

2025-2026

Annual Report

Intergovernmental
Affairs Secretariat





MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

It is my pleasure to present the 2025-26 Annual Performance Report for the Intergovernmental Affairs Secretariat for the period of April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026. As Premier and Minister for Intergovernmental Affairs, I am accountable for the preparation of this report. This report was prepared in accordance with the **Transparency and Accountability Act**, under which the Intergovernmental Affairs Secretariat is designated as a category three government entity.

Since taking office, our government has worked diligently to advance Newfoundland and Labrador's strategic intergovernmental priorities. This has included signing the Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement; the Memorandum of Understanding on Interprovincial Trucking; and the new Financial Services Chapter of the Canadian Free Trade Agreement.

These strategic efforts will help reduce obstacles and create more opportunities for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, the communities where we live and work, as well as business communities throughout our province and across Canada.

Newfoundland and Labrador faces unique demographic and health challenges. In the year ahead, our government will continue to call on the federal government to negotiate a sustainable agreement that provides equitable support that facilitates health care access without barriers and works to improve health outcomes.

As Canada's international defence responsibilities expand, Newfoundland and Labrador's role in supporting national sovereignty and continental security will become more significant. Our province has supported national defence and security priorities for generations and is uniquely positioned to meet the challenges of an increasingly complex global security environment. By aligning defence capability with economic growth and innovation, especially with tremendous energy and critical mineral resources, Newfoundland and Labrador will continue to play a substantial part in building a more resilient Canada, while creating long-term opportunities.

As we look to the future, we will continue to build on these significant partnerships with other provinces, territories, the federal government and others to promote the province's interests on the national and international stage. We will continue to work collaboratively and purposefully to advance our goals and champion the interests of Newfoundland and Labrador at every opportunity.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Wakeham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tony" written in a more relaxed script and the last name "Wakeham" in a slightly more formal but still cursive style.

Hon. Tony Wakeham
Premier
Minister for Intergovernmental Affairs

Table of Contents

Role of the Secretariat	7
Mandate	7
Vision	7
Departmental Overview	8
Organizational Structure	8
Lines of Business	9
Primary Clients	10
Staff and Budget	10
Highlights and Partnerships	11
Report on Performance	17
Issue One – Progressing the Province’s Strategic Intergovernmental Priorities	17
Issue Two – Progressing and Protecting the Province’s Domestic and International Trade Priorities	22
Opportunities and Challenges	26
Financial Information	28
Annex A: Intergovernmental Agreements Signed in 2025-26	29

Role of the Secretariat

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

Mandate

In accordance 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 and priorities. The Secretariat also supports the Premier, ministers, and departments in building and strengthening relationships with other sovereign governments and international entities to advance provincial interests.

Vision

The Secretariat envisions a resilient and prosperous Newfoundland and Labrador where the Province's best interests are promoted through engagement with governments across Canada and internationally.

Departmental Overview

Organizational Structure

The Secretariat's three divisions provide coordinated economic, social, and trade policy expertise, ensuring the province's unique needs remain central in intergovernmental dialogue and negotiations at regional, national, and international levels. The Secretariat also works to promote Newfoundland and Labrador's interests on the international stage by supporting the Premier's participation in various diplomatic visits and trade engagements.

Economic Policy

The Economic Policy Division provides intergovernmental policy advice to support economic growth throughout the province, focusing on areas such as natural resource management, energy and mining, the environment, fisheries and aquaculture, fiscal and economic policy, industrial development, immigration, skills and labour, infrastructure, tourism, and other matters of constitutional interest. It also supports provincial participation in intergovernmental forums such as First Ministers' Meetings, the Council of Atlantic Premiers, and the Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers.

Social Policy

The Social Policy Division provides intergovernmental policy advice to support the well-being of individuals, families, and communities throughout the province in priority areas such as health, housing, education, child care, Indigenous relations and reconciliation, justice and public safety, seniors, and women and gender equality. It also supports provincial participation in intergovernmental forums such as the Council of the Federation and Seamless Canada, and leads on provincial interests related to national defence, military, and foreign affairs.

