

REDUCING BURDEN TO BUSINESS BY \$25 MILLION (NET)

FINAL PROGRESS REPORT

(Achievement as of December 31, 2018)

**% OF TARGET
ACHIEVED:**

138%

(as of December 31, 2018)

TARGET:

\$25,000,000

(net) burden reduction to business by Dec. 2018

FOR A TOTAL SAVINGS OF:
\$34,389,600

(as of December 31, 2018)

ACHIEVING OUR TARGET

In 2017, the Government of Nova Scotia committed to reduce regulatory burden to business by \$25 million (net) by end of 2018. The target is part of a broader strategy to build a strong foundation for economic growth and prosperity and underscores the critical role an efficient and effective regulatory system in a high-functioning economy.

It is the first such program of its kind in Nova Scotia.

As of December 31, 2018, initiatives approved and where implementation is complete or underway are estimated to reduce burden to business by \$34,389,600 (net), representing 138% of the \$25 million (net) burden reduction target.

About the target:

The \$25 million (net) burden reduction target is based on a credible estimate of the overall regulatory burden to Nova Scotia business of approximately \$560 million, with the provincial portion of this burden estimated at \$200 million annually. A net target was

set to ensure a reduction in the overall regulatory burden for Nova Scotia business was achieved.

The target builds on work with the business community and provincial departments in developing a tool to estimate (in dollar terms) the costs or savings of individual regulatory proposals, including initiatives that improve processes and service to business.

The tool – the **Business Impact Assessment** – is mandatory for all regulatory proposals with a business impact. It is primarily how progress on the commitment has been managed. In addition to estimating costs or savings to business from regulatory proposals, it also provides a means to assess proposals against regulatory best practice principles.

The \$25 million burden reduction program includes regulatory initiatives approved on or after April 1, 2017 and where implementation was complete or underway by December 31, 2018.

REDUCING BURDEN TO BUSINESS

As of the end of the program on December 31, 2018, initiatives approved and where implementation is complete or underway are estimated to reduce burden to business by \$34.3 million (net), representing 138% of the \$25 million (net) burden reduction target.

The costs or savings of the measures below have been estimated using the Business Impact Assessment (BIA) or through customized economic modelling. The BIA is based on the Standard Cost Methodology, which estimates the impact of regulatory proposals and which includes direct costs/savings (i.e. fees, capital purchases), along with compliance costs (including time).

The estimates provided are based on the best information and data available at the time of the assessment. Additional detail on each measure, including those exempt from the program, is provided in the following “In Depth” section.

