

Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries

Annual Report
2018–2019



**Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries
Annual Report 2018-2019**

Province of New Brunswick
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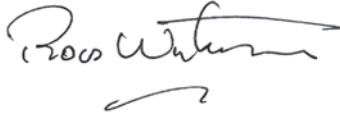
Transmittal letters

From the Minister to the Lieutenant-Governor
The Honourable Brenda Louise Murphy
Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick

May it please your Honour:

It is my privilege to submit the annual report of the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries, Province of New Brunswick, for the fiscal year April 1, 2018, to March 31, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,



Honourable Ross Wetmore
Minister

From the Deputy Minister to the Minister
Honourable Ross Wetmore
Minister of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries

Sir:

I am pleased to be able to present the annual report describing operations of the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries for the fiscal year April 1, 2018, to March 31, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,



Cathy LaRochelle
Deputy Minister

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Minister's message

Since becoming Minister of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries in 2018, I have been struck by the dedication and professionalism of the employees of the department and the work they do each day to support New Brunswickers.

I have made it a priority to get out and speak to farmers, fish harvesters, aquaculture producers and processors around the province who contribute greatly to our livelihood by putting quality, nutritious products on our tables. These contributions strengthen New Brunswick as a leader in food production, which facilitate our efforts in finding and developing new markets for our products.

I have learned of the ongoing collaboration and mutual respect between the industry and department staff and this makes me proud to be serving in this role.

I would be remiss if I did not highlight the contributions and engagement of our Aboriginal Nations in the agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries sectors and the desire of this department to assist in further developing more opportunities for Aboriginal communities in New Brunswick.

Our department provides industry and stakeholders with many services, including, extension services, research, business development, marketing and promotion, financial programs, veterinary care and diagnostic services, technical and financial expertise, as well as providing support for attracting new entrants to our agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries sectors.

It is extremely important to acknowledge and commend the hard-working men, women and youth that are part of these sectors and the commitment they show every day to make the lives of New Brunswickers better.

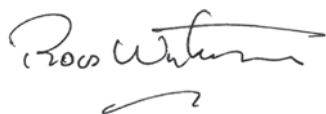
Their contributions have continually transformed and adapted with every challenge and opportunity to make these three sectors leading industries in New Brunswick and ones that are recognized worldwide.

It is by working together – industry and government – that we have been able to achieve these successes.

These sectors are significant contributors to the province and they are the heart of our rural and coastal communities. It is not only the direct value of these sectors, but also the value of essential service providers that supply and support our farmers, fishers, producers and processors.

The pages that follow highlight the department's many accomplishments in the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

In my first year as Minister, I am proud to report that our government is committed to fostering and supporting sustainable growth of the agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries sectors for future generations of New Brunswickers.



Honourable Ross Wetmore
Minister of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries

Deputy Minister's message

In 2018-2019, the department achieved tangible results by supporting businesses and organizations that will drive investments in our agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries industries and help to energize the private sector. These results can be seen in the growth of exports of key commodities and species and the overall value of our sectors.

In agriculture, New Brunswick farm cash receipts increased by \$81 M to \$695 M. In fisheries and aquaculture, the province is ranked the second largest exporter of seafood in Canada with export sales totaling \$1.7 B dollars. Strategic efforts have been put into market diversification and development, especially as it relates to new markets in Asia.

The department has remained diligent to ensure forward progress on our strategic priorities and to accurately measure our performance.

Wild blueberries and oysters were identified as key priority areas for the province, given their potential for driving private sector growth and investments in New Brunswick. As a result of this focus and the work completed under the *2017-2021 Shellfish Aquaculture Development Strategy*, we saw growth of approximately 14 per cent in the oyster sector. In addition, we saw frozen wild blueberry exports increase by 86 per cent to over 30,000 tonnes. This brings our overall value of agri-food and seafood exports to an impressive \$2.1 B.

In the last year we have seen the implementation and delivery of two federal-provincial, cost shared funding agreements for our sectors. *The Canadian Agricultural Partnership* is a new five-year program which will help drive sustainable growth, innovation and competitiveness in New Brunswick's agriculture sector. The *Atlantic Fisheries Fund* has supported a number of projects for our fish and seafood sectors that concentrate on innovation, improvements in infrastructure including automation, increased efficiency and scientific partnerships.

I have been inspired to work with highly-engaged staff with a strong level of expertise in our agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries industries. I want to express my sincere thanks to all employees of the department, around the province, for the valuable work they do in support of these three sectors. We should all be proud of the department's achievements in 2018-2019.



Cathy LaRochelle
Deputy Minister

Top Government Priorities

Strategy and Operations Management

The Government of New Brunswick (GNB) uses a Formal Management system built on leading business practices to develop, communicate and review strategy. This process provides the Public Service with a proven methodology to execute strategy, increase accountability and continuously drive improvement.

The development of the strategy, using the Formal Management system, starts with our governments roadmap for the future of New Brunswick that focuses on key priorities and the importance of public accountability.

Our Top Priorities:

Affordable and Responsive Government

Getting our financial house in order will make it possible for government to be responsive and provide sustainable high-quality public services for all New Brunswickers.

Dependable Public Health Care

New Brunswickers deserve a sustainable, high-quality health-care system where they are able to access the services they need when they need them.

