



Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries

ANNUAL REPORT
2022–2023

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ANNUAL REPORT 2022–2023

Province of New Brunswick
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Transmittal Letters

FROM THE MINISTER TO THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR

Her Honour The Honourable Brenda Murphy
Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick

May it please your Honour:

It is my privilege to submit the annual report of the
Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries,
Province of New Brunswick, for the fiscal year
April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,



Honourable Margaret Johnson
Minister

FROM THE DEPUTY MINISTER TO THE MINISTER

Honourable Margaret Johnson
Minister of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries

Madam:

I am pleased to be able to present the annual report
describing operations of the Department of Agriculture,
Aquaculture and Fisheries for the fiscal year
April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,



Cathy LaRochelle
Deputy Minister

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Minister's Message

The agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries sectors touch the lives of New Brunswickers every day, creating good jobs, contributing to our exports, and helping to put safe, high-quality food on our tables.

These sectors are resilient and have adapted to the global challenges we have faced over the past few years. We continue to collaborate with the New Brunswickers who work in these sectors to ensure they can rely on a range of programs and services when facing extraordinary situations.

We also continued implementing actions under the Local Food and Beverages Strategy to Grow NB, Buy NB and Feed NB. This strategy focuses on strengthening our food system and getting more local food into New Brunswick homes, businesses and public institutions.

New Brunswick continues to produce and deliver our deliciously Canadian products around the world. New Brunswickers are working every day to deliver high-quality food and beverages, grown and made with care, while preserving our land and waterways and championing sustainable practices. New Brunswick's seafood export sales totalled \$1.9B in 2022, while the agriculture and agri-food sectors finished 2022 with record agri-food exports of \$692.3M and record-high farm cash receipts of \$867.9M (excludes cannabis).

I am proud of the achievements of the department and the New Brunswickers who work in the agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries sectors. Going forward, I know we will see continued success in 2023 – 2024.



Honourable Margaret Johnson
Minister of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries

Deputy Minister's Message

The New Brunswickers who work in agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries in our province are proud of what they do. Our sectors are incredibly important to New Brunswick's economy, especially in coastal, rural and Indigenous communities. The growth of the sectors remains a priority, and we are committed to continuing to work with our industries and stakeholders to help them reach their full potential. Their work produces the high-quality food and beverages we enjoy everyday.

During the 2022 – 2023 reporting period, the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries added to its strong track record of delivering results and providing strategic support to our sectors.

In collaboration with our federal partners, we invested \$10.7M to help modernize and grow New Brunswick's fish and seafood processing, harvesting and aquaculture sectors, while \$8.5M was invested to help strengthen and grow the agriculture sector.

The New Brunswick Deliciously Canadian marketing efforts increased growth in many export markets, notably in Asia (China, South Korea, and Japan) as well as many European countries (Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, and France).

We supported the Agriculture in the Classroom program which provided New Brunswick students with agriculture-focused learning tools and lessons during the year where children were able to experience everything from growing a garden at their school to learning how different vegetables grow. I truly hope that many of these children will consider agriculture as a career option because of this innovative initiative.

These are just a few examples of the diverse accomplishments of the department during 2022 – 2023. I would like to thank departmental staff for demonstrating a high level of professionalism, dedication and passion for the work they do. This report clearly illustrates we have many reasons to be proud of our efforts and accomplishments.



Cathy LaRochelle
Deputy Minister

Government Priorities

Delivering for New Brunswickers

ONE TEAM ONE GNB

One Team One GNB is our vision as an organization and a collaborative approach to how we operate. It is our path forward, and it represents a civil service that is working collectively across departments, professions, and sectors. Together, we are learning, growing, adapting, and discovering new and innovative ways of doing business. It is enabling us to achieve the outcomes needed for New Brunswickers, and we are working more efficiently and effectively than ever before.

As *One Team One GNB*, we are improving the way government departments:

- communicate with one another,
- work side-by-side on important projects, and
- drive focus and accountability.

STRATEGY AND OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT

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

GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES

Our vision for 2022 – 2023 is a vibrant and sustainable New Brunswick. To make progress towards this vision, we must focus on our government's priorities.

- Energize private sector
- Vibrant and sustainable communities
- Affordable, responsive and high-performing government
- Dependable public health care
- World-class education, and
- Environment

Highlights

During the 2022 – 2023 fiscal year, the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries focused on these government priorities through:

