
**NS ENVIRONMENT AND LABOUR
2006-07 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS**

COMPETITIVENESS & COMPLIANCE INITIATIVE – \$400,000 increase

What is the objective of this initiative?

The Competitiveness and Compliance Initiative (CCI) is designed to achieve “regulatory excellence” across the department. The CCI is an integrated, multi-year effort across the department’s programs to improve our regulatory systems and achieve better compliance with our laws by business and other regulated organizations.

Why is this initiative important?

The Province has strengthened its commitment to improve its regulations through the Better Regulation Initiative. The CCI is a significant element of the Better Regulation Initiative.

The CCI will make a significant contribution to the competitiveness of Nova Scotia’s economy by reducing unnecessary administrative complexity and costs. This is achieved by ensuring our regulations are well designed, clearly communicated and administered, and enforced with consistency, and by the elimination of regulatory requirements that are no longer necessary or are duplicated.

At the same time, the CCI allows the department to improve its ability to protect and enhance the environment, public health, and employee and public safety. “Competitiveness” and “Compliance” are complementary goals.

Who benefits from this initiative?

All Nova Scotians benefit from better regulation that protects what Nova Scotians value. Businesses, and our economy, benefit from a regulatory environment that is clear, consistent and streamlined.

What did the CCI accomplish in its first year?

The CCI had a start-up budget of \$500,000 in 2005-06. Some of the accomplishments of the department during the initial year include:

- built awareness across the department and with stakeholders
- established the CCI Office and work plan
- developed and implemented improved tools for regulatory design and analysis, such as business impact test models (including impact study on electronic waste)
- sponsored a series of science-related forums to inform internal and external stakeholders
- developed a common training program for inspectors across the department
- undertook several regulatory and process reviews, including the liquor licensing review, and a major pilot project to test new approaches for regulating on-site septic

systems

- introduced regulatory amendments to streamline and/or improve regulations, including harmonized securities legislation, harmonized building code, improved processes to establish protected areas, elimination of redundant regulations on radiation, extension of blanket environmental approvals for watercourse alterations undertaken by qualified persons, and expansion of multi-year licencing options
- developed and implemented comprehensive strategies for amusement devices, and for occupational diving – each incorporating a suite of awareness, training and regulatory actions designed to improve compliance with safe practices and support the competitiveness of Nova Scotia's economy.

How will the funding be spent?

The CCI will receive an additional \$400,000 to bring its annual funding to \$900,000 in Year 2 of the 5 year project. This increased funding will allow the department to continue the projects launched in 2005-06, and to:

- implement a sustained, specialized regulatory training program for inspectors
- increase our capacity to evaluate potential impacts of existing and proposed regulatory measures to inform decision making
- support additional regulatory improvement projects such as the Public Safety Review, the strategy to reduce injury related to violence in the workplace, and the review of hazardous waste management requirements
- improve the way we provide information about our laws to the public and business to increase awareness and understanding.

The CCI will support the broader provincial Better Regulation Initiative by providing leadership and support to province-wide initiatives.

For more information contact:

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Visit our website at www.gov.ns.ca/enla/cci