Trade Policy

The Trade Policy Division is responsible for coordinating the Province's approach to interprovincial and international trade matters. It supports the Province's participation in the negotiation, ratification, and implementation of trade agreements, and provides analysis and advice on trade commitments and their implications for Newfoundland and Labrador. The Division also represents the province in intergovernmental trade and procurement forums, including the Committee on Internal Trade, contributing to collaborative efforts to improve the functioning of domestic and international trade frameworks, and overall economic productivity.

Lines of Business

Intergovernmental and Trade Policy Advice: The Secretariat monitors and analyzes intergovernmental matters in social, economic, resource, trade, and constitutional policy areas, providing strategic advice that supports provincial priorities and advances the Government's intergovernmental and trade agenda.

Promotion of the Province's Interests: The Secretariat builds and strengthens relationships with other governments and international entities to advance Newfoundland and Labrador's interests. It advocates for the Province in key bilateral, multilateral, regional, national, and international intergovernmental forums and conferences to present and promote provincial priorities. It also acts as lead liaison to the Department of National Defence to promote the Province's interests in this area in coordination with provincial departments. Finally, the Secretariat supports government departments in engaging in intergovernmental meetings and advancing provincial positions within both meetings and intergovernmental agreements.

Support and Coordination: The Secretariat coordinates and provides support for interdepartmental initiatives that have intergovernmental implications for the Province, and ensures the Premier is supported and prepared for intergovernmental meetings.

Primary Clients

The Secretariat's primary clients are the Premier, ministers, departments, and agencies who rely on its strategic intergovernmental and trade policy advice, analysis, and coordination to inform decision-making and advance provincial priorities. The Secretariat also engages with external stakeholders, including industry groups and businesses, on trade-related concerns and the negotiation and administration of trade agreements.

Staff and Budget

As of March 31, 2026, the Secretariat had a staff complement of 14 (8 female and 6 male), and an estimated budget of \$2,368,700.

The Secretariat is located in the East Block of the Confederation Building in St. John's. For more information about the Secretariat's work, please visit: www.gov.nl.ca/exec/ias.

Highlights and Partnerships

Intergovernmental Engagement

To foster collaboration among Atlantic Provinces, the Secretariat supported the Premier's participation in a virtual Council of Atlantic Premiers (CAP) meeting on December 9, 2025, where Atlantic Premiers discussed shared opportunities for economic growth, including supporting key industries, advancing major projects, and unlocking the region's potential in energy, defence, and critical minerals development. The meeting also advanced coordinated regional efforts to prevent domestic homicide, which led to the release of a report, *Preventing Domestic Homicides in Atlantic Canada: Looking Back to See Our Way Forward*, which provides a decade-long analysis of domestic homicides across the region and outlines opportunities for stronger prevention, data collection, and collaboration. Following their meeting, Premiers also wrote to the Prime Minister to call on the federal government to renew and enhance the Atlantic Fisheries Fund.

The Secretariat also supported the Premier's participation in a meeting of Atlantic Premiers and the Prime Minister on February 5, 2026, where Atlantic Premiers advanced regional priorities, including driving economic growth through energy and major infrastructure development and leveraging the region's role in defence and national security.

The Secretariat supported participation in one virtual and two in-person Council of the Federation (COF) meetings with Canada's Premiers. The first in-person COF meeting was held in Huntsville, Ontario from July 22-23, 2025, and the second was held in Ottawa, Ontario from January 28-29, 2026. Priority issues affecting Canadians were discussed, including Canada-United States (U.S.) relations, international trade diversification, major project development, internal trade and labour mobility, emergency management and wildfires, immigration, health, and public safety.

During the reporting period, the Secretariat also provided support for six virtual and three in-person First Ministers' Meetings (FMMs). In-person FMMs were held on June 1-2, 2025, in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; on July 22, 2025, in Huntsville, Ontario; and on January 29, 2026, in Ottawa, Ontario. These meetings focused on, among other topics, advancing major projects, reducing internal trade barriers, enhancing defence and security, and Canada-U.S. relations, including tariff relief.

In addition, the Secretariat facilitated the Premier's participation in other bilateral meetings, including with other Premiers and federal ministers to discuss key provincial priorities. This included meetings in Ottawa in November 2025 with the Prime Minister and federal ministers to advance Newfoundland and Labrador's priorities, such as energy, cost of living, economic development, expanding trade opportunities, defence, major projects, health care, and more.

