities and the YWCA, with support from Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, on a research project to find out how to overcome the barriers to women's participation in municipal politics. The final report, *Untapped Resources*, along with seven recommendations, was accepted by municipal councillors from across the province; the project continues in 2006–2007.

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**Tightening  
Government  
Financial Controls**

**PRIORITY:**  
**Hire Additional Auditors**

*The province will hire additional auditors and program staff to better protect consumers and taxpayers. Auditors will scrutinize the security and financial control measures in government's business registration, land registration, and vital statistics operations. Program staff will ensure accurate and timely reporting by regulated industries such as funeral homes and service providers, payday lending operations, and cemeteries and will work with these regulated businesses and their clients to resolve disputes. (Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations; Finance)*

In response to independent audit recommendations, SNSMR developed corporate user access control policies and procedures in 2005–2006 to provide clear direction on granting and managing access to SNSMR business applications.

SNSMR also made incremental progress during the year toward improving the

framework for motor vehicle licensing in the province. Later in the fiscal year, resources were dedicated to completing the task. Final analysis of stakeholder feedback will be followed by the development of proposed changes to the regulations.

Improving protections for consumers who purchase pre-need cemetery plans and prearranged funeral plans continued to be a high priority in 2005–2006.

Following extensive research and analysis, amendments were drafted that more clearly define the information that licence holders must provide to government about their trust accounts.

The department belongs to a province-wide consumer protection committee known as Prevention and Awareness of Crime and Theft (PACT). Other PACT members include the RCMP, Halifax Regional Police, the Seniors' Secretariat, and the Competition Bureau. Working with its partners, the province has developed brochures to help consumers avoid being victimized when shopping online or when purchasing a vehicle. These brochures are distributed via the departmental call centre and at consumer trade shows such as the 50+ Expo.

In the fall of 2005, two additional compliance officers were hired to carry out tobacco compliance inspections and audits. These additional staff have enabled the department to more

effectively assess compliance levels among tobacco retailers and wholesalers, which in turn helps safeguard this important revenue stream.

Audit and compliance activities have also benefited from the introduction of the Audit Risk Assessment and Management System (AARAMS). This customized computer program enables the department to effectively track the allocation of resources and allows a record to be kept of the levels of compliance that have been achieved by retailers. Audit and compliance resources are now, more than ever, being deployed strategically and effectively thanks to enhanced technological capabilities.

More auditors are also needed at the Department of Finance, where recruitment efforts are ongoing. Competition for senior auditors is keen in both the private and public sectors.



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## Measuring Our Performance: Protecting What Nova Scotians Value

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### Percentage of Farms in Environmental Farm Plan

#### What Does This Measure Tell Us?

The Environmental Farm Plan Initiative helps agricultural producers identify and address on-farm environmental risks. The number in this measure is expressed as a percentage of all registered farmers under the Nova Scotia Farm Registration Act. Increasing the number of participants in this initiative serves to improve the overall environmental performance of Nova Scotia's agricultural industries.

#### Where Are We Now?

As of March 2006, approximately 35 per cent of Nova Scotia's farms were participating in the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) initiative. This exceeds the initial target of 30 per cent that was to be achieved by 2005–2006. There has been a steady increase in the percentage of participants in this program since 2000–2001.

#### Where Do We Want to Be?

The goal is to have 40 per cent of registered farms participating in this initiative by 2006–2007, and 50 per cent by 2007–2008.

### Percentage of Aquaculture Sites Monitored

#### What Does This Measure Tell Us?

The department began collecting baseline data for the Aquaculture Environmental Monitoring Program in 2003. The number expressed for this measure refers to a percentage of all active marine aquaculture sites. Increasing the number of sites monitored under this program serves to improve the environmental performance in Nova Scotia's aquaculture industry and public awareness of departmental commitment to sustainable aquaculture.

#### Where Are We Now?

As of March 2006, aquaculture environmental monitoring took place on 82 per cent of active marine aquaculture sites. This represents an increase of 22 per cent from the year before, and it exceeds the target for this year by 7 per cent.

