

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-24

Intergovernmental Affairs



MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

It is my pleasure to present the 2023-24 Annual Performance Report for the Intergovernmental Affairs Secretariat for the period of April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024. As Premier and Minister for Intergovernmental Affairs, I am accountable for the preparation of this report and the achievement of the results reported herein. This report was prepared in accordance with the **Transparency and Accountability Act**, under which the Secretariat is a category three entity.

This report identifies the progress made in achieving the Provincial Government's intergovernmental priorities through engaging with provinces and territories, the federal government as well as other sovereign governments. We will continue to build on these important relationships in the year ahead as we work to advance a healthier and more prosperous Newfoundland and Labrador. I would like to acknowledge and thank the employees of the Intergovernmental Affairs Secretariat for their roles in undertaking this important work.

Honourable Dr. Andrew Furey
Premier
Minister for Intergovernmental Affairs

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Departmental Overview

Organizational Structure

Located within the Office of the Executive Council, the Intergovernmental Affairs Secretariat (the Secretariat) is the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's lead entity for coordinating the Province's intergovernmental and trade priorities.

The Secretariat's three divisions work to frame policy advice on economic, social, and trade priorities ensuring our province's unique needs and circumstances are at the forefront of intergovernmental dialogue and negotiations. Through the delivery of numerous diplomatic visits and international missions, the Secretariat also works to promote Newfoundland and Labrador's interests on the international stage.

- The Economic Policy Division provides intergovernmental policy advice related to measures that promote sustainable economic growth, including in the areas of natural resource management, the environment, fiscal and economic policy, industrial and technology development, infrastructure and other matters of constitutional interest. The division also supports provincial participation in First Ministers' Meetings (FMM), the Council of Atlantic Premiers (CAP), the Atlantic Growth Strategy (AGS), and the Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG-ECP).
- The Social Policy Division provides intergovernmental policy advice related to measures that improve the well-being of individuals, families and communities, including in the areas of health, housing, education, immigration, population growth, skills and labour, reconciliation and inclusion, tourism, justice and public safety, and women and gender equality. The division also leads on provincial interests related to national defence and foreign affairs. This division also supports provincial participation in the Council of the Federation (COF).

- The Trade Policy Division represents the province's interests in interprovincial and international trade agreements. This includes the negotiation, ratification, and implementation of each agreement. The division is also responsible for providing trade analysis and advice relating to obligations under relevant domestic and international trade agreements. This division also supports provincial participation in the Atlantic Trade and Procurement Partnership (ATPP) and Committee on Internal Trade (CIT).

Staff and Budget

As of March 31, 2024, the Secretariat had a staff complement of 17 (ten female and seven male), and a budget of approximately \$2,066,400.

The Secretariat is located in the East Block of the Confederation Building in St. John's. For more information on the Secretariat, please visit our website at:

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/exec/ias/>.

Vision

The Secretariat envisions a strong, self-reliant Newfoundland and Labrador advancing its best interests with governments in Canada and abroad.

Mandate

In keeping with **The Intergovernmental Affairs Act**, the Secretariat provides strategic policy advice, analysis, and support to the Premier, ministers, and departments on intergovernmental and trade policy issues, while building and strengthening relationships with other sovereign governments and international entities to advance provincial interests.

Lines of Business

The Secretariat's primary lines of business include:

Intergovernmental Policy Advice: The Secretariat is responsible for monitoring and analyzing social, fiscal, economic, resource and constitutional policy matters in order to formulate and provide policy analysis and advice on priority issues for the Province, as well as the development of government's intergovernmental strategy and agenda.

Promotion of the Province's Interests: The Secretariat builds relationships with other governments and international entities to advance the Province's interests. The Secretariat advocates for Newfoundland and Labrador at bilateral, multilateral, regional and international intergovernmental meetings, and conferences to present and promote Newfoundland and Labrador's positions on matters of importance to this province. The Secretariat further promotes the Province's interests by assisting departments in their participation in intergovernmental meetings and their negotiation of intergovernmental agreements.

Support and Coordination: The Secretariat coordinates and provides support for interdepartmental initiatives that have intergovernmental implications for the Province.

Highlights and Partnerships

Intergovernmental Engagement

To encourage regional collaboration among the Atlantic Provinces, the Secretariat supported the Premier through several CAP meetings in 2023, including an in-person meeting in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island (PEI) on February 19 and 20, and an additional in-person meeting in Mill River, PEI on June 11 and 12.

Additionally, virtual meetings were held in May and June with the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, where Atlantic Premiers discussed the implications of the implementation of the Federal Clean Fuel Regulations in the region.

On December 11, 2023, the final virtual CAP meeting of the year took place with an agenda aimed at discussing progress made on 2023 priorities, including the Atlantic Health Accord, housing, and infrastructure. Beginning in January 2024, Newfoundland and Labrador assumed the role of Chair for CAP. The Secretariat provided support to the Premier in his capacity as Chair, as well as at the officials' level through both Senior Officials and Management-level working groups. Premier Furey hosted a virtual CAP meeting on February 28, 2024, focused on healthcare, infrastructure, housing, immigration, fisheries and other areas of shared interest and mutual opportunity.

2023 also saw Newfoundland and Labrador assume the role of provincial lead for the Atlantic Growth Strategy (AGS), a collaborative initiative of the Atlantic Provinces and the federal government aimed at accelerating the growth of Atlantic Canada's economy, following the summer Senior Leadership Committee meeting from July 17 to 18, 2023, hosted in Moncton, New Brunswick. As part of this work, the Secretariat supported important discussions around enabling continued population growth and workforce development, enhancing productivity and competitiveness, energy development

opportunities and accelerating the transition to a net-zero economy. Atlantic Premiers and federal Ministers ultimately agreed to the renewal of the AGS.