World-class Education

New Brunswick's young people need access to a world-class education, so they can make the most of their lives and compete in future job markets.

Energized Private Sector

All New Brunswickers benefit from a thriving private sector. Increasing private sector investment, growing our labour force and being home to successful businesses of all sizes is good for our province.

Vibrant and Sustainable Communities

Vibrant communities are places people want to call home. More vibrant and sustainable communities make for a more resilient province.

High-performing Organization

All New Brunswickers benefit when engaged and empowered civil servants use their talents and skills to make our province a better place.

Highlights

During the 2018-2019 fiscal year, the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries focused on these strategic priorities through:

- Implementing and delivering the first year of the new five year federal/provincial *Canadian Agricultural Partnership* to drive sustainable growth, innovation and competitiveness in the New Brunswick agriculture sector. A total of \$6.79 M was invested.
- Completing objectives under the *2013-2018 New Brunswick Wild Blueberry Sector Strategy*. Key accomplishments included investments into blueberry road infrastructure and development of 1,930 acres of Crown land.
- Initiating the development of a five-year strategy designed to identify industrial hemp growth opportunities for New Brunswick.
- Leading and coordinating the distribution of 516,960 oral rabies vaccine baits through aerial and hand distribution in southwestern and western New Brunswick. No new rabies cases were reported during the 2018-2019 fiscal year.
- Participating in species-specific advisory committees to enhance fisheries management and to encourage the stability and viability of New Brunswick fishing enterprises (Lobster, Snow Crab, Northern Shrimp, Herring, Scallop, Ground Fish, Rock Crab and Sea Cucumber, etc.).
- Approving 28 projects under the *Atlantic Fisheries Fund*, to support the New Brunswick fish and seafood sectors. The projects were valued at \$12.6 M, of which \$8.9 M was leveraged from the Federal government and industry.
- Increasing oyster production by 11 per cent in 2018 through initiatives under the *2017-2021 New Brunswick Shellfish Aquaculture Development Strategy*.
- Supporting industry participation in aquaculture and seafood trade initiatives across American, European and Asian markets, resulting in seafood export sales reaching \$1.7 B, the second highest in Canada.
- Following concerted market development efforts in China, the estimated volume of New Brunswick frozen wild blueberries exported to China increased significantly by 82 per cent in 2018, compared to 2017.

Performance measures

Affordable and responsive government	Measures
Balance budget	Actual to budgeted expenditures
	Actual to budgeted revenues
Energized private sector	Measures
Enable sector growth in the agriculture, aquaculture (shellfish and finfish), and fisheries sectors.	Increase in wild blueberry exports.
	Growth in oyster production.
	Growth in the number of public institutions supplied with local food (Phase 1: schools)
	Growing awareness of the Buy NB initiative.

Affordable and responsive government

Objective of the measure

Balance budget

Measure

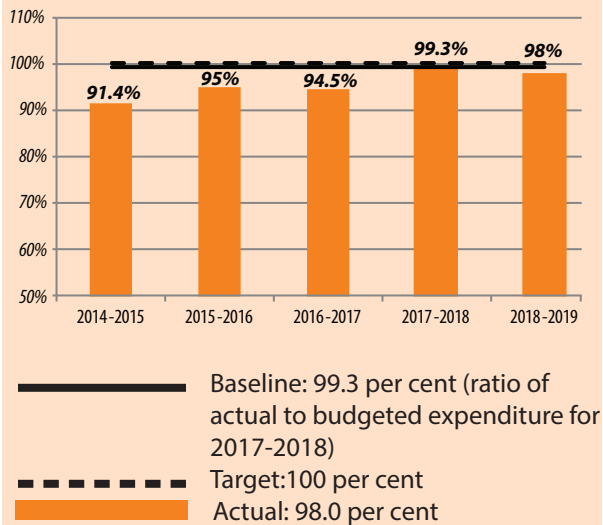
Ratio of actual to budgeted expenditures

Description of measure

The ratio measures whether the department is over-budget or under-budget on expenditures. The ratio will exceed 100 per cent when expenditures are over-budget and be less than 100 per cent when under-budget.

Overall performance

The department was under-budget on ordinary expenditures by \$730,500.



Why do we measure this?

This indicator measures the ability of the department to manage its overall expenses as compared to its budget. The department must ensure expenses are managed in accordance with the budget and be prepared to take corrective action if expenses are projected to be over-budget during the year.

What initiatives or projects were undertaken in the reporting year to achieve the outcome?

Expenditures were lower than budget mainly due to less than anticipated demand for the first year of the new Canadian Agricultural Partnership program and savings in the Marketing and Trade Branch.

Affordable and responsive government

Objective of the measure

Balance budget

Measure

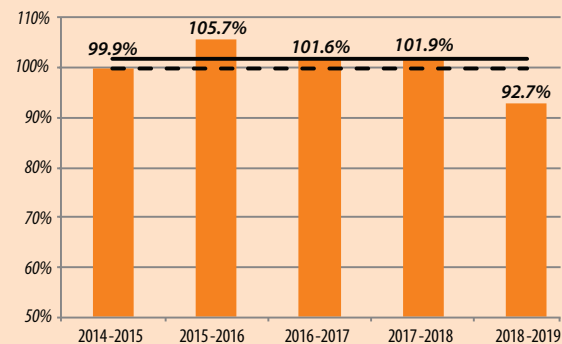
Ratio of actual to budgeted revenues

Description of measure

The ratio measures whether the department is over-budget or under-budget on revenue. The ratio will exceed 100 per cent when revenue has exceeded budget and be less than 100 per cent when revenue has not achieved budget.