#### Where Do We Want to Be?

The plan is to have 90 per cent of active aquaculture sites monitored under the Aquaculture Environmental Monitoring Program by 2006–2007, and 100 per cent by 2007–2008.

## **Fish Habitat Restoration Projects Completed**

### What Does This Measure Tell Us?

This measure informs on progress made in fish habitat restoration and rehabilitation through the Adopt-a-Stream program. Funding for projects comes from angling licenses, which builds the economic impact of the sport-fishing industry with minimal public investment. The restored habitat produces more fish, which attracts more anglers and leverages the investment once more. The economic model for the Adopt-a-Stream program projects that each square metre of restored habitat is valued at over \$13.00.

### Where Are We Now?

This is a new program. In 2005–2006, 17 groups were funded with monies from the Nova Scotia Sportfish Habitat Fund, provided through a \$5 surcharge on angling licenses. Each group completed a number of projects, at times involving up to six sites. This work resulted in the restoration of 114,790 square metres of fish habitat, significantly exceeding original habitat estimates of 80,000 square metres. Riparian restoration included the planting of 20,800 trees and bank stabilization at 30 sites along watercourses. As a result of funding being leveraged, an initial investment of \$200,000 has been transformed into work valued at \$600,000.

### Where Do We Want to Be?

The aim is to expand funding partners and community involvement.

## **Women in Political Life/ Number of Women Campaign School Graduates**

Women have traditionally been under-represented on municipal councils, in the House of Assembly, and in the House of Commons. The province wants more women to be active in the political arena. One way of working towards that goal is to ensure that women obtain the knowledge and skills necessary to participate in public and political life. To this end, the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women developed and coordinated the first ever, non-partisan Campaign School for Women.

### What Does This Measure Tell Us?

The Campaign School for Women, consisting of several modules, was designed to give women the practical knowledge and skills necessary for them to begin participating in the political life of the province. Each time the Campaign School is offered, the number of graduates serves as an indication that an increasing number of women in this province have the necessary skills to participate in political life.



## Annual Accountability

### Where Are We Now?

The 2004 Campaign School had a total of 30 graduates (25 from Nova Scotia and 5 from out of province), who gained invaluable knowledge and skills required to participate actively in public and political life. The popularity of this first campaign school led to a request that Nova Scotia host another in 2005–2006, which attracted 28 women interested in either running for office or managing a campaign.

### Where Do We Want to Be?

The advisory council will continue to refine, coordinate, and offer its Campaign School for Women. Campaign schools to be held in the other Atlantic provinces will be carried out by those provinces themselves, as Prince Edward Island has already done. Nova Scotia will host three political workshops in communities outside of metro in 2006–2007 and will hold another Campaign School for Women in the 2007–2008 fiscal year.

### Women in Political life

#### Municipal

Women on Nova Scotian municipal councils      92 as at October 2006  
(21% of elected mayors, wardens, and councillors)

#### Provincial

	1999	2003	2006
Women offering/elected in Nova Scotia provincial elections	52 seats 47 women offered 4 elected	52 seats 36 women offered 6 elected	52 seats 49 women offered 9 elected

#### Federal

	2000	2004	2006
Nova Scotia women offering/elected in federal elections	11 seats (of 301) 9 women offered 2 women elected	11 seats (of 308) 13 women offered 1 woman elected	11 seats (of 308) 7 women offered 1 woman elected

#### Campaign School

	2004	2005
Women attending campaign school	30	28

Sources: Elections Canada, Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities, House of Assembly, Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

# Regulatory Reform

## Priorities for 2005–2006

Building on the work and recommendations of the Red Tape Reduction Task Force, which wrapped up in 2004, in 2005 the Government of Nova Scotia launched an ongoing commitment to regulatory reform known as Better Regulation.

The Better Regulation initiative will make it easier to do business in Nova Scotia, without compromising protection for the public and the environment. During Better Regulation's inaugural year of 2005–2006, employees across government contributed to this broadly based initiative along with partners in business and other organizations.