The Secretariat also facilitated Premier Furey's engagement in several COF meetings with Canada's Premiers. This included a virtual meeting between Premiers and the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police on April 21, 2023, to build on Premiers' commitment to strengthen Canada's bail system to better protect the public, and create safer conditions for Canada's emergency responders. Premiers also participated in a call on June 2, 2023, in preparation for their annual meeting. The Secretariat also supported Premier Furey's participation in the annual meeting of Canada's Premiers in Winnipeg, Manitoba on July 10-12, 2023, which focused on supporting strong communities and economic growth, as well as a COF Premiers' meeting and Health Summit in Halifax, Nova Scotia on November 5-6, 2023, which focused on affordability, housing, strategic infrastructure, health and the role innovation can play in improving Canada's health care systems.

In addition, the Secretariat supported the Premier's participation in bilateral meetings with other Premiers to discuss a range of issues of mutual interest, from health care to housing to energy. For example, in November 2023, Newfoundland and Labrador hosted Premier David Eby of British Columbia, where the Premiers signed a Statement of Co-operation, agreeing to work together to advance clean-energy solutions that will deliver good jobs and tackle the climate crisis.

In order to both promote Newfoundland and Labrador's priorities and encourage federal collaboration, the Province also met bilaterally with a number of federal representatives. This included meetings with Minister Sean Fraser, Minister Jonathan Wilkinson and Minister François-Philippe Champagne, which provided opportunities to advocate for the Province's priorities in areas such as energy, critical minerals, infrastructure and housing. The Secretariat also supported a meeting with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

during the Canada-European Union Summit, which was held in St. John's in November 2023. The Secretariat also prepared correspondence to the Prime Minister and federal ministers addressing key provincial priorities, including the federal carbon tax, defence investments in 5 Wing Goose Bay, equalization, fisheries issues, immigration, and critical infrastructure, including Marine Atlantic, among other pressing issues.

Continued Engagement with International Partners

During the reporting period, the Secretariat continued to advance collaboration with international partners on shared priorities, including but not limited to:

- Supporting the Premier in a Provincial Mission to Rotterdam from May 7 to 10, 2023. The mission focused on promoting the province's clean energy resources, opportunities for supplying green hydrogen to Europe and strengthening ties with the Port of Rotterdam while attending the 2023 World Hydrogen Summit. The mission culminated in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Newfoundland and Labrador and the Port of Rotterdam to cooperate and explore opportunities in the area of green hydrogen and hydrogen technologies.
- Supporting the Premier as he met with more than 20 European Union (EU) Ambassadors and Heads of Mission to Canada in Ottawa on May 11, 2023. This meeting, hosted by the Ambassador of the EU to Canada, provided an opportunity to highlight Newfoundland and Labrador's long-standing economic and cultural ties with Europe, along with ongoing industrial activity in the province increasingly important to the EU, particularly as it relates to investment in clean hydrogen development.
- Supporting the Premier in a Provincial Mission to Los Angeles from June 15 to 17, 2023. The mission focused on developing relationships with major film studios, showcasing Newfoundland and Labrador as a filming destination and promoting the Province's new All-Spend tax incentive.

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- Supporting the Premier in a Provincial Mission to Boston for the BIO International Convention from June 4 to 7, 2023. The conference facilitated opportunities to engage with industry leaders in bioscience, health, and life sciences, and highlighted the economic impact of these sectors on the Region.
- Supporting the Premier in the meeting of Southeastern United States and Canadian Provinces (SEUS-CP) hosted by the Province in St. John's from July 23 to 25, 2023. This was Newfoundland and Labrador's first time hosting the conference since 2009, which focused on clean energy adoption, sustainable transportation, port modernization and asset monitoring and observation. Delegations from Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee, Québec, Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island were in attendance.
- Supporting the Premier in a meeting of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG-ECP) hosted in Québec City, Québec from September 24 to 25, 2023. The two-day conference focused areas of collaboration around the green economy, including critical minerals, green hydrogen, sustainable mobility, and electrification.
- Supporting the Premier in a Provincial Mission to London and Dubai from January 31 to February 8, 2024. The London portion of the mission focused on promoting Newfoundland and Labrador tourism opportunities, while the Dubai portion focused on the Premier's participation in an Atlantic health care recruitment event, exploring potential business partnerships and post-secondary education expansion.
- Supporting the Premier in a Provincial Mission to Washington and Boston from March 5 to 10, 2024. The mission focused on strengthening Newfoundland and Labrador-U.S. relations and promoting the province's energy resources and seafood industry.

The Secretariat also supported the Premier, Ministers, the Provincial Protocol Office and the Lieutenant-Governor's Establishment during diplomatic visits to the province throughout the reporting period. The Province hosted:

- His Excellency Urban Ahlin, Ambassador of Sweden to Canada, His Excellency Roy Eriksson, Ambassador of Finland to Canada, Her Excellency Hanne Fugl Eskjær, Ambassador of Kingdom of Denmark to Canada, His Excellency Jon Elvedal Fredriksen, Ambassador of Norway to Canada and His Excellency Hlynur Guðjónsson, Ambassador of Iceland to Canada.
- His Excellency Guðni Jóhannesson, President of the Republic of Iceland to Canada, whose program included discussions about strengthening Canada-Iceland relations, the blue economy, the green transition, health services, and North-North engagement.
- His Excellency Dr. Khalid bin Rashid Al Mansouri, Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Canada, whose program included discussions on Newfoundland and Labrador-Qatar relations.
- Her Excellency Hanne Fugl Eskjær, Ambassador of Kingdom of Denmark to Canada, whose program included discussions on the green transition, wind, hydrogen, and carbon capture utilization and storage.
- Her Excellency Esra Demir, Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to Canada, whose program included discussions about historical ties, the official unveiling of the Turkish Gallipoli Monument in St. John's and Newfoundland and Labrador-Türkiye relations.

