

French-language Services Plan

**Department of
Energy**

2026–27

French-language services plan 2026–27

Department of Energy

Ce document est également disponible en français sous le titre : « [title to be added by translators] »

Message from the deputy minister

I am pleased to present the French-language Services Plan for 2026-27 for the Department of Energy. The department serves the social, environmental, and economic interests of Nova Scotians by ensuring all energy resources are developed and used in an efficient and sustainable manner. The department delivers programs and activities related to electricity, renewable energy, energy efficiency, oil and gas, and industry development.

Together we are working with Nova Scotians to build a better future. As such, we will continue to be transparent in our decisions and engage the public and stakeholders. Where applicable, this includes providing materials and content in French to ensure all Nova Scotians have access to the appropriate information.

Stephen MacDonald, April 2026

What we're doing to contribute to the growth of the Acadian and francophone community

We recognize the importance of French-language services and endeavour to fulfil our responsibilities under the *French-language Services Act* and regulations. We believe Nova Scotians should have access to quality government services in French, and this plan demonstrates our commitment to ensuring our programmes, policies and services address the priorities expressed by the Acadian and francophone community. To achieve this aim, we collaborate with other designated public institutions across government – including the Office of Acadian Affairs and Francophonie – through the French-language Services Coordinating Committee. We greatly value this partnership, which ensures a continued understanding of the unique needs of our province's Acadian and francophone community.

The Department of Energy continues to provide information in French that may be of interest to the province's Acadian and francophone communities. The department's responsibilities for energy resource development support the economies of many Acadian and francophone communities. The department considers input received from the Acadian and francophone community and its individual members during public participation activities as well as during the revision of departmental legislation.

We encourage Nova Scotians to request services from government in French. We also encourage Acadians and francophones to have their voices heard by participating on agencies, boards and commissions, which are regularly advertised by the Executive Council Office. As we continue to maintain and improve our French-language services, we welcome feedback on our progress and invite you to share with us your comments or questions by contacting our French-language services coordinator. If you wish to make a formal complaint regarding French-language services, please contact the Office of the Ombudsman.

French-language services coordinator:

Matthew Retallack

He can be contacted at matthew.retallack@novascotia.ca or 902-717-0914

Services we offer in French

The Department of Energy has a bilingual brochure promoting the Clean Economy Scholarship. In 2025-26, the scholarship was promoted at four career exhibitions for high school students: Two in Halifax, one in Pictou and one in Sydney.

How we communicate with the public in French

The Department of Energy supports continued compliance with the requirements of Nova Scotia's *French-language Services Act* and regulations that relate to communicating with the public. The department aims to maximize transparency by providing services in French.

What we did to maintain or improve our French-language services in 2025–26

Strengthen frameworks for French-language services

- Department Goal: Raise staff awareness of departmental responsibilities and obligations with respect to French-language services
 - Measure: Information sessions for managers and directors on the requirements of the *French-language Service Act* and regulations, and opportunities for French-language training
 - Discussions were held at a project level, but no cross-departmental information sessions were held with managers or directors

Engage the Acadian and francophone community

- Department Goal: Ensure legislated requirements for consulting with the Acadian and francophone community are met during at least one session of every series of Province-wide public meetings conducted by the department.
 - Measure: Appropriate mechanisms for consultation used for departmental review of policy and legislation
 - The department did not conduct any province-wide meetings this year

Develop and deliver programs and services in French

- Department Goal: Improve existing French-language content on the department's website to facilitate access
 - Measure: News releases pertaining to public safety and other relevant documents made available in French
 - One provincial news release pertaining to offshore wind was available in French
 - Measure: Translated materials to support education and engagement on key energy topics.
 - French informational materials were developed by a consultant who was contracted by the department to deliver a series of "Clean Energy Conversations."
 - Extensive information on bilateral federal-provincial efforts to advance offshore wind are available online in French.
- Department Goal: Maintain or increase enrollment in French-language training
 - Measure: Number of individual staff who received French-language training, and total aggregate enrollment (accounting for staff who attend multiple sessions)
 - One staff member undertook French-language training
 - Measure: Initiate survey to determine existing French-language capacity
 - A survey was not conducted.

How we plan to maintain or improve our French-language services in 2026–27

Strengthen frameworks for French-language services

- Department Goal: Raise staff awareness of departmental responsibilities and obligations with respect to French-language services
 - Measure: Information sessions for managers and directors on the requirements of the *French-language Service Act* and regulations, and opportunities for French-language training

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- Department Goal: Ensure legislated requirements for consulting with the Acadian and francophone community are met during at least one session of every series of Province-wide public meetings conducted by the department.
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 - Measure: Number of individual staff who received French-language training, and total aggregate enrollment (accounting for staff who attend multiple sessions)