Overall performance

The department's ordinary revenue was under budget by \$752,700.



— Baseline: 101.9 per cent (ratio of actual to budgeted revenue for 2017-2018)
- - - Target: 100 per cent
■ Actual: 92.7 per cent

Why do we measure this?

This measure shows whether the department is accomplishing the projected revenue that is tabled at the beginning of the fiscal year.

What initiatives or projects were undertaken in the reporting year to achieve the outcome?

The department reached 92.7 per cent of the ordinary revenue budget mainly as a result of lower federal revenues due to less demand than anticipated for the new Canadian Agriculture Partnership program.

Energized private sector

Objective of the measure

Enable sector growth in the agriculture, aquaculture (shellfish and finfish), and fisheries sectors.

Measure

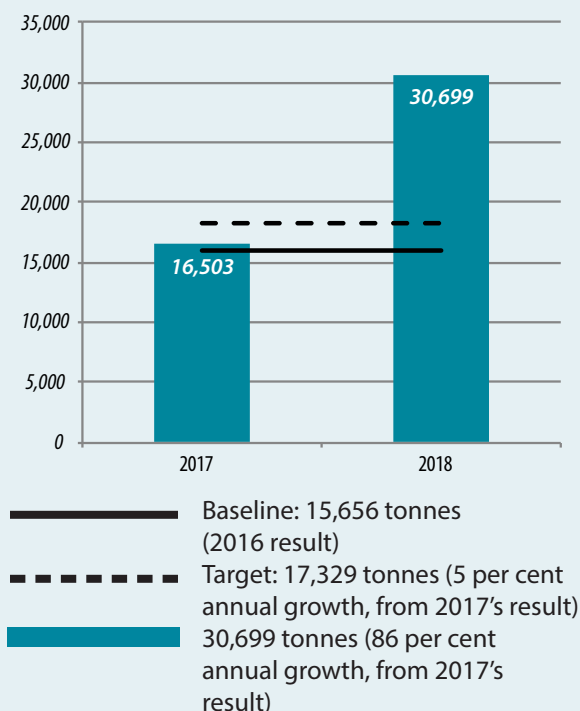
Increase in wild blueberry exports (by weight).

Description of measure

This measure captures the total amount of wild blueberries (tonnes) exported to international markets (USA, Europe, Asia, etc.) by calendar year, to understand the annual improvement for New Brunswick's wild blueberry exports.

Overall performance

The estimated volume of New Brunswick frozen wild blueberries exported internationally grew by 86 per cent in 2018 compared to 2017 to reach 30,699 tonnes. Notable increases include the United States (104 per cent to reach 6,697 tonnes), Germany (58 per cent to reach 7,365 tonnes), Poland (124 per cent to reach 3,424 tonnes), the Netherlands (130 per cent to reach 2,219 tonnes) and China (82 per cent to reach 2,586 tonnes).



Why do we measure this?

The wild blueberry sector has been identified as a priority area of economic growth for the province, given its potential for creating new companies and new jobs in New Brunswick. Diversification and growth of wild blueberry export volumes are a means to increase the demand and revenue of the entire wild blueberry sector.

What initiatives or projects were undertaken in the reporting year to achieve the outcome?

To support growth opportunities in the wild blueberry sector, the department has been working to diversify in international markets. In 2018-2019, department efforts focused on developing new markets for frozen wild blueberries in Europe and Asia. Targeted and sustained in-market missions and promotions were organized by department staff members, which contributed to increased growth of New Brunswick's wild blueberry export volumes in both markets (Europe & Asia).

Energized private sector

Objective of the measure

Enable sector growth in the agriculture, aquaculture (shellfish and finfish), and fisheries sectors.

Measure

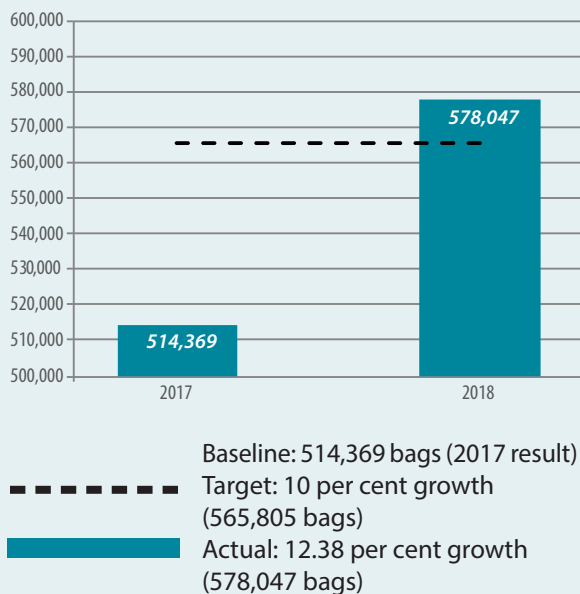
Growth in oyster production (bag count).

Description of measure

This measure uses the total number of oyster production bags in the water, by calendar year, to capture the annual growth rate for New Brunswick's oyster production.

Overall performance

The number of oyster production bags in the water grew by 12.4 per cent compared to 2017.