DEPARTMENT	APPROVED AND / OR IMPLEMENTED REGULATORY MEASURE	ESTIMATED SAVINGS (COST) TO BUSINESS*
Service Nova Scotia	Amendments to Residential Tenancies Act	\$ 826,000
	Changes to Special Move Permit Application form for Carriers for milk and waste haulers during Spring Weight Restrictions	\$ 60,000
	Remove requirement for the filing of duplicate subdivision and condo plans	\$ 370,000
	Modernization of Registry of Joint Stocks Companies	\$ 7,170,000
	Amendments to the Consumer Protection Act	\$ (77,000)
	Liquor Licensing Criminal Record Checks	\$ 28,000
	Electronic Vehicle Registration for Dealers	\$ 839,000
	Telephone Hearing alternative for Residential Tenancies	\$ 130,000
	Strike off companies suspended due to lack of payment	\$ 1,800,000
	Compliance Officer Authority to Take Affidavits to Assist Liquor Licensees	\$ 5,000
	Petroleum Price Regulations	\$ 47,000
	Eliminate Requirements for a Permanent Place of Business for Lenders	\$ 957,000
	Residential Tenancies Act Amendments	\$ 1,250,000
	Reduction of Incorporation Fee under Companies Act	\$ 402,900
	Amendments to Corporation Registration Act	\$ 355,000
	Affirmation to be Accepted for Residential Tenancies Hearings	\$ 80,000
	Bring Form 45 Online	\$ 114,000
	Mortgage Act Regulations	\$ (1,677,000)
	Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal	Innovation HUB for Forest Transportation in NS – Phase 1
Innovation HUB for Transportation in NS – Phase 2		\$ 7,000,000
Environment	Clarifying the Definition of Public Drinking Water Supplier	\$ 10,000
	Removing duplicative requirements for Lead-Acid Battery Waste and Asbestos Waste Storage	\$ 16,000
	Mercury Diversion Program Extension	\$ 1,300,000
	System Improvements for Notification and Approval Processing	\$ 1,000,000
	On-site Services Advisor Board Regulations Repeal	\$ 1,000
Finance and Treasury Board	Retail Sales Mark Up	\$ 805,000
	Fuel Tax Credit	\$ 1,600,000
Department of Labour and Advanced Education	Removing tuition and fees for technical training for apprentices	\$ 386,000
	Presumptive Coverage for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) for Emergency Workers	\$ (300,000)
	Updating Labour Standards Code Awareness Materials Relating to Issuing Final Pay Cheques	\$ 636,000
	Amendment Stipulating Canada Day will be Recognized on July 1 for Business Closure	\$ 16,000
	Co-op and GTO: Improvements to Approval and Claims Processes	\$ 5,000
	Apprenticeship Management System	\$ 1,080,000
	Changes to Frequency and Cost of Oil Burner Technician Licensing Fee	\$ (8,800)
	Domestic Violence Leave	\$ (1,164,000)
Labour Standards Code General Regulations Reducing Pregnancy and Parental Leave Eligibility Period	\$ (285,000)	

	Private Career Colleges – LaMPSS Administration Platform	\$ 23,000
	Labour Board Forms Modernization	\$ 31,000
	Communications Technician Trade Regulations	\$ 14,000
	WIPSI: Program Improvements to Approval and Claims Process	\$ 9,000
	Employer Registration Certification Application	\$ 8,000
Workers' Compensation Board	Secure Messaging with Employers	\$ 1,620,000
	Elimination of special protection accounts for family members	\$ 80,000
	New process for annual sub-contractor reporting	\$ 252,000
	Electronic Filing of Injury Reports	\$ 940,000
Agriculture	Initiatives Under the Natural Products Marketing Council	\$ 53,000
	Poultry Insurance Plan Amendments	\$ (1,000)
	Farm Loan Board Regulations Amendments	\$ 132,000
Fisheries and Aquaculture	Mandatory Quality Training for Fish Buyers	\$ (18,000)
	Promotional Awareness and Coordination of delivery throughout Nova Scotia by the Nova Scotia Fisheries Sector Council (to offset costs of mandatory quality training for fish buyers)	\$ 18,000
	Amendments to Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act with Respect to Aquaculture	\$ 1,500
	Fisheries and Aquaculture Loan Regulations Amendments	\$ 118,000
Justice	Builders Lien Act	\$ 440,000
	Fees for Firearms Training	\$ (1,000)
Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness	Business Navigator Service	\$ 3,400,000
Energy	Marine Renewable Energy Act	\$ (215,000)
	Mineral Resource Regulations	\$ 175,000
Internal Services	Ariba e-bidding	\$ 233,000
Total Burden Reduction Savings:		\$ 34,389,600 (net)

EXEMPTIONS		
Environment	Safe Body Art Act and Regulations	\$ (400,000)
	Cap and Trade and Supporting Regulations	\$ (525,000)**
Finance and Treasury Board	Basic Personal Amount Supplement	\$ (400,000)
Labour and Advanced Education	Adoption of CSA Fuel Safety Codes	\$ (63,000)
	Amendments to Labour Standards Code to Align with Federal EI	\$ (533,000)

*The costs/savings estimates are based on conservative assumptions, including information from employers, Statistics Canada data and reflect information available to date. It is important to note that the cost and savings estimates may be revised based on new or refined data. For example, more accurate information may be provided to the Office after a measure is implemented. In such cases, estimates will be revised.