Domestic and International Trade Policy

With a number of ongoing domestic and international trade negotiations, each intended to expand the number of economic opportunities for Newfoundland and Labrador, the Secretariat continued to lead, advocate, and negotiate best outcomes for the province.

Within the Atlantic region, the Province's interests were represented under CAP through the ATPP and the Atlantic Joint Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness.

On trade within Canada, the Secretariat actively led and engaged on work surrounding the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA), which is responsible for facilitating trade as well as reducing regulatory barriers across provinces and territories. The Secretariat chaired the Regulatory Reconciliation and Cooperation Table's (RCT's) Administrative Review Working Group. The Secretariat also participated in a number of working groups intended to address and promote internal trade under the CFTA, including the Internal Trade Representatives Table, the Communications Working Group, the Financial Services Chapter Working Group, the Dispute Resolution Working Group, the RCT and the Procurement Committee. Participation in these committees and working groups were in addition to representing the Province on the Internal Trade Secretariat Corporation's Board of Directors.

Work on internal trade supports the Premier as the Minister for Intergovernmental Affairs on matters related to the Committee on Internal Trade (CIT), including incorporating new rules on cannabis into the CFTA, working to finalize the financial services chapter, and other initiatives aimed at opening markets within the country. While there was no CIT meeting in 2023, officials continued to work on various initiatives to improve the CFTA and internal trade within Canada.

The Premier was supported in his hosting of the annual meeting of the Southeastern United States – Canadian Provinces (SEUS-CP) trade alliance in St. John's from July 23 to 25, 2023, which aims to enhance trade and investment through promoting business partnerships across Canada and the United States. Key topics for the conference included clean energy adoption, sustainable transportation, port modernization and asset monitoring and observation.

At the international level, the Secretariat continued to work towards providing Newfoundland and Labrador companies with a competitive trade advantage by advocating for provincial interests in international trade agreements and negotiations.

International agreements that are crucial to Newfoundland and Labrador's market access include the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA), the Canada-European Union Comprehensive and Economic Trade Agreement (CETA), the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership, and World Trade Organization. The Secretariat continues to advocate for provincial interests through various joint committees under CETA, such as the environment and the alcohol and spirits committees. Under all agreed trade agreements, there were sustained consultations where the Secretariat was engaged.

Ongoing trade negotiations required identification of issues of interest to the Province, collaborating with other provincial departments and provincial/territorial partners when appropriate, and ultimately negotiating for positions favorable to the short and long term economy of the province, including on sensitive issues. The Secretariat was engaged in the negotiations for the Canada-UK Free Trade Agreement and the Canada-India Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement before they were paused. The Secretariat continues to engage in the negotiations for the Canada-Indonesia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement; the Canada-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement, and the Canada-Ecuador Free Trade Agreement. In addition to these negotiations, the Secretariat also represented Provincial interests on international trade issues at the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on International Trade (C-Trade).

Report on Performance

Issue One – Progressing the Province’s Strategic Intergovernmental Priorities

The Secretariat is dedicated to progressing Newfoundland and Labrador’s strategic intergovernmental priorities through constructive engagements with the federal government and other provincial and territorial governments across Canada, as well as other sovereign governments worldwide. This involves promoting provincial objectives through various intergovernmental engagements and forums, such as the Council of the Federation, Council of Atlantic Premiers, First Ministers’ Meetings, New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers, and Atlantic Growth Strategy and other multilateral, bilateral, and regional engagements.

Under the **Intergovernmental Affairs Act**, the Minister for Intergovernmental Affairs is required to be a party to the negotiation and execution of all intergovernmental agreements between the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and other sovereign governments. The Secretariat plays a fundamental role in providing assistance and support to government departments during these negotiations and assessing agreements to ensure they are consistent with the government's intergovernmental policies and priorities.

The Secretariat recognizes continued and effective intergovernmental collaboration is essential to securing a healthier province in all areas, our economy, our finances, and our people. Working closely with other provincial and territorial governments, as well as the federal government, on economic, health and well-being supports, and funding opportunities is fundamental to securing a bright future for Newfoundland and Labrador.

Goal

By March 31, 2026, the Secretariat will have supported the progression of Government's strategic economic and social intergovernmental priorities.

2023-24 Objective

By March 31, 2024, the Secretariat will have supported the progression of Government's strategic intergovernmental priorities.