- Negotiating and signing the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a new 5-year federal-provincial-territorial cost-shared suite of targeted programs to strengthen the competitiveness, sustainability, innovation, and resiliency of the agriculture, agri-food and agri-based products sector, effective April 1, 2023.
- New Brunswick's agri-food and seafood export sales totaled \$2.57B in 2022, with agri-food exports increasing by 61 per cent to reach a record-high \$692.3M, while seafood exports saw increased market diversification with growth in the European Union and Asia by 93 per cent and 67 per cent, respectively.
- Enacting the *Bee Act* and General Regulation (2023 – 13), which came into force on March 1st, 2023. The Act and Regulation modernize oversight of the bee industry and offer better regulatory protections against invasive species.
- Developing an agriculture curriculum, *Agriculture 110*, for delivery in New Brunswick Anglophone Sector High Schools. *Agriculture 110* was offered as an elective science course at 11 high schools in three Anglophone Sector school districts during the second semester of the 2022 – 2023 school year. Resources for the course are supported through a collaboration of Education and Early Childhood Development, Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries, and community partners funding. Through collaboration with Education and Early Childhood Development, *Agriculture 110* was updated based on feedback and to reflect agricultural science practices within New Brunswick. The Francophone sector is also looking to offer an agriculture course.
- Providing greater support for aquaculture development and environmental sustainability with a new *Aquaculture Act* and associated regulations.
- Celebrating the New Brunswick Aquarium and Marine Centre 40th anniversary in 2022. Many events were organized in partnership with the community to highlight this milestone. The Aquarium hosted 33,500 visitors during the 2022 season, one of the best years in overall visitors.
- Investing, along with the federal government,
 - a total of \$10.7M to help modernize and grow New Brunswick's fish and seafood processing, harvesting and aquaculture sectors. Through the Atlantic Fisheries Fund, 30 projects were approved to enhance productivity, innovation, and sustainability, enabling industry to be more efficient and adapt to meet national and international market requirements.
 - a total of \$8.5M to help strengthen and grow the agriculture sector. Through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, 976 projects were approved that supported production improvement, business development, market and product development, research and development, environmental initiatives, assurance and food safety, and educational activities.

Performance Outcomes

Outcome #1

OVERALL AGRI-FOOD AND SEAFOOD EXPORTS

Enable sector growth in the agri-food and seafood sectors by increasing exports sales outside of Canada by three per cent in 2022.

Why is it important?

Agri-food and seafood exports contribute significantly to the New Brunswick economy. Investments in promoting New Brunswick products and assisting New Brunswick companies to penetrate strategic markets should increase the overall value of exports in future years.

Overall Performance

The target for agri-food and seafood export sales was not met in 2022. Export value decreased by three per cent, due to lower sales of seafood products, as global markets encountered inflationary and consumer demand challenges, along with disruptions resulting from the war in Europe. It is important to note, however, that agri-food and seafood exports in 2022 were still above pre-COVID levels (\$2.27B in 2019). Compared to 2021, agri-food exports rose significantly by 61 per cent to a record-high \$692.3M in 2022; while seafood exports grew in the European Union and Asia by 93 per cent and 67 per cent, respectively, increasing market diversification for the seafood sector.

Initiatives or projects undertaken to achieve the outcome

The New Brunswick agri-food and seafood sector was very active in 2022, participating in 11 trade shows and seven other market development activities generating over 450 leads for exporters. The department also organized 28 promotional activities, reaching more than 12M people via social media influencers and the New Brunswick Deliciously Canadian platforms. Finally, New Brunswick shared market intelligence with the industry by organizing four workshop/seminars addressing market demand and market access requirements.

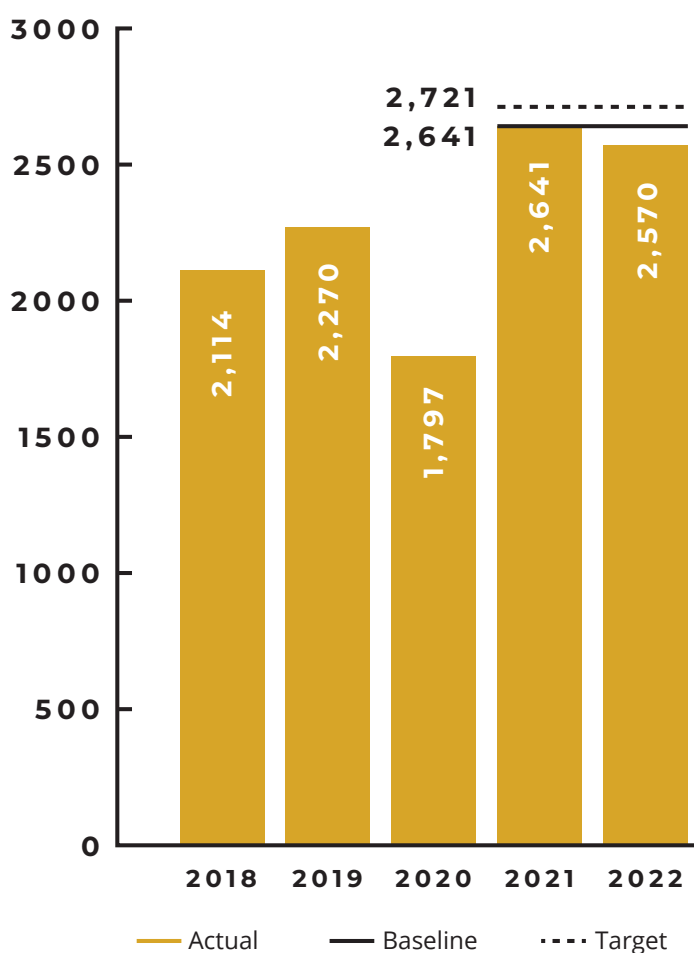
Agri-Food and Seafood Exports (\$ millions)

Baseline: \$2,641.4 million (2021)*

Target: \$2,720.6 million (3% growth from 2021)

Actual: \$2,570.0 million (3% decrease from 2021)

*updated from the 2021 – 2022 report



*2021 number revised by Statistics Canada

Outcome # 2

CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENTAL AGRICULTURE (CEA) IN NB

Enable growth in the vegetable sector by increasing the square metres of CEA facilities producing vegetables, which will in turn increase farm cash receipts and local food availability. Production is targeted at 30,000 square metres by 2024.