Better Regulation involves all departments and every step of the regulatory cycle. A strong and committed steering committee is chaired by Nova Scotia Environment and Labour (NSEL). NSEL has significant operational responsibility for regulatory affairs and is leading the Competitiveness and Compliance Initiative, one of the major components of Better Regulation.

Through many improvements both large and small, Better Regulation will have a sustained and positive impact. Initially, the focus is on

- service to business to reduce accumulated administrative burden
- competitiveness and compliance to change the way regulation is designed, communicated, and enforced
- measurement tools to help us understand the impact and effectiveness of regulation.

### **PRIORITY: Comprehensive Regulatory Reform**

*The province will launch a comprehensive regulatory reform initiative focusing on improving the quality of its regulations, the effectiveness of its compliance enforcement programs, and its capacity to assess and address the impact of its regulatory activities on business.*

(Environment and Labour)

In 2005–2006, Nova Scotia Environment and Labour worked to reform its processes and developed a comprehensive regulatory management policy.



The goal is to create a competitive climate that supports business, while at the same time ensuring the protection of the things that are important to Nova Scotians, notably, public health and safety, a clean environment, and safe workplaces.

For example, this policy initiative was used to guide the development of the Diving Safety Strategy, which uses education and awareness as well as regulations to help businesses comply and create a safer work environment.

**PRIORITY:**  
**Companies Act**

*As part of the province's efforts in 2005–2006 to promote regulatory efficiency with industry and other levels of government, the Government of Nova Scotia will publish a discussion paper proposing amendments to the Companies Act, to facilitate the incorporation and registration process. (Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations)*

In 2005–2006, Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations (SNSMR) prepared a discussion paper on the Companies Act (released in September 2006) in an effort to promote regulatory efficiency with industry and other levels of government.

The paper is part of the review of the Companies Act registration procedures being conducted by SNSMR and the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society. SNSMR and the Bar also held public and stakeholder information sessions on the review. Input received will inform recommendations for legislative changes. This initiative will lead to streamlined corporate procedures and help reduce red tape for Nova Scotian companies.

**PRIORITY:**  
**Online Services**

*More online services will be introduced. (Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations)*

The vehicle plate renewal service now allows 10 vehicle plates to be renewed in one transaction. Previously, a client had to perform a separate transaction for each renewal, resulting in multiple credit card transactions and loss of time.

Vital Statistics' online services have been upgraded to allow for the partial refunding of payments. Better credit card verification features also have been implemented.

Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations partnered with the Town of Wolfville and Cape Breton Regional Municipality (CBRM) to make provincial online fine payment services available to those municipalities. Wolfville and CBRM now have the same services as are



available to Halifax Regional Municipality with regard to enforcement of parking tickets.

The Life Events content on the SNSMR website and the online services and related help files were translated into French and made available on the web. Online French language services include requests for birth, death, and marriage certificates; payments on account for Vital Statistics transactions; lien checks; changes of address; vehicle plate renewals; drivers knowledge test payments; and fine payments.

The department's content in the Permits Directory has been translated into French as well and will be available in 2006–2007.

**PRIORITY:**  
**Modernizing Energy Laws**

*As part of its focus on improving the quality of its regulations, the government will conduct stakeholder consultations and introduce a comprehensive new Energy Act.* (Energy)

During the reporting period, the Department of Energy continued to work on modernizing energy legislation and regulation. The new energy legislation will clarify and simplify the rules and regulations and codes of practice that apply to energy in Nova Scotia.

**PRIORITY:**  
**Natural Gas Development**

*The province will develop an effective regulatory environment for natural gas development, products, and transmission through the Atlantic Energy Roundtable III.* (Energy)

The Department of Energy developed the Frontier and Offshore Regulatory Renewal Initiative (FORRI) in 2005–2006.

FORRI is renewing and modernizing the regulatory environment in Canada for frontier and offshore oil and gas. It is systematically reviewing and revising all the offshore regulations to ensure that they are flexible in addressing emerging new global technologies and industry best practices.

The department is also working to develop new goal-oriented drilling and production regulations, diving regulations, and changes to the drilling regulations. Work is also being finalized with provinces and the federal government to establish a consistent set of rules for seismic activities across the country.



