

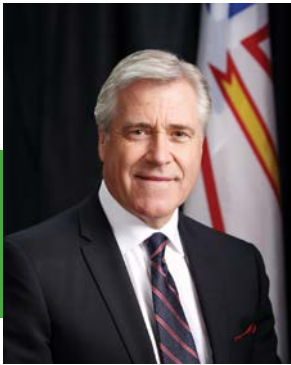
Intergovernmental and Indigenous Affairs Secretariat

# ACTIVITY PLAN

2017-20







## MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

It is my pleasure to present the Activity Plan for the Intergovernmental and Indigenous Affairs Secretariat for the period of April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2020.

Consistent with commitments outlined in *The Way Forward: A Vision for Sustainability and Growth in Newfoundland and Labrador*, and *The Way Forward: Realizing Our Potential*, the goals and objectives in this plan support our efforts to make Newfoundland and Labrador a strong, diversified province with a high standard of living.

In order to achieve this, we must work collaboratively with Indigenous communities in the province to make positive change, and ensure programs and services reflect their needs. We must also maintain collaborative and effective relationships with other governments, particularly the federal government. The goals and objectives outlined in this plan support the achievement of Newfoundland and Labrador's intergovernmental priorities, and focus on our efforts to leverage and optimize federal programs and policies in support of advancing these priorities.

As Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental and Indigenous Affairs, I am accountable for the preparation of this plan and the achievement of its goals and objectives. This plan was prepared in consideration of the strategic directions of Government, and was prepared in accordance with the Transparency and Accountability Act requirements for a category three entity.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Dwight Ball". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Honourable Dwight Ball  
Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental and Indigenous Affairs



# Departmental Overview

The Intergovernmental and Indigenous Affairs Secretariat (Secretariat) has two branches: Intergovernmental Affairs and Indigenous Affairs:

## **Intergovernmental Affairs Branch**

The Intergovernmental Affairs branch: leads the provision of policy advice and support related to meetings of First Ministers and Premiers; leads the negotiation of domestic and global trade and investment agreements, including provision of trade policy advice and consultative services; and leads in the development of intergovernmental policy where no analogous provincial department or agency exists.

The branch also participates in the negotiation of all intergovernmental agreements; and monitors, reviews and evaluates legislation, policies, programs, activities and services of Government and its agencies to ensure that intergovernmental objectives are advanced, including the leveraging of federal funding opportunities.

The Intergovernmental branch has three divisions: Resource and Fiscal Policy, Social and Economic Policy, and Trade Policy.

The Resource and Fiscal Policy division formulates intergovernmental policy advice relating to the Province's resource, fiscal, and constitutional priorities, and supports First Ministers' intergovernmental priorities.

The Social and Economic Policy division formulates intergovernmental policy advice relating to social and economic policy priorities, as well as national defence and foreign affairs; and serves as Government's military liaison.

The Trade Policy division leads the formulation of policy advice and consultative services related to national and international trade.

### **Indigenous Affairs Branch**

The Indigenous Affairs branch has two divisions: Policy and Planning, and Negotiations.

Through a respectful, principles-based relationship with Indigenous people, communities, governments and organizations, the Policy and Planning Division designs and develops policies, programs and services that are culturally sensitive, meaningful and appropriate for Indigenous people and communities.

The Policy and Planning division is also responsible for the design, development, implementation and administration of Indigenous consultation policies and practices to ensure Government discharges the Duty to Consult in respect of lands and natural resources whenever that Duty may arise.

The Negotiations division focuses on the assessment, negotiation and implementation of land claims, self-government and other agreements to promote the self-sufficiency, self-government, and cultural autonomy of Indigenous peoples and communities, and to provide clarity and certainty with respect to the ownership of and rights to lands and resources, and the management of those resources, in Newfoundland and Labrador.

For more information on the Secretariat, please visit our web page at <https://www.gov.nl.ca/ias>.

