



*Department of Communities, Land
and Environment*

ANNUAL REPORT

2015–2016



Annual Report

For the Fiscal Year April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016



Communities, Land
and Environment

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Message from the Minister



The Honourable H. Frank Lewis
Lieutenant Governor
Province of Prince Edward Island

May It Please Your Honour:

I have the honour to submit here with the annual report of the Department of Communities, Land and Environment for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert Mitchell, *Minister*
Communities, Land and Environment

Deputy Minister's Overview



The Honourable Robert Mitchell
Minister of Communities, Land and Environment
Province of Prince Edward Island

Honourable Minister:

It is my pleasure to present the annual report of the Department of Communities, Land and Environment for the fiscal year April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016. The report contains highlights and a general description of the work carried out by the department.

The year proved to be highly productive, with many note-worthy accomplishments including working towards developing a *Water Act*; working to update the *Planning Act* in line with the recommendations of the 'Handrahan Task Force Report'; implementing the recommendations of the Carver Report on the *Lands Protection Act*; preparing for the adverse effects of climate change; and together with the Department of Finance, working to develop a new *Municipal Government Act* to modernize existing legislation for municipalities in Prince Edward Island.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michele Dorsey', written in a cursive style.

Michele Dorsey, *Deputy Minister*
Communities, Land and Environment

Department Overview

The Department of Communities, Land and Environment is a new department created to engage Islanders in community-strengthening and environmental stewardship goals.

Mandate

The Department of Communities, Land and Environment takes action to safeguard the environment; protect land and water resources; and foster strong communities and local government.

Mission

Our mission is to build a resilient and strong society through the integrated priorities of people, prosperity, engagement and environmental protection.

Vision

To enhance our quality of life, advance our economic growth, and build a flourishing, caring and engaged society for all the people of Prince Edward Island.

Values

We are committed to openness and transparency and to the highest standards of ethical conduct in our decision-making and governance processes. We will be accountable for our actions, and we will increase opportunities that will enable Islanders to shape their future path.

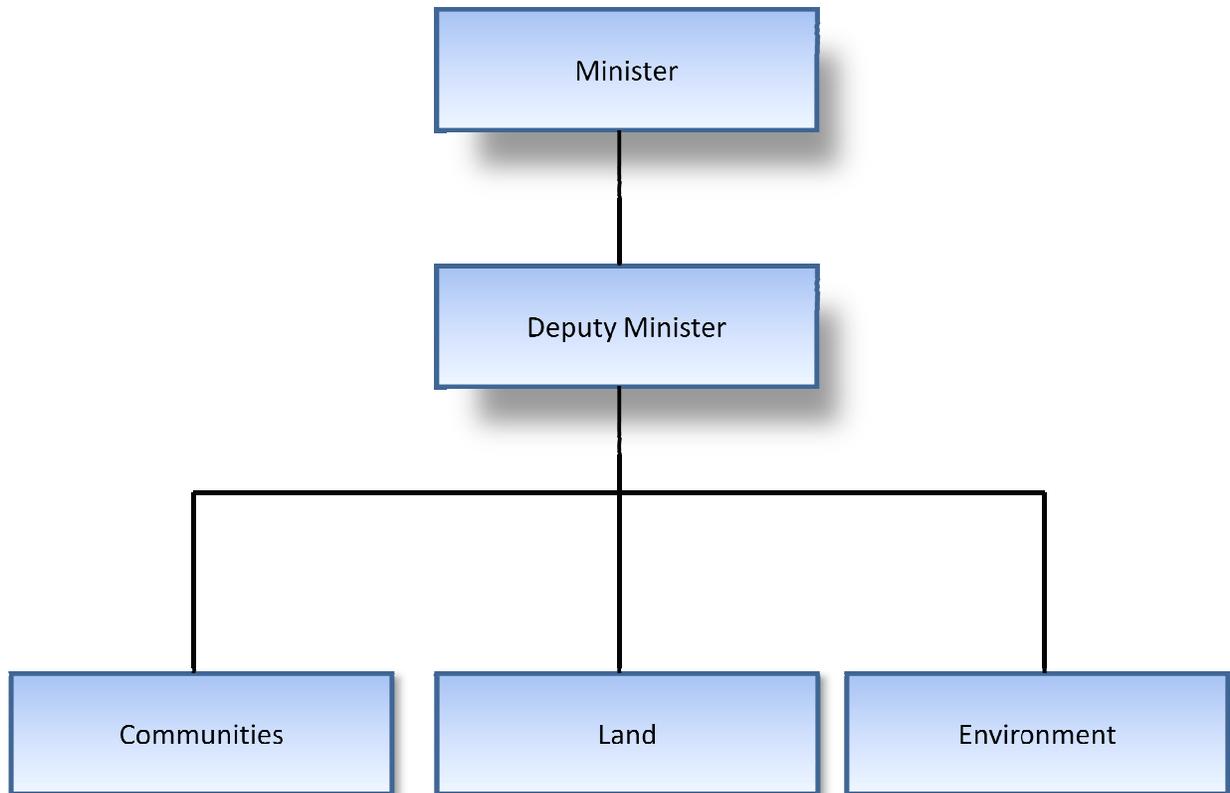
Strategic Direction

Particular priority has been given to the following areas:

- Supporting public consultations on a new *Water Act* designed to protect and encourage the responsible use of our water resources;
- With input from the public, updating the *Planning Act* to include land use policies;
- Working with Island communities to support the implementation of renewed policies in the *Planning Act* in line with the recommendations of the Handrahan Task Force Report;
- Moving forward on the continued implementation of the recommendations of the Carver Report on the *Lands Protection Act*;
- Taking proactive action to prepare for and mitigate the adverse effects of climate change, including joint planning with the Atlantic and Federal Governments, measures to increase Prince Edward Island's move to more green energy sources, and enhanced coordination in all aspects of energy use;
- Conducting consultations on, and bringing forward, a new *Municipal Government Act* to integrate and modernize existing legislation and increase accountability, accessibility, transparency, responsiveness, and efficiency; and
- Working with the Department of Finance on a new funding system for municipalities on Prince Edward Island.

Organizational Chart¹

2015 -2016



¹ The Communities Division is comprised of Municipal Affairs and Provincial Planning. The Land Division is comprised of Forest, Fish and Wildlife.

Department Staff Summary

Communities, Land and Environment (as of March 31/16)

Work Group*	Full and Part Time Complement
Minister/Deputy Minister's Office	3
Communities: <i>Municipal Affairs and Provincial Planning</i> Administration Municipal Affairs Provincial Planning	3 4 4
Land: <i>Forests, Fish and Wildlife</i> Administration Field Services Fish & Wildlife Production Development Resource and Inventory Modelling	4 23 8 9 4
Environment Climate Change and Air Management Environment Division Administration Watershed and Subdivision Planning Drinking Water & Wastewater Management Microbiology & Chemistry Laboratories Inspection Services Environmental Land Management Beverage Container Management	7 4 10 6 9 31 9 2
TOTAL	140

* In addition to the above established positions, the department employed 54 casual employees, 3 temporary employees and 25 students during the fiscal year 2015-16. Finance, Human Resources, and Communications services are provided by other departments.

Divisions

Communities

Municipal Affairs and Provincial Planning

Division Mandate:

The mandate of the Municipal Affairs and Provincial Planning Division (MAPP) is to oversee the administration of legislation relating to land use planning, land ownership and municipal governance through monitoring and amendment of applicable legislation and policy development. MAPP also has lead responsibility for coordinating internal government efforts to implement key recommendations contained in the *Report of the Commission on Land and Local Governance*, the *Report of the Commission on the Lands Protection Act* and the *Report of the Task Force on Land Use Policy*. The Division provides leadership, advice, information and support for municipalities and municipal interest groups on most aspects of municipal administration and governance.

Division Mission:

MAPP's mission is to maintain the legislative framework for the *Municipalities Act*, the *Charlottetown Area Municipalities Act*, the *City of Summerside Act*, the *Lands Protection Act* and the *Planning Act*, encourage the viability and resilience of Island communities through effective local governance and support sustainable land use while ensuring that the interests of the public are protected.

Division Vision:

MAPP works with municipal governments, other provincial departments and agencies, community partners, industry and the public to encourage good governance, community development and responsible stewardship of the land.