**PRIORITY:**  
**Video Game Standards**

*A national video and video game classification standard will be adopted.*

(Environment and Labour)

Nova Scotia passed legislation in 2005 to allow for the adoption of a national video and video game classification system and regulations to ensure appropriate compliance with age restrictions in retail stores.

**PRIORITY:**  
**Securities Regulation**

*Legislative amendments will be introduced to enable Nova Scotia's participation in the interprovincial securities regulatory streamlining initiative through the passport system.*

(Environment and Labour)

The province entered into an MOU with all other provinces and territories in 2005 that had as its purpose the streamlining of securities legislation. Legislation was passed in the spring of 2005 to allow for a one-window passport system for Canadian securities jurisdictions. Businesses are able to access capital markets in participating provinces and territories after registering in just one jurisdiction.

**PRIORITY:**  
**Private Land Stewardship**

*An action plan will be developed to remove barriers to private land stewardship.*

(Environment and Labour)

The Nova Scotia House of Assembly passed amendments to the Special Places Protection Act on May 16, 2005. The changes make it easier to designate nature reserves for Nova Scotians to enjoy.

The amendments re-establish the Special Places Advisory Committee. An updated membership structure will help streamline the process and remove barriers to private land designation and stewardship.

**PRIORITY:**  
**On-site Septic Disposal Systems**

*A pilot project will be carried out to streamline the application and approval process for on-site septic disposal systems, to achieve faster turnaround times for applicants, and to redeploy inspection resources for stronger enforcement.*

(Environment and Labour)

Throughout 2005–2006, NSEL conducted a pilot project in Halifax and Lunenburg counties to reduce the time it takes to approve on-site septic applications and to enhance the audit process. In early 2006,

## Regulatory Reform

the department began consultations on draft on-site regulations that will streamline the application and approval process throughout the province.

# Consultations and Other Initiatives

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## Priorities for 2005–2006

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Improving the quality of life for Nova Scotians means talking to them regularly about the many different issues that affect them directly or indirectly.

In 2005–2006, the government pursued a full slate of consultations, from the environment and culture to energy efficiency and wait times for medical services. A brief account follows here.

**PRIORITY:**  
**Talking with Nova Scotians about Forests, Minerals, Parks, and Biodiversity**

*The province will pursue public and stakeholder consultations as part of a process to prepare strategies for the province on the management of forests, minerals, parks, and biodiversity. (Natural Resources)*

As a result of competing issues, the province has opted to delay consultations. However, departmental planning for the development of a Natural Resource

Strategy that will cover biodiversity, minerals, parks and recreation, and forests continued throughout the reporting period.

**PRIORITY:**  
**Treaty Negotiations**

*The province will move forward on several initiatives with the Mi'kmaq in 2005–2006, including implementation of the June 2002 Umbrella Agreement and signing of a Framework Agreement that will act as a road map for treaty negotiations. (Aboriginal Affairs)*

The province has concluded discussions on a Framework Agreement with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia and the Government of Canada, establishing process and topics for negotiation of issues relating to Aboriginal rights, Aboriginal title, treaty rights, and governance.

Discussions were begun to develop terms of reference for a consultation process to address the requirements of governments to consult with the Mi'kmaq.



**PRIORITY:**  
**First Ministers' Meeting  
on Aboriginal Issues**

*Planning for a fall 2005 First Ministers' Meeting on Aboriginal Issues will include the development of an Aboriginal health blueprint and preparatory work on Aboriginal education, housing, and government/Aboriginal relations. (Aboriginal Affairs)*

The first ministers' meeting was held in November 2005. Participants agreed to close the gap between Aboriginal and other Canadians in key social and economic outcomes, over a 10-year period.

While the new federal government has stated their support for the targets announced at the first ministers' meeting, they are taking a more targeted approach on the issues and solutions. Nova Scotia remains committed to working with both the federal government and Aboriginal organizations and communities to further the objectives established in November 2005. The work done in preparation for the first ministers' meeting is laying the groundwork for our collaborative work with Nova Scotia First Nations and the federal government.