## Staff and Budget

As of March 31, 2017, the Secretariat had a staff complement of 24 (14 female and 10 male) and an estimated budget of \$3,343,000, broken down between branches as follows:

<b>Secretariat Branch</b>	<b>Staff Complement</b>	<b>2017-18 Budget</b>
Intergovernmental Affairs	14	\$1,922,100
Indigenous Affairs	10	\$1,420,900

The entire staff complement is located in the Confederation Complex in St. John's.

# Issue One – Advancing the Province’s Strategic Intergovernmental Priorities

The Secretariat’s Intergovernmental Affairs branch supports Government’s efforts to ensure that Newfoundland and Labrador’s intergovernmental priorities are advanced through productive engagements with the federal government and other sovereign jurisdictions in Canada and around the world. This work includes: supporting the achievement of the Government’s objectives through First Ministers’ Meetings and other multilateral and bilateral intergovernmental engagements, national and international trade policy and trade policy-related consultative services, and strategic support to Government departments and agencies on intergovernmental matters, including participation in the negotiation of intergovernmental agreements.

In addition to these activities, The Way Forward brings an additional focus to the Intergovernmental Affairs branch for the 2017-20 planning period. The Way Forward’s vision for sustainability and growth, to be achieved through a phased approach, focuses on rapid implementation of initiatives to reduce spending and support economic growth, reverse negative socio-economic indicators that impede growth and increase Government expenditures, and finally create long-term conditions for growth in the province. In numerous ways, The Way Forward requires not only a whole-of-government approach but also a government-to-government approach, particularly with the federal government. Several Way Forward commitments cannot be achieved without close engagement of, and collaboration with, the federal government.

The Intergovernmental Affairs branch will support Government departments and agencies in achieving any Way Forward commitments that require collaboration with the federal government and the branch is also committed to strategically leveraging federal funding. This commitment is an integral component of branch work for this planning cycle.



## **GOAL:**

By March 31, 2020, the Secretariat will have supported the advancement of Government's strategic intergovernmental priorities.

## **Indicators:**

Supported Government in advancing the Province's intergovernmental objectives through multilateral and bilateral meetings and policy frameworks.

Developed policy and provided consultative services for national and international trade policy.

Provided intergovernmental policy advice and strategic support to Government departments and agencies, including supporting the negotiation of intergovernmental agreements.

Leveraged federal funding and increased the number of federal-provincial programs and initiatives in which Government is participating.

## **Objective 1:**

By March 31, 2018, the Secretariat will have advanced Government's intergovernmental interests.

## **Indicators:**

Supported Government departments and agencies in advancing Provincial priorities under the Atlantic Growth Strategy and Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change.

Initiated implementation of the Canadian Free Trade Agreement and the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement, including provision of policy advice and advocacy related to international trade negotiations.

Supported the negotiation of intergovernmental agreements.

Completed a review of federal program, policy and funding initiatives currently in place and available to the Province by June 30, 2017.

**Objective 2:**

By March 31, 2019, the Secretariat will have further advanced Government's intergovernmental interests.

**Objective 3:**

By March 31, 2020, the Secretariat will have continued to advance Government's intergovernmental interests.

## Issue Two – Enhancing Collaborative Relationships with Indigenous Communities

Indigenous people have unique perspectives and cultural traditions informed by and arising from historic, social, cultural, and geographical factors. The Secretariat works with departments and agencies to ensure Government policies, programs and legislation reflect and are appropriate for the diverse Indigenous people and communities of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Additionally, the Secretariat provides leadership and advice with respect to any Duty to Consult Indigenous governments and organizations, and has developed an Aboriginal Consultation Policy on Land and Resource Development Decisions to assist in this work.

