

French-language Services Plan

2020–2021

Lands and Forestry



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French-language Services Plan
Department of Lands and Forestry
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Ce document est également disponible en français sous le titre : « Plan de services en français 2020-2021 »

Message from the Deputy Minister

I am pleased to present the French-language Services Plan for 2020/21 for the Department of Lands and Forestry. The Department has broad responsibilities relative to the stewardship, development, management, conservation, and protection of Nova Scotia's biodiversity, forest, and park resources. This stewardship is in addition to the administration of the province's Crown land. Land and Forestry is committed to a long-term transformation of how we balance ecological, economic, and social benefits through sustainable resource management and evidence-based decision making.

Our province's Crown land 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 biodiversity, parks, forests, and Crown lands. As such, we will continue to be transparent in our decisions and engage the public and stakeholders through consultations. 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.

Julie Towers, March 2020

What we're 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.

Lands and Forestry 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 during public participation activities as well as during the revision of departmental legislation in order to consider the priorities of the community and its individual members.

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:

Dr. Ulrich vom Hagen.

He can be contacted at Ulrich.vomHagen@novascotia.ca or 902-424-1185.

Services we offer in French

Lands and Forestry has ...

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

This includes ...

- the Parks Guide <https://parks.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/Parks-Guide-2019-Fr.pdf>
- 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

Lands and Forestry supports continued compliance with the requirements of Nova Scotia's *French-language Services Act* and the regulations that relate to communicating with the public. Lands and Forestry wants to provide 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 using the phone line that is available for making reservations. 1-888-544-3434 toll free from within North America; 519-826-5301 from outside North America.
- The Department has identified French-speaking staff and most offices can offer French language services face-to-face, over the phone, through letters and emails.

What we did to maintain or improve our French-language services in 2019–20

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

- Department Goal: Raising staff awareness of departmental responsibilities and obligations with respect to French-language services
 - French language services coordinator presented to Managers and Directors of Lands and Foresters responsibilities and obligations with respect to French-language services

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

- Department Goal: Improving existing French-language content on the Department's website to facilitate access
 - Lands and Forestry issued four news releases in French, e.g. Hurricane Dorian, releases pertaining to public safety and other issues

Strategic Objective 3. Maintain on-going dialogue and consultation with the Acadian and francophone community.

- Department Goal: Ensuring 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 Lands and Forestry
 - Lands and Forestry provided active offer of French language services at province-wide public meetings conducted by Lands and Forestry.

How we plan to maintain or improve our French-language services in 2020–21

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

- Department Goal: Raising staff awareness of departmental responsibilities and obligations with respect to French-language services
 - Measure: Provide information sessions to staff on the requirements of the French-language Service Act and regulations

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

- Department Goal: Improving existing French-language content on the department's website to facilitate access
 - Measure: News releases pertaining to public safety and other relevant documents are made available in French

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

- Department Goal: Ensuring 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 Lands and Forestry
 - Measure: Appropriate mechanisms for consultations have been used for departmental review of legislation.