Indicator	Performance
Provided strategic support and policy advice on key intergovernmental issues, including federal-provincial fiscal frameworks.	The Secretariat provided strategic support and policy advice on key intergovernmental issues, including health care, housing, energy, infrastructure during the reporting period. For example, the Secretariat continued to work in close collaboration with the Department of Health and Community Services to address unique challenges in health care through support in the negotiation and finalization of 11 intergovernmental agreements on health care related priorities. One area of focus was the recruitment of internationally educated health care professionals and foreign credential recognition. Efforts included securing federal funding for the Province through the federal Foreign Credential Recognition Program to facilitate the recruitment of Registered Nurses to Newfoundland and Labrador from India, as well

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Indicator	Performance
	as supporting the Premier's participation on a health care recruitment mission to Dubai, United Arab Emirates in February 2024. Following securing an agreement in principle with the federal government in February 2023 for a shared plan that will invest \$2.17 billion in federal funding over ten years in the Province's health care system, the Secretariat supported the negotiation of two bilateral agreements with the federal government. This included the Working Together Agreement, in which the federal government will provide nearly \$256 million to support the Province's three-year action plan to deliver improvements to its health care system, as well as the Aging with Dignity Agreement, in which the federal government will provide \$78 million to support the Province's five-year action plan to improve health care for seniors. Further, the Secretariat supported the Premier's involvement in several bilateral meetings, and international missions developed to create and seize opportunities in the energy sector. This included preparing briefing materials, planning and logistics, and reviewing intergovernmental

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Indicator	Performance
	agreements such as Memorandums of Understanding. Additionally, the Secretariat worked with the Department of Industry, Energy, and Technology, to advance the Province's energy agenda by providing strategic advice, and liaising with international partners.
Supported and managed the Province's participation in intergovernmental forums to advance Provincial priorities, including the Council of the Federation, the Council of Atlantic Premiers, First Ministers' Meetings, New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers, and the Atlantic Growth Strategy.	During 2023-24, the Secretariat supported the Premier in CAP, which included moving forward with actions under the Atlantic Health Care Accord, such as working with the four Atlantic Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons to establish the Atlantic Physician Registry; continuing to advocate for the federal government to take Atlantic Canada's unique circumstances into account in federal policies, such as carbon pricing, Clean Fuel Standards, immigration, housing, transportation and infrastructure. A key outcome was CAP, under Premier Furey's Chairship, being awarded the Canadian Federation of Independent Business's (CFIB) prestigious Golden Scissors Award for the Atlantic Physician Recruitment Initiative - recognizing individuals or teams who have successfully motivated others to take action or

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Indicator	Performance
	produced meaningful, positive results in cutting red tape. Overall, the Secretariat supported 58 CAP calls/virtual/in-person meetings. Newfoundland and Labrador became AGS Provincial lead following the 2023 AGS Leadership Committee meeting, which was highlighted by a commitment to renew the AGS to continue working together to fuel Atlantic Canada's momentum, position the region for continued growth, and align efforts and resources to support long-term prosperity. The Province also became the ATTP Chair for 2024, highlighted by ongoing commitments to improving trade conditions and finding procurement efficiencies within Atlantic Canada. The Secretariat also supported the Premier in COF, which included advocating for the unique needs of smaller jurisdictions in consideration of federal funding, promoting Newfoundland and Labrador's role in the security of Canada's Arctic, creating awareness the role of provinces and territories in Canada-United States relations, and discussing various other important issues related

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Indicator	Performance
	to housing, affordability, labour, immigration, infrastructure, health care, education, energy and critical minerals, and climate action. Overall, the Secretariat supported 66 COF calls/virtual/in-person meetings. The Secretariat supported dialogue between Canadian provinces and southeastern U.S. states via the SEUS-CP Alliance and hosted an in-person meeting of Premiers and Governors in St. John's on July 23 to 25, 2023, which focused on clean energy adoption, sustainable transportation, port modernization and asset monitoring and observation. Lastly, the Secretariat supported the Premier in a meeting of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG-ECP) hosted in Québec City, Québec from September 25 to 25, 2023.
Participated in the negotiation of intergovernmental agreements, and supported efforts across government to strategically maximize federal support,	In 2023-24, 101 intergovernmental agreements were signed involving 16 Provincial Government departments and agencies, including 88 with the Federal Government (see Annex A for a complete listing).

Indicator	Performance
particularly in areas aligned with provincial priorities.	

2024-25 Objective

By March 31, 2025, the Secretariat will have further supported the progression of Government's strategic intergovernmental priorities.

2024-25 Indicators

- Continued to provide strategic support and policy advice on key intergovernmental issues, including federal-provincial fiscal frameworks.
- Further supported and managed the Province's participation in intergovernmental forums to advance Provincial priorities, including the Council of the Federation, the Council of Atlantic Premiers, First Ministers' Meetings, New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers, and the Atlantic Growth Strategy.
- Continued to participate in the negotiation of intergovernmental agreements, and supported efforts across government to strategically maximize federal support, particularly in areas aligned with provincial priorities.

Issue Two – Progressing and Protecting the Province's Domestic and International Trade Priorities

As the Provincial Government's primary division responsible for negotiating and executing trade agreements, the Secretariat's Trade Policy Division plays a central role in stimulating a strong economy. Trade policy encompasses the objectives, regulations, agreements, and various arrangements that govern trade relations between governments and jurisdictions. Trade policy strives to minimize and eliminate obstacles

to the unrestricted movement of individuals, commodities, services, and investments between regions.

The Secretariat is committed to positioning Newfoundland and Labrador to leverage opportunities to access new markets around the globe, decrease barriers to interprovincial trade within Canada to ensure Newfoundland and Labrador can respond to emerging threats and opportunities effectively.

Goal

By March 31, 2026, the Secretariat will have supported the progression and protection of the Province's domestic and international trade priorities.

2023-24 Objective

By March 31, 2024, the Secretariat will have supported the progression and protection of the Province's domestic and international trade priorities.

Indicator	Performance
Coordinated Provincial input on the negotiation of free trade agreements and provided strategic advice and analysis on the implementation of existing agreements, including responses to emerging trade threats and opportunities.	The Secretariat represents Newfoundland and Labrador on the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on International Trade (C-Trade). At this table, the Secretariat advocated for provincial interests in ongoing international trade negotiations and trade disputes, as well as other issues impacting provincial importers and exporters.

