



NOVA SCOTIA GOVERNMENT BUSINESS PLAN

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2009–2010



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Introduction

The business plan for 2009–2010 is a transitional one. The fiscal year is half over, and departmental budgets are half spent. Hence, the business plan presented here largely mirrors the plan presented in May by the previous government. Thanks to savings found within existing budgets, there are also elements in this plan that meet the new government's commitments to Nova Scotians, without adding to the provincial debt.

In the spring, a business plan for the fiscal year 2010–2011 will be introduced. It will reflect the new government's vision—one that will steer the province safely and successfully through the financial challenges ahead and set Nova Scotia in a sustainable direction—a direction that will enable the province to secure the prosperity Nova Scotians want, have long worked for, and, quite rightly, deserve.



Living within Our Means

First and foremost, the province's fiscal house must be put in order. In July, the government recruited an independent firm to conduct a review of the province's finances. The Deloitte Report, released in August, confirms the province's unsustainable financial path. If this challenge is not addressed, the province would face a projected annual deficit of \$1.3 billion by 2012–2013. If the deficit continued, the provincial debt would reach \$16.7 billion in that same fiscal year. The government is committed to stop that from happening.

In August, the Premier appointed a panel of economic advisors to provide the government with options to help meet the province's fiscal challenges. The report from the panel is expected at the end of October.

This advice, coupled with an internal review being carried out by senior officials to examine every aspect of government spending, will guide decision making in the months ahead.

The government must and will live within its means.

Jobs and Learning

Jobs and learning—the two go hand in hand. A skilled and educated workforce is a critical driver for fueling economic investment in Nova Scotia. Business investment follows talent, making the province's well-trained, skilled, and educated populace one of the province's greatest assets and making access to education and training vital to Nova Scotia's prosperity.

Nova Scotia has the highest university enrolment as a percentage of the province's total population—a proud achievement indeed. The current Memorandum of Understanding on University Funding freezes tuition fees for all students at Nova Scotia universities through to 2010–2011 and will help keep the doors to higher learning open for students.

The government will continue to engage public schools in an extensive review of performance and student achievement through the Nova Scotia School Accreditation Program and will continue to support boards in providing mathematics and literacy mentor services to their schools.

In collaboration with boards and their schools, co-operative education opportunities will be expanded, as will the highly successful Options and Opportunities—a community-based learning program.

A new Mi'kmaq Liaison Office has been established, and its scope broadened to improve supports for Mi'kmaw and other Aboriginal students, ensuring that education and opportunities are available to all.



Jobs and the Economy

Like jurisdictions worldwide, Nova Scotia is emerging from a recession. Many Nova Scotians are still recovering from the economic pain it inflicted.

Finding new ways to stimulate economic development, grow a greener economy, and create a climate for business to compete and succeed are paramount.

To this end, the government will identify priorities and opportunities in sustainable growth sectors and will partner effectively with other levels of government, business, labour, and communities to revitalize employment and accelerate business growth across the province.

The government recognizes that the Industrial Expansion Fund is an important tool for creating secure jobs to meet Nova Scotia's economic needs. The province is now examining options for independent analyses of potential projects to ensure that Nova Scotians are getting value for their investments.

Government must use every available means to grow the economy and be accountable and transparent in doing so.

An investment tax credit for investments in manufacturing and processing will put money into the hands of businesses. Increasing the equity tax credit from 30 to 35 per cent of the value of the eligible investment, starting in January 2010, will help build employment and strong communities.

Nova Scotia's transportation infrastructure has a significant economic role to play in helping local companies succeed on the world stage.

The province is scheduled to spend \$325 million on highway construction and major maintenance projects this year—surpassing last year's amount. This highway improvement plan is one of the largest in the province's history.

Government is also accelerating investment in municipal infrastructure. The accelerated funding for 2009–2010 will be provided through the Building Canada Fund and the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund.