Division Values:

MAPP's values are a reflection of our commitment to serve stakeholders through the

- delivery of quality service to stakeholders that is responsive and respectful;
- consistent interpretation of legislation and policy;
- commitment to program development, quality improvement and evaluation;
- organizational alignment and a team approach to problem-solving; and
- rewarding work environment that recognizes performance and productivity

Division Overview:

The Division oversees the administration of land use planning, land ownership and municipal governance through applicable legislation, policy development and services. There are two branches within the Division:

Municipal Affairs

The Municipal Affairs branch acts as the primary liaison between the province, municipalities, municipal interest groups and the public. Municipal Affairs administers the *Municipalities Act*, the *Charlottetown Area Municipalities Act*, and the *City of Summerside Act*. It provides leadership, advice, information and support for municipalities and municipal interest groups on most aspects of municipal administration, operations, governance and land use planning. The branch also supports municipalities in building strong and sustainable communities through effective governance.

Provincial Planning

The Provincial Planning branch administers the *Planning Act* as well as the *Lands Protection Act* and their associated regulations. It supports individuals and groups in the public and private sector to achieve sustainable land use strategies and development practices, and works closely with other government departments, including the Environment Division, Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy, the Island Regulatory and Appeals Commission (IRAC), Land Registry Office and the Legal Services Division.

Progress in 2015-2016

Strategic Goals and Plans:

1. *Viable Municipalities*

- The Report of the Commission on Land and Local Governance (2009) recommended that larger and more viable municipalities be established in order to provide effective local governance and appropriate local service delivery.
- Municipal restructuring is a process of significant interest to many municipalities across the province. The Division continues to provide encouragement, guidance and support to municipalities in the midst of a municipal restructuring process, and to municipalities interested in better understanding the process prior to initiating conversations regarding restructuring.

The Municipal Support Grant Program was established several decades ago. The need for a fair and affordable funding arrangement has been recognized for some time. During the past six years, funding to municipalities has remained stable in the midst of increased financial pressures on the Province. Equalization and support grant funding to municipalities remained at the same level as 2014-15.

Key Indicators of Success:

- In order to support long-term sustainability, viability criteria were established to clarify expectations for capacity and guide municipal restructuring processes (i.e., incorporation, amalgamation, annexation). Service, accessibility standards and population and taxation thresholds for ensuring municipal capacity were based on recommendations contained in the Commission report, as well as on other research and experience.

- We continue to work with municipalities to confirm a funding arrangement that is fair and equitable.

2. Good Governance

- Draft a new *Municipal Government Act* for introduction as a Bill for the fall 2016 session of the legislature
 - New municipal governance legislation will ensure that all municipalities have clear direction and a common framework to guide decision-making and service provision to their residents. It will define service delivery expectations and put parameters in place to promote municipal capacity to provide local services in a sustainable manner.
- Develop and implement a consultation process for the new *Municipal Government Act*
 - The consultation process will include face-to-face consultation and online interaction through various digital and social media platforms.
- Draft amendments to existing municipal legislation
 - Although a new *Municipal Government Act* is being drafted, several amendments have been proposed for existing municipal governance legislation (the *Municipalities Act*, the *City of Charlottetown and Area Municipalities Act* and the *City of Summerside Act*) to clarify and aid appropriate interpretation of a number of provisions related to governance, administrative and operational matters.
 - These amendments will also streamline municipal restructuring. Amendments to existing municipal legislation are intended to bridge the gap until a new *Municipal Government Act* is enacted.
- Draft amendments to the *Planning Act*
 - Amendments have been proposed to the *Planning Act* to facilitate implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force on Land Use Policy and to address current deficiencies in legislation until a more complete review of the Act can be undertaken. Several of the amendments have been drafted for introduction in the spring 2016 session of the legislature
 - Subdivision and Development Regulations guide development control throughout the province. Amendments are currently being drafted to enhance provincial minimum Standards for development. Other regulations will also clarify processes for municipalities in the development and administration of Official Plans.

- The *Lands Protection Act*
 - The *Report of Commission on the Lands Protection Act* (2013) made 29 legislative and non-legislative recommendations related to land protection, land use and land ownership. In November 2013, Government endorsed 28 of the 29 recommendations contained in the report.
 - Amendments to the Act and Regulations came into force upon proclamation on January, 2015. Implementation continued in 2015.
 - Several further amendments to the *Lands Protection Act* and regulations have been proposed including an amendment to the definition of “Resident Person” and changes to the Forms regulations.

Key Indicators of Success

- In March, 2016, drafting of a new *Municipal Government Act* was 70 per cent complete.
- Amendments to the *Planning Act* have been drafted for introduction in the spring 2016 session of the legislature.
- Amendments to the Subdivision and Development Regulations have been drafted.
- Work continues to implement the remaining recommendations contained in the Carver report on the *Lands Protection Act*. To date, 15 of the recommendations have been implemented.

3. Restructuring of Land Use Planning System

- Develop a New Land Use Planning Framework
 - A long term planning framework is required to guide and regulate provincial land use planning and development. The Task Force on Land Use Policy (2014) recommended the development of provincial land use policies to establish minimum standards for land use and development. Government endorsed the recommendations in principle (2014) and implementation continued in 2015.
 - Provincial land use policies will set minimum standards for development and establish a foundation for regulating land use throughout the province. They are intended to guide decision-making for the province and municipalities and will provide for appropriate development while protecting the public interest with respect to health and safety, land, water, air and the natural environment.
 - A consistent approach to land use planning and development will be supported through the development of a general land use planning map.

Key Indicators of Success

- In 2015, Executive Council gave preliminary approval of provincial land use policies as the foundation for the land use planning framework.

Land

Forests, Fish and Wildlife

Division Mandate

The mandate of the Division of Forest, Fish and Wildlife is to contribute to the economic and community development of our natural resources throughout Prince Edward Island by promoting the sustainable management and wise use of our forests, fish, and wildlife.

Division Vision

Prince Edward Island will have healthy forests, fish, wildlife and habitat, contributing to the delivery of economic benefits and ecological goods and services essential to human health and well-being. Islanders will become better connected to their natural environment and better appreciate and understand the many values of these areas.

Division Mission

The Division demonstrates good management on public lands, and works with landowners and non-governmental groups to help Islanders make choices that support the Vision. We promote quality, sustainable interactions between people and our forests, fish and wildlife resources.

Progress in 2015-2016

Strategic Goals and Plans:

The Land Division has dedicated its efforts towards increasing the following

- 1. Restoration of forests and other terrestrial and aquatic habitats;**
- 2. Management for a diversity of forest species, ages, products and values;**
- 3. Landscape-scale planning;**
- 4. Public and community awareness of, involvement in, and support for public lands;**
- 5. Connection between people and their forests, fish and wildlife resources;**
- 6. Participation in sustainable forest management, and consumptive² and non-consumptive³ uses;**
- 7. Capacity within the forest sector to deliver a range of forest management options; and**
- 8. Contributions by and for the value-added sector.**

General

Forestry staff developed metrics for the LiDAR data collected on PEI in 2010. The operational-based inventory information will help field staff make more informed decisions and provide better forest information to forest consultants and land owners.

² Consumptive - fishing, hunting, trapping, harvest of wild foods and non-timber for products, etc.

³ Non-consumptive - bird watching, hiking, wildlife viewing, etc

The Introductory Fire Management course was revised and updated to align with national wildfire training programs. Fire staff travelled to western Canada to lend assistance with serious wildfires in Alberta, British Columbia and the Northwest Territories

A new Watershed Ecologist position was staffed to increase technical support for local watershed management groups.

Staff worked with the Mi'kmaq Confederacy to develop forest management plans and provide ongoing technical assistance for Lennox Island and two properties in Fernwood and East Bideford.

Field Services

Field Services Program works to manage 33,000 ha of public land assigned to the Department. It assists private forest owners in making and implementing informed forest management and harvest choices; and works to control and suppress wildfire on PEI.

Public Land

The Public Land Program seeks to manage public lands for a wide-range of values including but not limited to timber, wildlife, recreation and research. It also provides forest areas for public education and suppresses wildfires.

Western and Eastern Districts generated revenues of \$183,262 through a combination of harvested wood sales and standing timber tenders. Forestry crews commercially thinned 30.49 hectares of plantations, extracted 24,528 m³ of wood, pruned 5432 trees, selectively harvested 81.52 hectares of wood, and maintained 56.14 kilometres of trails. Most harvest work occurred on public properties that required the thinning and the removal of over mature trees, for safety reasons, along roads and access trails (e.g. the Brookvale Nordic Ski Trail property).

Public land and contractor crews planted 59,100 trees on cutovers and other sites, manually prepared 40,249 planting micro sites, and mechanically prepared another 11. Some 33.5 hectares of plantations were manually maintained. The creation and maintenance of public land roads required 428 cubic meters of fill and the manual or mechanical maintenance of 124 kilometres of roads.

Western District staff worked with the Mi'kmaq Confederacy to develop forest management plans for Lennox Island and two other properties in Fernwood and East Bideford. Technical advice and assistance was also provided through forest management and harvest work on properties in the Scotchfort area and continued through the co-management agreement with the Abegweit First Nation.