Why do we measure this?

While the shellfish aquaculture sector has experienced unprecedented growth in New Brunswick in the past decade, there remain opportunities to further grow the sector, thus creating jobs and developing the economy. The number of bags on a site directly correlate to the site's inventory.

What initiatives or projects were undertaken in the reporting year to achieve the outcome?

This outcome was achieved as part of the department's 2017-2021 Shellfish Aquaculture Development Strategy. The goal of this strategy is to promote the orderly growth of New Brunswick's shellfish aquaculture industry, while recognizing the importance of protecting the environment and co-existing with other interest groups and users of the marine resources. Five broad objectives have been set to guide efforts aimed at increasing shellfish production significantly by 2021. Strategic actions have been identified to address priorities, the implementation of which will be coordinated by the New Brunswick Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries through a multi-party committee (the Shellfish Aquaculture Development Strategy Steering Committee or SADSSC) that will include industry and First Nations representatives.

Energized private sector

Objective of the measure

Enable sector growth in the agriculture, aquaculture (shellfish and finfish), and fisheries sectors.

Measure

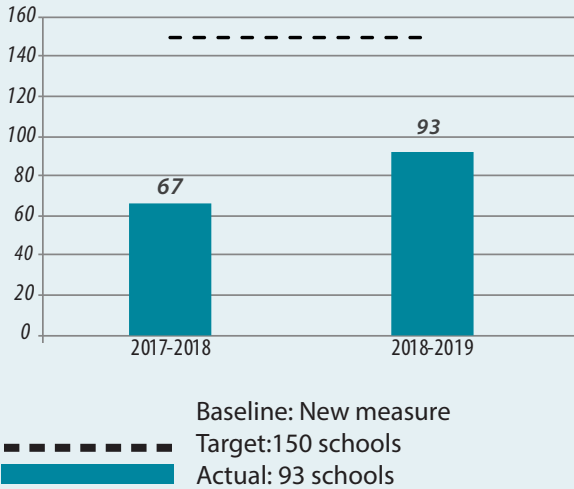
Growth in the number of public institutions supplied with local food (Phase 1: schools).

Description of measure

This measure uses growth in the number of schools supplied with local food to track the impact of the department's work.

Overall performance

Although the department did not reach its target, strong progress was made in supplying public schools with local food.



Why do we measure this?

This measure demonstrates the progress in reaching schools across the province and helping them to incorporate local foods in their cafeteria operations. According to a report commissioned by the department, if all schools in New Brunswick were buying 30 per cent of their food locally, that would translate into more than \$29 M in sales. This work is a starting point toward that outcome.

What initiatives or projects were undertaken in the reporting year to achieve the outcome?

In 2018-2019, the department continued to work with partners to assist with necessary connections between food producers and cafeteria providers, and to provide feedback on direction and other support services.

Energized private sector

Objective of the measure

Enable sector growth in the agriculture, aquaculture (shellfish and finfish), and fisheries sectors.

Measure

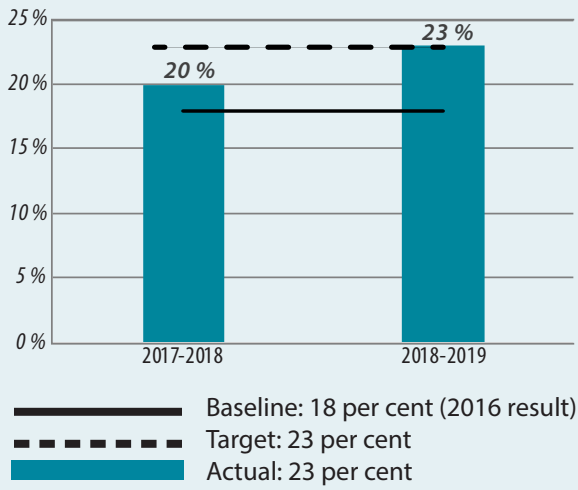
Growing awareness of the Buy NB initiative.

Description of measure

This measure tracks responses to an annual survey, asking the question: "Before today, were you aware of the Buy New Brunswick initiative of the Government of New Brunswick?"

Overall performance

Overall, the trend is positive, with the number going from 20 per cent in 2017 to 23 per cent.



Why do we measure this?

This measure demonstrates the general public's awareness of the Buy NB initiative and its components. This aids efforts to encourage New Brunswickers to buy more New Brunswick-grown products, as it helps them know what is produced in New Brunswick, when it is available, and what you can do with the products.