Why is it important?

The NB Food Self-Sufficiency Model that was developed as part of the Action Plan: Improving Food Self-Sufficiency in New Brunswick, has identified that vegetables (excluding potatoes) represent one of the largest gaps between what the province produces and consumes. In 2021, NB was only 10 per cent self-sufficient in vegetable production. This represents an opportunity for growth in CEA for new entrants, existing producers and Indigenous participants. By increasing production space in CEA, food self-sufficiency will be increased.

Overall Performance

Square meter growth in the CEA sector between 2021 and 2022 increased from 24,674 square metres to 28,224 square metres, representing a growth of over 14 per cent. Farm cash receipts of greenhouse grown vegetables grew by three per cent during the same period (from \$1.62M in 2021 to \$1.67M in 2022).

Initiatives or projects undertaken to achieve the outcome

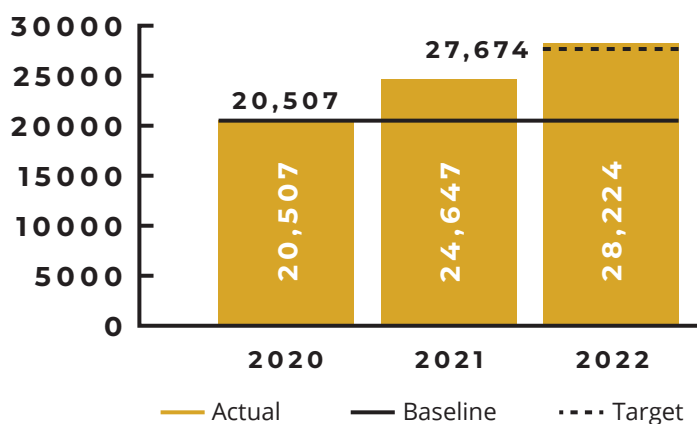
As the market for locally produced New Brunswick fruit and mixed vegetable crops has grown significantly during the past few years, so too has funding to provide support for the Fruit and Vegetable Industry Development program. In 2022, funding for the program was increased to approximately \$800,000, which netted an increase in growing space. The funding contributions were provided under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership and provincial funding.

Square Metres of Controlled Environmental Agriculture

Baseline: 20,507 square metres (2020)

Target: 27,674 square metres in 2022 (30,000 square metres by 2024 or an additional 3,000 square metres annually)

Actual: 28,224 square metres achieved in 2022



Outcome #3

FARM CASH RECEIPTS

Farm cash receipts measure the gross revenue of farm businesses in current dollars. They include export and domestic sales of crops and livestock products (except sales between farms in the same province) and program payments.

Why is it important?

Farm cash receipts are seen as a strong indicator of the health and growth of the agricultural sector. Increases in annual farm cash receipts indicate that the province is investing in the proper areas related to innovation, research and other programs deemed essential to the industry.

Overall Performance

The department exceeded the target set for 2022 – 2023 and attained \$867.9M in farm cash receipts.

Initiatives or projects undertaken to achieve the outcome

The department undertook several initiatives to increase farm cash receipts, including the following:

- Delivery of the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal-provincial-territorial program designed to provide cost-shared funding to industry in areas contributing to the agriculture sector sustainability and growth;
- Implementation of the department's Action Plan: Improving Food Self-Sufficiency in New Brunswick for a second consecutive year; and
- Continued implementation of the Local Food and Beverages Strategy.

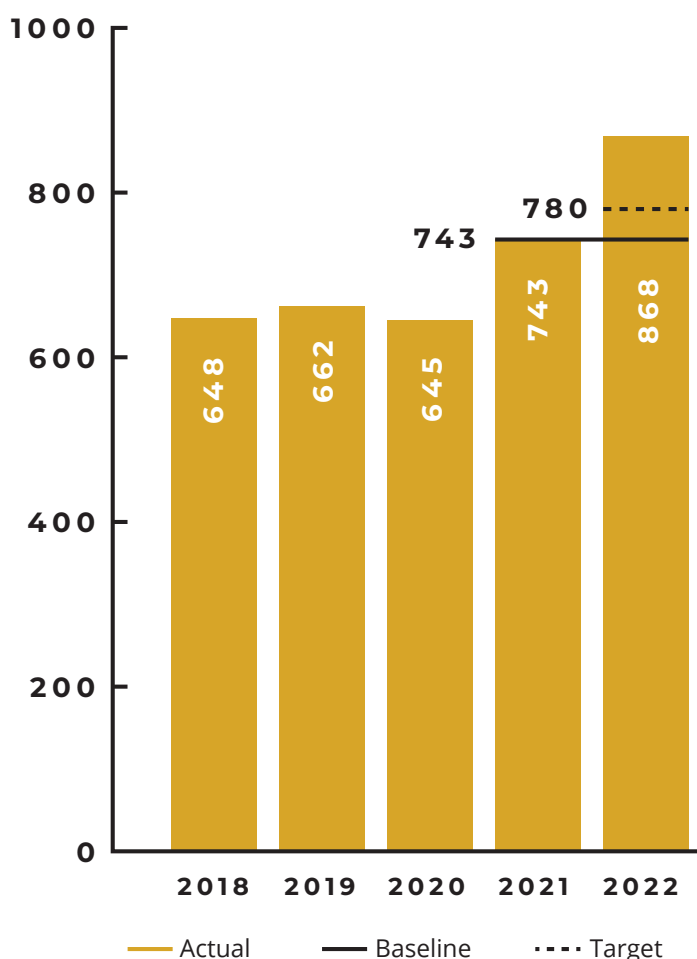
Farm Cash Receipts (\$ Millions)