Summary of Provincial Forests Management Services 2015-16

Public lands	33,000 hectares
Crews	6
Locations	3
Revenue	\$183,262
Commercial Thinning	30.49 hectares
Wood Harvested	1022.23 cords
Pruning	5432
Harvested area	81.52 hectares
Trail Maintenance	56.14 km
Trees planted	59,100
Manual Site Preparation	40,294
Plantation Maintenance	33.54 hectares
Fill	428 m ³
Road Maintenance	124.34 km
Scout Trees	1200

Private Land

The Private Land Program seeks to provide forest management advice and assistance to private woodland owners through the Forest Enhancement Program. It also builds private sector capacity for many different forest management services, and supports education efforts directed at private woodlot owners.

The Forest Enhancement Program provided advice and assistance to private woodlot owners. Funding was provided to help land owners develop forest management plans for their woodlands. Plans were set up based on land owners' objectives, their capabilities and the limitations of their forest land, and in accordance with the Ecosystem-base Forest Management Manual. Once the plan was approved, land owners could access funding and technical advice to implement the treatments recommended in their plan.

Summary of Private Land Management Services 2015-16

Treatment	Units	Amount	Cost (\$)
Planting	Hectares	200.0	109,897
Site Preparation	Hectares	200.0	128,306
Patch Harvest	Hectares	2.8	1,050
Block Harvest	Hectares	16.2	5,250
Commercial Thinning	Hectares	39.0	43,000
Pre-commercial Thinning	Hectares	51.0	26,237
Fill Planting	Hectares	50.3	6,042
Manual Maintenance	Hectares	455.0	293,691
Chemical Maintenance	Hectares	78.0	25,905
Pruning	Hectares	133.0	84,888
Management Plans Prepared	Number	72.0	23,530
TOTAL			747,796

Fire Services

During fire season, the Division provided daily information on burning conditions across PEI through the Fire Weather Index web site. Staff also trained to suppress wildfires and work with local fire brigades during wildfire incidents. In 2015, several staff members supported wildfire suppression efforts in Alberta, British Columbia and the Northwest Territories.

Fish and Wildlife programs

The Fish and Wildlife program provides a suite of services including:

- the license of anglers, hunters, trappers and fur buyers;
- conducting wildlife population research and data collection;
- assisting communities and individuals with issues related to injured and problem wildlife;
- providing hunter safety and firearms training courses to the public;
- recovering species at risk on PEI;
- providing wildlife management advice and assistance for public lands; and
- overseeing impoundment and fishways improvement work in communities across the province.

In 2015-16, staff from the Fish and Wildlife program supervised impoundment upgrades and replacements for Marchbank's Pond in Montrose and Sherren's Pond in Crapaud. Fish and Wildlife staff also began to use new software to track client calls and wildlife concerns, and complaints to improve the Division's capacity to handle permits, courses and licenses.

Staff from Fish and Wildlife and from Public Lands also initiated a process to provide more meaningful input into public land forest management plans in order to ensure that management activities have multiple benefits for Island wildlife.

Property Number	Site Name	Site Area (hectares)	Owner
1071273	North Lake Creek Riparian Zone	60.3	PEI Wildlife Federation
653444	Winter River Riparian Zone	20.2	PEI Wildlife Federation
	TOTAL	80.5	

Forest Information

Forest Information provides education and awareness materials and programs suited to a wide range of Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division clients; manages content on the Division's web site; and oversees regulations and compliance for the Island ground Hemlock sector.

Efforts focused on revising, updating and moving Division content to the province's new web platform. The new web site became operational in 2016. Updates to the Ground Hemlock Harvest regulations were implemented in late 2016.

The 2016 Provincial Forest Envirothon hosted nine teams from seven Island high schools. The winning team from Montague Regional High School will present PEI at the international Envirothon competition in Maryland in July 2016.

Production Development

The Production Development program works to produce high quality trees and shrubs for many different social, environmental and economic benefits; improve the genetic characteristics of specific Acadian Forest Tree Species; provide insect and disease advice and assistance to communities and property owners; and maintain fire fighting and other mechanical equipment used by Division programs.

J. Frank Gaudet Tree Nursery 2015 Shipping Summary

Species	Public Land East	Public Land West	FEP* - East	FEP - West	Greening Spaces	Hedgerow	Nursery	TOTAL
Softwoods								
Cedar Eastern	210	1,100	781	1,540	2,196		2,842	8,669
Fir Balsam			1,665		909		46,325	48,899
Fir Fraser							645	645
Hemlock Eastern	500		473		1,653		4,558	7,184
Larch Eastern			20,181	31,005	3,085	511	419	55,201
Larch Japanese							430	430
Pine Austrian			355		160	1,797	1,547	3,859
Pine Jack					60	15	1,266	1,341
Pine Red	2,795		10,140	3,145	873		647	17,600
Pine White	1,040	8,255	17,485	17,680	3,024	648	6,215	54,347
Spruce Black	6,825	5,200	26,130	13,910	5,724		261	58,050
Spruce Colorado					620		4,929	5,549
Spruce Norway			102		66		1,350	1,518
Spruce Red					318		131	449
Spruce White	8,025	16,200	172,805	73,375	11,746	46,773	5,661	334,585
Hardwoods								
Apple Wild					80		7	87
Ash Green					549		125	674
Ash White	15		80		1,796	355	72	2,318
Birch Blue Leaf					250		1	251
Birch White			600		923	299	228	2,050
Birch Yellow	3		286	25	1,868	350	141	2,673
Elm American					558		4	562
Linden American					21		51	72
Maple Red	3		6		1,211	4	111	1,335
Maple Sugar	1,003		5,396	4,680	303	282	1,293	12,957
Mountain Ash					235	160	48	443
Oak Red	1,533	2,025	8,835	4,035	3,318	870	1,359	21,975
Serviceberry					221		24	245
Native Shrubs			6		8,721	195	6,296	15,218
Total	21,952	32,780	265,326	149,395	50,488	52,259	86,986	659,186

*FEP-Forest Enhancement Program (Private Land), Greening Spaces Program (includes Community Groups and Watershed Groups)

Greening Spaces

Greening Space program provided seedlings and technical advice to schools, communities and community groups who want to create environmentally-friendly green space. In 2015-16 the following groups and communities received support through the Greening Spaces Program:

Watershed Groups	General
Bedeque Bay Environmental Management Association	Agriculture & Forestry Fun Day
Cascumpec Bay Watershed Association	Big Brothers Big Sisters
Cornwall and Area Watershed Group	Brookvale Provincial Park
Ellens Creek Watershed Group	Brookvale Ultra Trail Race
Friends of Covehead-Brackley Bays	City of Charlottetown
Hillsborough Area Watershed Cooperative	County Monaghan Descendants
Hunter Clyde Watershed Group	Ducks Unlimited
Kensington North Watershed Association	Environmental Fun Day Hunter River
Lot 11 and Area Watershed Management Group	Fort Augustus 4-H Club
Morell River Management Cooperative	International Childrens Place
Pisquid River Watershed Group	Island Businesses Assisting Communities
Richmond Bay Watershed Association	Island Nature Trust
Roseville/Miminegash Watershed Inc	IWK Fundraiser
Souris and Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation	Kensington Boy Scouts
South Shore Watershed Association	Morell River Festival
Stratford Watershed Group	Morell Nature Trail
Trout River Environmental Committee	Murray Harbour Farmers Market
Trout Unlimited Canada Prince County Chapter	Open Farm Day
West Point and Area Watersheds	PEI Teachers Conference
West River Watershed Group	Pinch Penny Fair
Wheatley River Improvement Group	Public Service Week
Winter River-Tracadie Watershed Association	Sino Mutual Society
Schools, Kindergartens and Daycares	Southeastern Environmental Assoc.
Gulf Shore School	Trees for Hope CRA
Queen Elizabeth Elementary School	Town of Cardigan
Sherwood School	Town of Miscouche
Somerset Consolidated School	Town of Souris
Tignish Elementary School	UPEI Inactus Group
Vernon River School	Workplace Charitable Campaign CRA
West Kent School	Wrights Creek Trail
Westwood School	Young Millionaires Program
Sunshine Daycare Centre	Churches and Community Groups
West Royalty Children Centre	Emyvale Recreation Centre
West Royalty Kindergarten School	Kensington United Church
	Mt Ryan Church
	St John Anglican Church Crapaud
	St. Francis of Assisi Cornwall
	Trinity United Church Summerside
	Winsloe United Church

Hedgerow Planting Program

The Hedgerow Planting program provided tree seedlings, planting assistance and technical advice to land owners who wanted to establish hedgerows and treed buffers to prevent soil erosion and create wind buffers that lower home heating and cooling costs.