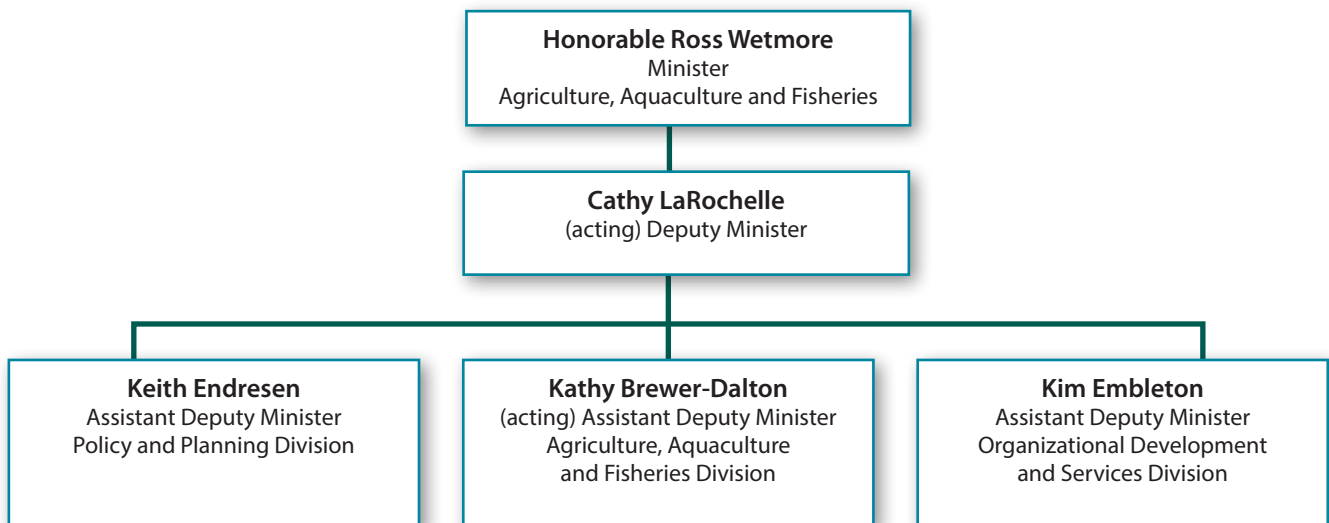
What initiatives or projects were undertaken in the reporting year to achieve the outcome?

The department undertook an annual summer promotional tour and maintained a strong social media presence on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. During 2018-2019, the department also developed and distributed some new promotional tools such as recipe cards and a new 2019 calendar featuring recipes made using New Brunswick ingredients.

Overview of departmental operations

The mandate of the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries is to develop and implement a total development approach for the agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and value-added sectors. This approach aims at improving the economic competitiveness and sustainable development of these sectors and related industries.

High-level organizational chart



Division overview and highlights

The department delivers targeted programs and services and provides strategic direction in support of economic development opportunities related to the sustainable primary and value-added agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries sectors.

Please note that the budget and expenses for the common administration of the Departments of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries and Energy and Resource Development are recorded in the 2018-2019 annual report for the Department of Energy and Resource Development. The common administration applies to the Policy and Planning Division and the Organizational Development and Services Division.

Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries Division

The Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries Division consists of four branches: **Agriculture; Fisheries and Aquaculture; Marketing and Trade;** and **Business Growth.**

The **Agriculture Branch** works with the crop and livestock sectors to improve profitability, competitiveness and sustainability through the provision of technical advisory services; provision of strategic and innovative research and monitoring; provision of animal health services; and development and implementation of strategic sector initiatives and programs to support economic development and growth. The Agriculture Branch is composed of four sectoral branches: the Animal Health Services Branch, the Crop Sector Development Branch, the Livestock Sector Development Branch and the Potato Sector Development Branch.

Highlights

- ◆ The apple sector in New Brunswick continues a growth cycle of transitioning to higher density orchard systems and more profitable apple varieties such as Honeycrisp. The branch supported the sector through strategic plan development and implementation funding that includes: an Apple Industry Development Program (to enable the establishment of high density orchards to increase the yield per acre and reduce operating costs), a Wildlife Damage Mitigation Program (not exclusive to apples), and technical / research support.
- ◆ Through continued support from the branch (i.e. extension services, technical support) potatoes remain the highest value crop grown in New Brunswick with 2018 farm cash receipts totaling \$176.2 M; notably higher than the five-year average of \$148.7 M. Seeded area increased slightly by 0.58 per cent to 52,000 acres in the province.
- ◆ During 2018, \$215,000 in funding support was provided to the six New Brunswick Community Pastures, with the aim of increasing stocking rates and producer participation. The total number of cattle grazing on the pastures increased to 2,437 (an increase of over 9 per cent from 2017). New Brunswick's beef industry generated \$38.4 M in farm cash receipts in 2018.
- ◆ The branch helped to support the dairy sector through programming and technical support including the promotion of the use of machinery co-ops, custom operators and better financial management, which all contribute to improving the bottom lines of operations.
- ◆ Department veterinarians completed 8,909 on-farm visits during the 2018-2019 fiscal year to support the health and development of the livestock industry and were supported by the Provincial Veterinary Laboratory with diagnostic work.
- ◆ The Provincial Veterinary Laboratory and Foreign Animal Disease Laboratory completed over 70,000 tests in support of its role in promoting and protecting animal health, public health, regulatory responsibilities, animal welfare and other functions related to disease surveillance and control in New Brunswick.
- ◆ For the fourth consecutive year, the branch led and coordinated the distribution of 516,960 oral rabies vaccine baits through aerial and hand distribution in southwestern and western New Brunswick. There were no new rabies cases reported during the 2018-2019 fiscal year
- ◆ The branch supported the development and/or implementation of industry strategies, programs and initiatives for the apple, cranberry, maple, grape, organic, dairy, beef and pork sectors.

The **Fisheries and Aquaculture Branch** provides specialist advice and extension services to promote and foster the growth and competitiveness of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. The branch provides services and programs focused on maintaining sustainable practices that produce safe, high quality seafood products. The Fisheries and Aquaculture Branch includes four sectoral branches: The Commercial Fisheries Branch, the Aquaculture Development Branch, the Aquaculture Science and Fish Health Branch and the New Brunswick Aquarium and Marine Centre.