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Indicator	Performance
	The Secretariat also provided strategic advice to stakeholders and government departments on issues impacting trade in the Province including foreign protectionism, supply-chain issues, and trade irritants with trading partners. The Secretariat continued to fulfill its duties to implement existing trade agreements and advance initiatives under those agreements including the Canada-EU CETA and the CUSMA.
Advanced the Province's positions on internal trade, collaborating with other provinces and territories to reduce internal trade barriers under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA).	In 2023-24, the Secretariat continued working to advance the implementation of the CFTA, including the various activities occurring under the agreement. Under the CFTA's Regulatory Reconciliation and Cooperation Table (RCT) the Secretariat helped to update the RCT's Annual Work Plan, Annual Report and the RCT's Five Year Review. In 2023-24, the Secretariat concluded its work as the Chair of the working group related to cannabis for nonmedical purposes helping to incorporate these new rules for cannabis into the CFTA. The Secretariat also Chaired the administrative review working group under the

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Indicator	Performance
	RCT which finalized four new documents to assist the RCT and officials working on regulatory reconciliation and cooperation work plan items. The Secretariat represented the Province at various CFTA working groups including the Financial Services Working Group (along with Justice and Financial Regulation officials), the Procurement Committee (along with Public Procurement Agency officials), the Communications Working Group (along with communications officials), the Dispute Resolution Working Group (along with Justice officials) and Alcoholic Beverages Working Groups (along with Finance officials). The Secretariat continued to work to advance trade in Atlantic Canada by representing the Province on the Atlantic Joint Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness and acting as Chair for Atlantic Trade and Procurement Partnership.
Advocated for the Province's interests in the negotiations of ongoing international free trade agreements, including negotiation of a Canada-United Kingdom	Over the past year, the Secretariat provided feedback and negotiated on behalf of the province for new and ongoing international trade negotiations including a bilateral Canada-United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement (paused

Indicator	Performance
Free Trade Agreement; Early Progress Trade Agreement between Canada and India; the modernization of the Canada-Ukraine Free Trade Agreement; and Canada's negotiation of Asian free trade agreements, including the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Indonesia free trade agreements.	January 25, 2024), a Canada-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (paused September 1, 2023), a Canada-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement, a Canada-Indonesia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, a Canada-Ecuador Free Trade Agreement and a Canada-Ukraine Free Trade Agreement.

2024-25 Objective

By March 31, 2025, the Secretariat will have further supported the progression and protection of the Province's national and international trade priorities and interests, in both agreed and ongoing trade commitments.

2024-25 Indicators

- Further coordinated Provincial input on the negotiation of free trade agreements and provided strategic advice and analysis on the implementation of existing agreements, including responses to trade policies in other jurisdictions that could impact the Province.
- Continued to advance the Province's positions on internal trade, collaborating with other provinces and territories to reduce internal trade barriers under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement.

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- Continued to advocate for the Province's interests in the negotiations of ongoing international free trade agreements, including negotiation of a Canada-United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement; Early Progress Trade Agreement between Canada and India; the modernization of the Canada-Ukraine Free Trade Agreement; and Canada's negotiation of Asian free trade agreements, including the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Indonesia free trade agreements.

Opportunities and Challenges

In the lead up to the United States (US) Presidential Election in November 2024, the Province will continue to reiterate the significance of Canada-US relations and to highlight the opportunities available in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Premier Furey led a mission to Washington and Boston in March 2024 aimed at strengthening this province's bilateral economic ties in United States, including exploring new market opportunities, and promoting Newfoundland and Labrador's capabilities. The Premier emphasized to Canada's Ambassador to the US the need to create awareness about the deep and highly integrated relationship provinces and territories have with US states, as well as a greater understanding of the jurisdictional responsibilities of Premiers.

As the province's largest export and import jurisdiction in 2023, deepening relations with the US is of paramount importance. The year ahead will bring opportunities to engage with US colleagues during the New England Governors – Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG-ECP) conference, being held in Boston, Massachusetts. Newfoundland and Labrador will assume Chair of NEG-ECP and will host governors and premiers in the province in 2025.

The Province is also expected to move forward with plans to launch its first international office in the US. Efforts to tackle the global challenges of energy security and climate change require strong partnerships that cut across national borders. Newfoundland and Labrador can be a valuable partner for the US in confronting and overcoming these challenges, particularly with our abundance of renewable energy and critical minerals.

A strong and safe Canada, and North America, requires provincial and territorial partnership. Newfoundland and Labrador continues to play an important role in the

security and sovereignty of Canada's Arctic and supports allies via the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) given its strategic location. Infrastructure investments as a result of NORAD modernization are of significant interest to the Province in order to maintain and strengthen Canada, particularly as Russia moves forward with militarizing the Arctic region.

Like other provinces and territories, Newfoundland and Labrador continued to experience escalating demands across the full housing continuum. The Province responded with the highest level of provincial investment in housing in decades; however, more must be done. While the federal government put forward federal funding for housing, the Province has been challenged in accessing it as a smaller jurisdiction competing against major population centres in application-based funding pots. The Atlantic Provinces continue to work closely together to develop regional solutions that respond to the unique needs and realities of our provinces while also advocating for flexible, long-term funding to ensure safe, accessible, and affordable housing for all.

In addition to ongoing housing pressures, Newfoundland and Labrador, alongside all provinces and territories, maintains the federal government must introduce a successor to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, that concluded March 31, 2023. Adequate, predictable long-term funding is essential to multi-year infrastructure planning.