The Secretariat also supported the Province's participation in the annual meeting of the Seamless Canada Steering Committee on June 4, 2025, in Halifax, Nova Scotia and a virtual meeting on December 1, 2025. At these meetings, federal, provincial, and territorial governments focused on improving the transitions between postings for Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members and their families, including in key areas such as health care, spousal employment, education, child care, and housing. The Secretariat also supported provincial departments' participation on Seamless Canada sub-committees.

Continued Engagement with International Partners

During the reporting period, the Secretariat continued to advance collaboration with international partners on shared priorities. Highlights include:

- Supporting participation in the Strong Partnerships, Shared Future Convening of Northeastern United States Governors and Canadian Premiers in Boston, Massachusetts on June 16, 2025, in response to tariffs on Canadian imports and exports. The meeting reaffirmed commitments to strengthening trade and economic

relations in response to tariffs, and emphasized continued partnership across trade and investment, energy, tourism, manufacturing, and supply chain resilience.

- Supporting the Premier in attending the Seafood Expo North America (SENA) in Boston, Massachusetts in March 2026, which provided an opportunity for Newfoundland and Labrador to showcase its high-quality seafood products to an international audience.
- Supporting the Premier in attending the Cambridge Energy Research Associates Week (CERAWeek) in Houston, Texas from March 23-27, 2026, which provided an opportunity to promote Newfoundland and Labrador's energy potential and advance investment opportunities. During the conference, the Premier participated in speaking engagements and met with industry leaders and investors.

In addition, the Secretariat supported the Premier as co-chair and host of the 46th annual New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG-ECP) conference, held in St. John's on November 16-17, 2025. This included working with provincial departments, including the Department of Energy and Mines and the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, to advance work under NEG-ECP's Northeast International Committee on Energy (NICE) and the Committee on the Environment (COE), as well as developing a program for delegates, which included arranging a visit to the Co. Innovation Centre for technology demonstrations from local innovators; organizing a fireside chat between Premiers, Governors, and other heads of delegation about the role of technology and innovation in economic growth; and, organizing a tour of the Beaumont Hamel and Trail of the Caribou Exhibition at The Rooms.

Discussions between Premiers and Governors at the Conference focused on advancing shared energy and environmental priorities, as well as regional collaboration in technology and innovation, with three resolutions being adopted in these areas. Delegations from Maine, Massachusetts, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward

Island, Québec, and Vermont were in attendance. This marked the first time Newfoundland and Labrador hosted the conference since 2015.

The Secretariat also provided support to the Premier and the Lieutenant-Governor during diplomatic meetings throughout the reporting period. In 2025-26, this included:

- His Excellency António Leão Rocha, Ambassador of Portugal to Canada;
- His Excellency Rob Tinline, British High Commissioner to Canada;
- His Excellency Dinesh Patnaik, High Commissioner of India to Canada;
- His Excellency Alessandro Cattaneo, Ambassador of Italy to Canada; and,
- His Excellency Mark Wiseman, Ambassador of Canada to the United States.

Domestic and International Trade Policy

With a number of ongoing domestic and international trade negotiations and initiatives, 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.

The Secretariat has worked closely with industry stakeholders, businesses, sector associations, and government partners to monitor and assess the implications of evolving international trade developments for Newfoundland and Labrador. This engagement has focused on understanding the impacts of tariffs, retaliatory measures, and other trade actions on key provincial sectors, including the potential effects of developments in Canada-U.S. trade relations and other international markets. Through ongoing dialogue with stakeholders, the Secretariat has helped identify concerns, gather industry perspectives, and support the Province's response to emerging trade-related challenges.

Within the Atlantic region, the Province's interests were represented under CAP through the Atlantic Trade and Procurement Partnership and the Atlantic Joint Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness. These forums help build stronger collaboration and communication for both trade and procurement in the region.

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

Throughout 2025–26, the Secretariat supported Newfoundland and Labrador's active participation in six Committee on Internal Trade (CIT) ministerial meetings, which played a central role in advancing Canada's internal trade agenda. These meetings focused on implementing First Ministers' commitments to reduce regulatory barriers, expand mutual recognition, incorporate the Financial Services Chapter into the Canadian Free Trade Agreement, improve labour mobility, and strengthen the movement of goods and services across Canada. The Province also contributed to several national initiatives, including the development of the Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement on the Sale of Goods and efforts to reduce trade barriers in the transportation sector.