2015-2016 Final Hedgerow Planting Numbers

Region	Hectares
Region 1	14,890
Region 2	2,100
Region 3	14,364
Region 4 and 5	8,956
Region 6	4,846
Region 7	2,445
Region 8	4,013
Region 9	4,110
Region 10	1,216
TOTAL	59,940

Resource Inventory and Modeling

Resource Inventory and Modeling works to provide mapping data related to a wide range of land use topics; updated forest inventory information for Prince Edward Island; and maintenance of the Geographic Information Services for a wide range of clients.

Staff added an application to its internal web mapping system (Flexview) for the Safety Standards Office. This allowed personnel access to specific GIS layers relevant to current legislation. Staff used drone technology for assessing forest plantations, and monitoring progress of the Bonshaw Hills Provincial Park.

LandSat8 satellite imagery was used to identify and analyze tree growth across the province. A new geodatabase was generated to mosaic all aerial photography flown in the province in 1935. This allowed the comparison of mosaics generated for 1968, 2000 and 2010. The Forest Fire Database was able to generate reports on forest fire occurrence, personnel training and current fire equipment inventory.

Forestry staff provided technical support to staff of the Environment and Agriculture Divisions re mapping and mobile devices. The Division also provided provincial representation and support for the National Forest Inventory Committee.

Environment

Division Vision:

To develop and implement cross-cutting strategies that achieve sustainable development, ensure environmental equality, improve access to a good quality of life, and support infrastructure, institutions and communities that are resilient and adaptable.

Division Mission:

Our mission is to develop and promote the implementation of mitigation and adaptation strategies that will address threats to our natural and built environment.

Division Values:

Our climate is changing and this affects all aspects of Island life, including water quality and availability, biodiversity, communities, built infrastructure, economic development, business growth and governance. During this time of transition we will continue to:

- place people and their quality of life at the centre of our concern;
- ensure all citizens of Prince Edward Island have access to relevant information, can see how decisions are made, and can take part in the decision-making process;
- develop long-term planning horizons which recognize future challenges and opportunities;
- use mainstream scientific knowledge to assist in decision-making, and identify potential knowledge gaps which need to be researched; and
- take account of the risks and the uncertainties of inaction by applying the precautionary principle.

Progress in 2015-2016

Strategic Goals and Plans:

1. Provide up-to-date and user-friendly online systems and payment options and an improved document management system

- This strategy is part of a long-term government-wide Web Strategy. Our provincial website will become a client centered web and mobile service platform that connects Islanders and businesses to trusted information, convenient online services.

2. Review and develop legislation that is fit for purpose

- The work that we undertake exists within a legislative framework. Legislation will be reviewed to determine that our current practices are consistent with our legislation. We will continue to review legislation in other jurisdictions to identify best-practices and take advantage of efficiencies that may result from uniformity across jurisdictions.

3. Help Islanders make environmentally responsible choices

- We will help Islanders to understand and take responsibility for the environmental impacts of their actions by ensuring appropriate education is in place and good quality information is readily available.

4. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions

- We will work toward developing measures to encourage the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions wherever possible.

5. Address water security concerns

- We recognize that it is important to base decisions on the best available evidence. This requires a commitment to researching the latest academic and field studies in our areas of concern. We will continue to manage Island water resources and drinking water quality in a manner consistent with new scientific developments and long-term sustainability.

PEI Analytical Laboratories

The PEI Analytical Laboratories (PEIAL) is responsible for the management of the province's water microbiological and water chemistry laboratories. As a result of the cooperative arrangement between the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Department of Communities, Land and Environment, PEIAL is made up of a total of five different labs which reside in the two departments. These labs include Water Chemistry, Water Microbiology, Soil & Feed, Dairy, and Plant Health.

The laboratory is located in the Bio-Commons Park at the end of the Charlottetown bypass. This facility allows for a sharing of staff, equipment and supplies resulting in an efficient and cost effective service for all user clients. The location also allows easy client access and sample drop off. The lab is accredited by the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) to the international standard for the competency of calibration and testing labs; ISO/IEC 17025.

In March, 2016 PEIAL underwent a successful external assessment by SCC after which the lab received confirmation of re-accreditation and approval of the scope of testing offered.

The Environmental program areas include:

- drinking water quality analyses;
- general water quality analyses for ground and surface waters to determine the health of water for interests including aquatic habitat, the fishery, recreation, and aesthetics; and
- wastewater programs.

Water Samples Analyzed 2015-2016	
<i>Sample Type</i>	<i>Sample Number</i>
Drinking Water	14,298
Surface Water	1,189
Wastewater	1,573
TOTAL	17,060

Drinking Water and Wastewater Management Section

The Drinking Water and Wastewater Management Section is responsible for the monitoring and regulatory oversight of central drinking water and wastewater systems in the province. This includes certification of system operators and approval of projects for establishment, and modification or major maintenance activities for these systems. The section also provides water quality interpretation and advice to private well owners.

This year the section oversaw a total of 60 Water and Wastewater Operator Certification exams. Of these, 33 applicants were successful in gaining certification. Ten Facility Classification Certificates were issued to new and existing Water and Wastewater Facilities. The section also issued a total of 39 Certificates of Approval (COA's) for construction of water and wastewater infrastructure with a capital value of approximately \$15.6 million. Of this total, \$3.7 million were for water related projects and \$11.9 million for wastewater projects. The majority of the construction was for municipal water and sewer construction or facility up-grades. Fourteen COA's were issued for operation specific activities, and maintenance or system upgrades of water and wastewater issues. Our section provided advice to developers and staff of Environment Division's Inspection Services Section on the suitability of water and sewer servicing proposals relating to subdivision approvals.

The main emphasis of field work was to complete the inspection of all private, industrial, and municipal wastewater lift stations across the province. A total 202 lift stations were inspected and any deficiencies identified. The information gathered was tabulated in a GIS 'data layer' which was shared with provincial and federal counterparts. Any deficiencies identified were shared with the infrastructure owners as upgrades to be addressed immediately, or in the near future.

The Drinking Water and Wastewater Management Section completed risk assessments on all municipal scale wastewater systems as part of on-going work associated with implementation of the new Federal Wastewater System Effluent Regulation (WSER). These risk assessments were used to determine if and how these systems would be affected under the WSER regulations, as well as identifying systems which may need to be upgraded. The section also worked closely with wastewater system owners to ensure compliance with new regulations.

Section staff also continued to assess the results of drinking water and wastewater samples submitted to the PEI Analytical Laboratories, providing advice on corrective actions and when necessary, investigating sources of contamination caused by *E. coli*, wastewater treatment failures, or unplanned discharges. Support was also provided to other of the Division's sections through review and interpretation of water quality monitoring results for landfill sites, construction and demolition sites, and related water and wastewater issues, as well as assisting in water sampling for the Division's pesticide monitoring program.

Watershed and Subdivision Planning Section

The Watershed and Subdivision Planning Section administers the Watershed Management Fund (WMF) and provides technical and financial assistance to community watershed organizations working on watershed restoration and or watershed planning. In 2015, 23 watershed groups were funded through this initiative with a total of \$948,274 awarded to community groups.

Priority funding areas continue to include watershed plan preparation, facilitation and strategic planning, and building capacity of watershed organizations. At year's end, 23 community-based watershed management plans had been developed.

Watershed Management Fund Awards

Watershed Group	2015-16 WMF Award
Bedeque Bay Environmental Management Association	\$65,000
Cascumpec Bay Watershed Association Inc.	\$29,020
Central Queens Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation	\$38,800
Cornwall & Area Watershed Group Inc.	\$16,000
Ellen's Creek Watershed Group Inc.	\$9,118
Friends of Covehead-Brackley Bays Ltd.	\$30,811
Harmony and Area Watershed Enhancement Group Inc.	\$32,255
Hillsborough Area Watershed Cooperative (HAWC)	\$86,912
Hunter-Clyde Watershed Group Inc.	\$31,566
Kensington North Watersheds Association Ltd.	\$46,543
Lot 11 and Area Watershed Management Group, Inc.	\$26,781
Morell River Management Co-operative	\$54,805
Richmond Bay Watershed Association Inc.	\$40,448
Roseville/Miminegash Watersheds Inc.	\$37,259
Souris & Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation	\$83,905
South Shore Watershed Association	\$33,950
Southeast Environmental Association	\$75,000
Tignish and Area Watershed Management Group Inc.	\$37,608
Trout River Environmental Committee Inc.	\$34,668
Trout Unlimited Canada Prince County Chapter Inc.	\$45,339
West Point & Area Watersheds Inc.	\$34,153
Wheatley River Improvement Group Inc.	\$31,304
Winter River-Tracadie Bay Watershed Association Inc.	\$22,181
PEI Watershed Alliance	\$4,850
TOTAL	\$948,274

The Watershed and Subdivision Planning Section also provided staff support and organizational services for the PEI Watershed Alliance and other watershed groups. The development of a Watershed Strategy agreement between government, the Watershed Alliance and watershed groups, was completed in 2015. It will guide future watershed project work and associated government programs. A new funding formula for the Watershed Alliance is currently being developed.