The Secretariat leads all Government negotiations of land claims and self-government agreements, including the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement, and supports Government departments and agencies in their implementation of final agreements. The Secretariat also leads Government's efforts to build and maintain communicative and collaborative relationships with Indigenous governments and organizations throughout the province. As part of The Way Forward, Government has established an annual Indigenous Leaders Roundtable with Indigenous Governments and Organizations to meet and establish priority actions. Furthermore, the Secretariat works with the federal government and Indigenous communities to ensure Indigenous people in the province have access to and avail of federal programs and services designed for and provided to Indigenous people.

### **GOAL:**

By March 31, 2020, the Secretariat will have continued to enhance the Government's relationship with Indigenous governments, organizations, communities and people.

## **Indicators:**

Continued to negotiate and implement land claims, self-government and other agreements.

Collaborated with Government departments and agencies and Indigenous governments and organizations to ensure that the unique interests of Indigenous people are considered in public policy, programs, services and legislation.

Supported Government's fulfillment of any Duty to Consult.

Worked with the federal government and national and provincial Indigenous governments and organizations respecting Indigenous issues.

## **Objective 1:**

By March 31, 2018, the Secretariat will have continued to support initiatives to build positive relationships with Indigenous governments, organizations, communities and people of the Province.

## **Indicators:**

Strived to complete land claims and self-government agreements with Innu Nation and the Miawpukek First Nation, and continued implementation of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement.

Advocated for the Federal Government to make a decision regarding the land claim of the NunatuKavut Community Council, Inc.

Provided advice and support to Government departments and agencies regarding Indigenous interests relating to public policy, programs, and legislation.

Advised Government departments/entities on Consultation obligations with Indigenous governments and organizations.

Established an annual Leaders Roundtable with Indigenous governments and organizations to establish priority areas and build stronger relationships with Indigenous people of the province.

Participated in inter-jurisdictional working groups and committees to advance Indigenous interests and advocate for the federal government to discharge its constitutional responsibility to all Indigenous people in the province.

Coordinated the Province's response on national Indigenous initiatives including the implementation of the Calls to Action of the federal Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and the participation in the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and support its implementation of resulting recommendations.

Worked to repatriate the remains of Demasduit and Nonosabasut from National Museums Scotland, lay them to rest with dignity in the home of the Beothuk, and cooperated with the governments of Canada and the United Kingdom to ensure there is no further injustice to their memory.

Continued to work with the Qalipu First Nation to advance issues of importance to their membership.

## **Objective 2:**

By March 31, 2019, the Secretariat will have further continued to support initiatives to build positive relationships with Indigenous governments, organizations, communities and people of the Province.

### **Objective 3:**

By March 31, 2020, the Secretariat will have sustained support of initiatives which promote the enhancement of positive relationships with Indigenous governments, organizations, communities and people of the Province.

# Annex A: Strategic Direction Applicable to the Intergovernmental Affairs Branch

**Strategic Direction:** Continue to explore new opportunities for partnerships with the federal government to leverage funds.

**Outcome:** New federal funds have been leveraged as a result of partnerships with the federal government.

This outcome requires focus in the following areas:

- Maximizing access to federal programs that align with provincial priorities;
- Increasing the level of federal funding to the province and the number of federal-provincial programs and initiatives in which Newfoundland and Labrador is participating; and,
- Coordinating the federal-provincial activities of departments and agencies.

## Annex B: Strategic Direction Applicable to the Indigenous Affairs Branch

**Strategic Direction:** Enhance relationships with Indigenous governments, organizations, communities and people.

**Outcome:** Strong, open, and communicative relationships with Indigenous governments, organizations, communities and people that allow collaborative approaches to issues of concern to Indigenous people.

This outcome supports Indigenous Affairs' vision of strong and vibrant Indigenous people empowered to pursue their aspirations. This will require focus in the following areas:

- Indigenous consultation;
- Communication, coordination and collaboration;
- Negotiation and implementation of land claims, self-government and other agreements;
- Government policy, programs and services which are culturally sensitive and appropriate for Indigenous people; and,
- Continuation of the Indigenous Leaders Roundtable.