Since September 2024, the Trade Policy Division has supported Newfoundland and Labrador in co-chairing, with the Government of Canada, the national Trucking Mutual Recognition Pilot Project and associated deputy ministers' working group. This work became a key CIT initiative in 2025, with jurisdictions agreeing to expand mutual recognition in the trucking sector to improve the efficient movement of goods across Canada and reduce regulatory burden on industry. The Secretariat led Newfoundland and Labrador's participation in identifying priority areas for regulatory alignment, engaging with federal, provincial, and territorial partners, supporting the Trucking Hackathon held in July 2025, and advancing the development of an interprovincial Memorandum of Understanding and broader mutual recognition framework for the sector.

For 2025–26, the Secretariat provided strategic advice and support on international trade matters affecting Newfoundland and Labrador. This work involved identifying issues of relevance to the province, consulting with provincial departments and agencies, and collaborating with federal, provincial, and territorial partners to assess emerging trade developments and their potential implications. The Secretariat also supported the development of provincial trade policy positions to enable economic growth, maintain competitiveness, and protecting the province's interests in areas of strategic importance.

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

The Secretariat represented Newfoundland and Labrador at the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Forum on International Trade (C-Trade), providing input on a range of international trade policy issues. During this year, particular attention was placed on monitoring developments in the global trading environment, assessing potential impacts on the province, and supporting coordinated government responses. This included contributing to discussions on trade-related challenges and opportunities, market access issues, and broader efforts to strengthen Canada's international trade relationships and economic resilience.

Report on Performance

Issue One – Progressing the Province’s Strategic Intergovernmental Priorities

The Secretariat aims to advance Newfoundland and Labrador’s strategic intergovernmental priorities through productive collaboration with the federal government, other provincial and territorial governments across Canada, and sovereign governments worldwide. This commitment includes advocating for provincial interests in a variety of intergovernmental forums and engagements, such as the Council of the Federation, Council of Atlantic Premiers, First Ministers’ Meetings, the Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers, Seamless Canada, as well as other multilateral, bilateral, and regional initiatives.

In accordance with the **Intergovernmental Affairs Act**, the Minister for Intergovernmental Affairs must be involved in the review, negotiation, and signing of all intergovernmental agreements between the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and other sovereign governments. The Secretariat supports government departments throughout negotiations and by reviewing agreements to ensure alignment with provincial intergovernmental policies and strategic priorities.

Goal

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

2025-26 Objective

By March 31, 2026, the Secretariat will have continued to support the progression of Government’s strategic intergovernmental priorities.

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

Indicator	Performance
Continued to provide 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, child care, energy, defence, immigration, labour, and infrastructure during the reporting period. This included working closely with provincial departments to ensure the Province's interests were reflected in federal initiatives. For example, the Secretariat worked closely with the Department of Jobs, Growth and Rural Development to advance the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Workforce Tariff Response, which secured approximately \$10.6 million in federal funding over three years to support workers and employers in directly and indirectly tariff-affected industries. In addition, Atlantic Premiers advocated to the federal government regarding the renewal and enhancement of the Atlantic Fisheries Fund to ensure the Fund can continue to support Atlantic Canada's fish and seafood industries. Further, the Secretariat supported the Premier's involvement in several bilateral meetings, including with the Prime Minister and federal ministers, to promote the province's strengths and key sectors, including those related to energy, critical minerals, defence, health care and access to pharmacare.

