

Budget and Business Plan Highlights

Message from the Minister

On behalf of the Department of Environment and Labour, I am pleased to present the Department's business plan for 2005-2006.

Environment and Labour has one of the most diverse and far-reaching mandates of any provincial government department, ranging from environmental protection to the protection of worker's rights, consumer interests related to insurance, pensions and alcohol and gaming, and workplace and public safety.

As you look through this year's plan, you'll see that our goal of improving the quality, consistency, and effectiveness of our regulatory systems is a common thread running through the priority activities in each of our core business areas.

I'm especially pleased to note that this year's plan includes new money to support our competitiveness and compliance initiative, designed to improve the quality of our regulatory systems. Our business plan also emphasizes collaboration and partnerships, and highlights a number of human resource initiatives.

The priorities we have outlined in this year's business plan set a course for significant progress in all areas of Environment and Labour's broad mandate.

Even more important is our contribution to government's overall priorities - protecting what Nova Scotians value, building greater prosperity, and improving health outcomes. I look forward to leading Environment and Labour in this important work.

Kerry Morash
Minister of Environment and Labour

Key Budget Numbers

Budget Overall:

2004-05 Estimate	\$26,152,000
2005-06 Estimate	\$27,947,000
Increase	\$1,795,000

Key Budget Highlights

\$500,000 Increase Competitiveness and Compliance Initiative

The department has received new money to support new staff and programs aimed at developing more integrated approaches to information management, policy development, training and education of inspections/enforcement staff, and coordinated compliance strategies across the department.

April 26, 2005

Core Business Budgets: (in thousands)

Administration	\$1,675
Policy	\$619
Boards & Commissions	\$442
Workers' Advisers Program	Fully funded by the WCB
Alcohol & Gaming	\$4,307
Public Safety	\$2,897
Occupational Health & Safety	\$270
Labour Services	\$1,179
Labour Standards	\$1,096
Environmental Monitoring & Compliance	\$7,562
Environmental & Natural Areas Management	\$4,257
Information & Business Services	\$2,974
Pension Regulation	(\$63) credit
Financial Institutions	\$732

4. Promote employment standards, fair processes for wage compensation, effective labour-management relations, and fairness for injured workers.
5. Protect the interests of insurance and financial services consumers and pension plan members.
6. Protect the public interest with respect to gaming, sale of liquor, operation of theatres and amusements, and distribution of film products in Nova Scotia.
7. Manage the department's human resources efficiently and effectively.

Strategic Goals

1. Promote continuous improvement in the quality, coherence and effectiveness of our regulatory systems in protecting the public interest and in supporting sustainable economic competitiveness.
2. Promote safe and healthy workplaces/work practices and safe facilities and equipment.
3. Promote sustainable management and protection of the environment and natural areas.

A complete version of our business plan is available at:

www.gov.ns.ca/enla/

April 26, 2005