**This estimate includes the Quantification, Reporting, and Verification of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Regulations previously reported in the Office's 2017/2018 Annual Report. This cost estimate has been revised based on new data.

IN DEPTH:

REGULATORY MEASURES APPROVED AND/OR IMPLEMENTED WITH A BUSINESS IMPACT

The following provides a brief description of the measures approved and or implemented to date with a business impact and which are included in the burden reduction program.

SERVICE NOVA SCOTIA

- **Amendments to the Residential Tenancies Act**

Landlords can now provide an electronic copy of the Residential Tenancies Act to tenants signing a lease instead of a physical, printed copy. This change saves travel and printing costs for landlords and is more effective and practical means for tenants to receive a copy of the Act.

- **Changes to Special Move Permit Application form for Carriers for milk and waste haulers during Spring Weight Restrictions**

Carriers previously had to complete one application form for every milk and waste truck for which they required a Special Move Permit. The change means application forms require less information and can be combined for multiple permit applications, savings businesses time and money.

- **Remove requirement for the filing of duplicate subdivision and condo plans**

Previous policy and process required developers to submit a second set of hard copy plans to the land registration office. Infrastructure upgrades allowed this to be reduced to only one hard copy, saving printing costs and time.

- **Modernization of Registry of Joint Stocks**

All businesses operating in Nova Scotia must register with the Registry of Joint Stock Companies. A new and improved online Registry of Joint Stock Companies IT system will replace the current system which has been in place for

more than twenty years. The modernization will positively impact tens of thousands of businesses annually by reducing travel time, mailing costs, back-and-forth delays, and will mean making fewer calls for status updates, as this information will be available online. Work to put a new system in place began in 2018 and is expected to be completed in Fall 2019.

- **Amendments to the Consumer Protection Act**
The Consumer Protection Act was amended to implement two recommendations from the Utility and Review Board:

- 1) require payday lenders to provide additional information to borrowers about the cost of alternative financial products and
- 2) change the requirement to fund online loans within one hour. The resources required to comply with the implementation of the UARB's recommendations will increase costs to payday lenders.

- **Liquor Licensing Criminal Record Checks**

Alcohol, Gaming, Fuel & Tobacco offers to conduct background police checks for those seeking permanent liquor licenses at no cost to the applicant. This change reduces cost and effort.

- **Electronic Vehicle Registration for Dealers**

Service Nova Scotia is changing the process for motor vehicle registry for dealers, allowing electronic submissions rather than dealers having to travel to an Access Nova Scotia location. Efficiencies for businesses are primarily driven through time savings and travel savings.

- Telephone Hearing alternative for Residential Tenancies**

This change allows for tenants and landlords to attend Residential Tenancies hearings by telephone rather than drive to an Access Centre, saving businesses travel and time.
- Strike off companies suspended due to lack of payment**

When a company's registration is revoked for non-payment, it continues to exist until it is manually struck from the Registry. Often when a company goes out of business, it simply does not renew its registration. However, until the registration is stricken off, it continues to have obligations to file annually with CRA, which is costly to business. Striking off the backlog of companies will remove the annual filing costs for these businesses.
- Compliance Officer Authority to Take Affidavits to Assist Liquor Licensees**

Alcohol, Gaming, Fuel and Tobacco compliance officers will obtain Commissioner of Oaths qualifications, so they can take affidavits for liquor licensees while they are in the field visiting businesses. Affidavits are required for certain processes under liquor licensing requirements. This will save businesses time and travel in accessing someone qualified to take an affidavit.
- Petroleum Price Regulations**

Fuel retailers no longer have to notify the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board if they run out of gasoline and wish to sell supreme gasoline at the same price if the shortage does not last longer than 48 hours. This change reduces administrative burden from notification requirements.
- Eliminate Requirements for a Permanent Place of Business for Lenders**