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

Indicator	Performance
Further supported and managed the Province's participation in intergovernmental forums to advance Provincial priorities, including the Council of the Federation (COF), the Council of Atlantic Premiers (CAP), First Ministers' Meetings (FMM), New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers Conference (NEG-ECP), and Seamless Canada.	Throughout the reporting period, the Secretariat supported and managed the Province's participation in intergovernmental forums through, among other things, the preparation of briefing materials to support the engagement of the Premier and other officials, and participation in Senior Officials and management-level working groups. During the reporting period, the Secretariat supported: • 29 CAP calls/virtual/in-person meetings, which included a virtual Atlantic Premiers' meeting and a virtual meeting between Atlantic Premiers and the Prime Minister; • 52 COF calls/virtual/in-person meetings, which included two in-person and a virtual Premiers' meeting; • the Premier's participation in six virtual and three in-person FMMs; • various NEG-ECP calls/virtual/in-person meetings to support the Premier's role as co-chair and host of the 46th Annual NEG-ECP Conference held November 16-17 in St. John's; and, • the Province's participation in one virtual meeting of the Seamless Canada Steering Committee and one in-person meeting, held in Halifax on June 4-5, as well as 11 sub-committee calls.

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

Indicator	Performance
Continue 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.	In 2025-26, 61 intergovernmental agreements were signed involving 16 provincial government departments and agencies, including 40 with the federal government (see Annex A for a complete listing). Examples include: • An agreement with Employment and Social Development Canada for approximately \$10.6 million in federal funding over three years through the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Workforce Tariff Response to support workers and employers in directly and indirectly tariff-affected industries. • An agreement with Health Canada for \$465,280 over three fiscal years (2025-26 to 2027-28) through Climate Change and Health Capacity Building Program Contribution Agreement for the development of a provincial Heat Alert and Response System under the federal HeatADAPT Program. • An agreement with Public Safety Canada for \$641,317 over three fiscal years (2025-26 to 2027-2028) through the First Nations and Inuit Policing Program to strengthen community safety capacity and promote culturally appropriate crime prevention approaches within the four Inuit communities of Makkovik, Rigolet,

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

Indicator	Performance
	Nain, and Hopedale by hiring a Community Safety Officer (CSO) for each community. • An agreement with Canadian Heritage for \$18,802,912 over three years (2025-26 to 2027-28) to provide French-language minority communities with education and cultural enrichment in their own language, and English-language majority communities with opportunities to learn French as a second language.

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

As the Provincial Government's lead division for trade policy and negotiations, the Secretariat's Trade Policy Division advances Newfoundland and Labrador's economic interests through the development, negotiation, and implementation of trade agreements and related policy initiatives. Trade policy encompasses the rules, agreements, and arrangements that govern the movement of goods, services, investment, and labour between jurisdictions, with the objective of reducing barriers, improving market access, and supporting economic growth.

The Secretariat works to leverage Newfoundland and Labrador's economic strengths by promoting access to domestic and international markets while ensuring provincial interests are reflected in evolving trade frameworks. Alongside efforts to advance internal trade within Canada, the Division provides strategic advice on emerging trade issues, supports the protection of key provincial interests, and helps position the Province to respond effectively to changing economic conditions and new trade opportunities.

Goal

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

2025-26 Objective

By March 31, 2026, the Secretariat will have continued to support the progression and protection of the Province’s national and international trade priorities and interests, in both agreed and ongoing trade commitments.

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

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 trade policies in other jurisdictions that could impact the Province.	The Secretariat represents Newfoundland and Labrador at various national forums and dedicated committees to support trade negotiations. At these forums, the Secretariat advocated to Canada for provincial interests in ongoing international trade negotiations, trade disputes, and arising trade pressures, along with matters impacting provincial importers and exporters. The Secretariat also provided strategic advice to stakeholders and government departments on issues impacting trade in the province including foreign protectionism, non-compliance of parties to free-trade agreements, retaliatory trade measures by Canada, and supply-chain issues.
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.	Throughout 2025-2026, the Secretariat supported Newfoundland and Labrador's active participation in six CIT ministerial meetings. The Province's internal trade priorities were advanced through participation in national initiatives to reduce regulatory barriers, expand mutual recognition, improve the movement of goods across Canada, and support the implementation of direct-to-consumer alcohol sales and the Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement on the Sale of Goods. The Province also co-chaired the national trucking

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

Indicator	Performance
	mutual recognition initiative in partnership with the Government of Canada.
Continued to advocate for the Province's interests in the negotiations of ongoing international free trade agreements, including Canada's agreements with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Indonesia, and Ecuador.	The Secretariat provided feedback and negotiated on behalf of the Province for new and ongoing international trade agreements. This included continued engagement in negotiations toward a Canada–ASEAN Free Trade Agreement, which remain active as both parties work toward substantial progress. Canada advanced work toward a Canada–India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), supported by renewed federal engagement and national consultations completed in early 2026. Negotiations toward a Canada–MERCOSUR Free Trade Agreement continued, informed by updated federal consultations launched in late 2025 to refine Canada's negotiating objectives. Canada and the Philippines formally launched negotiations for a bilateral Free Trade Agreement in October 2025, following the conclusion of exploratory discussions. Canada also progressed toward a Canada–United Arab Emirates Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), with both countries announcing their intent to launch negotiations in late 2025 and completing federal consultations in early 2026.

