

Nova Scotia's Accountability Framework

October- 2002

What Do We Want?

Over the years, all of us have been part of a number of consultations about building better communities, a better environment and a better economy. We want a way of knowing if our efforts are making a difference.

What Do We Need?

We need to agree on what it means to build a better community, a better environment and a better economy and together, work toward achieving these goals.

We need a practical and transparent way to measure our progress and to hold accountable the system, our policy-makers and ourselves. We need an *Accountability Framework* that all of us can easily understand.

What is an Accountability Framework and What Does it Look Like?

This Framework is based on the idea that a few carefully chosen indicators can tell us whether or not we are holding each other accountable and making progress on the factors that will add up to a better Nova Scotia. We've included goals for health, environment, management, participation and social justice.

For each of these goals, we have selected a few "umbrella" indicators – indicators that we believe include many of the areas where changes need to occur for the goal to be achieved.

The attached tables illustrate the format of our proposed Framework and include our suggestions for "umbrella" indicators.



<h2 style="text-align: center;">How are we doing?</h2> <h3 style="text-align: center;">Nova Scotia Accountability Framework</h3>		
Outcomes	Indicators	Frequency and Method of Reporting
<p>Health Nova Scotians practice healthy behaviors and our health meets the national average</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We have reduced our rate of smoking •We have reduced our rate of obesity •Fewer Nova Scotians report being lonely •We have increased our physical activity •We have reduced the number of low weight babies •We have reduced our rate of Type 2 Diabetes •Fewer Nova Scotians report stress and/or time stress •We are living longer 	<p>An annual public report of degree to which pre-set targets have been reached</p>
<p>Environment Nova Scotia is a safe, clean and healthy place to live, and we meet the standards</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The quality of our water meets the standards for treatment and quality of water source •We manage our land to increase the amount of organic matter in the soil and reduce the use of pesticides •Our air quality meets the standards for particulates and greenhouse gasses •We manage our waste and meet the national standards 	<p>An annual public report of degree to which pre-set targets have been reached</p>
<p>Management Our resources are managed wisely and fairly</p>	<p>Public audit indicates that resources are allocated to support these outcomes</p>	<p>An annual public report</p>
<p>Participation Nova Scotians participate in decisions to improve our province</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We participate by voting •We participate in voluntary activities in support of our communities and province 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Election years (all levels of government) • An annual public report of degree to which pre-set targets have been reached
<p>Social Justice Nova Scotians have an equal opportunity to achieve our goals – individually and collectively</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We distribute income in ways that reduce the gap between the richest and the poorest 	<p>An annual public report of degree to which pre-set targets have been reached</p>



The Nova Scotia Accountability Framework

Progress Toward Achieving

NOVA SCOTIA GOALS

	Required Financial Resources	Actual Financial Resources	Projected Progress Index	Actual Progress Index
Health: Nova Scotians practice healthy behaviors and our health meets or exceeds the national average				
Environment: Nova Scotia is a safe, clean and healthy place to live, and we meet or exceed the standards				
Management: Our resources are managed wisely and fairly				
Participation: Nova Scotians participate in decisions to improve our province				
Social Justice: Nova Scotians have an equal opportunity to achieve our goals – individually and collectively				