Agents of lenders are no longer required to have a permanent place of business. The removal of this requirement will allow businesses to stop renting space solely to satisfy this regulatory requirement, reducing operating costs.
- Residential Tenancies Act Amendments**

This change shortens the time landlords are required to store abandoned tenant property and allows for electronic service of documents whereas before it was required to be done by registered mail or personal service. This change reduces time and expense to landlords in serving documents, as well as expenses for storing abandoned property.
- Reduction of Incorporation Fee under Companies Act**

The incorporation fee for Nova Scotia companies has been reduced to offer the lowest incorporation fee in the country. Nova Scotians incorporating their businesses will benefit from lower start-up costs.
- Amendments to Corporation Registration Act**

Amendments to the Corporation Registration Act allow for the waiver of the business registration fee for the first year of incorporation. Nova Scotia businesses incorporating their business will experience lower costs from the waiver of the fee in their first year of incorporation. This work compliments Nova Scotia's announcement in late 2018 to waive the business registration fee for extra-provincial corporations.
- Affirmation to be Accepted for Residential Tenancies Hearings**

Parties making an application for a Residential Tenancies hearing previously needed to obtain an affidavit of service of documents, which required the signature of a commissioner of oaths. Typically, this process was carried out in-person by staff in an Access Nova Scotia center. This change allows for a certificate of service instead of the affidavit of service, which means that landlords will no longer need to commute to an Access Nova Scotia center to obtain an affidavit from a commissioner of oaths.

- **Bring Form 45 Online**
Land Registry Form 45 is used to add, confirm, delete and correct the interests, textual qualifications or parcel access type in a parcel register. Bringing this form online reduces costs related to submitting the form, allows errors to be automatically detected, and allows time sensitive transactions to proceed expeditiously.
- **Mortgage Act Regulations**
The Mortgage Act Regulations implement a new regulatory framework of the mortgage brokering and lending industry. The regulations include requirements for licencing, disclosure, reporting, and record keeping. The regulations are intended to modernize the regulatory framework and improve consumer protection.

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL

- **Innovation HUB for Transportation – Phase 1 and 2**
This project is a multi-phased project which increases the B-route network of roads, modernizing weights to reflect advancements in trucking technology and infrastructure improvements to safely maximize payloads. Savings will be realized throughout the trucking industry, which will be able to haul increased payloads on a more efficient and direct route for delivery and safely use larger trucking units for transporting their payloads along these routes. The truck configurations being permitted reduce the loading on the roads. For example, road reclassifications will allow efficient truck axle configurations to help make the trucking and forestry industries in Nova Scotia more competitive. The change also allows B-trains to travel on additional roads, enabling movement of more materials at one time, resulting in savings to industry.

ENVIRONMENT

- **Clarifying the Definition of Public Drinking Water Supplier**
Clarifying the definition of “public drinking water supplier” to only capture entities that provide piped water for consumption to the public. This means entities that do not provide piped water for consumption to the public are no longer required to comply with food safety

regulations and do not have to spend time and resources on water testing. This regulatory change does not impact public health as appropriate regulatory oversight of public drinking water supplies is maintained.

- **Removing duplicative requirements for Lead-Acid Battery Waste and Asbestos Waste Storage**
The storage of lead-acid battery waste and asbestos waste required both an Environmental Assessment and operating approvals under the Activities Designation Regulations - requirements deemed duplicative for businesses. Removing the requirement of an environmental assessment does not result in weakened environmental protection or public safety as these storage activities are sufficiently regulated through operating approvals which ensure appropriate protection and oversight. At the same time, it ensures necessary regulations are predictable, transparent, and reduce regulatory burden where appropriate to eliminate barriers to private sector growth and productivity.
- **Mercury Diversion Program Extension**
Nova Scotia Power’s credits for kilograms of mercury diverted from landfills may be counted toward emissions of mercury over and above the regulated 65-kilogram cap. Extending the mercury diversion program enables Nova Scotia Power (through EfficiencyOne) to divert mercury from landfills and entering the environment. The program results in a net-reduction in mercury and allows additional time for more costly investment in infrastructure upgrades. This extension does not compromise commitments to work to improve air quality through reducing emissions.
- **System for Notification and Approval Processing**
A new internal processing system is being implemented to support the processing of licenses, permits, renewals, approvals and notifications of activities regulated under the Environment Act. This improved processing system reduces the time spent on completing applications and reduces turnaround times for businesses while ensuring our programs are consistently and efficiently delivered. This system does not in any way modify the important

protections established under the Environment Act and regulated activities.