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

Indicator	Performance
Established and operationalized the Province's first international office in Boston to continue to build relationships in the United States with a focus on the northeastern region.	The Boston Office opened in 2025, co-located with the Canadian Consulate in Boston. It was later closed in 2026 as part of a commitment to responsible fiscal management and a renewed focus on economic development, with trade efforts coordinated from within the province to support long-term growth and competitiveness while maintaining relationships with New England partners.

Opportunities and Challenges

Newfoundland and Labrador's pursuit of long-term social and economic prosperity is being shaped by a rapidly evolving international and domestic policy environment. The current trade environment has reinforced the importance of strengthening Canada's domestic economy, diversifying trade relationships, and accelerating investments in strategic industries. At the same time, federal and provincial efforts to advance major projects and reduce internal trade barriers present significant opportunities for Newfoundland and Labrador to leverage its natural resources, skilled workforce, and strategic location in the Atlantic region.

The province is well positioned to benefit from Canada's renewed focus on economic growth and resource development. Newfoundland and Labrador possesses significant competitive advantages in offshore oil and gas, critical minerals, hydroelectricity, fisheries, ocean technology, and marine transportation. As Canadian governments seek to enhance economic resilience and strengthen national supply chains, Newfoundland and Labrador has an opportunity to increase its role as a supplier of energy, minerals, and other strategic resources essential to Canada's long-term prosperity.

Resource development remains a cornerstone of the province's economic agenda. Continued growth in the offshore oil and gas sector, including the advancement of the Bay du Nord project, represents a major opportunity to create employment, attract private-sector investment, generate government revenues, and maintain Newfoundland and Labrador's position as a leading energy producer. The province also has significant potential to expand critical mineral production and capitalize on growing demand for the resources required for energy, defence, and advanced manufacturing sectors.

While resource development can generate significant revenues, it will be important to maintain sustainable fiscal responsibility while investing in health care, public safety, infrastructure, housing, and community development. Success will depend on achieving

a balanced approach that supports economic growth, strengthens public services, makes communities safer, and ensures the benefits of development are shared across Newfoundland and Labrador. Demographic challenges, including an aging population and workforce shortages, will require sustained efforts to attract and retain workers while ensuring economic growth translates into improved quality of life for residents.

The federal government's increased focus on defence spending and building domestic defence capacity also presents a significant opportunity for Newfoundland and Labrador to leverage its strategic North Atlantic location, Arctic expertise, deepwater ports, skilled workforce, and established industrial capabilities to support Canada's Defence Industrial Strategy while driving economic growth and investment in the province.

Through strategic investment, responsible resource development, and stronger integration with the Canadian economy, the province is well positioned to capitalize on emerging opportunities while navigating a complex and uncertain economic landscape. The Secretariat will maintain an active role in supporting and participating in collaborative intergovernmental efforts across all sectors, including resource development and defence. Opportunities remain to support tourism growth, and to advance the technology sector through initiatives that promote innovation, safeguard sovereignty, and protect data. In the year ahead, the Secretariat will advocate for these types of issues, while also advancing and protecting the Province's interests.

Financial Information

Expenditure and revenue figures presented in this report are derived from publicly available data in the Report on the Program Expenditures and Revenues of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2026.