Baseline: \$742.8 million (2021)

Target: \$780.0 million (5% growth from 2021)

Actual: \$867.9 million (17% increase from 2021)

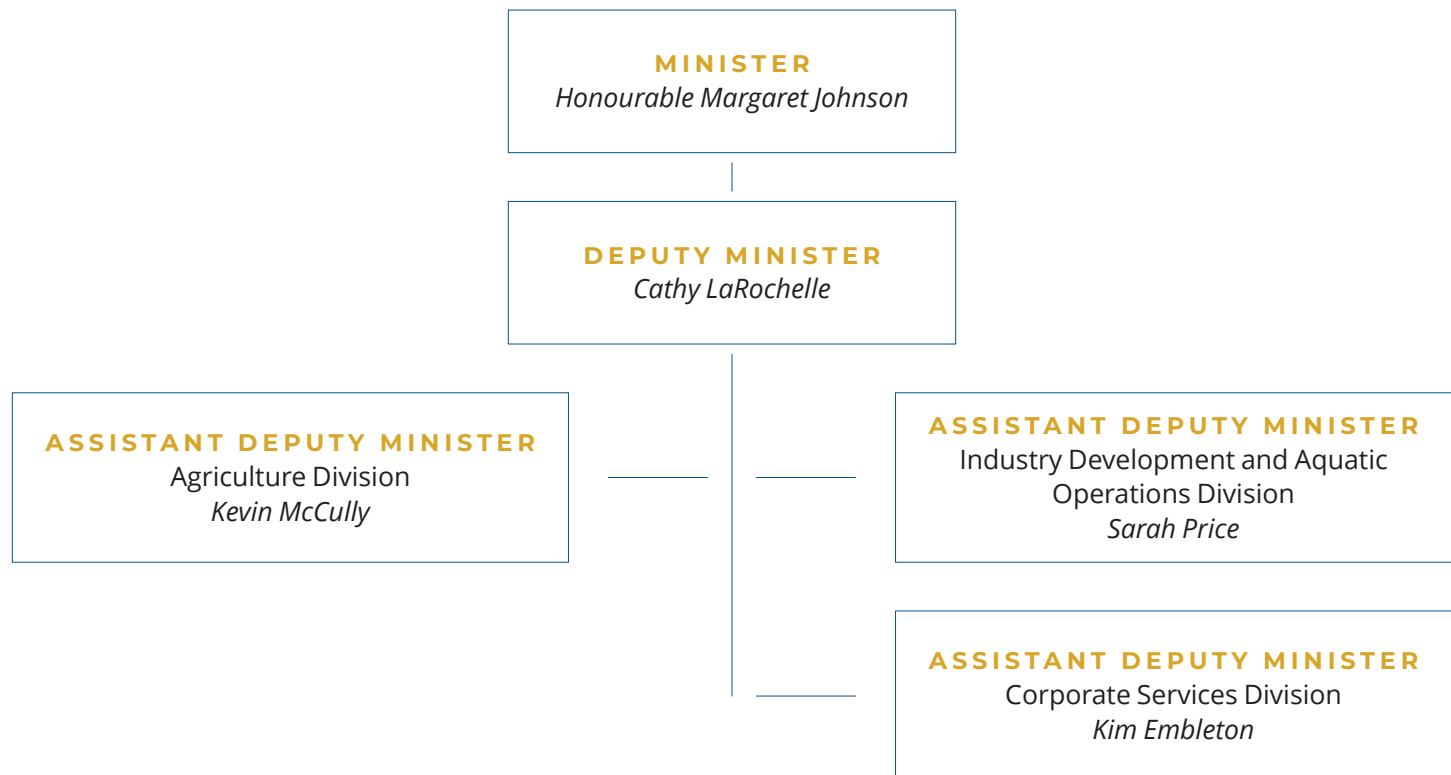
*Note: farm cash receipts exclude cannabis



Overview of Departmental Operations

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

HIGH-LEVEL ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Division Overview and Highlights

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

Please note that the budget and expenses for the common administration of the Departments of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries and Natural Resources and Energy Development are recorded in the 2022 – 2023 annual report for the Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development. The common administration applies to the Corporate Services Division.

AGRICULTURE DIVISION

The Agriculture Division is composed of four branches: Animal Health Services; Crop Sector Development; Livestock Sector Development; and Potato Sector Development.

The **Animal Health Services Branch** provides veterinary field services and laboratory diagnostic services to the livestock sector and supports important related programs for the greater public good (e.g., rabies, New Brunswick Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals). Veterinary field services provide on-farm animal health care, technical services and disease surveillance to agriculture and equine stakeholders throughout the province on a 365 day/year (24-hour basis).