- **On-Site Services Advisor Board Regulations Repeal**

This change dissolves the On-Site Services Advisory Board, an advisory board to the Minister of Environment respecting water wells and on-site sewage disposal systems. This change effectively eliminates interview requirements for certification for well drillers and diggers, reducing burden by no longer requiring candidates to travel for interviews, as well as streamlining the certification process. The Department of Environment now handles disciplinary processes.

FINANCE AND TREASURY BOARD

- **Reduction in Retail Sales Mark Up**

The Retail Sales Markup Allocation charged to craft brewers changed from \$0.50 per litre on craft beer to five per cent of wholesale costs of sales made on their premises. This change reduces the mark-up paid by the craft beer industry.

- **Mining and Quarrying Fuel Tax Rebate**

The motive fuel tax rebate applies to natural resource industries that do not go on public roads, such as fishing boats, farm tractors and forestry. It was broadened for equipment used in the mining and quarrying sector, such as haul trucks and excavators, most of which are not allowed to drive on public roads. This change reduces cost and increases competitiveness for the mining sector.

LABOUR AND ADVANCED EDUCATION

- **Removing tuition and fees for Technical Training for Apprentices**

The tuition fees for technical training for apprentices was eliminated. The change benefits apprentices and aligns with the priority to provide equal opportunity and support participation in the skilled trades. The change also benefits employers who elect to pay the tuition fees as a means of supporting their employees.

- **Presumptive Coverage for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) for Emergency Workers**

Occupational stress due to traumatic events, including PTSD, has always been covered under the Workers' Compensation Act for all clients

of the Workers Compensation Board (WCB), and will continue to be. Amendments to the Act were introduced in October 2017 (in force October 26, 2018) that will create a benefit of presumption for Front-line and Emergency Response Workers diagnosed with PTSD. Currently, Front-line and Emergency Response Workers are required to prove their diagnosed PTSD was caused by a workplace incident. Removing this barrier for Front-line and Emergency Response Workers may increase compensation costs; funded by employers through workers' compensation premiums.

- **Updating Labour Standards Code Awareness Materials Relating to Issuing Final Pay Cheques**

Employers in Nova Scotia were misinterpreting when final payment of wages was due when employment was terminated. Changes to awareness materials clarified that final payment is due five working days after the expiration of the pay period. This clarification is anticipated to result in efficiencies for Nova Scotia businesses when calculating final wages and issuing final payment to employees.

- **Amendment Stipulating Canada Day will be Recognized on July 1 for the Purpose of Business Closure**

Historically, when Canada Day fell on a Sunday, the holiday was observed on July 2. This resulted in confusion for retail stores and employers who were unsure which day they could open and which day they must close, uncertainty around which day attracted holiday pay, and confusion for the public about which day stores would be open. Regulatory changes stipulate that Canada Day is recognized on July 1 for retail closures and holiday pay purposes, resulting in efficiencies for business with less confusion. Eligible employees working on Canada Day (July 1) receive holiday pay on that day, rather than on July 2nd.

- **Co-op and GTO: Improvements to Approval and Claims Processes**

The Department of Labour and Advanced Education conducted a detailed analysis of the steps required for employers to file a claim under the Co-operative Education Incentive

program and the Graduate to Opportunity program, which provides wage reimbursement for employers who meet certain criteria. This analysis led to the identification of various process improvements, resulting in reduced time to get claims approved, decreased time filling out forms, better access to required forms, and improved communications.

