

Crown Corporations to Drive Economic Agenda

By Maurice Rees

Once there were five, now there are only two. The Province's five economic development and infrastructure organizations will become two new Crown corporations - Build Nova Scotia and Invest Nova Scotia.

The changes announced by Premier Houston on July 26 will address issues of overlapping mandates, duplicate operations, outdated legislation and arm's-length boards making decisions involving millions of dollars in taxpayers' money.

Two executive chairs have been named to replace current boards of directors and chief executive officers and to oversee the transition. Advisory boards will also be created.

Build Nova Scotia: will

focus on the Province's strategic infrastructure, including healthcare redevelopment, high-speed Internet and environmental remediation, bringing together Develop Nova Scotia and Nova Scotia Lands, which includes Harbourside Commercial Park Inc. Wayne Crawley will serve as the Executive Chair for Build Nova Scotia. He has more than 25 years of experience in business development and operations, and in the audit and finance sectors.

Ministerial oversight for Build Nova Scotia will be shared by Service Nova Scotia and Internal Services Minister Colton LeBlanc, who will add Minister responsible for the healthcare redevelopment projects to his portfolio, and Public Works Minister Kim

Masland, who will continue to oversee all other infrastructure projects

Invest Nova Scotia: will serve and build relationships with Nova Scotia businesses at all stages of their development and work to attract new investment and expand the economy. It will primarily focus on the clients and work of Nova Scotia Business Inc. (NSBI) and Innovacorp. The current Invest Nova Scotia Fund will be managed by the Department of Economic Development. Tom Hickey will serve as the Executive Chair for Invest Nova Scotia. He has 25 years of experience in business and has been an entrepreneur and business owner for more than 23 of those years.

Susan Corkum-Greek, Minister of Economic Develop-

ment, will have ministerial oversight of Invest Nova Scotia.

Develop Nova Scotia, Nova Scotia Lands, Nova Scotia Business Inc., Innovacorp and the Invest Nova Scotia Fund account for more than \$100 million in government spending.

The transition will begin immediately, leading to legislative changes expected to be in effect by the end of 2022. In keeping with the Economic Development Minister's mandate letter, the Province will review existing and alternative investment and attraction tools and structures.

A full summary of the changes from the review of 20 organizations is available at:

<https://novascotia.ca/news/docs/2022/07/26/agencies-of-fices-and-crown-corporations-review-background.pdf>

Made-in-NS Plan Better than Carbon Tax

Premier Tim Houston is calling on the federal government to park plans to impose carbon pricing that could see gas prices rise by up to 14 cents per litre. The Province has submitted a made-in-Nova Scotia solution for reducing greenhouse gas emissions to the Government of Canada. It is based on the legislated goals in the Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act.

Nova Scotia's plan would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 17 per cent, far exceeding the federal carbon tax reductions of two per cent. The federal government's car-

bon tax approach would add more than \$2,000 in annual costs to the average Nova Scotian's household in 2025 and more than \$3,000 in 2030. With the Nova Scotia solution, costs would be less than \$500 per household in 2030.

"Nova Scotia is already a national leader in reducing carbon emissions and fighting climate change. We can achieve our ambitious GHG targets without a punishing federal carbon tax," said Premier Houston. "We have an opportunity to lead the way in the fight against climate change. We are asking the federal government to park the

carbon tax so we can make history together."

The **Shoreline** Journal

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Commission Note: Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings of the Commission, which will resume in Septemeber, every second and third Tuesday at 7:00 PM in the Commission Chambers, at 67 Pictou Road.

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