These and other long-standing and emerging challenges and opportunities, such as a rapidly changing climate, are driving higher levels of overall engagement by the Province with other provinces and territories, the federal government, and foreign governments. The Intergovernmental Affairs Secretariat will continue to actively participate in and support engagements across all areas of government to promote and secure the Province's interests.

Financial Information

Expenditure and revenue figures included in this report are based on public information provided in the Report on the Program Expenditures and Revenues of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for fiscal year ended March 31, 2024.

	Actual	Estimates	
		Amended	Original
	\$	\$	\$
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS SECRETARIAT			
<i>CURRENT</i>			
2.6.01. INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS			
01. Salaries	1,444,753	1,475,200	1,490,200
Operating Accounts:			
<i>Employee Benefits</i>	6,602	1,800	1,800
<i>Transportation and Communications</i>	145,963	139,300	124,300
<i>Supplies</i>	12,652	10,600	10,600
<i>Professional Services</i>	11,076	115,000	115,000
<i>Purchased Services</i>	290,096	284,500	284,500
<i>Property, Furnishings and Equipment</i>	1,700	-	-
02. Operating Accounts	468,089	551,200	536,200
10. Grants and Subsidies	35,183	40,000	40,000
Total: Intergovernmental Affairs	1,948,025	2,066,400	2,066,400
TOTAL: INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS SECRETARIAT	1,948,025	2,066,400	2,066,400

Annex A: Intergovernmental Agreements Signed in 2023-24

NL Party	Other Party	Name of Agreement
Children, Seniors and Social Development (CSSD)	Indigenous Services Canada	Funding Agreement - Province of Newfoundland and Labrador - Child, Youth and Family Services
CSSD	Department of Employment and Social Development Canada/ Governments of all other Provinces and Territories except AB and QC	Inter-Governmental Agreement for the Management of the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Seniors Forum Budget
Digital Government and Service NL (DGSNL)	Minister of State (Official Languages)	Canada - Newfoundland and Labrador Agreement on French-Language Services
DGSNL	Transport Canada	Amending Agreement No.1 of the Canada - Newfoundland and Labrador Road Safety Transfer Payment Program - Agreement for the Motor Carrier Safety - National Safety Code Project
DGSNL	Public Services and Procurement Canada	Memorandum of Understanding for the Inspection of Boilers/Pressure Vessels
DGSNL	Public Services and Procurement Canada	Memorandum of Understanding for Inspection of Elevating Devices

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DGSNL	Canada/ Governments of all other Provinces and Territories	Renewal of the National Occupational Health and Safety Reconciliation Agreement
DGSNL	Governments of all other Provinces and Territories except NU	Reconciliation Agreement - Commercial Truck Driver Entry-level Training (Class 1)
DGSNL	Department of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada	Third Amended and Restated Intergovernmental Agreement Letter of Agreement (2023-2028) for the Extension of BizPal Service
DGSNL	Durham College of Applied Arts and Technology	Online Proctoring Addendum Agreement Respecting the Life Licensing Qualification Program (LLQP)
DGSNL WorkplaceNL	Government of Canada/ Governments of all other Provinces and Territories	First Amendment to Schedule A of the Pan Canadian Occupational Health and Safety Reconciliation Agreement
DGSNL	Governments of Nova Scotia/ New Brunswick/ Prince Edward Island	Agreement to Improve Technical Safety, Interjurisdictional Commerce, and the Mobility of Certified Tradespeople in Atlantic Canada
DGSNL	Minister of State (Official Languages)	Amending Agreement to the Canada - Newfoundland and Labrador Agreement on French-Language Services 2018- 2019 to 2022-2023
DGSNL	Alberta Securities Commission	SEDAR+ Interface Support Agreement

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DGSNL	All Provincial and Territorial Securities Commissions	Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Oversight of the Canadian Investment Regulatory Organization
Environment and Climate Change (ECC)	Department of Environment and Climate Change Canada	Third Amending Agreement to the Canada - Newfoundland and Labrador Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund Funding Agreement 2017-2018 /2023-2024
ECC	Department of Natural Resources Canada	Amendment No. 1 to the Greener Homes Initiative Non-Repayable Contribution Agreement
ECC	Public Services and Procurement Canada	Amendment No. 2 to the Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Flood Risk Mapping Projects
ECC	Department of Environment and Climate Change Canada	Contribution Agreement with Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) to Support Federal and Provincial Protected Areas Initiatives
ECC	Department of Environment and Climate Change Canada	Spending Agreement Related to Wetland Monitoring in Newfoundland and Labrador 2023-2025 Field Seasons
ECC	Department of Environment and Climate Change Canada	Recapitalized Low Carbon Economy Leadership Funding Agreement
ECC	Public Services and Procurement Canada	Amendment No. 1 to the Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Flood Risk Mapping Projects

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ECC	Department of Natural Resources Canada	Department of Natural Resources Contributions in Support of Clean Fuels, Transportation and Industry Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Program Non-Repayable Contribution Agreement
ECC	Department of Natural Resources Canada	Greener Homes Initiative Non-Repayable Contribution Agreement
ECC	Department of Environment and Climate Change/ Town of Burgeo/ Miawpukek First Nation/ Qalipu First Nation	Memorandum of Understanding Respecting an Assessment of the Feasibility of Establishing a National Marine Conservation Area in the South Coast Fjords Area and Redesignating Sandbanks Provincial Park as a National Park in Southwestern Newfoundland
Education (EDU)	Department of Employment and Social Development Canada	Amendment No. 1 to the 2021-2022 to 2025-2026 Canada - Newfoundland and Labrador Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement
EDU	Department of Employment and Social Development Canada	Amendment No. 2 to the 2021-2022 to 2025-2026 Canada - Newfoundland and Labrador Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement
EDU	Minister of State (Official Languages)	Amendment to the Canada - Newfoundland and Labrador Agreement on Minority-Language Education and Second Official Language Instruction - 2020-21 to 2022-23
EDU	Department of Employment and Social Development Canada	Amendment No. 1 to the Adult Learning, Literacy and Essential Skills Program - Skills for Success Contribution Agreement