	Actual	Estimates	
		Amended	Original
	\$	\$	\$
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS SECRETARIAT			
<i>CURRENT</i>			
2.6.01. INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS			
01. Salaries	1,718,300	1,740,400	1,550,400
Operating Accounts:			
<i>Employee Benefits</i>	21,736	1,800	1,800
<i>Transportation and Communications</i>	140,916	124,300	124,300
<i>Supplies</i>	15,441	10,600	10,600
<i>Professional Services</i>	41,067	103,400	115,000
<i>Purchased Services</i>	340,133	1,294,500	1,484,500
<i>Property, Furnishings and Equipment</i>	404	-	-
02. Operating Accounts	559,697	1,534,600	1,736,200
10. Grants and Subsidies	51,576	51,600	40,000
	2,329,573	3,326,600	3,326,600
01. Revenue - Federal	(33,138)	-	-
Total: Intergovernmental Affairs	2,296,435	3,326,600	3,326,600
TOTAL: INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS SECRETARIAT	2,296,435	3,326,600	3,326,600

Annex A: Intergovernmental Agreements Signed in 2025-26

NL Party	Other Party	Name of Agreement
Environment, Conservation and Climate Change (ECC)	Government of Canada	Memorandum of Agreement for Services Health Canada-NL Pesticides - April 2025-March 2030
ECC	Government of Canada	Agent-Based Modelling for Validation and Enhancement of Rural and Remote Community Emergency Response
ECC	Government of Canada	Contribution in Support of Clean Fuels, Transportation and Industry Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Program – Amendment 1 to the Non-repayable Contribution Agreement
ECC	Government of Canada	Amendment #1 to the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Recapitalized Low Carbon Economy Fund Funding Agreement
ECC	Governments of Canada and all Provinces and Territories	Memorandum of Understanding Respecting the National Air Pollution Surveillance (NAPS) Program
Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD)	Government of Canada	Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Agreement on Minority-Language Education and Second Official-Language Instruction 2025-26 to 2027-28
EECD	Government of Alberta	Canadian Adult Education Credential (CAEC) Testing Services Agreement
EECD	Government of Canada	Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Agreement on Minority-Language Education on Second Official-Language Instruction 2024-25
Energy and Mines (EM)	Government of Canada	Critical Minerals Geoscience and Data Non-repayable Contribution Agreement (Hyperspectral Core Scanning)

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

NL Party	Other Party	Name of Agreement
EM	Government of Canada	Critical Minerals Geoscience and Data Non-repayable Contribution Agreement (Nain Plutonic Suite)
EM	Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA)	Amendment Approved under the REGI-Regional Innovation Ecosystem
Fisheries and Aquaculture (FA)	Governments of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and the University of Prince Edward Island	Aquatic Animal Pathologist Contribution Agreement
Forestry, Agriculture and Lands (FAL)	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	Contribution Agreement Between Canada and the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador for the 2025-26 Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador AgriRecovery Forage Assistance Initiative
FAL	Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Canadian Firearms Programs	Memorandum of Understanding concerning the delivery of training as related to the Canadian Firearm Safety Course in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador
FAL	Government of Canada	Operational Document Related to the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnerships Federal-Provincial Agriinsurance Agreement (SCAP)
FAL	Canadian Food Inspection Agency	Memorandum of Understanding for the Sharing of Plant Health Surveillance Data
FAL	Government of Canada	Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (SCAP) Amendment 1 to Annex A of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Framework Agreement on Agriculture, Agri-Food and Agri-Based Products Policy
Finance (FIN)	Government of Canada	Agreement to Amend the Tax Collection Agreement

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

NL Party	Other Party	Name of Agreement
Government Services (GS)	Durham College of Applied Arts and Technology	Life Licensing Qualification Program (LLQP) Exam Administration Contract Addendum
GS	RCMP	Information Sharing Agreement with RCMP to Aid Enforcement
GS	Canadian Association of Pension Supervisory Authorities (CAPSA)	Administrative and Operational Support Services for CAPSA
GS	Government of Canada	Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Road Safety Transfer Payment Program Agreement for the Motor Carrier Safety – National Safety Code Project
GS	Government of Canada	Master Agreement for Linguistic Services with the Translation Bureau
GS	Government of Ontario	Memorandum of Understanding Governing the Licensing of Photo Capture Software
GS	Canadian Council of Insurance Regulators (CCIR)	Administrative and Operational Support Services for CCIR
GS	Canadian Insurance Services Regulatory Organizations (CISRO)	Administrative and Operational Support Services for CISRO
GS	Governments of Canada and all Provinces and Territories except Nunavut	Memorandum of Understanding Respecting a Federal-Provincial-Territorial Agreement on Vehicle Weights and Dimensions
GS	Mortgage Broker Regulators' Council of Canada (MBRCC)	Administrative and Operational Support Services for MBRCC
GS	Government of Canada	Information Sharing Agreement Regarding Driver Licence Information