Highlights

- Departmental veterinarians completed 8,310 on-farm visits and travelled over 611,000 km to all regions of the province to support the health and development of the livestock industry. The Provincial Veterinary Laboratory supported the departmental veterinarians and other clients with diagnostic work in response to over 3,300 submissions.
- Through a highly active recruitment strategy to target future veterinarian graduates, the department successfully recruited four full-time future graduates to join the department in the spring of 2023. In addition, 11 summer students were hired through the Future GNB initiative, which is the foundation for the growth and development of future large animal veterinarians in the province.

- Completed approximately 46,000 tests at the Provincial Veterinary Laboratory and Foreign Animal Disease Laboratory, including 164 tests for rabies and 182 tests for Avian Influenza. These tests support the labs' role in promoting and protecting animal health, public health, regulatory responsibilities, animal welfare and other functions related to disease surveillance and disease management/control in New Brunswick.
- Led and coordinated the dispersal of 378,950 oral rabies vaccine baits through aerial and hand distribution over 4,700 km² of western New Brunswick. This was done with the cooperation and support from the Department of Health and the Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development. There were three positive rabies cases in raccoons in 2022 – 2023.

The **Livestock Sector Development Branch** provides technical advisory services; strategic and innovative research and monitoring; and develops and implements strategic sector initiatives and programs. The branch is also responsible for the New Brunswick Grain Commission.

Highlights

- Provided support to the livestock and livestock feed sectors through technical advisory services, forage variety research trials, promoting grain and oilseed quality through the New Brunswick Grain Commission, animal disease emergency preparedness, promoting livestock traceability through the Livestock Premises Identification database and strategic livestock program design and delivery.

- Provided support to the hog and poultry sectors as part of efforts to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate emerging animal disease and potential market interruption impacts. This included representing industry concerns at the national level and bolstering disease response planning activities.
- Provided strategic funding support to the beef sector to encourage producers to retain more bred heifers within their herds to increase the overall beef herd size in New Brunswick contributing to improving food self-sufficiency. Seventy-one applicants were approved for a total of \$131,200 which represented an increase in 435 bred heifers.

The **Crop Sector Development Branch** provides general crop technical advisory services; integrated pest management and diagnostic services; environmental programming and advice; strategic and innovative research and monitoring; and develops and implements strategic sector initiatives and programs. The branch is also responsible for the Farm Land Identification Program, leads the climate change file for the Agriculture Division, and represents the department and agricultural sector interests on various intergovernmental, regional, and national committees.

Highlights

- Launched the Land Suitability Map for Cool-Weather Crops, a mapping tool based on soil type, depth to the water table and slope. The map provides a general indicator of lands that are also suitable for crops such as small grains, vegetables, forages, small fruits, and hemp. The tool will provide guidance to individuals who are interested in farming in New Brunswick and existing producers looking to expand their operation.
- Coordinated and hosted the New Brunswick Hort Congress, in March 2023. This event brought together approximately 400 New Brunswick fruit and vegetable producers and industry stakeholders. The two-day event was devoted to apple, cranberry, wild blueberry, small fruit, vegetable, controlled environment agriculture production, and industry development.
- Continuing delivery of the ten-pillar Action Plan on Improving Food Self-Sufficiency in New Brunswick. Accomplishments included:

- expanding the footprint of controlled environment agriculture area by 14 per cent;
- completing the second phase of the Improving New Brunswick Farmland Soil Productivity project to assess alternate products that would make farmland more productive;
- supporting 112 projects on 1,328 acres of land, that assisted agriculture producers to bring new land into production or improve the productivity of existing land;
- implementing strategic programming to promote herd renewal and pasture management to help grow the beef herd and promote efficiencies in animal grazing practices with the New Brunswick Cattle Producers Association;
- supporting 22 local meat processing projects for upgrades to improve availability of local meat products in New Brunswick; and
- supporting the launch of Agriculture Essentials, an eight-week microcredential program in collaboration with the Agricultural Alliance of NB, Working NB, and two community colleges.

The **Potato Sector Development Branch** provides technical advisory services; strategic and innovative research and monitoring; and develops and implements strategic sector initiatives and programs. The branch also includes the Plant Propagation Centre (PPC), which is responsible for the production of tissue cultured nuclear stock according to the requirements of the Canadian Seed Potato Certification System. The PPC houses the Canadian Potato Variety Repository, a collection of nearly 500 varieties that supplies nuclear stock material to the seed potato industry of New Brunswick, other Canadian provinces, the United States, and countries around the world.

Highlights

- Provided support to industry through technical advisory services, disease diagnostics, processing potato testing, potato variety research trials, crop monitoring services for pests and disease (e.g., aphid alert, late blight), daily in season crop updates, post-harvest testing for Potato Virus “Y” and regulatory services to ensure enforcement of the *Potato Disease Eradication Act*.

- Potatoes were the highest value food crop grown in New Brunswick with 2022 farm cash receipts at \$228.4M, an increase of 37.5 per cent over the previous year. Contributing factors include: near record yields, premium processing potato contracts, exceptional demand for fresh potatoes, and supports provided by the branch and department.
- The PPC produced 106,780 disease-free units (plantlets/micro-tubers) in 2022, which are used by the seed potato industry to further multiply.

INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND AQUATIC OPERATIONS DIVISION

The Industry Development and Aquatic Operations Division consists of four branches: Aquaculture and Extension Services; Commercial Fisheries and Strategic Initiatives; Marketing and Trade; and Business Growth.

The **Aquaculture and Extension Services Branch** provides specialist advice and extension services to promote and foster the growth and competitiveness of the aquaculture sector and administers the regulatory framework for aquaculture in New Brunswick. The branch provides services and programs focused on maintaining responsible practices that produce safe, high quality seafood products. The branch also provides regulatory oversight of the *Aquaculture Act* and the *Seafood Processing Act*. The Aquaculture and Extension Services Branch includes four separate units: Aquaculture Sector Development, Science and Environment, Fish Health, and Leasing, Licensing and Compliance.

Highlights

- Implemented the first full year of the New Brunswick Finfish Aquaculture Growth Strategy 2022 – 2030. Year one saw an increased focus on “post smolt” land-based facilities, and hydrogeological data for producers looking to increase New Brunswick’s capacity for post-smolt production.
- Conducted compliance checks under the *Aquaculture Act* and *Seafood Processing Act*: 88 shellfish site inspections, 29 finfish site inspections, 67 fish buyer visits and five inspections on smokehouses. In addition, 372 surveillance visits took place with 2,434 fish submitted for testing under the Infectious Salmon Anemia surveillance program, while under the Certificate of Health for Transfer program, there were 29 visits and 932 samples (eggs, fry, smolt) tested.

The **Commercial Fisheries and Strategic Initiatives Branch** provides specialized advice and extension services to support and advocate for New Brunswick interests in the commercial fisheries sector. The branch provides technical advice to support programming focusing on maintaining responsible practices and production of safe, high quality seafood products. The branch operates the New Brunswick Aquarium and Marine Centre and is responsible for three Marine Service Centres. The Commercial Fisheries and Strategic Initiatives Branch includes three separate units: Commercial Fisheries, Strategic Initiatives and the New Brunswick Aquarium and Marine Centre.

Highlights

- Assisted the New Brunswick snow crab and lobster industry in various fishery improvement projects to adopt North Atlantic Right Whale safe fishing practices through the Atlantic Fisheries Fund.
- Participated in the interprovincial Bait Working Group to provide strategic direction on the issue of bait supply for various commercial fisheries throughout Atlantic Canada.
- Collaborated with industry to further the collective understanding of the challenges associated with the production of greenhouse gases by the New Brunswick commercial fishing fleet, to support industry in the transition to green technologies.
- Developed partnerships with various educational organizations for the creation of new bilingual educational materials related to fisheries and aquaculture to increase awareness and interest of the sectors.

The **Marketing and Trade Branch** provides strategic delivery and coordination of marketing and trade initiatives. This includes facilitation of increased local, domestic, and international New Brunswick seafood and agri-food sales and increased market diversification. Key initiatives include the continued implementation of the *Local Food and Beverages Strategy 2021 – 2025*, the expansion of New Brunswick’s digital presence through multiple social media platforms, the promotion of the New Brunswick Food Basket, the promotion and expansion of seafood and agri-food export markets, and the compilation of market intelligence and other market access related activities.

Highlights

- Completed year two of the *Local Food and Beverages Strategy 2021 – 2025* and announced key achievements for 2022, including:
 - educated over 6,000 students on the New Brunswick food and beverage sectors, representing a 200 per cent increase over 2021;
 - supported 10 Indigenous food and beverages projects through the New Brunswick Indigenous Agriculture Development Program;
 - developed 17 collaborative local promotional campaigns and digital marketing efforts to highlight local food and beverages and New Brunswick’s Taste of Place;
 - launched the Eat Local NB website and featured over 80 local food and beverages businesses in Buy Local for Good campaign videos;
 - piloted successfully, A Taste of the Atlantic event, highlighting Indigenous Chefs and cultural food.
- Ensured a strong New Brunswick food industry representation within our key markets (Europe, Asia and North America), including:
 - 18 international market development activities with an average participation rate of five New Brunswick companies per event, generating over 450 leads;

- 28 promotional activities generating over 12M views on social media increasing exposure for New Brunswick seafood and agri-food products domestically and internationally.
- Continued to improve our digital presence through the New Brunswick Deliciously Canadian and Buy Local for Good campaigns, including:
 - created 23 videos with more than two million views, as part of Dennis Prescott’s brand ambassadorship;
 - launched two websites: New Brunswick Deliciously Canadian and Eat Local NB;
 - reached 64,000 followers across our several social media platforms.

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

Highlights

- Supported over 30 new entrants in the three sectors by providing business navigation and financial programming to support growth in primary and value-added food production.
- Continued to lead Labour Force Adjustment committees to recommend initiatives aimed at improving recruitment and retention of labour in agriculture and seafood processing.

CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION

The Corporate Services Division provides direction and support in matters of human resources, financial services, policy, strategy, information and technology, facilities management and coordination of financial assistance to the agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries sectors under various funding programs.