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Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture (FFA)	Government of New Brunswick/ University of Prince Edward Island	Joint Contribution Agreement for the Provision of Aquatic Pathologist Services to the Atlantic Provinces' Aquaculture Sectors
FFA	Department of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	Amendment No. 1 to the Contribution Agreement for the Canadian Agricultural Strategic Priorities Program (CASPP)
FFA	Department of Environment and Climate Change Canada	Contribution Agreement Regarding Limestone Landscapes of the Great Northern Peninsula Priority Place Initiative
FFA	Department of Environment and Climate Change Canada	Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund Contribution Agreement
FFA	Department of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	Blueberry and Lingonberry Hybrids Material Transfer Agreement
FFA	Royal Canadian Mounted Police	Memorandum of Understanding - Delivery of the Canadian Firearms Safety Course (CFSC) - 2024 – 2025
FFA	Royal Canadian Mounted Police	Memorandum of Understanding - Delivery of the Canadian Firearms Safety Course (CFSC) - 2023 – 2024
FFA	Department of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	Canada - Newfoundland and Labrador Hurricane Fiona AgriRecovery Response Contribution Agreement
FFA	Department of Natural Resources Canada	Fighting and Managing Wildfires in a Changing Climate Non-Repayable Contribution Agreement

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FFA	Department of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership AgrilInsurance Program Operational Document
FFA	Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency	Hurricane Fiona Recovery Fund Contribution Agreement
FFA	Department of Natural Resources Canada/ Governments of Nova Scotia/ New Brunswick/ Prince Edward Island	Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Renewal of the Spruce Budworm Early Intervention Strategy - Phase III Program
FFA	Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada/ Governments of Nova Scotia/ New Brunswick/ Prince Edward Island	Atlantic Framework Agreement for the Atlantic Fisheries Fund Program - Amendment Agreement No.1
FFA	Department of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	Contribution Agreement for the Canadian Agricultural Strategic Priorities Program (CASPP)
FFA	Department of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada/ Governments of all other Provinces and Territories except NU	Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP) - AgriStability Program Guidelines
FFA	Department of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada/ Governments of all other Provinces	Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP) - AgriInvest Program Guidelines

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	and Territories except NU	
FFA	Department of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	Canada - Newfoundland and Labrador Bilateral Agreement Implementing the Canadian Agricultural Partnership - A Federal-Provincial-Territorial Framework Agreement on Agriculture, Agri-Food and Agri-Based Products Policy
Finance (FIN)	Transport Canada	Memorandum of Understanding Regarding the Sharing of Personal Information for the Purpose of the Provincial Tax and Revenue Collection Related to the Purchase of a Pleasure Craft
FIN	Statistics Canada	Statistics Canada SPSPD/M Memorandum of Understanding
FIN	Department of Finance Canada	Letter Regarding the Canada - Newfoundland and Labrador Reciprocal Taxation Agreement
Health and Community Services (HCS)	Department of Employment and Social Development Canada	Foreign Credential Recognition Program Contribution Agreement
HCS	Indigenous Services Canada/ Crown-Indigenous Relations	Health Services Integration Fund Agreement - Journey of Collaboration
HCS	Health Canada	Canada - Newfoundland and Labrador Agreement to Work Together to Improve Health Care for Canadians (2023-24 to 2025-26)

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HCS	Health Canada	Canada - Newfoundland and Labrador Aging with Dignity Funding Agreement (2023-24 to 2027-28)
HCS	Health Canada/ Newfoundland and Labrador Health Services	Official Languages Health Program Contribution Agreement
HCS	Indigenous Services Canada	2023-2024 Funding Agreement for Medical Transportation (Schedevac and Medevac)
HCS	Health Canada/ Public Services and Procurement Canada	Amendment to the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for Toll-Free Quitline Numbers on Tobacco Packaging Initiative
HCS	Public Health Agency of Canada/ Newfoundland and Labrador Health Services	Wastewater Surveillance Program Contribution Agreement
HCS	Health Canada	Memorandum of Understanding for the Expansion of the Air Quality Network in Newfoundland and Labrador
HCS	Health Canada	9-8-8: A National Three-Digit Number for Suicide Prevention and Emotional Distress Memorandum of Understanding on Roles and Responsibilities
HCS	Public Health Agency of Canada	National Emergency Strategic Stockpile Equipment Loan Agreement
Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation (IAR)	Crown-Indigenous Relations/ Nunatsiavut Government/	Funding Agreement for the Torngat Joint Fisheries Board

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	Torngat Joint Fisheries Board	
IAR	Crown-Indigenous Relations/ Nunatsiavut Government/ Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-Management Board	Funding Agreement for the Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-Management Board
Industry, Energy and Technology (IET)	Department of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada/ Business Development Bank of Canada/ Export Development Canada	Confidentiality Agreement for the Accelerated Growth Program
IET	National Research Council of Canada	Memorandum of Understanding for Technical Assessments to Assist in the Delivery of the IET Commercial Programs
IET/ ECC	Department of Environment and Climate Change Canada/ Department of Energy and Natural Resources Canada	Amendments to the Agreement to Conduct the Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Newfoundland and Labrador
IET/ FFA	Department of Energy and Natural Resources Canada	Memorandum of Understanding Between the Government of Canada and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador Regarding Offshore Wind Development

