



*Agriculture and Fisheries*  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

2016-2017





Prince Edward Island  
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

# Annual Report 2016-2017

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Prepared by: Policy, Planning & FPT Relations Section  
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Contact: [agri-feedback@gov.pe.ca](mailto:agri-feedback@gov.pe.ca)



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## Minister's Message

The Honourable Antoinette Perry  
Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island  
P.O. Box 2000  
Charlottetown, PE C1A 7N8



May it Please Your Honour:

I have the honour to submit herewith the Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

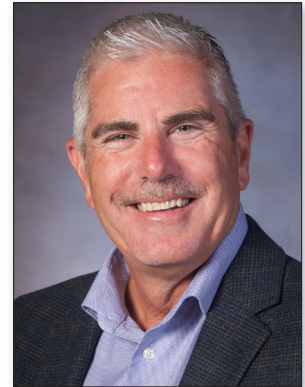
A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert Henderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert Henderson  
Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries

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## Deputy's Minister's Message

The Honourable Robert Henderson  
Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries



Sir:

I am pleased to submit the Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2017.

The report outlines the department's activities from April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

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

John Jamieson  
Deputy Minister  
Agriculture and Fisheries

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## Introduction

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries works to advance Prince Edward Island's primary industries and its approach to food development, production and sales. The department's responsibilities include:

- Supporting the growth and sustained development of all elements of agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture on Prince Edward Island to ensure economic and community prosperity and job creation, including strategies that encourage new product and new market developments;
- Actively protecting, through leading science and community engagement, the means of ensuring the ongoing strength of our resource sectors and the promotion of environmental stewardship;
- Contributing to the Prince Edward Island sales effort through the active participation of leading producers and processors of primary resources; and
- Collaborating with the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism in the Canada's Food Island Strategy by ensuring active engagement of farmers, fishers, and processors and linking to market and product development opportunities that place Prince Edward Island among the world leaders in food production and innovation.



## Key Areas of Focus for 2016-2017

- Public engagement was a key area of focus for 2016-2017. In preparation for the Canadian Agriculture Partnership (CAP) with the federal government, the department undertook several in-person, group and online consultation activities in English and in French to gather input from clients and stakeholders to inform policies and programs under the CAP.
- The department implemented a reorganization of its Divisions. The purpose of the reorganization was to further integrate divisions and units which had historically operated separately from one another. The reorganization therefore promoted a more horizontal and coordinated approach to the management of programs and services for clients. Included in this reorganization was the addition of a Rural Development Division.<sup>1</sup>
- The department added a full-time position of an Aquaculture and Fisheries Policy Coordinator to its existing human resources. The addition of this position has increased the department's capacity to research and coordinate strategic initiatives in support of the aquaculture and fisheries industries on PEI.

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<sup>1</sup> Note: On February 15, 2017, pursuant to subsection 5(1) of the *Public Departments Act*, the Lieutenant-Governor in Council approved the transfer of responsibility for all statutes, powers, duties and functions of the Rural Economic Development Division from the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries (Department of Agriculture and Fisheries) to the Minister of Rural and Regional Development (Department of Rural and Regional Development).



## Expenditures and Revenue Summary

Division	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Actual Expenditures / Revenue
<b>EXPENDITURE BUDGET</b>			
Department Management	637,400	587,700	528,062
Farm Business Risk Management	13,502,700	12,833,600	12,653,638
Agriculture Resource Division	10,256,900	10,641,600	10,234,598
Agriculture Policy and Regulatory Division	2,436,000	1,976,000	1,898,940
PEI Analytical Laboratories	1,394,200	1,481,200	1,464,209
Marine Fisheries & Seafood Services	1,561,400	1,479,000	1,431,828
Aquaculture	1,373,600	1,420,600	1,302,937
Rural Development	1,803,000	1,426,300	1,381,994
Total Expenditure	32,965,200	31,846,000	30,896,206
<b>REVENUE BUDGET</b>			
Department Management	4,029,500	3,922,600	3,922,727
Farm Business Risk Management	1,675,000	1,791,500	1,830,077
Agriculture Resource Division	29,000	79,000	81,713
Agriculture Policy and Regulatory Division	262,400	203,200	202,922
PEI Analytical Laboratories	496,800	579,200	620,873
Marine Fisheries & Seafood Services	45,000	50,000	50,545
Aquaculture	0	0	9,000
Rural Development	155,000	110,000	120,668
Total Revenue	6,692,700	6,735,500	6,838,525
<b>TOTAL NET</b>	<b>26,272,500</b>	<b>25,110,500</b>	<b>24,057,681</b>