- **Apprenticeship Management System**

The Apprenticeship Management System is currently in development and will replace the aging IT system at the Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency. The new system will be fully web-based and will remove a paper-based system reducing administrative burden for government, apprentices, journeypersons and employers. Further, employers will have access to information that is critical to managing their training needs within their own organizations.

- **Changes to Frequency and Cost of Oil Burner Technician Licensing Fee**

Licensing fees for Oil Burner Technicians were reduced from \$74 to approximately \$33, and frequency of licensing was increased from every 5 years to every year.

- **Domestic Violence Leave**

Amendments to the Labour Standards Code introduced a protected leave for victims of domestic violence, to ensure that people who experience domestic violence can take a reasonable period of time away from work to receive the services they need without fearing employment loss. Employers are now required to grant up to ten days of intermittent leave, and up to sixteen weeks of continuous leave. Employees are entitled to pay for three of the leave days.

- **Labour Standards Code General Regulations Reducing Pregnancy and Parental Leave Eligibility Period**

The eligibility period to qualify for parental and pregnancy leave has been reduced from employment of one year to less than one day, effectively resulting in no eligibility period. Employers will be required to grant protected pregnancy or parental leave to employees who have been employed for less than one day, increasing job security for those employees who wish to access the leave.

- **Private Career Colleges – LaMPSS**

- **Administration Platform**

Implementation of the LaMPSS system allows private career colleges to submit all standard applications, reports, and fees to the Department through electronic submission rather than through paper-based submissions. This initiative is anticipated to reduce administrative burden in time and effort for private career colleges.

- **Labour Board Forms Modernization**

This initiative modernized forms required for Labour Board processes to ensure all necessary information is collected. Businesses involved in Labour Board processes are anticipated to see savings from reduced administrative time spent corresponding with the Department to provide necessary information not requested in the forms.

- **Communications Technician Trade Regulations**

These changes eliminate the Communications Cabling Specialist Certificate of Competency and establish an apprenticeship program for the Communications Technician trade under the mandate of the Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency. Additionally, Construction Electricians are no longer required to obtain secondary certification to be eligible for a Communications Permit. Savings are anticipated from the elimination of licensing fees for communications cabling work.

- **WIPSI Program Improvements to Approval and Claims Processes**

The Department conducted a review of the Workplace Innovation and Productivity Skills Incentive (WIPSI) program application process, which provides funding incentives to encourage employers to invest in developing employee skills. As a result of the review, the Department will implement changes to the application process to reduce administrative time required by businesses in applying to the program and reduce waiting times for decisions on applications.

- **Employer Registration Certificate Application Process**

Employers who wish to hire foreign workers are required to obtain an Employer Registration Certificate from the Labour Standards Division. Changes will be implemented to simplify the application process by removing unnecessary

and duplicative steps, and employers with multiple locations will be able to submit one application, thereby reducing administrative burden.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD

- **Secure Messaging with Employers**
WCB introduced secure messaging with employers through online channels. This form of communication allows businesses to interact with WCB more conveniently and efficiently through electronic messaging, saving time and resources for employers who need to interact with WCB, for example, on time-loss claims. This initiative also supports swifter service and compensation for those injured while at work.
- **Elimination of special protection accounts for family members**
Employers can extend coverage to family members under the same account as other employees, thus eliminating the need for special protection accounts for family members. Previously, the employer had to complete a form and return it with full payment or postdated cheques.
- **New process for annual sub-contractor reporting**
The new online channels features automates the process for annual sub-contractor reporting by employers. The previous, manual and paper-based process could take an employer several days to complete.
- **Enhancements to MyAccount System**
Improvements to the WCB's online service for employers will modernize the system and processes and provide more online service options including electronic filing of injury reports, advice notices, enhanced claims data, and payroll reporting. These changes are anticipated to reduce time spent on WCB processes for employers.