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

NL Party	Other Party	Name of Agreement
GS	Government of Canada	Agreement Concerning the Disclosure of Vehicle Registration Information
GS	Governments of Canada and all Provinces and Territories	Memorandum of Understanding on Interprovincial Trucking
Health and Community Services (HCS)	Government of Nova Scotia	Interprovincial Agreement for Preferred Student Admission at Dalhousie University
HCS	Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)	Memorandum of Agreement for the Placement of Public Health Officers in HCS
HCS	PHAC and Newfoundland and Labrador Health Services (NLHS)	Memorandum of Agreement for the Placement of Public Health Officers in NLHS
HCS	Government of Canada	Foreign Credential Recognition Program Contribution Agreement Amendment #1
HCS	NLHS and PHAC	Memorandum of Agreement Amendment 1 – Enhanced Surveillance System Agreement
HCS	Government of Canada	National Emergency Strategic Stockpile Transfer Agreement
HCS	Governments of all Provinces and Territories except Québec	Pan-Canadian Joint Consortium for School Health Agreement
HCS	Saint Pierre et Miquelon (SPM)	SPM Healthcare Services and Rate Agreement Extension Letter
HCS	SPM	Extension of Healthcare Services and Rate Agreement Services for SPM
Intergovernmental Affairs Secretariat (IGAS)	Government of New Brunswick	Memorandum of Understanding on Enhancing Internal Trade and Labour Mobility

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

NL Party	Other Party	Name of Agreement
IGAS	Governments of Canada and all Provinces and Territories	Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement on the Sale of Goods (Canadian Free Trade Chapter Four, Part B-Reconciliation)
IGAS	Governments of all Provinces and Government of Yukon	Memorandum of Understanding on Direct-To-Consumer Sales of Alcoholic Beverages
IGAS	Governments of Canada and all Provinces and Territories	Third Protocol of Amendment to the Canadian Free Trade Agreement
Jobs, Growth and Rural Development (JGRD)	Government of Canada	Canada-NL Workforce Tariff Response Amending Agreement
Justice and Public Safety (JPS)	Government of Canada	Project Funding Agreement – Family Information Liaison Unit (FILU)
JPS	Government of Canada	Amendment to Agreement Respecting Biology Casework Analysis 2014-2024
JPS	Government of Canada	Hate Crime Legal Education (Victims Fund) Agreement
JPS	Government of Canada	Community Safety Officer Program Contribution
JPS	Government of Canada	Establish Community Consultative Groups under the First Nations and Inuit Policing Program (FNIPP)
Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation (NLHC)	Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)	Second Amending Agreement - Federal Lands Initiative Forgivable Loan
Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO)	Governments of Canada and all Provinces and Territories	Canadian CyberSecurity Collaboration Agreement
OCIO	Government of Canada	Service Agreement for Cyber Defence Services for the OCIO of Newfoundland and Labrador

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

NL Party	Other Party	Name of Agreement
OCIO	Government of Canada	Memorandum of Understanding CanAI Garage - Building a Pan-Canadian Public Sector Artificial Intelligence Workforce
Social Supports and Well-Being (SSWB)	Government of Canada	Child Youth and Family Services – 2025-2026 Funding Agreement for Provincial and Territorial Governments
SSWB	Government of Canada	Child Youth and Family Services – Amendment to the 2025-2026 Funding Agreement for Provincial and Territorial Government
SSWB	Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)	CRA Public Key Infrastructure External Organization Agreement
Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation (TCAR)	Government of Canada	Agreement concerning the participation of Newfoundland and Labrador in the Culture Statistics Strategy for the Federal FY 2025-2026 (April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026)
Transportation and Infrastructure (TI)	Government of Canada	Railway Inspection Services Extension Agreement
TI	Government of Canada	Natuashish Airport Funding Agreement
TI	Government of Canada	Permit for the use of the Mary May Healing Centre in Sheshatshiu