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Intergovernmental Affairs Secretariat (IGAS)	Canada/ Governments of all other Provinces and Territories	Second Protocol of Amendment to the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA)
IGAS	Government of British Columbia	Newfoundland and Labrador - British Columbia Statement of Cooperation
IGAS	Havenbedrijf Rotterdam N.V. Port of Rotterdam	Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Green Hydrogen and Market Opportunities
Immigration, Population Growth and Skills (IPGS)	Government of New Brunswick	Virtual Learning Strategy 2 Project Agreement
IPGS	Department of Employment and Social Development Canada/ Canada Employment Insurance Commission	Amendment to the Canada - Newfoundland and Labrador Workforce Development (WDA) and Canada - Newfoundland and Labrador Labour Market Development (LMDA) Agreements
IPGS	Telangana Overseas Manpower Company Ltd. (TOMCOM) State of Telangana, Republic of India	Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Labour Cooperation with the Government of the State of Telangana, India
IPGS	Norka Roots State of Kerala, Republic of India	Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Labour Cooperation with the Government of the State of Kerala of the Republic of India

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Justice and Public Safety (JPS)	Department of Justice Canada	Amendment No. 1 - Funding Agreement for the Drug Treatment Court Funding Program (DTCFP)
JPS	Public Safety Canada	Gun and Gang Violence Action Fund Contribution Agreement Amendment No. 3
JPS	Governments of Nova Scotia/ New Brunswick/ Prince Edward Island/ Halifax Regional Municipality	Procurement Project Charter - Related to the Request for Supplier Qualifications (RSFQ) to Establish a Standing Offer for Motorola Trunked Mobile Radios and Accessories
JPS	Public Safety Canada/ Innu Round Table Secretariat	Contribution Agreement to Co-Fund a Policing Feasibility Assessment for Innu Nation
JPS	Public Safety Canada	Amendment to the Agreement Respecting Biology Casework Analysis 2014-2024
JPS	Department of Justice Canada	Agreement Respecting Immigration and Refugee Legal Aid
JPS	Public Safety Canada	Gun and Gang Violence Action Fund Contribution Agreement Amendment No. 2
JPS	Department of Justice Canada	Program Funding Agreement for the Family Information Liaison Unit (FILU)

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JPS	Statistics Canada	Amendment - Letter of Agreement with Statistics Canada to Enhance Information Management Infrastructure at the Office of Chief Medical Examiner (OCME)
JPS	Department of Justice Canada	Contraventions Act Administration and Enforcement Agreement
JPS	Public Safety Canada	Canada - Newfoundland and Labrador Corrections Exchange of Service Agreement
JPS/ TI	Public Safety Canada	Contribution Agreement for Newfoundland and Labrador's New Adult Correctional Facility Project
Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation (NLHC)	Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation	2023 Canada Housing Benefit (CHB) Enhancement Agreement Targeted to Survivors of Gender- Based Violence
NLHC	Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation	Amending Letter Regarding the Canada Housing Benefit (CHB) 2023-24 Top-Up
NLHC	Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation	National Housing Co-Investment Fund Contribution Agreement
NLHC	Canada Revenue Agency	Canada Revenue Agency Public Key Infrastructure External Organization Agreement

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Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation (TCAR)	Canadian Heritage	Canada Cultural Spaces Fund Contribution Agreement
TCAR	Canadian Heritage	Agreement Concerning the Participation of Newfoundland and Labrador in the Culture Statistics Strategy for the Federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 – 2024
TCAR	Department of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada	Memorandum of Understanding for the Canadian Council of Tourism Ministers (CCTM) Meeting Costs
TCAR	Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency/ Governments of Nova Scotia/ New Brunswick/ Prince Edward Island/ Hospitality Newfoundland and Labrador/ Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia/ Tourism Industry Association of New Brunswick/ Tourism Industry Association of Prince Edward Island	Atlantic Canada Agreement on Tourism
TCAR	Canadian Heritage	Amendment to the Canada - Newfoundland and Labrador Bilateral Agreement on Sport Participation

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TCAR	Destination Canada/ Parks Canada Agency/ Canadian Commission for UNESCO/ Fundy Biosphere Initiative Inc./ Governments of Nova Scotia/ New Brunswick	Atlantic Canada Tourism Corridor Strategy Program Partnering Agreement
Transportation and Infrastructure (TI)	Infrastructure Canada	Amendment No. 3 to the Canada - Newfoundland and Labrador New Building Canada Fund - Contribution Agreement for the Provincial-Territorial Infrastructure Component - National and Regional Projects in Newfoundland and Labrador
TI	Veterans Affairs Canada	Commemorative Partnership Program Contribution Agreement for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Project
TI	Indigenous Services Canada	Funding Agreement - Province of Newfoundland and Labrador Natuashish Airport
TI	Transport Canada	Canada - Government of Newfoundland and Labrador Airports Capital Assistance Program Agreement for a Grader
TI	Public Services and Procurement Canada	Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Regarding the Transfer of Land to the Federal Government at East White Hills, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador

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Women and Gender Equality (WGE)	Women and Gender Equality Canada	Canada - Newfoundland and Labrador Transfer Payment Agreement on the Implementation of the National Action Plan to End Gender Based Violence
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