AGRICULTURE

- **Initiatives Under the Natural Products Marketing Council**
Changes in levies for supply-managed commodities under the Natural Products Marketing Council have resulted in a net-savings for producers.

- **Poultry Insurance Plan Amendments**
The Crop and Livestock Insurance Act was amended to implement a new requirement for insured producers to file a report with the Commission before placing a new flock of chickens in a production facility and restructured the calculation of the base premium rate. The net-result is an increase in regulatory burden associated with the paperwork required.
- **Farm Loan Board Regulations Amendments**
New Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board Regulations have been introduced to modernize current practices. Changes include reduced loan approval wait times through increasing lending limits, clarified lending options, and standardized fee structures, which will allow for streamlined administrative processes and other improved efficiencies that are anticipated to reduce regulatory burden to the agricultural industry.

FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

- **Mandatory Quality Training for Fish Buyers**
The Fish Buyers' Licensing and Enforcement Regulations were amended to require training for the handling of lobsters prior to the issuance of a fish buyer license as one part of a strategy to increase the value of lobsters. This change was made for buyers of lobsters with each license holder required to have training for one individual and which is valid for 3 years.
- **Promotional Awareness and Coordination of delivery throughout Nova Scotia by the Nova Scotia Fisheries Sector Council**
Government is facilitating industry-coordinated training sessions to cover the costs of the first 3-year cycle of the mandatory quality training program. This training is being coordinated by the Nova Scotia Fisheries Sector Council throughout the Province for more than 770 participants.
- **Amendment to Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act with Respect to Aquaculture**
Changes to licensing and leasing processes for aquaculture operators include the option to amalgamate aquaculture sites rather than maintaining two or more separate licenses for adjacent sites and the requirement for Ministerial

approval to apply to change site size or amend a site to include finfish. These changes are anticipated to reduce costs and improve processes for aquaculture operators while maintaining protections for the environment and coastal communities.

- **Fisheries and Aquaculture Loan Regulations Amendments**
Changes to the Aquaculture Loan Board Regulations are anticipated to streamline processes for fisheries and aquaculture operators looking to finance their operations through loans from the Board. The updated framework includes reduced loan approval wait times through increasing lending limits, expanding financing, reducing interest rates, and loan prepayment options.

JUSTICE

- **Builders' Lien Act**
Notice of substantial performance or subcontract completion on construction projects must be given by the owner no later than 10 days after the work is substantially performed or completed by posting a notice on the Substantial Performance page of the Construction Association of Nova Scotia website, and the job site office (if applicable). These changes mean contractors are no longer required to call owners regarding the status of the project and expected timeline for payment, and owners also save time responding to these inquiries.
- **Fees for Firearms Training**
This change increases the fees for the Canadian Firearms Safety Course and the Canadian Restricted Firearms Safety Course. These courses are required for individuals who work for businesses and handle firearms in the course of work, resulting in increased costs for any businesses that cover the cost of the course.

REGULATORY AFFAIRS AND SERVICE EFFECTIVENESS

- **Business Navigator Service**
The Business Navigator Service is a unique, first-of-its kind service in Canada that provides personalized and customized support to help start-up and existing business navigate government rules, regulations and requirements. Since the program's launch in early

2017, Business Navigators have served more than 3,000 new and existing businesses. The business navigation service is estimated to save, on average, 10 hours of business time per client.

ENERGY & MINES

- **Marine Renewable Energy Act**
Aligned with Nova Scotia's commitment to the safe, responsible, and sustainable development of our tidal energy industry, the Marine Renewable Energy Act defines the path from demonstration to larger, commercial development. The Act is intended to provide the industry and the public certainty around what is required to ensure development is safe, viable, and sustainable.
- **Mineral Resource Regulations**
New Mineral Resource Regulations for the mining industry follow a new Mineral Resource Act passed in 2016. The new regulations, which came-into-force in December 2018, include a new fee structure, changes to work assessment requirements, inclusion of calculation methods for royalties within regulations instead of legislation, development of a request for proposal process to replace special licenses and leases, outline requirements for stakeholder engagement, outline content for reclamation plans with new requirement to be updated every three years, increase the cost per day for prospectors to conduct work, and modernize language. Anticipated savings to business from this initiative arise primarily from the change from a one-year to a two-year licence renewal and reporting period; reducing the number of reports that mineral right holders are required to submit, providing more time in the field to explore and complete their analysis.