Affordability

Making life more affordable for Nova Scotia families is a key commitment of the new government. As a result, up to 1,500 new home buyers are eligible for a rebate. This, coupled with the removal of the 8 per cent provincial sales tax on basic home electricity, puts money back into the hands of Nova Scotians where it belongs.

The Energuide Program will continue this year with further enhancements to encourage even more Nova Scotians to make their homes more energy efficient.



Health Care

Nova Scotians want the best possible health-care system—one that serves them now and into the future.

Making sure every health-care dollar is well spent on providing quality patient care is fundamental to putting Nova Scotia on the right path. Such an achievement requires changes.

The cost of health services is growing beyond the province's ability to support it. The province must rethink its approach to delivering health care, and all Nova Scotians must recognize their own responsibility for their own health and well-being.

In keeping with government's commitment to keep hospital emergency rooms open, a provincial advisor will work with health authorities, doctors, Emergency Health Services, and other health-care providers to ensure that emergency departments deliver the kind of care Nova Scotians want.

The province must do everything it can to prepare appropriately for the H1N1 global pandemic, recognizing also that all Nova Scotians have a role to play in protecting themselves and their families. To this end, government is making the necessary funds available to address this very real health risk.

The province will also be there to help assist Nova Scotia families with travel and accommodation costs when they must travel out of the province to receive life-saving care.

This year, the first mental health court will open to help individuals who need counselling and treatment instead of being held in custody or put in situations where conflict may arise.

The province will continue to collaborate with mental health service providers to identify, monitor, and refer students requiring mental health supports.

Conclusion

Planning is an inherent part of transition, and during the remaining months of the fiscal year that's much of what government will be doing—but not in isolation. Nova Scotians will be engaged in shaping the path forward. By working together, the province can ensure a brighter, stronger future for all Nova Scotians.

Business Plans 2009–2010

Department	Web Address
Agriculture	www.gov.ns.ca/agri/ (Click on Statistics & Publications)
Community Services	www.gov.ns.ca/coms/ (Click on About This Department, Publications, Policies & Reports)
Economic and Rural Development	www.gov.ns.ca/econ/ (Click on Publications)
Education	www.ednet.ns.ca/ (Click on Business Plans)
Energy	www.gov.ns.ca/energy/ (Click on Background Information, then Business Plan)
Environment	www.gov.ns.ca/nse/ (Click on Publications)
Finance	www.gov.ns.ca/finance/ (Click on Publications, then Business Plan)
Fisheries and Aquaculture	www.gov.ns.ca/fish/ (Click on Statistics & Publications)
Health	www.gov.ns.ca/health/ (Click on Reports)
Health Promotion and Protection	www.gov.ns.ca/hpp/ (Click on Resources and Publications, then Corporate Services)
Justice	www.gov.ns.ca/just/ (Click on Publications)
Labour and Workforce Development	www.gov.ns.ca/lwd/ (Click on Publications)
Natural Resources	www.gov.ns.ca/natr/ (Click on Business Plans)
Seniors	www.gov.ns.ca/scs/ (Click on Publications)
Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations	www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/ (Click on Business Plan)
Tourism, Culture and Heritage	www.gov.ns.ca/tch/ (Click on Business Plan)
Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal	www.gov.ns.ca/tran/ (Click on Business Plan)
Public Service Entity	Web Address
Aboriginal Affairs, Office of	www.gov.ns.ca/abor/ (Click on Office of Aboriginal Affairs, then on What We Do)
Acadian Affairs, Office of	<i>English:</i> www.gov.ns.ca/acadian/e/ (Click on Publications) <i>Français:</i> www.gov.ns.ca/acadian/f/ (Cliquez sur Publications)
African Nova Scotian Affairs, Office of	www.gov.ns.ca/ansa/ (Click on Business Plan 2009–10)
Chief Information Office	www.gov.ns.ca/tpb
Communications Nova Scotia	www.gov.ns.ca/cmns (See under Recent Publications)
Conserve Nova Scotia	www.conservens.ca (Click on About the Agency)
Emergency Management Office	www.gov.ns.ca/emo/ (Click on Resources, then Publications)