Financial information is based on the 2016/17 Public Accounts.

## Divisions Overview

### Corporate and Financial Services Division

The department's Corporate and Financial Services Division is part of the Department of Finance and has been assigned to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to support the financial management and other key corporate services. The division provides financial, budget and administrative management for the department. This division is responsible to assist management and other personnel with the budget process and regular financial reviews. As well, this division has the overall responsibility for the accounts payable and accounts receivable functions including claiming activities under Federal-Provincial Agreements. Additionally, the division provides on-going support to departmental users of the ORACLE Financial Information System.

### *Human Resource Section*

The department's Human Resources Section is part of the PEI Public Service Commission and has been assigned to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to provide direction, leadership, advice, coaching, and support with regard to all aspects of human resources and labour relations. The section ensures that human resource policies and programs are consistent and aligned with the department's strategic direction, while also supporting the department in advancing its mandate. It provides a full range of human resource services and support including human resource planning, classification, recruitment and selection, payroll, occupational health and safety, the employee assistance program, the diversity program, learning and development, and French language training.

Annual Report: 2016-2017 HR as of March 31, 2017			
<i>Division</i>	<i>Full Time</i>	<i>Part Time</i>	<i>Total</i>
Corporate Office	8	0	8
Policy and Agriculture Resources	30	1	31
Aquaculture and PEI Analytical Laboratory	19	15	34
Marine Fisheries, Agri-food, Seafood and Regulatory	17	3	20
Farm Business Risk	25	6	31
Rural and Regional Development	14	2	16
TOTAL	113	27	140

## Demographics

	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>
Average Age	46.25	50.45
Gender Distribution	55%	45%
25 Years of Service and Over	17.5%	33.5%

### **Human Resources, Areas of focus for 2016-2017:**

- ✓ Continued focus on talent development and planning (3 customized learning opportunities, 10 independent applications)
- ✓ Increased hires from the Diversity Program (2 hires)
- ✓ Established an Occupational Health and Safety Committee at the Agriculture Insurance Corporation
- ✓ Supported customized learning sessions on LEAN and Six Sigma Principals (13 projects)
- ✓ In conjunction with the department's Policy Section:
  - Developed strategies to improve overall employee engagement
  - Supported Gender and Diversity Analysis (GBA+) training for staff; and
  - Developed strategies for increasing bilingual positions (utilized program funding);



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## Policy and Agriculture Resources Division

The Policy and Agriculture Resources Division has a wide ranging mandate which includes delivery of farm extension and sustainable resource programs and services for the department; management of Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) planning; policy and program development and evaluation; stakeholder engagement; representation on Assistant Deputy Minister agriculture/agri-food policy and regulatory committees; domestic and foreign trade analysis; and assurance systems (on-farm food safety; traceability; biosecurity; and emergency preparedness). The Policy and Agriculture Resources Division is comprised of three sections: the Policy, Planning & FPT Relations Section; the Sustainable Agriculture Section; and the Agriculture Industry Development Section.

### ***Policy, Planning and FPT Relations Section***

The Policy Section manages the planning, development, and implementation of agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries, and rural planning policies and programs and provides evidence-based research advice to the Minister, Deputy Minister and staff. The section supports statistical reporting, stakeholder engagement activities, strategic planning, program evaluation, and the management of horizontal initiatives.

