

French-language Services Plan

2023–2024

Natural Resources
and Renewables



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French-language Services Plan
Department of Natural Resources and Renewables
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Ce document est également disponible en français sous le titre : « Plan de services en français 2023-2024 »

Message from the Deputy Minister

I am pleased to present the French-language Services Plan for 2023-24 for the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables. The department has broad responsibilities for the development, management, conservation and protection of energy, forests, geoscience, mines, minerals, parks, and wildlife resources, and the administration of the Province's Crown lands. Together we are working with Nova Scotians to build a better future through sustainable natural resource management for us all to benefit from the natural health and wealth of the province.

Our province's Crown lands and natural resources belong to all Nova Scotians. The department promotes shared stewardship of these resources by providing information and outreach activities to benefit Nova Scotians. The public should be able to understand how and why decisions are being made as we continue to take innovative approaches to managing our province's Crown lands and natural resources. As such, we will continue to be transparent in our decisions and engage the public and stakeholders through consultation. Where applicable, this includes providing materials and content in French to ensure all Nova Scotians have access to the appropriate information, particularly any topic related to public safety and promoting our 120 camping and day-use parks to French-speaking domestic and international tourists.

Karen Gatien
March 2023

What we are doing to contribute to the growth of the Acadian and francophone community

We recognize the importance of French-language services, and we endeavour to fulfil our responsibilities under the *French-language Services Act* and regulations. Nova Scotians must have access to government services in French, and this plan demonstrates our commitment to ensuring our programs, policies and services address the priorities expressed by the Acadian and francophone community. To achieve this aim, we collaborate with other designated public institutions across government – including the Office of Acadian Affairs and Francophonie – through the French-language Services Coordinating Committee. These partnerships ensure a continued understanding of the unique needs of our province’s Acadian and francophone community.

Natural Resources and Renewables continues to provide information in French that may be of interest to the province’s Acadian and francophone communities. The Department’s responsibilities for the stewardship of our natural resources help to support the economies of many Acadian and francophone communities. The Department considers input received from the Acadian and francophone community and its individual members during public participation activities as well as during the revision of departmental legislation.

We encourage Nova Scotians to request services from government in French. We also encourage Acadians and francophones to have their voices heard by participating on agencies, boards, and commissions, which are regularly advertised by the Executive Council Office. As we continue to maintain and improve our French-language services, we welcome feedback on our progress, and we invite you to share with us your comments or questions by contacting our French-language services coordinator.

French-language services coordinator:
Matthew Retallack

He can be contacted at matthew.retallack@novascotia.ca or 902-717-0914

Services we offer in French

Natural Resources and Renewables has ...

- several website pages,
- on-line reports,
- and publications available in French.

These include ...

- the Parks Guide [2022 NS Parks Guide French.pdf \(novascotia.ca\)](#)
- information on small private woodlot management,
- living with coyotes, and
- when domestic brush burning can be carried out.

How we communicate with the public in French

Natural Resources and Renewables supports continued compliance with the requirements of Nova Scotia's *French-language Services Act* and regulations that relate to communicating with the public. Natural Resources and Renewables aims to maximize transparency by providing services in French.

- Nova Scotians and visitors to the province who wish to reserve sites in our provincial camping parks can do so in French by calling 1-888-544-3434 toll free from within North America, and, 519-826-5301 from outside North America.

What we did to maintain or improve our French-language services in 2022–23

Objective 1: Strengthen internal operational structures including policy, legislative and administrative frameworks

- Department Goal: Raise staff awareness of departmental responsibilities and obligations with respect to French-language services
 - Measure: Information sessions for managers and directors on the requirements of the *French-language Service Act* and regulations, and opportunities for French-language training
 - Met with Regional Directors to discuss responsibilities under the French-Language Services Act, creating inventory of French speakers, and opportunities to present to staff.
 - Met with management at the Wildlife Centre to discuss responsibilities under the French-Language Services Act, and ways to develop capacity to serve the public in French.
 - Presented to Eastern Region management meeting on responsibilities under the French-Language Services Act.
 - Measure: Information sessions for public-facing staff on requirements of the *French-language Service Act* and regulations, and opportunities for French-language training
 - No information sessions were held with public-facing staff.
 - Regional offices in areas with larger French-speaking populations have been identified to enable a targeted approach to capacity building.

Objective 2: Develop and deliver quality French-language services and programs to the public

- Department Goal: Improve existing French-language content on the department's website to facilitate access
 - Measure: News releases pertaining to public safety and other relevant documents made available in French
 - No news releases were made available in French.
- Department Goal: Maintain or increase enrollment in French-language training
 - Measure: Number of individual staff who received French-language training, and total aggregate enrollment (accounting for staff who attend multiple sessions)
 - Nine staff took French-language training in 2022-23 with one staff member attending multiple sessions.

Objective 3: Maintain ongoing dialogue and consultation with the Acadian and francophone community

- Department Goal: Ensure legislated requirements for consulting with the Acadian and francophone community are met during at least one session of every series of Province-wide public meetings conducted by Natural Resources and Renewables
 - Measure: Appropriate mechanisms for consultation used for departmental review of policy and legislation
 - No Province-wide public meetings were conducted in 2022-23.

How we plan to maintain or improve our French-language services in 2023-24

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- Department Goal: Raise staff awareness of departmental responsibilities and obligations with respect to French-language services
 - Measure: Information sessions for managers and directors on the requirements of the *French-language Service Act* and regulations, and opportunities for French-language training
 - Measure: Information sessions for public-facing staff on requirements of the *French-language Service Act* and regulations, and opportunities for French-language training

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