A significant outcome of the November meeting was the development of *Nova Scotia's Aboriginal Health Blueprint,*

*Providing Health Care, Achieving Health.*

This document will form the foundation of the province's working relationship with Aboriginal people on health-care issues and will establish the basis for Nova Scotia's Aboriginal health policy.

**PRIORITY:**  
**Preserving Mi'kmaq Culture**

*The province will work collaboratively with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia to preserve and protect an important archaeological and cultural site at Debert.*

*(Aboriginal Affairs)*

The vision of a Mi'kmawey Debert Cultural Centre came into clearer focus with the completion of a feasibility study. In addition, the Office of Aboriginal Affairs sponsored a conference, entitled *Ta'n Wetapeksi'k: Understanding from Where We Come*. The focus was to document the research that has been done on the Debert-Belmont archeological sites.

In addition, work was completed on a strategic plan in support of the protection and understanding of existing archaeological resources, and discussions began with the Mik'maq to resolve questions associated with land protection in the Debert-Belmont area of Nova Scotia.

**PRIORITY:**

**Energy  
Efficiency/Conservation**

*Throughout 2005–2006, the government will work with other governments, industry, and organizations to improve energy efficiency and to encourage energy conservation throughout Nova Scotia.*

(Energy)

Nova Scotia's \$10-million Smart Energy Choices Program was launched in the fall of 2005. Through this program the Department of Energy administered additional efficiency and conservation programs, including EnerGuide for Existing Homes/Additional Modest Income Incentives for Seniors, EnerGuide for New Homes, Wood Stove Rebates, Solar Water Heating Rebate, and the LED Traffic Signal Replacement Program.

**PRIORITY:**

**Energy Awareness**

*The Department of Energy will continue a multi-year public education plan about energy use and opportunities in the energy sector.* (Energy)

Every household in Nova Scotia received an energy quick tips booklet in the fall of 2005, featuring easy, cost-effective ways to reduce energy costs. The information

initiative continued, with a television advertising campaign.

Work is also under way with other Atlantic jurisdictions on SAVE—a Shared Atlantic Vision for Energy Efficiency. The awareness campaign is using advertising and community-based social marketing techniques to help educate Nova Scotians about energy efficiency. Nova Scotia invested \$150,000 in the first year of SAVE.

**PRIORITY:**

**Reduce Wait Times**

*During 2005–2006, the provincial wait-time committee will advise the Minister of Health on wait-time issues, set standards for all health-care services, publish wait-times information, and communicate with the public and service providers on wait-time issues.* (Health)

Following its inaugural meeting in March 2005, the wait-time committee met on six subsequent occasions throughout the year to address issues identified as contributing factors to the current situation. They submitted advice to the Minister on numerous occasions, including recommendations on a number of issues.

## Appendix: Website Locations for Departmental Accountability Reports, 2005–2006

The Provincial Finance Act requires the Government of Nova Scotia to publish an annual *Government Accountability Report*. By policy, government also requires departments, agencies, and Crown corporations in the consolidated financial statements to produce accountability reports of their own.

Both the *Government Accountability Report* and the Crown corporation accountability reports are available to the public in hard copy or can be downloaded from the Government of Nova Scotia website, [www.gov.ns.ca](http://www.gov.ns.ca).

Complete accountability reports for departments and public service vote entities are published online. Department and public service entity accountability reports can be found through their specific websites at the addresses listed here.

### **URLs for Government of Nova Scotia Departmental Accountability Reports 2005–2006**

Website addresses for each entity are listed below. Click on the Publications link on the website home page to find the accountability report.