#### ***Policy Section, Areas of focus for 2016-2017:***

- ✓ The development of an FPT multi-lateral framework agreement for the agriculture sector on PEI with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- ✓ Support for the development of an Atlantic Fisheries Fund with Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- ✓ In-person, group, and online consultations in English and in French with the public, clients, and industry to inform the development of strategic agriculture programs
- ✓ Training activities to increase the Section's capacity to undertake rigorous program development using evidence-based research, evaluations, logic models, theory of change, qualitative and quantitative research, survey development, and project management techniques

### ***Sustainable Agriculture Section***

This section supports the agriculture sector in contributing to the priorities of clean soil, water and air resources, improved biodiversity, food safety, traceability and biosecurity by encouraging producers to voluntarily implement beneficial management practices (BMPs) and on-farm assurance systems through delivery of the Agriculture Stewardship, Future Farmer, and Assurance Systems programs.

The section provides technical assistance and advice related to soil conservation, integrated pest management, developing successful and sustainable farm operations and addressing risk related but not limited to: on-farm and post-farm food safety; animal welfare; biosecurity; traceability; animal/plant health; emergency management; quality assurance; and surveillance.

#### ***Sustainable Agriculture Section, Areas of focus for 2016-2017:***


- ✓ Soil health education projects (e.g., development of soil health testing and interpretation of island soils)
- ✓ Soil erosion control structure projects
- ✓ Concentrated flow analysis of producer fields to identify locations for grass waterways
- ✓ Integrated pest management projects related to wireworm issues
- ✓ Assurance systems projects
- ✓ Continued uptake of the Future Farmer Program

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### ***Agriculture Industry Development Section***

This section provides resources to support agriculture industry development. Development Officers with crop and livestock commodity expertise are available to work with producers and partner with industry organizations and commodity groups on specific production related topics, industry development projects, on-farm innovative technology demonstrations, and applied research trials. In addition, the section is involved with the delivery of program funding.

#### ***Agriculture Industry Development, Areas of focus for 2016-2017:***

- ✓ Educational extension workshops and knowledge transfer events (e.g., Potato Day, Cereals & Oilseeds Workshop, FireBlight in Apples Training, Pesticide Continuing Education Training, Crop Scouting Workshops, Combine Clinic, Wireworm Seminar)
  - ✓ Delivery of Growing Forward II Programs (in the areas of Research, Innovation, Business Development, Livestock Development, and Organic Industry Development)
  - ✓ Industry development with agricultural commodity groups and organizations, agri-business and agri processors
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## Aquaculture and PEI Analytical Laboratory Division

The Aquaculture and PEI Analytical Laboratory Division works to sustainably develop the aquaculture and shellfish industries while supporting agriculture clients with best management agricultural practices through high quality laboratory analysis of dairy, feed, soils and plant disease diagnostics. The Aquaculture and PEI Analytical Laboratory Division is comprised of two sections: the Aquaculture Section and the PEI Analytical Laboratories Section.

### ***Aquaculture Section***

The Aquaculture Section conducts a wide spectrum of activities in support of the aquaculture and estuarine shellfishing industries. The role of the section is to provide quality advice, assistance and information to support the sustainable development of both industries. The section acts as an advocate for the PEI aquaculture and shellfishing industries, and participates on a variety of committees with the federal, provincial and territorial governments and industry associations. The section is responsible for the delivery of both financial and technical programs in support of the sustainable development of the aquaculture and shellfishery sectors. Programs are designed to support sustainable growth, promote innovation, and support development and applied research. The section is also responsible for the delivery of monitoring programs that provide technical information required by industry.