Highlights

- ◆ Working with the Minister's Round Table on Fisheries, the branch finalized the 2018-2020 Fisheries Renewal Framework Action Plan.
- ◆ The Fish Health Branch continued to monitor aquaculture stocks for fish health and shellfish health purposes. In 2018-2019 over 6,500 salmon and over 690 oysters were sampled and tested in support of these two vital aquaculture sectors. In addition, full implementation and delivery of the Pan-Atlantic Certificate of Health for Transfer, a fish health testing framework for the movement of fish between the four Atlantic provinces, occurred.
- ◆ A New Brunswick Shellfish Health Technical Committee was established under the 2017-2021 New Brunswick Shellfish Aquaculture Development Strategy to support the health and development of the shellfish aquaculture industry.
- ◆ The branch hired a Senior Project Executive to focus on promotion of business-to-business partnerships and economic development opportunities for New Brunswick Aboriginal communities, currently in or interested in the fish and seafood sectors.
- ◆ Under the *Inshore Fisheries Representation Act*, the Fundy North Fishermen's Association was granted legal designation to represent licence holders in the newly formed Region 4.

The **Marketing and Trade Branch** provides strategic delivery and coordination of marketing and trade initiatives. This includes facilitation of increased local, domestic and international New Brunswick seafood and agri-food sales. Key initiatives include the implementation of the 2016-2018 New Brunswick Local Food and Beverages Strategy, leading in seafood/agri-food export market development, market intelligence and other related activities.

Highlights

- ◆ Multiple trade events and in-market promotions took place which focused on New Brunswick products. In 2018, New Brunswick products were part of 16 incoming and outgoing trade missions and promotional events. Successful multi-sector missions also contributed to the increased awareness and promotion of New Brunswick products.
- ◆ As a result of multiple trade events and in-market promotions, lobster exports increased by \$50 M (6 per cent) to \$841 M in 2018; farm-raised Atlantic Salmon exports rose by \$24 M (6 per cent) to reach \$415 M.
- ◆ The objective of achieving further market diversification for New Brunswick products was achieved in 2018. Exports to South Korea increased by \$11 M (107 per cent) to \$21 M, mainly due to greater lobster exports, while sales to Taiwan were up by \$6.6 M (72 per cent) to a total of \$16 M, due to higher salmon sales.

The **Business Growth Branch** provides strategic delivery and coordination of development initiatives to support clients, including new entrants. The branch is also responsible for fostering the growth of existing businesses looking at expansion, modernization or diversification within agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries sectors. Business growth officers are the liaison to programs, including extension services, offered by the department or various other partners.

Highlights

- ◆ The branch continued implementation of the Client Relationship Management System, a system that enables data driven support to over 2,900 clients in the agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries sectors.
- ◆ The branch facilitated and managed the Atlantic Fisheries Fund program in 2018, approving 28 projects to support the New Brunswick fish and seafood sectors. Key initiatives included a three year New Brunswick Oyster Farm Development Program, and technical and financial support to the Association des Crabiers Acadiens to develop and refine a gear testing project to help mitigate impacts to North Atlantic Right Whales.

Policy and Planning Division

The Policy and Planning Division provides support to the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries and the Department of Energy and Resource Development and consists of the **Strategic Planning and Intergovernmental Relations Branch**, the **Regulatory Affairs Branch**, the **Performance Excellence Branch**, the **Corporate Affairs Branch**, and the **Economic Analysis and Trade Policy Branch**.

The **Strategic Planning and Intergovernmental Relations Branch** provides strategy development, strategic planning, and federal/provincial/territorial relations.

Highlights

- ◆ The branch provided ongoing support for the annual conference of federal-provincial-territorial Ministers of Agriculture and the Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers Conference.
- ◆ The branch, in collaboration with other parts of the department, as well as the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and Health Canada hosted a NB Food and Beverage Forum in November 2018. The branch led the planning process for this forum where the objective was to provide industry partners and stakeholders with an overview of the various federal and provincial food-related regulatory, policy and other initiatives that are currently underway.
- ◆ The branch coordinated departmental commitments under Transitioning to a Low-Carbon Economy: New Brunswick's Climate Change Action Plan.
- ◆ The branch supported the province's participation in and work under the Council of Atlantic Premiers, the Council of the Federation and the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers' Annual Conference.

The **Regulatory Affairs Branch** provides leadership, coordination and support regarding the development of legislation, policy initiatives and proposals, and the Minister's legislative business. The branch also manages requests under the *Right to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and privacy matters.

Highlights

- ◆ The branch responded to twelve requests under the *Right to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.
- ◆ The branch, in conjunction with the Strategic Planning and Intergovernmental Relations Branch, provided policy administrative support to the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries and the Department of Energy and Resource Development's Policy Management Committee, and supported other processes to improve external communications.

The **Performance Excellence Branch** supports the implementation of GNB's formal management system and leads process improvement projects throughout the department.

Highlights

- ◆ The branch worked with program areas to implement 4 Lean Six Sigma Black Belt/Green Belt Process Improvement projects and conducted two Waste Walk training sessions for five employees. This work has improved service delivery and has generated savings valued at more than \$160,000 in time and money.
- ◆ The branch also supported program areas in the design and delivery of the department's strategy, and in the implementation of best practices for project management.