#### **Departments**

Agriculture and Fisheries  
[www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/)

Community Services  
[www.gov.ns.ca/coms/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/coms/)

Education  
[www.ednet.ns.ca/](http://www.ednet.ns.ca/)

Energy  
[www.gov.ns.ca/energy](http://www.gov.ns.ca/energy)

Environment and Labour  
[www.gov.ns.ca/enla/pubs/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/enla/pubs/)

Finance  
[www.gov.ns.ca/finance/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/finance/)

Health  
[www.gov.ns.ca/health/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/health/)



## Annual Accountability

Justice

[www.gov.ns.ca/just/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/just/)

Natural Resources

[www.gov.ns.ca/natr/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/)

Service Nova Scotia  
and Municipal Relations

[www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/)

Tourism, Culture and Heritage

[www.gov.ns.ca/dtc/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/dtc/)

Transportation and Public Works

[www.gov.ns.ca/tran/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/tran/)

### PSVs

Advisory Council on the Status of Women

[www.gov.ns.ca/staw/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/staw/)

Communications Nova Scotia

[www.gov.ns.ca/cmns/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/cmns/)

Emergency Management Office

[www.gov.ns.ca/emo/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/emo/)

Freedom of Information and  
Protection of Privacy Review Office

[www.foipop.ns.ca/](http://www.foipop.ns.ca/)

Health Promotion and Protection

[www.gov.ns.ca/hpp/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/hpp/)

Human Rights Commission

<http://gov.ns.ca/humanrights/>

Intergovernmental Affairs

[www.gov.ns.ca/iga/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/iga/)

Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board

[www.nsuarb.ca/about/](http://www.nsuarb.ca/about/)

Office of Aboriginal Affairs

[www.gov.ns.ca/abor/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/abor/)

Office of African Nova Scotian Affairs

[www.gov.ns.ca/ansa/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/ansa/)

Office of Economic Development

[www.gov.ns.ca/econ/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/econ/)

Office of Immigration

[www.novascotiaimmigration.com/](http://www.novascotiaimmigration.com/)

Office of the Ombudsman

[www.gov.ns.ca/ombu/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/ombu/)

Public Prosecution Service

[www.gov.ns.ca/pps/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/pps/)

Public Service Commission

[www.gov.ns.ca/psc/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/psc/)

Senior Citizens' Secretariat

[www.gov.ns.ca/scs/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/scs/)

Sydney Tar Ponds Agency

[www.tarpondscleanup.ca](http://www.tarpondscleanup.ca)

Treasury and Policy Board

[www.gov.ns.ca/tpb/publications.asp](http://www.gov.ns.ca/tpb/publications.asp)

Voluntary Planning

[www.gov.ns.ca/vp/Accountability.html](http://www.gov.ns.ca/vp/Accountability.html)



## Appendix

### Crown Corporations

Art Gallery of Nova Scotia

[www.agns.gov.ns.ca](http://www.agns.gov.ns.ca)

Halifax-Dartmouth Bridge Commission

[www.hdbc.ca/publications.asp](http://www.hdbc.ca/publications.asp)

InNOVAcorp

[www.innovacorp.ca/corporate/bp/](http://www.innovacorp.ca/corporate/bp/)

Nova Scotia Business Incorporated

[www.novascotiabusiness.com/](http://www.novascotiabusiness.com/)

Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock

Insurance Commission

[www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/ci/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/ci/)

Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board

[www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/loanboards/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/loanboards/)

Nova Scotia Film Development Corporation

[www.film.ns.ca/corp\\_report.asp](http://www.film.ns.ca/corp_report.asp)

Nova Scotia Fisheries and Aquaculture

Loan Board

[www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/loanboards/fishlb/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/loanboards/fishlb/)

Nova Scotia Gaming Corporation

[www.nsgc.ca/annualReports.php](http://www.nsgc.ca/annualReports.php)

Nova Scotia Housing Development

Corporation

[www.gov.ns.ca/coms/publications.html](http://www.gov.ns.ca/coms/publications.html)

Nova Scotia Liquor Corporation

<http://nslcweb.thenslc.com/>

Nova Scotia Municipal Finance Corporation

[www.gov.ns.ca/nsmfc/reports.htm](http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsmfc/reports.htm)

Sysco/NS Lands

[www.sysco.ns.ca](http://www.sysco.ns.ca)

Trade Centre Limited

[www.tradecentrelimited.com](http://www.tradecentrelimited.com)

Waterfront Development

Corporation Limited

<http://wdcl.ca/pages/AnnualReport.aspx>



**NOVA SCOTIA**