Together with the Inspection Services Section, the Watershed and Subdivision Planning Section assessed and approved subdivisions in those areas of the province without official plans and bylaws. In 2015, 330 subdivision approvals were issued.

In 2015, nine groundwater exploration permits and five groundwater extraction permits were issued. Stream water and estuaries were monitored for long-term trends in water quality. The section provided extensive estuarine monitoring results to Environment Canada. This data is subsequently used in the classification of shellfish growing areas. The section also operates electronic monitoring sites for 17 groundwater level and seven stream water level sites.

Watershed nitrate targets were developed for the entire province using a Regional Technical Advisory Committee method revised from that published in the 2014 Canadian Technical Report of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences. Monitoring nitrate levels is required in watersheds where there are high groundwater nitrate levels and where estuarine anoxic events occur. Watershed nutrient load targets for Prince Edward Island estuaries have been established by the Regional Technical Advisory Committee, which works closely with our section.

Since 2004, pesticide levels have been monitored in groundwater and stream water, and the fin fish and shellfish industries. As the sensitivity of laboratory techniques used to detect pesticides improves, detections are becoming more frequent. Pesticide occurrences in groundwater are also becoming more common but levels of pesticides remain extremely low. Pesticide occurrences in stream water are still relatively infrequent. All pesticide amounts found in groundwater are well below the Canadian standard maximum allowable tolerance set for drinking water. Pesticide data for groundwater and our web-based groundwater quality mapping, surface water mapping, and surface water level and groundwater level applications are all available for review at <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/topic/monitoring>.

Alternative Land Use Services Program

The Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) program is a province-wide ecological goods and services initiative to secure environmental improvements on agricultural land above and beyond those required by regulation. The goals of the ALUS program are to reduce soil erosion and siltation in watercourses and wetlands; improve water quality; improve and increase wildlife habitat; and reduce the impacts of climate change. The program is co-managed by the Communities, Land, and Environment Department and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

There are now over 390 cooperating farmers and landowners in the program. University of Prince Edward Island scientists, with the help of Department of Fisheries and Oceans funding

through ALUS, are researching the beneficial effects of the sediment abatement activities on streams and the development of a sediment monitoring system.

Environmental Land Management Section

The Environmental Land Management (ELM) Section oversees a wide variety of environmental legislation including section 9 of the *Environmental Protection Act*, administration of the Waste Resource Management Regulations, the Excavation Pits Regulations, the Watercourse and Wetland Protection Regulations, the *Unightly Property Act*, and the *Litter Control Act*.

The ELM Section is responsible for duties related to petroleum pollution prevention. The section is also responsible for enforcing the following: Materials Stewardship Recycling Regulations; Contaminated Sites Registry Regulations; Environmental Records Review Regulations; and the Petroleum Hydrocarbon Remediation Regulations.

Environmental Assessment

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) unit is tasked with determining the anticipated effects on the environment of a proposed building development or project. If the likely effects are unacceptable, design measures or other relevant mitigation measures will be undertaken to reduce or avoid those effects. The EIA group becomes aware of a development or projects either through referral via Development Permit Applications, or directly through an application by a project proponent. In 2015-2016, a total of 11 projects were approved. These included the PEI-NB Cable Interconnection project; the redevelopment of an existing aquaculture facility; redevelopment of an old seafood processing facility; three liquid manure facilities for dairy farms; a lobster holding facility; a fertilizer holding facility; and a landfill height increase at the East Prince Waste Management Facility.

Environmental Emergency Responders

The ELM Section has dedicated staff to deal with all environmental emergencies resulting from petroleum spills. A seven-member team is on 24 hour standby and will respond to all reported spills. As part of the follow-up to spill calls, ELM staff will review remedial action plans for contaminated properties submitted by the property owner or environmental consultant. From April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016, staff responded to 122 petroleum spills occurring at residential, commercial, and public properties throughout the province.

Environmental Record Reviews

ELM staff regularly receives and responds to Environmental Records Review requests. In the majority of cases, clarification is being requested as to whether a property has or holds any environmental risks associated with it. As part of this process staff, will determine whether properties meet criteria for designation under Contaminated Sites Registry Regulations. Between April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016, staff processed 323 environmental record review requests.

Inspection and Permitting (Waste Management Facilities, C&D sites, Recycling Facilities, and Excavation Pits)

The ELM Section inspects and provides permits for waste management; recycling facilities; construction and demolition disposal sites; and excavation pits. Ensuring that these types of facilities are operating in compliance with their respective legislation is important for the protection of both groundwater and surface water resources.

From April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016, two composting facilities; one landfill facility; four construction and demolition debris sites; 168 licensed excavation pits; and 61 recycling facilities were permitted to operate.

In December of 2013 the *Automobile Junk Yards Act* was repealed. Key provisions of the Act were transferred into existing regulations to increase the efficiency of the permitting and proper handling of end-of-life vehicles. This is especially so for vehicles containing fluids stored or crushed for recycling.

Special Waste

The unit issues all Special Waste Permits for the disposal of hazardous materials. During the 2015-2016 period, 203 Special Waste Permits were issued, the majority of which dealt with the tracking and transportation of petroleum contaminated soil to the East Prince Waste Management Facility. Other permits were issued for biomedical wastes; asbestos insulation and siding; creosote treated timbers; and pharmaceutical drugs.

Unsightly Properties

Environment Officers from the ELM Section carried out several inspections of properties under the *Unsightly Property Act*. Follow-up inspections and written notifications were required to resolve matters. Three compulsory property site cleanups were carried out in Prince Edward Island at New Annan (two properties) and at Hunter River.

Watercourse/Wetland and Buffer Zone Activity Permitting Program

The purpose of the program is to ensure that aquatic habitat and riparian zones are protected from major disturbance and destruction by authorized human activities. Permit applications are carefully evaluated to ensure that the potentially harmful environmental effects of a course of work are considered at the design stage. Any permits issued for work in and around watercourses or wetland areas will contain environmental protection conditions which the applicant must follow. The program is very busy in the spring and summer months and the unit investigated a large volume of inquiries and complaints. In 2015-2016, staff issued approximately 425 Watercourse, Wetland and Buffer Zone Activity Permits.

Climate Change and Air Quality Section

This section is responsible for programs, legislation and activities relating to including climate change, outdoor air quality, prevention of ozone layer depletion, and the impact and mitigation of hazardous materials (non-petroleum) on the environment. It is also responsible for the management, administration and licensing associated with the storage and application of pesticide products. A new program designed to achieve environmental compliance in the agriculture sector was also established this year.

Specific program areas include the following:

- Agriculture-Environment Compliance and Enforcement Program,
- Air Quality Monitoring and Protection Programs,
- Hazardous Materials (non-petroleum),
- National and Provincial Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Programs / Initiatives,
- National, Regional and Provincial Climate Change Adaptation Programs / Initiatives,
- Ozone Layer Protection Programs,
- and
- Pesticide Use and Regulation Program.

Agriculture-Environment Compliance and Enforcement Program

In 2015, the Government of Prince Edward Island announced that it would be taking a new approach to achieving compliance with environmental requirements in the agricultural sector. This approach will be administered by the Agriculture Environment Unit of the Climate Change and Air Quality Section. During 2015-16, the Climate Change and Air Quality Section, in partnership with the Departments of Justice and Public Safety and Agriculture and Fisheries, began planning for the launch of this program, including hiring staff, identifying clear mandates, developing policies, scheduling training opportunities, and securing equipment.

Air Quality Monitoring and Protection Programs

The Climate Change and Air Quality Section monitor and enforce air quality regulations. Air monitoring stations at Charlottetown, Southampton and Wellington (part of Environment Canada's National Air Pollution Surveillance program) monitor ground level ozone, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, mercury, particulate matter and acid rain. Environment Canada supports these stations and the Division continues to maintain equipment, collect and validate data, and share data with Environment Canada and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Prince Edward Island, along with all other jurisdictions in Canada (except Québec), has implemented a new air quality management system (AQMS). AQMS is a comprehensive approach for improving air quality in Canada and is the product of unprecedented collaboration by the federal, provincial and territorial governments and stakeholders. It includes new Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) and industrial emission requirements for major industries in Canada. The province's first air quality report under the AQMS, covering the years 2011-2013, will be released in the fall of 2016.