The division consists of the Financial Services Branch, the Industry Financial Programs Branch, the Human Resource Services Branch, the Information Systems and Departmental Services Branch, the Strategic Planning and Intergovernmental Relations Branch, the Regulatory Affairs Branch, and the Performance Excellence Branch

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

Highlights

- Supported the GNB Enterprise Resource Planning team and the department with the implementation of phase one of Enterprise Planning and Budgeting Cloud Service.
- Supported the go-live of the Fixed Assets module within Oracle Fusion.
- Introduced the Financial Services newsletter, providing important information on financial topics, such as how to get an invoice paid and NB First Procurement.

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

Highlights

- Administered the 5th and final year of the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, an investment by federal, provincial, and territorial governments to strengthen and grow the agriculture sector.
- Coordinated design of New Brunswick programming for the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership.

The **Human Resource Services Branch** is responsible for providing all human resource management services, including recruitment and retention, classification, labour relations, human resource policies, employee engagement, organizational development, succession planning and administration of programs such as health and safety.

Highlights

- Coordinated several health and safety and employee experience initiatives.
- Created and coordinated new training for the management team on various supervision topics and delivered Respectful Communications training.

The **Information Systems and Departmental Services Branch** provides province-wide services to the department, including information technology, records management, information security, intranet management, facilities management, remotely piloted aircraft (drone) services and geographic information system services.

Highlights

- Updated the New Brunswick Agriculture Insurance System to modify the surcharge and discount for strawberries and blueberries.

The **Strategic Planning and Intergovernmental Relations Branch** provides strategy development, strategic planning, and support for federal-provincial-territorial activities. The branch is also responsible for policy, trade policy analysis, economic forecasting, monitoring, research, statistical analysis, and reporting. Additionally, the branch is responsible for the management of ministerial correspondence.

Highlights

- Lead the coordination of the department's co-chair responsibilities for the federal-provincial-territorial Ministers of Agriculture table.
- Published (on-line) Sectors in Review Reports for Fisheries for 2020 and Aquaculture for 2021.

The **Regulatory Affairs Branch** provides leadership, coordination and support regarding the Minister's legislative business. The branch also manages requests under the *Right to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and provides support on privacy matters. The branch, in conjunction with the Strategic Planning and Intergovernmental Relations Branch, continued to provide policy administrative support to the Department's Policy Management Committee.

Highlights

- Coordinated responses to seven requests under the *Right to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

The **Performance Excellence Branch** supports departmental programs to align efforts toward common goals, understand progress toward targeted outcomes, and conduct improvement projects to close gaps. This work is done by facilitators using process improvement, project management, change management, and other innovative techniques.

Highlights

- Supported the Animal Health Services Branch through Lean Six Sigma and Change Management methodology in refining processes for veterinarians.
- Supported client research for the refinement of the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership implementation, using innovative techniques.
- Supported a strategic planning exercise for the Agriculture Division.

Financial Information

EXPENDITURES IN DETAIL 2022 – 2023 (\$)

ORDINARY PROGRAM	MAIN ESTIMATES	APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS	FINAL BUDGET	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries	45,451,000	1,332,300	46,783,300	44,069,400	(2,713,900)
Total 2022 – 2023	45,451,000	1,332,300	46,783,300	44,069,400	(2,713,900)

CAPITAL ACCOUNT	MAIN ESTIMATES	APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS	FINAL BUDGET	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
Capital Equipment	65,000	–	65,000	65,800	800
Strategic Infrastructure	400,000	–	400,000	244,600	(155,400)
Total 2022 – 2023	465,000	–	465,000	310,400	(154,600)

LOANS AND ADVANCES	MAIN ESTIMATES	APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS	FINAL BUDGET	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
New Brunswick Agricultural Insurance Commission	1,600,000.00	–	1,600,000.00	–	(1,600,000.00)
Loan Programs	9,500,000.00	–	9,500,000.00	3,521,500.00	(5,978,500.00)
Total 2022 – 2023	11,100,000.00	–	11,100,000.00	3,521,500.00	(7,578,500.00)

REVENUE IN DETAIL 2022 – 2023 (\$)

REVENUE	MAIN ESTIMATES	APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS	FINAL BUDGET	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
Return on Investment	400,000	–	400,000	514,600	114,600
Taxes on Consumption	–	–	–	–	–
Licences and Permits	268,000	–	268,000	234,900	(33,100)
Sales of Goods and Services	5,454,000	–	5,454,000	5,037,800	(416,200)
Miscellaneous	71,000	–	71,000	447,800	376,800
Conditional Grants – Canada	4,630,000	–	4,630,000	5,574,600	944,600
Total 2022 – 2023	10,823,000	–	10,823,000	11,809,700	986,700

LOANS AND ADVANCES	MAIN ESTIMATES	APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS	FINAL BUDGET	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
Recoveries	700,000.00	–	700,000.00	949,800.00	249,800.00
Total 2022 – 2023	700,000.00	–	700,000.00	949,800.00	249,800.00

Summary of Staffing Activity

Pursuant to section 4 of the *Civil Service Act*, the Secretary to Treasury Board delegates staffing to each Deputy Head for his or her respective department(s). Please find below a summary of the staffing activity for 2022 – 2023 for the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries.