INTERNAL SERVICES

- **Ariba e-bidding**
The Nova Scotia government has adopted an electronic process for suppliers to submit their bids to replace paper submissions. This new feature will streamline and standardize sourcing and will decrease the time required to source for goods, services and construction, resulting in savings to business and an increased opportunity for cross-border bidding.

EXEMPTIONS

In some exceptional circumstances, government must establish or adapt regulations to address an urgent or pressing public policy issue.

To reflect the intent of the program (reducing unnecessary burden and that which is fully 'owned' by the province), criteria were developed to **exempt exceptional regulatory measures from the burden reduction program**.

The criteria are intended to ensure that the target program achieves its purpose – the reduction of unnecessary burden. The program was not intended to unduly restrain government in its important function as regulator.

There are three categories of exemptions:

1. Economic analysis indicates economic benefits produced by the regulatory change will be materially larger than the burden.
2. Initiatives that are substantially beyond the direct control of the provincial government but are required to meet national or international standards or agreements (e.g. Federal climate change policy).
3. Proposals that are required to meet unforeseen or urgent public policy needs. For examples, proposals where research and evidence clearly indicate a significant and urgent public health or safety risk.

Proposals exempt from the program are still submitted to the Office for assessment for alignment with the Premier's Charter of Governing Principles for Regulation and are still costed using the BIA. The following measures are exempt from the burden reduction program:

Safe Body Art Act and Regulations

The Safe Body Art Act and Regulations, passed in 2018, come into effect February 1, 2019. The purpose of the Act and regulation is to ensure safe practices and products are used for body art services in order to prevent the spread of infections and infectious diseases. An exemption was granted based on evidence that Nova Scotians are at risk for infectious diseases in this unregulated industry. For example, evidence indicates hepatitis rates in Nova Scotia have been on the rise since 2011 and are higher than the national rate.

Adoption of CSA Fuel Safety Codes

Technical Safety Standards Regulations were amended to adopt seven updated editions of the Canadian Standards Association Safety Codes with respect to fuel safety to ensure alignment with other jurisdictions. This change was required to meet a national standard.

Cap and Trade and Supporting Regulations

In line with federal requirements to have carbon pricing in all Canadian jurisdictions, greenhouse gas reporting requirements are now in effect to support the province's cap and trade program. The requirements are detailed in regulations and standards that identify which types of companies must report, which greenhouse gas emissions they must report, how to calculate and report them, and how to obtain third party verification of the report. Nova Scotia released regulations to the province's cap-and-trade program in November 2018, following the federal government's approval of Nova Scotia's program. The regulations establish annual declining greenhouse gas emission caps and rules for distributing, buying, and selling greenhouse gas emission allowances.

Amendments to the Labour Standards Code to Align with Federal EI Benefits

These changes were developed in response to federal EI benefits changes, which created a gap between legislated leaves in Nova Scotia and available EI benefits. With these changes, employees who access protected leaves will have job security for the entire period corresponding EI benefits are available. These changes also include a new protected caregiving leave for critically ill or injured adult family members.

Basic Personal Amount Supplement

Effective January 1, 2018, Nova Scotia increased the basic personal amount on a sliding scale. As a result, 63,000 Nova Scotians no longer pay provincial income tax, and over 500,000 Nova Scotians will save provincial income tax, for an overall reduction of \$85 million in taxes annually. To ensure eligible employees receive the benefit of the tax reduction, employers were required to do a one-time change to their existing payroll management systems to accommodate the specific requirements of the Nova Scotia Basic Personal Amount.



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