



**A TREASURED PAST  
A PRECIOUS FUTURE**

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# A Heritage Strategy for Nova Scotia 2008-2013

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**NOVA SCOTIA**  
Tourism, Culture and Heritage



## THE STRATEGY SUMMARY

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**A Treasured Past, A Precious Future is a Government of Nova Scotia strategy that recognizes the importance of heritage to who we are and all that we can become. The strategy articulates and details three directions, or areas of focus, the government will undertake over the next five years. In focusing efforts, it will ensure our heritage is preserved, protected, promoted, and presented for this and future generations.**

## OUR VISION

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**All Nova Scotians, today and in the future, will know, appreciate, and experience the heritage that shapes our province.**

This vision, proposed by the Voluntary Planning Heritage Strategy Task Force and adopted by government, reflects the diversity of hopes and interests of Nova Scotians, and more specifically, stakeholders in the heritage sector. A focus on achieving this vision ensures our heritage is treasured for generations.

## OUR VALUES

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**Several values underpin the work the government carries out to achieve the vision. They provide enduring guidance to the decisions government makes, the initiatives it develops, and the relationships it forms with partners.**

- **Heritage**
  - celebrates Nova Scotia's uniqueness and diversity
  - enhances quality of life for all
  - contributes to prosperity
  - contributes to opportunities for lifelong learning
  - is intrinsic to a sense of identity, a sense of community, and pride of place
  - is essential to the preservation, development, and sustainability of Nova Scotia's communities
- **The stewardship of heritage is important to Nova Scotians.**
- **Heritage stewardship is a shared responsibility. All Nova Scotians have a role to play in preserving, protecting, and promoting our heritage.**



## OUR GOAL

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**Acting for the public good, the Government of Nova Scotia preserves, protects, promotes, and presents the province's natural and cultural heritage resources. Its goal is to ensure that heritage remains a vital part of Nova Scotia's future, enriching both citizens and society.<sup>1</sup>**

This goal speaks to government's intent to integrate and sustain efforts of its heritage agenda across departments and agencies. To achieve success, the government aims to

- **celebrate the diversity of the heritage places, objects, stories, music, languages, and traditions that are special to all Nova Scotians**
- **value partnerships as an essential and effective means of achieving results**
- **create a sustainable system of provincially significant natural and cultural heritage resources**
- **manage strong heritage infrastructure, a skilled workforce, and programs and services to accommodate growth and change**
- **provide public education that increases understanding, awareness, and respect for Nova Scotia's diverse heritage**
- **facilitate the unique heritage springing from the province's indigenous Mi'kmaw culture and other founding cultures such as Acadian, African Nova Scotian, and Gaelic**

The government is actively involved in heritage management, and it is worth noting that it takes responsibility in the context of heritage resources, legislated mandates and regulations, programs and services, and in the integrated assessment of strategic issues concerning heritage across its departments and agencies.

Ultimately, however, the responsibility for heritage belongs to us all — to every level of government and to every Nova Scotian. It belongs to every organization that views itself as supportive of our rich past and every community and business that might affect or be affected by the future of the province's heritage. Heritage is a shared responsibility with collective stewardship. To be an effective steward, every Nova Scotian must care about and advocate for our heritage.

<sup>1</sup> Note that "enriching both citizens and society" was stated in the report of the Voluntary Planning Heritage Strategy Task Force, December 2006, which references the primary role of heritage as one of personal and social enrichment, with a secondary role related to economic impact of heritage in our province and in our communities.



## OUR STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

### 1. Co-ordinate efforts

**Strategic direction 1.0 is to better co-ordinate the efforts of those who share responsibility to preserve, protect, promote, and present Nova Scotia's heritage.**

*To achieve this, the government will*

1. Develop co-ordinated stewardship roles, policies, and support mechanisms within the provincial government and across governments.
2. Improve communications, collaboration, and co-ordination between government and non-governmental and community agencies.

### 2. Develop sustainability

**Strategic direction 2.0 is to improve the development and sustainable management of the full range of the province's significant heritage.**

*To achieve this, the government will*

1. Identify, preserve, and protect significant natural and cultural heritage.
2. Prioritize existing heritage assets and align resources.
3. Develop a skilled workforce to deliver services in core areas of heritage.
4. Develop a modern legislative/policy framework for heritage.
5. Create a financial strategy to sustain development of heritage and maximize the use of existing resources for all stakeholders.

### 3. Increase recognition

**Strategic direction 3.0 is to increase public recognition of the value and relevance of the province's rich heritage.**

*To achieve this, the government will*

1. Raise awareness and understanding of the social, economic, health, recreational, and environmental roles and benefits of heritage.
2. Improve promotion of opportunities for Nova Scotians and visitors to experience our heritage and understand its value and relevance.
3. Enhance our capacity to develop products and programs that interpret, present, and share our many heritage stories and that engage people.
4. Increase opportunities for students to experience our heritage and to understand its value and relevance.