

French-language Services Plan

**Department of
Natural Resources**

2026–27

French-language services plan 2026–27

Department of Natural Resources

Ce document est également disponible en français sous le titre: «Plan de services en français 2026–2027, Ministère des Ressources naturelles»

Message from the deputy minister

I am pleased to present the French-language Services Plan for 2026–27 for the Department of Natural Resources. The department has broad accountability over the development, management, and conservation of forests, geoscience, mines, minerals, parks and wildlife resources and the administration of the Province's Crown land. The department achieves this broad accountability through the development and implementation of policies, programs, and original research that manage Crown land and natural landscapes in a way that balances conservation, stewardship, and sustainable use.

Our province's Crown lands and natural resources belong to all Nova Scotians. 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.

Sandra McKenzie, 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 Natural Resources continues to provide information in French that may be of interest to the province's Acadian and francophone communities. The department's responsibilities for the stewardship of our natural resources help to 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 Natural Resources has ...

- several website pages,
- on-line reports,
- and publications available in French.

These include ...

- the Parks Guide, [Guide des parcs 2025-2026](#)
- [living with coyotes](#), and
- when [domestic brush burning](#) can be carried out.

How we communicate with the public in French

The Department of Natural Resources 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.

- Nova Scotians and visitors to the province who wish to reserve sites in our provincial camping parks can do so in French by calling 1-888-544-3434 toll free from within North America, and, 519-826-5301 from outside North America.

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
 - No additional information sessions were held with managers or directors
 - Measure: Continue to work with Regional Services management to increase French-language capacity in parks and regional offices
 - Ongoing discussions among Regional Directors about improving French-language capacity in parks and regional offices across the Province
 - Parks were identified as a key opportunity to serve French-speaking citizens and visitors

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 of Natural Resources
 - Measure: Appropriate mechanisms for consultation used for departmental review of policy and legislation
 - There were no province-wide series of 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
 - Four news releases were provided in French, pertaining to wildfires, the fire ban and woods proclamation
 - One piece of email correspondence was received and replied to 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)
 - Five staff undertook French-language training, representing a slight increase from 2025-26
- Department Goal: Improve French-language capacity in regions
 - Measure: Regional Directors discuss/promote with managers the inclusion of French-language as an asset on job descriptions during seasonal (parks) hiring process
 - Regional Directors discussed with management the addition of French-language as an asset to seasonal employee job descriptions and screening grid
 - Postings in Inverness and Victoria counties (areas with a higher percentage of French communities in closer proximity to parks), had French-language listed as an asset

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: Regional Services management to continue efforts to increase French-language capacity in parks and regional offices
 - Measure: Information sessions for managers and directors on the requirements of the *French-language Service Act* and regulations, and opportunities for French-language training

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 of Natural Resources
 - Measure: Appropriate mechanisms for consultation used for departmental review of policy and legislation

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