Data collected by staff at the three air quality monitoring stations is used to calculate the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI), a public information tool that helps Canadians protect their health on a daily basis from the negative effects of air pollution. The AQHI measures the air quality in relation to health on a scale from 1 to 10 and provides related health messages. The higher the number, the greater the health risk associated with the air quality. The AQHI is calculated based on the relative risks of a combination of common air pollutants that is known to harm human health. These pollutants are ground-level ozone, particulate matter

and nitrogen dioxide. During the year, the AQHI across the province was scored at levels 1 to 3. Air quality in the 1-3 range is considered to present a low health risk.

There are few large sources of air pollution in Prince Edward Island. Industrial sources of air pollution are regulated under the *Environmental Protection Act* Air Quality Regulations. In 2015-16, 24 air quality permits were issued by the Division. Permitted facilities included 6 industrial fuel-burning facilities; 5 incinerators; 8 asphalt plants; and 2 used-oil burners. Permit holders are required to meet ambient air contaminant ground level standards (*Environmental Protection Act* Air Quality Regulations, Schedule A).

Fifty-five complaints were received related to air quality issues - up 22 per cent over last year. As in previous years, such complaints (over 70 per cent) mostly relate to burning garbage; construction and demolition material; wood; or straw. We continue to work on strengthening the *Environmental Protection Act* Air Quality Regulations to reduce emissions from commercial and industrial wood or straw burning units.

Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Programs

The Government of Prince Edward Island, led by the Climate Change and Air Quality unit, continues to collaborate with the Atlantic Provinces and the UPEI Climate Research Lab as a member of the Atlantic Climate Adaptation Solutions Association (ACASA). ACASA concluded its program of funding under the Regional Adaptation Collaborative II (RAC II), an initiative of Natural Resources Canada.

Projects completed under this program in 2015-16 included the following:

- the development of a PEI Coastal Property Guide,
- support for UPEI's ongoing coastal erosion monitoring program,
- support for UPEI's international conference on Climate Change and Culture (May 2015),
- support for a regional conference on climate change and infrastructure (February 2016),
- a workshop for local engineers on the topic of integrating future climate change in stormwater management practices (February 2016), and
- the redesign and ongoing maintenance of ACASA's website.

ACASA also completed two major regional projects, partnering with academia, the private sector, and local decision makers. In partnership with St. Francis Xavier University, and provincial and federal government stakeholders, ACASA completed a cost-benefit analysis of adaptation options at various study sites within the Atlantic region. The PEI case study sites included Tracadie Harbour and the Jacques Cartier Provincial Park.

In partnership with St. Mary's University, Dalhousie University, Nexus Coastal Resource Management Ltd., CBCL Ltd., and Risk Sciences International, ACASA developed a Coastal Community Adaptation Tool for local and municipal decision makers.

Staff conducted eight internal coastal hazard assessments of subdivision and development applications. An additional 27 assessments were conducted at the request of property owners, developers and prospective buyers of coastal property.

Staff also engaged in the development of the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change, an initiative of the Canadian First Ministers. The goal of the framework is to identify and implement action in the areas of clean technology, innovation and jobs; carbon pricing mechanisms; specific mitigation opportunities; and adaptation and climate resilience.

The initial planning to replace the 2008 PEI Climate Change Strategy began in early 2016, with two new strategies (one on mitigation, one on adaptation) set to replace the current strategy. The Section continues to be a party to the New England Governors-Eastern Canadian Premiers, collaborating with the state and provincial partners on the implementation of the regional Climate Change Action Plan.

Hazardous Materials

Commercial and industrial hazardous waste is regulated by the *Environmental Protection Act* Waste Resource Management Regulations. Generators, carriers, and receivers of hazardous waste are required to register with the Department. At the end of 2015-16, 13 new hazardous waste generators were registered, along with five new hazardous waste carriers. Carriers of hazardous waste continue to report the amount of waste shipped from the province for proper disposal and or recycling.

Excluding petroleum, 26 complaints over hazardous materials were received by the Department. These included spills or discharges of chemicals (e.g., ammonia, industrial solvents).

Ozone Layer Protection Programs

Ozone depleting substances (ODS) are regulated by the *Environmental Protection Act* Ozone Layer Protection Regulations. All persons handling ODS must register with the Department, and those purchasing ODS must be licensed by the Department. In 2015-16, 163 handlers were registered with the Department, and 65 licenses were issued for the purchase of ozone depleting substances.

The Division received 11 reports of unintentional releases or leaks of ozone depleting substances. These reports were made by registered handlers in compliance with the Ozone Layer Protection Regulations.

Towards the end of the fiscal year, the administration of this program will be moved to the Inspection Services Section.

Pesticide Regulatory Program

The Pesticide Regulatory Program is responsible for the administration of the *Pesticides Control Act* and Regulations. This legislation is designed to safeguard human health and protect the natural environment of the Province.

The Pesticide Regulatory Program licenses commercial pesticide applicators and businesses and permits purchasing pesticide products. The following licenses and permits were issued in 2015-16:

- 37 pesticide application business licenses,
- 14 domestic pesticide vendor business licenses,
- 25 non-domestic pesticide vendor business licenses,
- 24 pesticide purchase permits, and
- 25 pesticide application permits (primarily for biting fly control).

All pesticide applicators are certified by the Department through examinations. Agricultural applicators can renew their certification by participating in continuing education sessions offered by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry. In 2015-16, 316 exams were administered and 276 continuing education credits awarded. In total, 354 pesticide applicator certificates were issued. Pesticide vendors were also certified by the Department through examination. In 2015-16, 17 vendor certificates were issued.

Last year, municipal legislation was amended giving any municipality the authority to regulate non-domestic lawn care pesticides. The Town of Stratford and the Town of Cornwall subsequently approved cosmetic pesticide bylaws which came into effect in 2016. Program staff offered training opportunities for staff from these municipalities.

Pesticide sales data from 2013 and 2014 were compiled and released to the public. Staff continues to work on the compilation of 2015 information.

The Department of Communities, Land and Environment, led by the Climate Change and Air Quality Section, conducted a regulatory review of the *Pesticides Control Act* and General Regulations. A committee was established to conduct this review, with representatives from the Environment Division, the Department of Justice and Public Safety, and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. The review was conducted with four principles in mind: functionality (legislation accomplishes the Department's mission); credibility (legislation is based on sound science); clarity (legislation is clear and understandable); and efficiency (legislation achieves objectives with the lowest regulatory burden for clients). Forty clauses of the Act and regulations were reviewed, and 15 were flagged for amendments and or further consultations. Amendments are expected to be in place before the 2017 growing season.

At least, 106 complaints over pesticides were received by the Division. Most of these complaints were related to the application of agricultural pesticides. Approximately, 20 per cent were related to the use of lawn care pesticides (slightly less than in previous years).

Other Activities

Staff in this section worked to maintain and update content on the Division's website. They also participated in the provincial web renewal project and working to migrate divisional content to the government.

Inspection Services Section

The Inspection Services Section is responsible for the provision of a coordinated and integrated delivery of regulations and codes aimed at protecting public health, safety and the natural environment. The subject areas involved include; land use regulations pertinent to subdivision and development; Acts and Regulations for the Canadian Electrical Code; Canadian Elevator Safety Code; Amusement Device Codes; National Plumbing Code; American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) codes for boiler and pressure vessels safety; and building standards for barrier-free design (National Building Code of Canada).

The section brought in a total of \$1,218,587 in revenue in the report year 2015-2016 in licenses, applications, permits and inspection fees. The staffing framework of the Inspection Services Section consists of a Manager of Inspection Services, Supervisor of Administration and Customer Services, five Chief Officers and 26 technical and regulatory personnel.

The section delivers its programs and services through the following operational work units

- Administration and Customer Services;
- Boiler and Pressure Vessels Unit (including Plumbing and Petroleum Storage Tanks);
- Building and Development Unit;
- Electrical Unit; and
- Elevator and Amusement Device Unit.

Administration and Customer Services Unit

The Administration and Customer Services Unit is a front line, easy access, service delivery operation located in the J. Elmer Blanchard Building at 31 Gordon Drive in Charlottetown. Staff includes a supervisor and five safety standards' technicians who provide a broad range of services to contractors, including building, septic, electrical, plumbing, boiler, home heat tank, elevator, and amusement ride inspection areas as well as to land surveyors and the general public.

This work unit is responsible for all data collection, information processing and distribution of applications, permits and licenses required to meet minimum safety standards. Staff meets with clients to provide information and guidance in the regulatory requirements and complexities of preparing applications and other relevant documentation necessary for the direct delivery and administration of Divisional programs. Staff is responsible for financial and administrative transactions including the collection and handling of all revenue as well as the management of files and records for Inspection Services. Cross training of staff is on-going and continues to reap benefits through the realization of efficiency and excellence in client service delivery.