The **Corporate Affairs Branch** provides corporate policy support (e.g., review and analysis of contracts and agreements), and liaises with the Office of the Attorney General on litigation, legislative issues and other major initiatives.

The **Economic Analysis and Trade Policy Branch** is responsible for economic forecasting, monitoring, research and statistical analysis, and reporting.

Highlights

- ◆ The branch published (on-line) Sectors in Review Reports for Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries as well as the New Brunswick Agrifood and Seafood Export Highlights, all for 2017.
- ◆ The branch also provided updates, input and analysis on the various trade agreements.

Organizational Development and Services Division

The Organizational Development and Services Division provides direction and support in matters of human resources, financial services, information and technology, and facilities management and coordinates financial assistance to the agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries sectors under various funding programs. The division is also responsible for the management of the province's Crown land resources and various leasing and licensing functions. The division serves both the Department of Energy and Resource Development, and the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries.

The division consists of the **Financial Services Branch**, the **Human Resource Services Branch**, the **Information Systems and Departmental Services Branch**, the **Crown Lands Leasing and Licensing Branch** and the **Industry Financial Programs Branch**.

The **Financial Services Branch** is responsible for the department's financial resources, including expenditure and revenue management, budgeting, accounting and financial reporting services.

Highlights

- ◆ The branch standardized a monthly reporting process to facilitate the financial reporting of expenditure and revenue projections for the Department of Energy and Resource Development and the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries.

The **Human Resource Services Branch** is responsible for providing all human resource management services, including recruitment and retention, classification, labour relations, human resource policies, employee engagement, organizational development, succession planning and administration of programs such as health and safety. In 2018-2019 these services were delivered by Service New Brunswick on behalf of the Organizational Development and Services Division.

Highlights

- ◆ During 2018-2019, the branch continued to provide effective and consistent human resource management to both the Department of Energy and Resource Development and the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries.

- ◆ The branch coordinated ongoing training for managers/supervisors on various human resources related topics such as mental health, workplace health and safety, substance use and respectful workplaces.

The **Information Systems and Departmental Services Branch** provides province-wide services to the department, including information technology, records management, geographic information services, information security, intranet management and facilities management services.

Highlights

- ◆ The branch completed a pilot project for implementation of Remotely Piloted Aircraft for use in both the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries and the Department of Energy and Resource Development. In addition to efficiencies, this technology will provide a higher accuracy accounting of damage from storms or wildlife resulting in a fair and transparent dispersal of funds for damage related costs.

The **Crown Lands Leasing and Licensing Branch** is responsible for management of the province's Crown lands, including coastal and submerged lands. The branch administers the legal responsibilities and manages initiatives associated with Crown lands in New Brunswick, including all recreational and commercial land transactions such as purchases, sales and exchanges or leasing. The branch also administers the Farm Land Identification Program.

Highlights

- ◆ Approximately 52 per cent of assessed farmland in New Brunswick is registered under the Farm Land Identification Program, accounting for approximately 165,000 hectares (ha) of land, an increase of 5000 hectares since 2017-2018.
- ◆ Six new shellfish aquaculture sites, totalling 53.09 ha, were approved to bring the total number of sites to 480.

The **Industry Financial Programs Branch** provides financial assistance to the agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries sectors under various funding programs.

Highlights

- ◆ The branch launched the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a five-year investment by federal, provincial and territorial governments to strengthen and grow the agriculture sector.

Financial information

Expenditures in detail 2018-2019 (\$)

Ordinary Program	Main Estimates	Appropriation Transfers	Final Budget	Actual	Difference
Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries	37,196,000	4,400	37,200,400	36,469,900	(730,500)
Total 2018-2019	37,196,000	4,400	37,200,400	36,469,900	(730,500)
Capital Account	Main Estimates	Appropriation Transfers	Final Budget	Actual	Difference
Capital Equipment	500,000	–	500,000	504,400	4,400
Strategic Infrastructure	500,000	–	500,000	411,200	(88,800)
Total 2018-2019	1,000,000	–	1,000,000	915,600	(84,400)
Loans and Advances	Main Estimates	Appropriation Transfers	Final Budget	Actual	Difference
New Brunswick Agricultural Insurance Commission	1,600,000	–	1,600,000	0	(1,600,000)
Loan Programs	9,500,000	–	9,500,000	1,344,200	(8,155,800)
Total 2018-2019	11,100,000	–	11,100,000	1,344,200	(9,755,800)

Revenues in detail 2018-2019 (\$)

Revenue	Main Estimates	Appropriation Transfers	Final Budget	Actual	Difference
Return on Investment	900,000	–	900,000	410,600	(489,400)
Licences and Permits	290,000	–	290,000	236,600	(53,400)
Sales of Goods and Services	4,447,000	–	4,447,000	5,114,200	667,200
Miscellaneous	71,000	–	71,000	282,500	211,500
Conditional Grants - Canada	4,630,000	–	4,630,000	3,541,400	(1,088,600)
Total 2018-2019	10,338,000	–	10,338,000	9,585,300	(752,700)
Loans and Advances	Main Estimates	Appropriation Transfers	Final Budget	Actual	Difference
Recoveries	3,000,000	–	3,000,000	3,638,900	638,900
Total 2018-2019	3,000,000	–	3,000,000	3,638,900	638,900

Summary of staffing activity

Pursuant to section 4 of the *Civil Service Act*, the Deputy Minister of the Department of Human Resources delegates staffing to each Deputy Head for his or her respective department(s). Please find below a summary of the staffing activity for 2018-2019 for the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries.