#### ***Aquaculture Section, Areas of focus for 2016-2017:***

- ✓ Renewed funding for the Aquaculture Technology Program and the Aquaculture Futures Program
- ✓ Renewed funding for the Shellfish Enhancement Program
- ✓ Renewed funding for the Quality Oyster Aquaculture Program
- ✓ The announcement of a \$325 million federal/provincial investment in Atlantic Canada fisheries and aquaculture
- ✓ Continued support for industry through the Mussel Monitoring Program and the Oyster Monitoring Program
- ✓ Continued engagement through the Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers committees and task groups
- ✓ Contracted a veterinarian to provide services to support Prince Edward Island finfish operations in meeting the requirements to transfer fish from and into the other Atlantic Provinces and beyond
- ✓ Partnered with industry, federal and provincial government, and academia on field-based applied research trials to sustainably grow shellfish products, including examining water quality and optimal shellfish growing environments

### ***PEI Analytical Laboratories Section***

Located in the Bio-Commons Park in Charlottetown, the PEI Analytical Laboratories Section allows for a sharing of staff, equipment and supplies with the Department of Communities, Land and Environment. The lab is accredited by the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) for the international standard for the competence of calibration and testing labs, ISO/IEC 17025. In 2016 the laboratory's accreditation was extended after a successful external assessment was conducted by assessors from SCC. This section has responsibilities for delivering high-quality laboratory services including:

***Dairy Lab*** – The Dairy Laboratory provides microbiological and compositional analysis of raw milk and finished dairy products.


***Plant Health Diagnostics*** – The Plant Diagnostics Laboratory provides disease identification services for commercial crops and home gardens. The laboratory operates on a seasonal basis from spring until fall.

***Soil and Feed*** – The Soil, Feed and Water testing laboratory provides chemical analysis of soil, feed, water, plant tissue, and greenhouse media.

***Water microbiology*** – The water microbiology laboratory provides microbiological analysis of drinking water, surface water and waste water.

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### **PEI Analytical Laboratories Section, Areas of focus for 2016-2017**

- ✓ Agricultural Samples Analyzed in 2016/2017:
    - Raw Milk – 297,000
    - Processed Dairy Products – 470
    - Soil – 11,600
    - Feed – 2,800
    - Leaf Tissue – 2,400
    - Seed – 360
    - Special Products – 900
  - ✓ Work on a Soil Health Project began in the laboratory in the summer of 2016. This project was undertaken in conjunction with Dalhousie University (Truro campus), Agriculture and AgriFood Canada and PEI Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. The project was based on the Comprehensive Assessment of Soil Health (CASH) framework with Cornell University in Ithaca, New York and it included compaction and respiration tests. Work on this project will continue in 2017 with the goal of eventually offering some of the soil health tests at the PEI Analytical Laboratories.
  - ✓ In September, 2016 the lab began offering analysis for Betahydroxybutyrate, also known as B-H-B or Ketosis, in raw milk samples.
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## Marine Fisheries, Agri-food, Seafood and Regulatory Division

The Marine Fisheries, Agri-food, Seafood and Regulatory Division is comprised of two sections: the Agri-Food & Seafood Services Section and Marine Fisheries & Regulatory Section.

### ***Agri-food and Seafood Services Section***

Agri-food services in the section includes delivering programs and expertise to assist the agri-food industry in product development, market development, and strategic industry growth initiatives. Agri-food services also includes delivering programs in support of agricultural awareness, buy local initiatives, season extension, and business development.

Seafood services in the section includes the administration of licenses pertaining to processing, buying and peddling under the Prince Edward Island Fisheries Act & Regulations. The section is responsible for gathering, compiling and publishing fisheries information including statistical data relating to the maintenance and development of commercial fishery resources. Additionally, seafood services includes developing, executing, and participating in seafood marketing and promotional activities in collaboration with industry, other government departments and agencies in local, national, and international markets.

