



French-language Services Plan

2025–2026

*Department of Natural
Resources*

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Department of Natural Resources

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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 Natural Resources. The department has broad accountability over the development, management, and conservation of forests, geoscience, mines, minerals, parks and wildlife resources and the administration of the Province's Crown land. The department achieves this broad accountability through the development and implementation of policies, programs, and original research. The optimum economic, social, and environmental value derived from our Province's natural resources is the guiding principle behind all departmental work, activities, and initiatives.

Our province's Crown lands and natural resources belong to all Nova Scotians. 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 Natural Resources 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 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 or 902-717-0914

Services we offer in French

The Department of Natural Resources has ...

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

These include ...

- the Parks Guide, [Guide des parcs 2025-2026](#)
- [living with coyotes](#), and
- when [domestic brush burning](#) can be carried out.

How we communicate with the public in French

The Department of Natural Resources 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.

- 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 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
 - Met with three Regional Directors to discuss options for increasing French-language capacity in regional operations around the province, and in particular where there are higher populations of French-speaking Nova Scotians
 - 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

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)
 - Four department staff enrolled in French-language training, representing a substantial drop from the previous fiscal
 - A bilingual individual was hired at the wildlife park and provided with materials to support active offer, resulting in an increase in visitors accessing service in French

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 of Natural Resources
 - Measure: Appropriate mechanisms for consultation used for departmental review of policy and legislation
 - There were no province-wide series of meetings this year.

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
 - Measure: Continue to work with Regional Services management to increase French-language capacity in parks and regional offices

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 of Natural Resources
 - 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
- 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)
- Department Goal: Improve French-language capacity in regions
 - Measure: Regional Directors discuss/promote with managers including French-language as an asset on job descriptions during seasonal (parks) hiring process