Boiler, Pressure Vessel and Plumbing Unit

This unit, staffed by a Chief Inspector and eight inspectors, administers the *Boilers and Pressure Vessels Act* and Regulations, *Power Engineers Act* and Regulations and the *Environmental Protection Act* Home Heat Tanks Regulations, Petroleum Storage Tank Regulations and A Code for Plumbing Services Regulations. The primary objective is to ensure

the protection of life and property where boilers, pressure vessels, liquified petroleum gas and compressed natural gas are being used. Services are provided out of the Charlottetown office and Access PEI sites in Summerside and Montague. Public health and safety is also protected through administration of the *Environmental Protection Act* Code for Plumbing Services Regulations, which adopts the National Plumbing Code.

The unit also provides the following services on an ongoing basis:

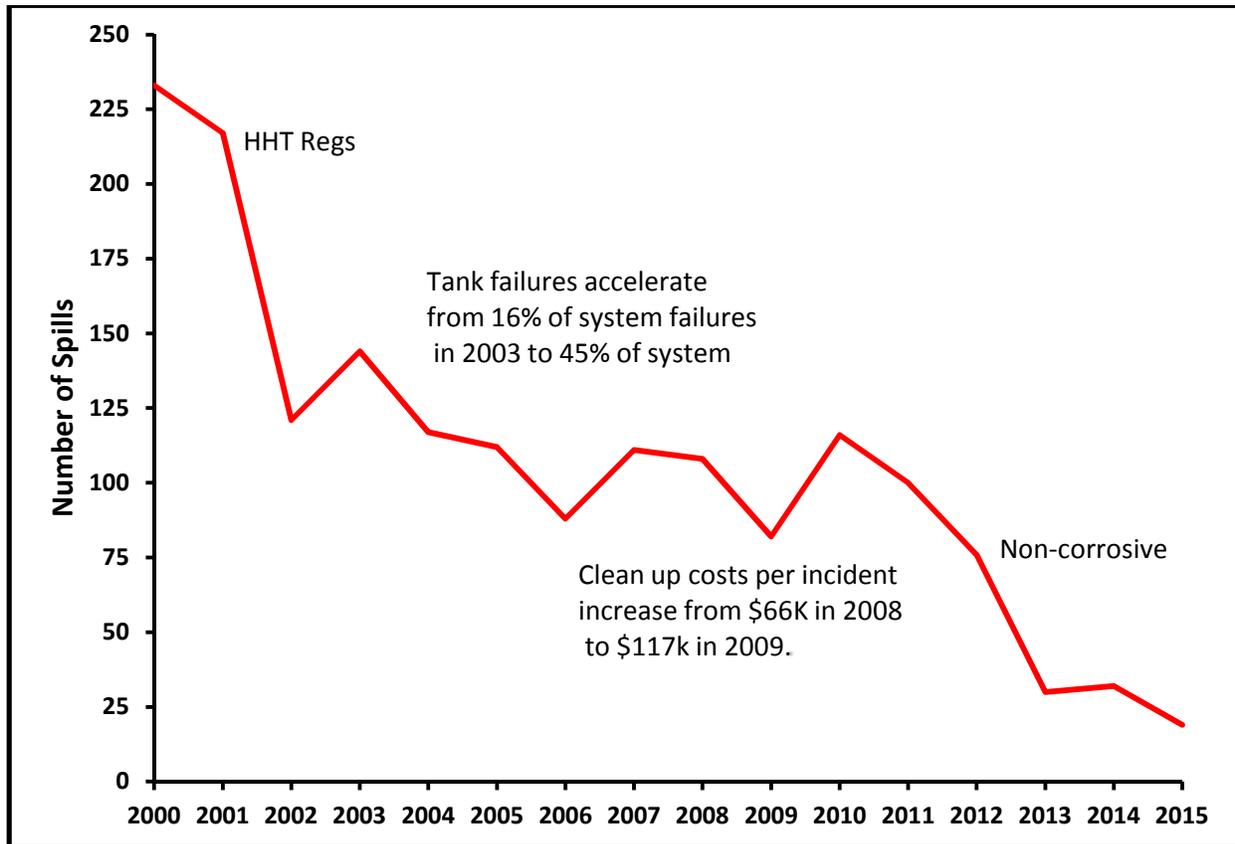
- design review and registration for boilers, pressure vessels, pressure piping and fittings;
- testing, inspection, and issue of certificates for boilers and pressure vessels;
- review and registration of welding procedures, and qualification testing of welders and brazers;
- registering quality control manuals and licensing mechanical contractors;
- approval and registration of plans for LP and CN Gas systems, random inspection of consumer sites, plants and vehicles, and the issuance of repair orders;
- examination, certification and licensing of personnel involved in handling propane gas including fabrication, installation, and repair;
- examination, certification and licensing of power engineers and registration of power plan; and
- review and issue of plumbing permits, inspections and testing of plumbing systems and licensing of plumbing contractors.

Activities undertaken by this unit during fiscal 2015–2016.

Activity	Nos.
Design Registrations: Boilers, Pressure Vessels, Pressure Piping, and fittings	868
Inspection and Investigation: Boilers and Pressure Vessels	1502
LP Gas Bulk Trucks, Plants, Consumer Sites, Pressure Tests and Re-inspection	310
LP Gas Permits Issued	179
Accidents	1
Injuries Fatalities	0
Potential Hazards Boilers and Pressure Vessels and LP Gas	250
LP Gas Certified Personnel: Bulk Plant Operator, Dispenser Operator, Tank Truck Operator, Domestic Gas Fitter, Cargo Line Operator and Industrial Gas Fitter	294
LP Gas Examinations Conducted	10
Licensed Power Engineer's: First, Second, Third and Fourth Class	291
Refrigeration License Class A & B	25
Power Engineer's Examinations Conducted	122
Registered Plants Requiring Licensed Power Engineers	51
Registered Welding/Brazing Procedures	310
Welders/Brazers Certified	120
Home Heat Tank Installers Licenses	112
Petroleum Storage Tank Contractors (Level 1 and 2)	25
Registered Mechanical Contractors	103
Plumbing Permit Activity: Plumbing Permits Issued	539

Home Heat Tank Program

Through the work of the Inspection Services Section, the Division continues to lead the country in preventive efforts to avoid petroleum spills from home heat tank systems. In 2015, the Division recorded a record low, with only 19 spills related to home heat tank operation.



The Division continues to research new methods to further decrease the number of oil spills in the province.

Fees Collected - Boiler, Pressure Vessel and Plumbing Unit

Boiler Inspection Fees	\$252,476
Power Engineer and Propane Fees	\$13,169
LP Gas Permits	\$18,215
Plumbing Permit Fees	\$92,388
Plumbing License Fees	\$4,050
Petroleum Storage Tank Fees	\$5,500
Total Revenue	\$385,798

Building, Development and Subdivision Unit

This unit is staffed by a Chief Officer, seven Safety Standards Officers and two part-time Officers. The unit administers the *Planning Act* and Subdivision and Development Regulations, *Roads Act* Highway Access Regulations, *Building Code Act* Barrier Free Design Regulations and the *Environmental Protection Act* Sewage Disposal Regulations and Water Well Regulations. These regulations provide minimum requirements for building and development; on-site sewage disposal; well construction; highway access; barrier free design; and the subdivision of land. Officers administer the regulations from headquarters in Charlottetown and from Access PEI Centres in Montague, Summerside, O'Leary and Souris. They assist clients through the development approval process including consultation, site planning, site assessment and compliance with the regulations.

Development and Septic Unit

In fiscal 2015-2016, a total of 1,777 permits were approved for development and septic systems. Of the total permits approved, 808 were structures and 969 were septic systems. Development permit approvals increased 13 per cent compared to 2014-2015. There was a 25 per cent increase in permits issued for new residential dwelling units, while summer cottages saw an increase of 16 per cent.

The following table shows permits issued and application fees received for building and sewage in the four regions served.

Location (Region)	Permits Issued		Fees Collected	
	Development Permits	Septic Permits/ Registered Doc	Development Fees	Septic Fees
Montague/Souris	194	133		
Charlottetown	276	216		
Summerside	209	109		
O'Leary	129	78		
Totals	808	536	\$170,840	\$72,100
TOTAL (All Areas)	1,777		\$242,940	

The following table shows a breakdown in the percentages of development permits issued for various uses by region. The miscellaneous permits include other structures not listed in the permit type.

