



Regulatory modernization and reform in Nova Scotia

November 2019

Charting a Path for Growth



Nova Scotia Tax and Regulatory Review

November 2014

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- Unnecessary, costly, complex, duplicative rules restrain business growth
- A strong, efficient regulatory environment can enhance productivity in public and private sector and support economic growth
- A more aligned regulatory environment (across the region and country) can provide easier access to new markets for business

More of the same will result in
more of the same

Our mandate

**Reduce barriers to
doing business**

Measurement

Service

**Inter-
governmental**

Charter & Legislation

Premier's Charter:

- Regulation not a first resort; bias for non-regulatory options
- If enacted, regulation should be:
 - Lightest touch
 - **Based on compelling cost-benefit analysis**
 - Transparent and consultative process
 - Alignment within Atlantic region

Legislation:

- Refers to Charter
- Establishes Office and role
- Annual report (by June 30th)
- Review of Office after 3 years; Act expires after 5 years
 - Renewed in October

Measurement

- Key to accountability
- Baseline measure on overall regulatory burden (\$560 annually; 25-30% 'undue')
- Office developed means (**Business Impact Assessment**) to assess + estimate costs/benefits of new regulatory proposals
- Departments use during policy/regulatory development

**% OF TARGET
ACHIEVED:**

138%

(as of December 31, 2018)

TARGET:

\$25,000,000

(net) burden reduction to business by Dec. 2018

FOR A TOTAL SAVINGS OF:
\$34,389,600

(as of December 31, 2018)

New Target

- **By the end of 2020, government will:**
 - Reduce undue burden to business by \$10 million (net)
 - Once achieved government will have reduced annual regulatory burden to **\$45 million**
 - Expand target to save citizens time on administrative burden by 50,000 hours
 - Lead and coordinate a cross-government clean-up of redundant or outdated regulations

Improving Service to Business



- Served over 4,000 start-ups/small business since launched in 2017
- Consistent 10/10 rating for satisfaction and helpfulness

Working with other governments

- Work nationally, regionally and municipally

Municipal: HRM

- Established partnership on regulatory reform with HRM in late 2016
- Guided by advisory panel of business leaders
- External recognition:
 - “Golden Scissors Award” for innovative and collaborative intergovernmental approach
- Includes foundational work + immediate actions
Extended for 18 months

Cape Breton Pilot

- Expanding regulatory reform partnership with all five Cape Breton municipalities

Goal: Align specific business regulations to make operation and expansion easier for Island businesses

- Hosted 6 stakeholder engagement sessions with **Cape Breton Partnership + Strait Area Chamber of Commerce**
- Identified regulatory pain points (legislative, process, service) by talking with businesses
- With input, developed workplan to address a few of the most pressing concerns

Workplan Highlights

Focus Areas:

- Red Tape reduction priority actions
 - Municipal: By-law inventory
 - Provincial: Inspector training, Business Navigation support
- Strengthening government to government collaboration
 - Permits & inspections for special events and festivals
 - Supporting Regional Land Use Plan

Work Plan Highlights

- Measurement & Assessment
 - Education sessions on the Atlantic Premiers' Charter of Principles & the BIA
- Communication & Reporting
 - Communicating progress and results to business community and municipal partners