



# **French-language Services Plan**

**2025–2026**

*Department of Energy*

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## Department of Energy

*Ce document est également disponible en français sous le titre : « Plan de services en français 2025-2026 »*

### Message from the deputy minister

I am pleased to present the French-language Services Plan for 2025-26 for the Department of Energy. The department serves the social, environmental, and economic interests of Nova Scotians by ensuring all energy resources are developed and used in an efficient and sustainable manner. The department delivers programs and activities related to electricity, renewable energy, energy efficiency, petroleum, and industry development.

Together we are working with Nova Scotians to build a better future. As such, we will continue to be transparent in our decisions and engage the public and stakeholders. Where applicable, this includes providing materials and content in French to ensure all Nova Scotians have access to the appropriate information.

Karen Gatien, May 2025

### 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.

The Department of Energy continues to provide information in French that may be of interest to the province's Acadian and francophone communities. The department's responsibilities for energy resource development 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 access services from government in French. We also encourage Acadians and francophones to have their voices heard by participating on agencies, boards and commissions. As we continue to maintain and increase 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. The Office of the Ombudsman can follow-up on complaints with respect to access to French-language services.

#### French-language services coordinator:

Matthew Retallack

He can be contacted at [matthew.retallack@novascotia.ca](mailto:matthew.retallack@novascotia.ca) or 902-717-0914

### Services we offer in French

As a new department (formed December 2024), the Department of Energy is currently reviewing available French-language resources and identifying key materials for translation.

There are numerous [reports and other documentation](#) pertaining to the federal-provincial development of offshore wind resources available in French.

## **How we communicate with the public in French**

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

## **What we did to maintain or improve our French-language services in 2024–25**

Where the Department of Energy was just created, there are limited activities to report from fiscal year 2024-25.

### **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
    - No meetings held since department was formed
    - All Directors contacted to raise awareness and identify existing French-language materials

### **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)
    - No department staff took French-language training

### **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 the department.
  - Measure: Appropriate mechanisms for consultation used for departmental review of policy and legislation
    - There were no public consultations during the past three months
    - Ongoing discussions to consider opportunities to incorporate French materials and French-language participation in upcoming renewable energy education and engagement activities

## How we plan to maintain or improve our French-language services in 2025–26

### Strengthen frameworks for French-language services

- 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

### Engage 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 the department.
  - Measure: Appropriate mechanisms for consultation used for departmental review of policy and legislation

### Develop and deliver programs and services in French

- 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
  - Measure: Translated materials to support education and engagement on key energy topics.
- 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)
  - Measure: Initiate survey to determine existing French-language capacity