



ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

2024-25

L'nu Affairs

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Accountability Report 2024–2025

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Accountability Statement

The Accountability Report of the Office of L'nu Affairs for the year ended March 31, 2025, is prepared pursuant to the *Finance Act* and government policies and guidelines. The reporting of the Office of L'nu Affairs outcomes necessarily include estimates, judgments, and opinions by the Office of L'nu Affairs management.

We acknowledge that this Accountability Report is the responsibility of the Office of L'nu Affairs management. The report is, to the extent possible, a complete and accurate representation of outcomes relative to the goals and priorities set out in the Office of L'nu Affairs 2024-25 Business Plan.

Original signed by
Honourable Leah Martin
Minister responsible for the Office of L'nu Affairs

Original signed by
Joanne Munro
Chief Executive Officer, Office of L'nu Affairs

Measuring Performance

The Office of L'nu Affairs (OLA) continued to work in close partnership with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia, maintaining a strong, collaborative approach to addressing both opportunities and challenges for Mi'kmaw communities. OLA advanced the rights-based Made-in-Nova Scotia Negotiation Process alongside the Mi'kmaq and the Federal Government, coordinated consultations between the Province and the Mi'kmaq, and promoted greater understanding of Mi'kmaw culture and history. OLA also provided strategic policy advice to government and supported initiatives aimed at fostering social and economic wellbeing in Mi'kmaw communities. Additionally, OLA worked with Mi'kmaw partners through the Mi'kmaw Language Committee to finalize L'nui'sutinej, the Mi'kmaw Language ReVITALization Strategy for 2024–2030.

Negotiations – Advance tripartite Mi'kmaq/Provincial/Federal work on Mi'kmaw Aboriginal and Treaty rights in Nova Scotia.

- In 2024-25, OLA continued to collaborate with provincial departments to represent Nova Scotia's interests in the tripartite negotiations related to Mi'kmaw Aboriginal and Treaty Rights. These confidential negotiations focus on exploring interim and incremental approaches to bring greater clarity and predictability to the exercise of those rights in Nova Scotia.
- Negotiations continued on Mi'kmaw self-governance over social programs including Mi'kmaw Child and Family Services (Maw-Kleyu'kik Knijannaq) and enhanced social assistance (Ta'n Eтли-tpi'tmk).

Consultation – The Province has consistent and effective, legally sound mechanisms for consulting with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia when contemplating conduct that may adversely impact Aboriginal and Treaty rights.

- Given the intricate and evolving legal framework and changing representation of Mi'kmaw Bands by Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn (KMK) for consultation purposes, it is vital for government to fulfill its legal responsibilities regarding the duty to consult with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia. In 2024-25, OLA continued to provide policy leadership, guidance, advice and training to provincial departments on the process to fulfill consultation obligations on decisions or actions that may adversely impact Aboriginal or Treaty Rights. This advisory role became increasingly important following the Province's commitment to advance responsible natural resource development in Nova Scotia.
- OLA continued to provide advice to project proponents regarding Mi'kmaw engagement and delegated aspects of consultation.

Policy and Intergovernmental initiatives – Productive collaborations with provincial departments, Federal/Provincial/Territorial governments, Mi'kmaw organizations and other external partners.

- OLA continued to provide ongoing horizontal coordination, guidance, and strategic advice to government on Indigenous matters, including engagement with the Mi'kmaq, both formally through forums such as the Senior Officials Advisory Committee on L'nu Affairs, the Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas Coordination Committee, and the Tajikeyimik Strategic Health Partnership Committee, and informally through issue coordination and management with provincial departments.
- OLA continued to support Mi'kmaw communities in facilitating connections with provincial departments to navigate policies, programs, and service requests in response to community needs.
- OLA collaborated with Mi'kmaw partners and jointly led the Mi'kmaw Language Committee in finalizing L'nui'sutinej, the Mi'kmaw Language ReVITALization Strategy for 2024-2030.
- OLA provided capacity funding for consultation, together with direct and leveraged support for major Indigenous initiatives to advance social and economic outcomes for Indigenous communities in Nova Scotia. This included funding for Mi'kmaw language revitalization, Treaty Education and Treaty Day scholarships, Mi'kmaw participation in moose management, programs for Indigenous women, Indigenous economic research and support for Indigenous youth in sport and youth employment opportunities that promote a low-carbon economy and sustainable environmental practices.
- OLA continued to work in partnership with all provincial departments and Mi'kmaw leadership and organizations to address the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Calls for Justice. The Minister attended the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Indigenous-Federal-Provincial-Territorial Roundtable with a focus on priority topics to advance the Calls for Justice and guide concrete steps toward ending violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQ+ people.
- In partnership with Canada and the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia, OLA sustained its leadership, funding, and active involvement in the Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Tripartite Forum, aimed at fostering collaboration and enhancing outcomes on mutually significant policy, programs and service issues including economic development with the Community Connections Symposium and the Indian Residential School Commemoration Project.

Public education and awareness – Mi'kmaw culture and history provides a foundation for reconciliation and positive relations.

- In collaboration with provincial partner departments (Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage, Education and Early Childhood Development, and the Public Service Commission) OLA continued to provide public education and awareness through the [Treaty Education Nova Scotia](#) initiative established between the Province, Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey and Millbrook First Nation.
- OLA continued to offer support to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development in the development of resources on Indian Residential Schools, Treaty Education and reconciliation.
- OLA continued to collaborate across provincial departments and with Mi'kmaw partners to further the objectives of Treaty Education.
- OLA continued to support increased awareness of Mi'kmaq History Month through strategic planning and capacity development to bolster the success of October's series of events.
- OLA co-coordinated the annual Treaty Day celebration with the Mi'kmaq on October 1st. The celebration commemorates the role of Treaties in the relationship between Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq and the Crown. In 2024-25 the provincially hosted events were held at the Government House and Pier 21.

Financial Results

Office of L'nu Affairs	2024-25 Estimate	2024-25 Actuals	2024-25 Variance
Program & Service Area	<i>(\$thousands)</i>		
Office of L'nu Affairs	4,255	4,140	(115)
Total: Departmental Expenses	4,255	4,140	(115)
TCA Purchase Requirements	1,000	0	(1,000)
Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs)	17.5	16.6	(0.9)

Departmental Expenses Variance Explanation:

Office of L'nu Affairs expenses were \$115 thousand lower than estimate due to temporary vacancy savings, and other operating savings.

TCA Purchase Requirements Variance Explanation:

Actual TCA spending was lower than estimate due to timing and results of ongoing land purchase negotiations.

Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs) Variance Explanation:

FTEs were lower than estimate due to temporarily vacant positions.

Public Interest Disclosure of Wrongdoing Act

The *Public Interest Disclosure of Wrongdoing Act* was proclaimed into law on December 20, 2011.

The Act provides for government employees to be able to come forward if they reasonably believe that a wrongdoing has been committed or is about to be committed and they are acting in good faith.

The Act also protects employees who do disclose from reprisals, by enabling them to lay a complaint of reprisal with the Labour Board.

A Wrongdoing for the purposes of the Act is:

- a contravention of Provincial or Federal laws or regulations;
- a misuse or gross mismanagement of public funds or assets;
- an act or omission that creates an imminent risk of a substantial and specific danger to the life, health or safety of persons or the environment; or
- directing or counseling someone to commit a wrongdoing.

The following is a summary of disclosures received by the Office of L'nu Affairs.

Information Required under Section 18 of the Act	Fiscal Year 2024-25
The number of disclosures received	0
The number of findings of wrongdoing	0
Details of each wrongdoing	N/A
Recommendations and actions taken on each wrongdoing	N/A