NOVA SCOTIA

Business Plans 2009–2010 *continued*

Public Service Entity	Web Address
Executive Council Office	www.gov.ns.ca/tpb/
Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Review Office	www.foipop.ns.ca/ (Click on Publications)
Gaelic Affairs, Office of	www.gov.ns.ca/oga
Human Rights Commission	www.gov.ns.ca/humanrights/ (Click on Publications)
Immigration, Office of	www.novascotiaimmigration.com (Click on Publications & Resources, Corporate Documents)
Intergovernmental Affairs	www.gov.ns.ca/iga/ (Click on Publications)
Nova Scotia Securities Commission	www.gov.ns.ca/nssc (Click on Plans & Reports)
Ombudsman, Office of the	www.gov.ns.ca/ombu/
Policy and Priorities Office	www.gov.ns.ca/tpb/
Public Prosecution Service	www.gov.ns.ca/pps/ (Click on Business Plan)
Public Service Commission	www.gov.ns.ca/psc/ (Click on About the PSC, then Business Plans & Accountability Reports)
Status of Women, Advisory Council on	http://women.gov.ns.ca/ (Click on About Us, Reports and Business Plans)
Sydney Tar Ponds Agency	www.tarpondscleanup.ca (Click on Agency, then hover on Agency)
Treasury Board Office	www.gov.ns.ca/tpb/
Utility and Review Board, NS	www.nsuarb.ca/ (Click on About Us, Plans & Reports)
Voluntary Planning	http://vp.gov.ns.ca/ (Click on Publications)
Crown Corporation	Web Address
Art Gallery of Nova Scotia	Included in the Crown Corporation Business Plans Report, www.gov.ns.ca/tpb/publications
Halifax-Dartmouth Bridge Commission	www.hdbc.ca (Click on About HHB, then Annual Reports and Publications)
Film Nova Scotia	http://film.ns.ca (Click on Corporate, then Corporate Reporting)
Harbourside Commercial Park Inc.	Included in the Crown Corporation Business Plans Report, www.gov.ns.ca/tpb/publications
InNOVAcorp	www.innovacorp.ca/ (Click on About Us, Publications)
Nova Scotia Business Incorporated	www.novascotiabusiness.com/en/ (Click on About Nova Scotia Business Inc., Corporate Reports and Plans)
Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission	www.gov.ns.ca/agri/ci/
Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board	www.gov.ns.ca/agri/farmlb/ (Click on Business Plan)

Business Plans 2009–2010 *continued*

Crown Corporation	Web Address
Nova Scotia Fisheries and Aquaculture Loan Board	www.gov.ns.ca/fish/fishlb/ (Click on Business Plan 2009–10)
Nova Scotia Gaming Corporation	www.nsgc.ca/busPlans.php
Nova Scotia Harness Racing Incorporated	Included in the Crown Corporation Business Plans Report, www.gov.ns.ca/tpb/publications
Nova Scotia Housing Development Corporation	Included in the Crown Corporation Business Plans Report, www.gov.ns.ca/tpb/publications
Nova Scotia Lands Inc.	Included in the Crown Corporation Business Plans Report, www.gov.ns.ca/tpb/publications
Nova Scotia Liquor Corporation	www.thenslc.com/ (Click on About NSLC, Business Plans)
Nova Scotia Municipal Finance Corporation	www.gov.ns.ca/nsmfc (Click on Business Plan)
Nova Scotia Power Finance Corporation	Included in the Crown Corporation Business Plans Report, www.gov.ns.ca/tpb/publications
Sydney Steel Corporation	Included in the Crown Corporation Business Plans Report, www.gov.ns.ca/tpb/publications
Trade Centre Limited	www.tradecentrelimited.com/ (Click on About TCL, Corporate Policies & Reports)
Waterfront Development Corporation Limited	www.wdcl.ca/ (Click on Corporate Profile)