#### ***Agri-Food and Seafood Services Section, Areas of focus for 2016-2017:***

- ✓ Support the seafood sector through strategic initiatives to address opportunities and challenges such as labour constraints, new product development and automation
- ✓ Product development assistance for agri-food processors
- ✓ Strategic investments to help grow the apple and blueberry industries
- ✓ Seafood promotional activities, including: Best of Sea, Love Our Lobster
- ✓ Market Development support for agri-food producers and processors
- ✓ Support for agriculture awareness activities, including Farm Day in the City and Open Farm Day

### ***Marine Fisheries and Regulatory Section***

Marine fisheries services includes representing the interests of Prince Edward Island fishers within the federal advisory committee process and providing advice, assistance and programs for the commercial fishing industry. This section collaborates with industry, other government departments and agencies on scientific research projects and initiatives to assess the commercial fishery resources. Marine Fisheries coordinates the Lobster Resource Monitoring Program and delivers the Future Fisher Program to the benefit of industry participants.

Regulatory services includes managing the development, monitoring, enforcement and collection of information relating to the legislation for which the department is responsible. The section undertakes the monitoring, management and control of regulated plant diseases, the enforcement of minimum planting standards, virus testing programs, measures related to seafood quality as well as animal health and protection.

#### ***Marine Fisheries and Regulatory Section, Areas of focus for 2016-2017:***

- ✓ Continued regulatory awareness initiatives to increase understanding of the new Animal Welfare Act.
- ✓ Continued support of the PEI potato industry through the Potato Wart Program and Post Harvest Testing Program.
- ✓ Worked with the various sectors of the seafood industry to improve food quality and food safety.
- ✓ Supported the PEI lobster industry through the Lobster Resource Monitoring Program.
- ✓ Completed an internal audit of the Future Fisher Program to evaluate its effectiveness and made adjustments where necessary.
- ✓ Worked with the PEI Fishermen's Association on Atlantic halibut, herring and bluefin tuna research.

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## Farm Business Risk Division

This Farm Business Risk Division is responsible for the administration of the Business Risk Management programs under the Federal Provincial Territorial Growing Forward 2 agreement. Located in Kensington, the PEI Agricultural Insurance Corporation (AIC) administers AgriInsurance, AgriStability and AgriRecovery. AIC is also responsible for AgriInvest.

**AgriInsurance** insures agricultural crops against production losses from specified perils (weather, pests, disease). It includes production insurance, color rider, un-harvested acreage rider, storage insurance, forage insurance, phytosanitary and livestock insurance.

**AgriRecovery** is a disaster assistance program and is designed to cover losses which are not covered by the other GF2 programs. The program is requested by the Province when specific disaster situations occur within the Province.

**AgriStability** offers protection against declines greater than 30% in farm income caused by circumstances such as low prices, rising input costs, and production losses.

### ***Farm Business Risk Division, Areas of focus for 2016-2017:***

- ✓ Continued application of the five-year federal-provincial guidelines for programming
- ✓ Continued participation in various federal-provincial-territorial groups which monitor business risk management programs

## Rural Development Division<sup>2</sup>

Rural Development provides support and guidance for communities to enhance the quality of life for rural Prince Edward Island residents through the growth of the economy, population, community.

### ***Rural Development Division, Areas of focus for 2016-2017:***

Provided assistance to communities across the Island to develop projects and provided \$226,000 in grants for 21 projects.

- ✓ Assisted in the administration of the Community Capacity Fund which supports not-for-profit organizations to advance planning and/or strategic capabilities related to rural development initiatives.
- ✓ Participated in internal government committees to provide a rural perspective.
- ✓ Administered the Rural Jobs Initiative with 102 placements in rural businesses and non-profit organizations across the Island.
- ✓ Facilitated in planning sessions for non-profit organizations.
- ✓ Assisted non-profit organizations to apply and obtain funding from other funding organizations, such as the New Horizons Program.

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<sup>2</sup> Note: On February 15, 2017, pursuant to subsection 5(1) of the *Public Departments Act*, the Lieutenant-Governor in Council approved the transfer of responsibility for all statutes, powers, duties and functions of the Rural Economic Development Division from the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries (Department of Agriculture and Fisheries) to the Minister of Rural and Regional Development (Department of Rural and Regional Development).





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