

Activity Plan

2026-2029

Office of the
Executive Council





MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

In accordance with my responsibilities under the **Transparency and Accountability Act**, I am pleased to present the 2026-29 Activity Plan for the Office of the Executive Council.

The Office of the Executive Council plays a critical role in overall operations of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, including decision-making, planning, and evidence-based policy development throughout government. Executive Council provides direct support to the Premier, Cabinet, and Cabinet committees, as well as enabling departments and agencies to deliver on their mandates in a coordinated and accountable manner.

The priorities outlined in this Activity Plan will help achieve my government's vision for Newfoundland and Labrador: lower taxes, better health care, and safer communities, for all of us.

As Premier and Minister responsible for the Office of the Executive Council, I am accountable for the development of this Activity Plan and for achieving the objectives it sets out. Annual reports will be tabled in the House of Assembly to provide transparent updates on progress in achieving the objectives set out in this Activity Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Wakeham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tony" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Wakeham".

Hon. Tony Wakeham
Premier

Table of Contents

Departmental Overview	3
Organizational Structure	3
Staff and Budget	4
Objectives	5
Issue One – Providing Support to Cabinet and Committees of Cabinet.....	5
Issue Two – Providing Support to the Premier	6
Issue Three – Providing Support to the Clerk of the Executive Council as Head of the Public Service	7
Issue Four – Provision of Government-Wide Communications Functions	9
Issue Five – Provision of Support to Public Bodies on Access to Information and Protection of Privacy	10

Departmental Overview

Organizational Structure

The Office of the Executive Council is the department of the Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador. The Office of the Executive Council supports the general operations of the Provincial Government, including those of Cabinet and the broader public service, through the provision of leadership, coordination, and advice to the Premier, Cabinet, committees of Cabinet, and departments and agencies.

For planning and reporting purposes under the **Transparency and Accountability Act**, the Office of the Executive Council is a category 3 entity and includes the following:

- Office of the Clerk of the Executive Council, including Cabinet Secretariat and the Provincial Protocol Office
- Lieutenant-Governor's Establishment
- Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Office
- Communications Branch; and
- Financial Administration Division.

There are entities within the Office of the Executive Council that, in accordance with the **Transparency and Accountability Act**, prepare separate multi-year plans and annual reports. These are Treasury Board Secretariat; the Office of the Chief Information Officer; the Intergovernmental Affairs Secretariat; the Office of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation; and the Office of Women and Gender Equality. Furthermore, while they fall under the responsibility of the Office of the Executive Council, the Premier's Youth Council¹, the Newfoundland and Labrador Bravery Award Review Panel, and the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador Advisory Council are also independent in terms of

¹ The process to make appointments to the Premier's Youth Council is underway and plans and reports will be prepared for future reporting periods in accordance with the requirements of the **Transparency and Accountability Act**.

planning and reporting.² For more information, please consult their respective multi-year plans and annual reports.

Staff and Budget

The work of the Office of the Executive Council is supported by 105 employees, with an approximate budget of \$12.1 million. The following breakdown is offered:

Division	# of Employees	Budget
Office of the Clerk of the Executive Council, including Cabinet Secretariat and the Provincial Protocol Office	22	\$3,086,600
Lieutenant-Governor's Establishment	10	\$707,100
Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Office	49	\$5,425,400
Communications	16	\$2,046,800
Financial Administration Division	8	\$807,000

For more information on the Office of the Executive Council, please see: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/exec/>. More information on the Lieutenant-Governor's Establishment can be found at <https://www.govhouse.nl.ca/>.

² However, this report identifies some activities related to the latter two entities given the role of Cabinet Secretariat and the Provincial Protocol Office in their achievement. See Issue Three below.

Objectives

Issue One – Providing Support to Cabinet and Committees of Cabinet

One of the primary roles of the Office of the Executive Council is to support the decision-making processes of the executive branch of government by providing non-partisan advice and support to Cabinet and committees of Cabinet. Cabinet meets regularly to consider policy, program, regulatory, and financial issues as prepared by departments and advanced by ministers of the Crown. The Office of the Executive Council plays a critical role in supporting the Cabinet process, ensuring the effective operation of Cabinet and its committees, liaising with departments and agencies to ensure that necessary actions are taken further to the direction of Cabinet, and facilitating the coordination of initiatives that involve all or multiple departments and agencies.

Objective 1:

By March 31, 2027, the Office of the Executive Council will have supported the operations of Cabinet and committees of Cabinet.

Indicators:

- Number of Cabinet meetings held.
- Number of Cabinet committee meetings held.
- Number of Orders in Council issued.

Objective 2:

By March 31, 2028, the Office of the Executive Council will have supported the operations of Cabinet and committees of Cabinet.

Objective 3:

By March 31, 2029, the Office of the Executive Council will have supported the operations of Cabinet and committees of Cabinet.