Number of permanent and temporary employees as of Dec. 31 of each year		
Employee type	2018	2017
Permanent	194	187
Temporary	26	35*
TOTAL	220	222*

* Note: The 2017 numbers have been restated to correct a typographical error in the 2017-2018 Annual Report.

The department advertised 10 competitions, including seven open (public) competitions and three closed (internal) competitions.

Pursuant to sections 15 and 16 of the *Civil Service Act*, the department made the following appointments using processes to establish merit other than the competitive process:

Appointment type	Appointment description	Section of the <i>Civil Service Act</i>	Number
Specialized Professional, Scientific or Technical	An appointment may be made without competition when a position requires: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – a high degree of expertise and training – a high degree of technical skill – recognized experts in their field. 	15(1)	1
Equal Employment Opportunity Program	Provides Aboriginals, persons with disabilities and members of a visible minority group with equal access to employment, training and advancement opportunities.	16(1)(a)	1
Department Talent Management Program	Permanent employees identified in corporate and departmental talent pools, who meet the four-point criteria for assessing talent, namely performance, readiness, willingness and criticalness.	16(1)(b)	0
Lateral transfer	The GNB transfer process facilitates the transfer of employees from within Part 1, 2 (school boards) and 3 (hospital corporations) of the Public Service.	16(1) or 16(1)(c)	5
Regular appointment of casual/temporary	An individual hired on a casual or temporary basis under section 17 may be appointed without competition to a regular properly classified position within the Civil Service.	16(1)(d)(i)	0
Regular appointment of students/apprentices	Summer students, university or community college co-op students or apprentices may be appointed without competition to an entry level position within the Civil Service.	16(1)(d)(ii)	0

Pursuant to section 33 of the *Civil Service Act*, no complaints alleging favouritism were made to the Deputy Head of the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries and no complaints were submitted to the Ombud.

Summary of legislation and legislative activity

Bill #	Name of legislation	Date of Royal Assent	Summary of changes
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Name of regulation	Effective date	Summary of changes
n/a	n/a	n/a

The acts for which the department was responsible in 2018-2019 may be found at:

<http://laws.gnb.ca/en/deplinks?subjectnumber=1>

<http://laws.gnb.ca/fr/deplinks?subjectnumber=1>

Summary of Official Languages activities

Introduction

The Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries has continued to work on its official languages action plan which includes the four sectors of activity as identified in the *Plan on Official Languages – Official Bilingualism: A Fundamental Value*. The following outlines the actions taken during 2018-2019 in each of the four areas of focus.

Focus 1

Ensure access to service of equal quality in English and French throughout the province:

- Randomized calls were made to departmental phone numbers used by the public to verify the active offer of service was being provided in the client's official language of choice.
- Linguistic profiles were updated throughout the year to ensure the department's ability to provide services in both Official Languages throughout the province.

Focus 2

An environment and climate that encourages, for all employees, the use of the Official Language of their choice in their workplace.

- Communication and correspondence with employees were delivered in their Official Language of choice.
- The department continued to encourage the use of both Official Languages for small meetings. For all large meetings, the department promoted simultaneous interpretation, bilingual presentations, or separate English and French sessions.

Focus 3

New and revised government programs and policies will take the realities of the province's official linguistic communities into account.

- Correspondence and information were provided to the public in the Official Language of their choice.
- The department's annual report provided a summary of activities associated with Official Languages.

Focus 4

Ensure Public Service employees have a thorough knowledge and understanding of the *Official Languages Act*, relevant policies, regulations, and the province's obligations with respect to Official Languages:

- The Deputy Minister reminded all employees of their legal obligation to offer services in the official language of choice of the client. Employees were also reminded of the Language of Service Policy and Guidelines and the Official Languages Toolkit.
- As part of the annual performance review, employees were required to read the policies related to official languages.

Conclusion

The department understands its obligations under the *Official Languages Act* and related policies and strives to provide quality services to clients in both official languages. The department encourages and supports the use of both Official Languages in the workplace and invests in employee development through second language training.

Summary of recommendations from the Office of the Auditor General

Section 1 – Includes the current reporting year and the previous year.

Name and year of audit area with link to online document	Recommendations	
	Total	
n/a	n/a	

Adopted Recommendations	Measures taken
n/a	n/a

Recommendations not adopted	Considerations
n/a	n/a

Section 2 – Includes the reporting periods for years three, four and five.

Name and year of audit area with link to online document	Recommendations	
	Total	Adopted
Agricultural Fair Associations (2016) -Determine whether there is adequate government oversight of New Brunswick Agricultural Associations. http://www.agnb-vgnb.ca/content/dam/agnb-vgnb/pdf/Reports-Rapports/2016V1/Chap4e.pdf	4	4

Report on the *Public Interest Disclosure Act*

As provided under section 18(1) of the *Public Interest Disclosure Act*, the chief executive shall prepare a report of any disclosures of wrongdoing that have been made to a supervisor or designated officer of the portion of the public service for which the chief executive officer is responsible. The Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries did not receive any disclosure(s) of wrongdoing in the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