Permit Type	Ch'town	Montague/ Souris	Summerside	O'Leary	Nos. of Permits	Per cent
Residential	88	44	56	35	223	28
Mobile Homes	16	24	11	14	65	8
Summer Cottages	51	29	47	33	160	20
Rental Cottages	2		1		3	0.3
Industrial/ Commercial	9	19	10	10	48	6
Private Garage/ Storage	79	53	58	23	213	26
Agricultural Development	27	7	14	12	60	7.4
Miscellaneous	4	18	12	2	36	4.4
TOTAL	276	194	209	129	808	100

The following table shows Development Permits issued by region for new single family dwellings (sfd) and summer cottages (sum) from 2009-2016.

Location	2009- 2010		2010- 2011		2010- 2012		2012- 2013		2013- 2014		2014- 2015		2015- 2016	
	sfd	sum												
Montague/ Souris	41	38	55	26	42	19	41	23	46	26	38	27	68	29
Charlottetown	122	46	103	49	100	76	96	65	127	53	85	39	104	51
Summerside	35	35	48	32	71	39	61	53	50	42	56	53	67	47
O'Leary	4	4	19	6	30	17	36	15	23	16	38	15	49	33
TOTAL	202	123	225	113	243	151	234	156	246	137	217	134	288	160

Subdivisions

During fiscal 2015-2016, a total of 450 applications were received and filed for subdivisions. Application fees received in the report year amounted to \$55,942. Final approval was granted for 330 subdivisions containing a total of 435 lots. This represented a 30 per cent increase in the total number of lots approved from the previous fiscal year. Lots approved for single family dwellings remained unchanged, while lots for summer cottages were up by 54 per cent.

The following table shows, by region, the number of subdivision applications (App), subdivision approvals and applications for site assessments, applications cancelled, denied and pending.

Location	Subdiv'n Appl.	Applications Approved	Site Assess	Cancelled Appl.	Denied Appl.	Pending Appl./ Other	Preliminary Approvals
Montague/Souris	109	74	8	7	2	20	6
Charlottetown	167	122	31	8	1	35	1
Summerside	94	63	12	6	0	21	4
O'Leary	80	71	8	2	0	5	2
TOTAL	450	330	59	23	3	81	13

The following table shows the locations and the use of lots created through subdivision approvals

Location	Single Family	Summer Cottage	Industrial/ Commercial	Agriculture	Misc.	Total
Montague/ Souris	1	20	6	20	63	110
Charlottetown	1	27	12	25	93	158
Summerside	0	13	4	10	77	104
O'Leary	0	1	1	11	50	63
TOTAL	2	61	23	66	283	435

The following table shows lots approvals for single family dwellings (sfd) and summer cottages (sum) from fiscal years 2010-2016.

Location	2010-2011		2011-2012		2012-2013		2013-2014		2014-2015		2015-2016	
	sfd	sum										
Montague/ Souris	44	11	36	8	19	4	42	9	3	6	1	20
Charlottetown	91	11	73	22	61	8	86	21	3	9	1	27
Summerside	41	7	39	8	38	4	46	13	0	5	0	13
O'Leary	25	2	19	5	20	2	25	4	0	8	0	1
TOTAL	201	31	167	43	138	18	199	47	6	28	2	61

Electrical Unit

The staff in this unit is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the *Electrical Inspection Act* and Regulations. Regulations under the *Electrical Inspection Act* govern the licensing of Electrical Contractors and adoption of the Canadian Electrical Code application to electrical construction wiring and electrical products. Through the adoption of the Canadian Electrical Code and Regulations, the Province establishes minimum safety requirements for the installation and maintenance of electrical equipment. The section is staffed by a Chief Electrical Inspector and three full time electrical inspectors. They provide service in all the regional areas of PEI. Staff in this unit is also trained to conduct electrical fire investigations.

The following table shows the activities undertaken by this unit during the report year.

Electrical Permits/Licenses 2015 -2016

Electrical Installation Permits Issued	3190
Power Connection Permits Issued	2480
Electrical Contractors Licensed	153
Special Licenses	6
Restricted Licenses	31

Fees

Electrical Unit Fees Collected	\$307,091
Electrical Contractor Licenses Fees	\$45,315
Total	\$352,406

Elevator and Amusement Device Unit

This unit is staffed by a Chief Officer and an Elevator Inspector. The unit is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the *Elevators and Lifts Act* and Regulations and the *Amusement Devices Act* and Regulations. The regulations under the *Elevators and Lifts Act* adopt the CSA Safety Code for Elevators which provides for public safety in the operation of elevators and lifts. The Act and Regulations govern the operation of amusement devices to minimize the possibility of accidents and injuries for users of such devices.

The following table shows the activities undertaken by this unit during the report year.

Elevator Certificates, Inspections, Licenses 2015 -2016

Annual Elevator Inspections	614
New Elevator Installations	7
Contractors Licenses (every 3 years)	2
Installer Licenses (every 3 years)	5
Amusement Device Inspections	94

Fees

Elevator Fees Collected	\$127,819
Amusement Device Fees Collected	\$8,110
Total Fees Collected	\$135,929

Beverage Container Management Section

The Beverage Container Program is responsible for the administration of the *Beverage Container Act* (2008) and the operation of a system for the recovery and recycling of used beverage containers (non-refillables.) In Prince Edward Island, approximately 65 million recyclable containers are purchased per year. Privately operated Beverage Container Depots recover over 50 million containers annually - a recovery rate of approximately 80 per cent - and among the most effective and cost efficient programs in North America.

Aluminum cans account for approximately 56 per cent of all containers sold, while PET plastic containers contribute another 31 per cent. Aluminum is baled and sold to Novelis Corporation; plastic containers are processed by Nova PET in Amherst, Nova Scotia for reuse in containers and clothing, while glass is processed in Prince Edward Island for use as aggregate.

The Beverage Container Program issues over \$2.5 million dollars per year in consumer refunds and invests over \$3 million dollars per year with local businesses to help reduce road side litter by placing a value on discarded beverage containers and diverting over five million pounds of material from our landfills.

Departmental Financial Summary 2015-2016

Expenditure	Original Budget	Actual Yr. Total
SUMMARY		
Forests, Fish and Wildlife	6,006,300	6,071,848
Provincial Planning & Municipal Affairs	862,000	778,977
Environment	13,083,200	12,725,412
Minister's/Deputy Minister's Office	319,600	227,195
	20,271,100	19,803,432
DETAIL		
Forests, Fish and Wildlife		
Division Management	346,800	324,151
Forest Fire Protection	162,700	250,418
Production Development	1,022,300	1,004,075
Fish and Wildlife	1,177,400	1,146,447
Resource Inventory & Modeling	421,500	410,195
Field Services East	784,800	838,826
Field Services West	493,400	522,871
Field Services Administration	1,597,400	1,574,865
	6,006,300	6,071,848
Provincial Planning and Community Affairs		
Provincial Planning	293,100	274,848
Administration	568,900	504,129
	862,000	778,977
Environment		
Climate Change and Air Management	589,400	530,667
Environment Division Administration	742,300	946,270
Watershed and Subdivision Planning	2,114,800	1,890,010
Drinking Water & Wastewater Management	490,600	456,692
Microbiology & Chemistry Laboratories	759,600	755,061
Inspection Services	2,016,000	1,976,547
Environmental Land Management	777,800	751,943
Beverage Container Management	5,592,700	5,418,222
	13,083,200	12,725,412
Department Management		
Minister's/Deputy Minister's Office	319,600	227,195
TOTAL	20,271,100	19,803,432

Revenue	Original Budget	Actual Yr. Total
Forests, Fish, and Wildlife		
Federal	0	46,998
Wildlife Conservation Fee	175,000	158,021
Fish and Game Licenses	130,000	108,608
Firearm Safety Administration	10,500	11,900
Forestry Sales	132,000	182,625
J.F.Gaudet Tree Nursery	125,400	81,047
Forestry Check off	80,000	65,618
Forestry Establishment Fees	30,000	25,070
Other Revenue	96,000	201,500
	778,900	881,387
Environment		
Shellfish Monitoring	184,000	184,030
Waste Resource Management	132,000	135,080
Water Testing Fees	544,000	620,387
Sub-Division Permits	75,000	61,382
Sewage Disposal Permits	40,000	54,275
Building Permits	258,000	170,840
Electrical Inspection Licenses	50,000	45,315
Electrical Inspection Fees	307,000	307,091
Plumbing Permits	140,000	92,388
Boiler Inspection Fees	260,300	302,636
Engineer Fees	60,000	55,085
Elevator Inspection Fees	109,200	127,891
Extended Producer Responsibility Program	65,000	65,000
Registered Documents-Sewer Inspections	50,000	51,200
Environmental Attributes	1,064,800	636,782
Other Revenue	366,600	362,042
	3,705,900	3,271,424
TOTAL	4,484,800	4,152,811

For more information

More information about the department can be found on the 'Communities, Land and Environment' website at <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/topic/communities-land-and-environment>.