Issue Two – Providing Support to the Premier

The Office of the Executive Council is the branch of the Provincial Government that provides direct, impartial support to the Premier's role in setting overall government policy, coordinating initiatives brought forward by ministers, and developing responses to government-level issues. The Office of the Executive Council provides briefings to the Premier on matters that will be considered by Cabinet, provides briefing notes to the Premier submitted by departments and agencies on the emergence or status of major issues or those that are likely to attract considerable public attention, and meets regularly with the Premier and senior staff to ensure that appropriate responses are developed for government-wide issues and those that are a priority for the Premier.

Objective 1:

By March 31, 2027, the Office of the Executive Council will have supported the Premier as head of the executive branch of government.

Indicator:

- Number of briefing notes provided to the Premier's Office.

Objective 2:

By March 31, 2028, the Office of the Executive Council will have supported the Premier as head of the executive branch of government.

Objective 3:

By March 31, 2029, the Office of the Executive Council will have supported the Premier as head of the executive branch of government.

Issue Three – Providing Support to the Clerk of the Executive Council as Head of the Public Service

The Clerk of the Executive Council is the most senior official in the public service and is responsible to the Premier for the overall effectiveness of the public service. In this role, the Clerk of the Executive Council oversees recruitment and training for senior executives; communicates regularly with deputy ministers through group meetings to share information and discuss matters that affect the public service and residents of the province; oversees the annual Public Service Award of Excellence to recognize leadership and excellence in the public service; and works with the Provincial Protocol Office and the Lieutenant-Governor's establishment respecting various ceremonial events, including the bestowal of the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Newfoundland and Labrador Bravery Award, and the Newfoundland and Labrador Volunteer War Service Medal.

Objective 1:

By March 31, 2027, the Office of the Executive Council will have undertaken initiatives that support the Clerk of the Executive Council as head of the public service.

Indicators:

- Number of executive development training sessions offered and number of executives participating in those sessions.
- Number of deputy minister group meetings held.
- Number of inductees to the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador.
- Number of Public Service Awards of Excellence bestowed.
- Number of recipients of the Newfoundland and Labrador Bravery Award.
- Number of recipients of the Newfoundland and Labrador Volunteer War Service Medal.

Objective 2:

By March 31, 2028, the Office of the Executive Council will have undertaken initiatives that support the Clerk of the Executive Council as head of the public service.

Objective 3:

By March 31, 2029, the Office of the Executive Council will have undertaken initiatives that support the Clerk of the Executive Council as head of the public service.

Issue Four – Provision of Government-Wide Communications Functions

The Communications Branch provides strategic communications counsel and support to the Premier and Cabinet; manages corporate communications; co-ordinates communications activities across government, and manages the provincial brand strategy. Roles include developing communications and consultation policy and procedures; advising on communications and consultation planning; managing news release distribution services; overseeing government's Web content standards; providing multimedia communications support; and through the brand strategy, helping to establish Newfoundland and Labrador as one of the world's most enviable places to live, work, and do business.

Objective 1:

By March 31, 2027, the Office of the Executive Council will have undertaken initiatives to ensure effective communication from the Provincial Government.

Indicators:

- Number of communications plans reviewed.
- Number of news releases distributed.
- Number of news conferences held.
- Number of social media posts.

Objective 2:

By March 31, 2028, the Office of the Executive Council will have undertaken initiatives to ensure effective communication from the Provincial Government.

Objective 3:

By March 31, 2029, the Office of the Executive Council will have undertaken initiatives to ensure effective communication from the Provincial Government.

Issue Five – Provision of Support to Public Bodies on Access to Information and Protection of Privacy

The Access to Information and Protection of Privacy (ATIPP) Office oversees the implementation and coordination of the **Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015 (ATIPPA, 2015)** by providing advice, guidance, education, and policy support to public bodies across Newfoundland and Labrador.

In 2025, the ATIPP Office centralized and created three new divisions. These divisions bring additional focus to the areas of access to information, protection of privacy, and policy and professional development.

Under this new structure, access to information coordinators are assigned to departments to respond to access requests and Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner complaints. The Office also has positions that work with departments to implement privacy management programs and expand the overall support training, guidance, and policy function for all public bodies.

Public bodies continue to experience sustained growth in access to information request volumes, increasing privacy expectations, and greater operational complexity. The ATIPP Office's mandate emphasizes proactive education, privacy risk mitigation, and system-wide capacity building to support consistent, transparent, and legislatively compliant ATIPP practices.

The ATIPP Office's work towards supporting public bodies builds on these trends, and will be accomplished through training, providing advice and guidance, and developing policies, procedures, guides and education resources.

Objective 1:

By March 31, 2027, the ATIPP Office will have undertaken initiatives to strengthen access to information and privacy supports for departments and public bodies.

Indicators:

- Number of training sessions conducted.
- Number of participants trained.
- Number of privacy assessments reviewed.

Objective 2:

By March 31, 2028, the ATIPP Office will have undertaken initiatives to strengthen access to information and privacy supports for departments and public bodies.

Objective 3:

By March 31, 2029, the ATIPP Office will have undertaken initiatives to strengthen access to information and privacy supports for departments and public bodies.