NUMBER OF PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES AS OF DEC. 31 OF EACH YEAR		
EMPLOYEE TYPE	2022	2021
Permanent	167	164
Temporary	41	38
TOTAL	208	202

The department advertised 21 competitions, including 19 open (public) competitions and two closed (internal) competitions.

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

APPOINTMENT TYPE	APPOINTMENT DESCRIPTION	SECTION OF THE CIVIL SERVICE ACT	NUMBER
Specialized Professional, Scientific or Technical	An appointment may be made without competition when a position requires: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a high degree of expertise and training • a high degree of technical skill • recognized experts in their field 	15(1)	2
Equal Employment Opportunity Program	Provides Aboriginals, persons with disabilities and members of a visible minority group with equal access to employment, training and advancement opportunities.	16(1)(a)	1
Department Talent Management Program	Permanent employees identified in corporate and departmental talent pools, who meet the four-point criteria for assessing talent, namely performance, readiness, willingness and criticalness.	16(1)(b)	2

APPOINTMENT TYPE	APPOINTMENT DESCRIPTION	SECTION OF THE CIVIL SERVICE ACT	NUMBER
Lateral transfer	The GNB transfer process facilitates the transfer of employees from within Part 1, 2 (school districts) and 3 (hospital authorities) of the Public Service.	16(1) or 16(1)(c)	2
Regular appointment of casual/temporary	An individual hired on a casual or temporary basis under section 17 may be appointed without competition to a regular properly classified position within the Civil Service.	16(1)(d)(i)	6
Regular appointment of students/ apprentices	Summer students, university or community college co-op students or apprentices may be appointed without competition to an entry level position within the Civil Service.	16(1)(d)(ii)	0

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

Summary of Legislation and Legislative Activity

BILL #	NAME OF LEGISLATION	DATE OF ROYAL ASSENT	SUMMARY OF CHANGES
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

NAME OF REGULATION	EFFECTIVE DATE	SUMMARY OF CHANGES
Amendment to Egg Plan Administration Regulation (2003 – 71) under the <i>Natural Products Act</i>	April 19, 2022	<p>Amended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove the limitation that members cannot come from the same area; Change the term for elected members from two-years to up to three-years; With the exception of an Egg Farmers of Canada representative, limit members to four consecutive terms, and if there is a break in service, members must wait a full year before being eligible to become a member again; Move elections for Board members to the annual general meeting; and Remove members from the Board if they fail to attend three consecutive meetings as opposed to six meetings.
A new General Regulation (2022 – 28) under the <i>Aquaculture Act</i>	June 10, 2022	Created to provide general regulatory structure to the new <i>Aquaculture Act</i> .
A new Rents and Fees Regulation (2022 – 29) under the <i>Aquaculture Act</i>	June 10, 2022	Created to provide for increased or new fees and rents under the new <i>Aquaculture Act</i> .
A new Aquaculture Products Health and Welfare Regulation (2022 – 30) under the <i>Aquaculture Act</i>	June 10, 2022	Created to provide clarity in reporting requirements related to disease and invasive species within aquaculture areas.
Amendments to General Regulation (2009 – 20) under the <i>Seafood Processing Act</i>	July 1, 2022	Amended to provide for appeals of the aquaculture Registrar and Chief Veterinary Officer to be made to the Appeal Board.

NAME OF REGULATION	EFFECTIVE DATE	SUMMARY OF CHANGES
Amendments to the Milk Quality Regulation (2010 – 19) under the <i>Natural Products Act</i>	December 6, 2022	Amended the Regulation to adopt a new Standard – the National Dairy Code – as the standard for dairy tests in the province.
Amendments to the Milk Quality Regulation (2010 – 19) under the <i>Natural Products Act</i>	January 30, 2023	Amended the Regulation to increase the time period for the testing of raw milk samples to 48 hours.
A new General Regulation (2023 – 13) under the <i>Bee Act</i>	February 27, 2023	Created to provide modern oversight of the bee industry; and offer better regulatory protections against invasive species.

The acts for which the department was responsible in 2022 – 2023 may be found at:

[Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries \(gnb.ca\)](https://www.gnb.ca)

Summary of Official Languages Activities

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries has continued to respect its Official Languages obligations by focussing on four sectors of activity. The following outlines the actions taken during 2022 – 2023 in each of the four areas of focus.

FOCUS 1

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

- Employees were provided with the tools enabling them to be successful in respecting their legal obligation to offer service of equal quality in English and French in all locations.
- Linguistic profiles were respected through the recruitment process to make certain that the department is able to provide services in both English and French throughout the province.

FOCUS 2

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

- Communication, correspondence, and interactions with employees such as performance appraisals, were delivered in the employee's Official Language of choice.
- The department continued to encourage the use of both Official Languages for small meetings. For all large meetings, the department promoted bilingual presentations, or separate English and French sessions.

FOCUS 3

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

- Correspondence and information were provided to the public in the Official Language of their choice.

FOCUS 4

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

- The Deputy Minister, and other management team members, reminded employees of their legal obligation to offer services in the Official Language of choice of the client. Employees were also reminded of the Language of Service Policy and Guidelines and the Official Languages Toolkit.
- As part of the ongoing process for employee orientation and performance management, employees were required to read the policies related to Official Languages.

CONCLUSION

The department understands, promotes, and honours its obligations under the *Official Languages Act* and related policies and strives to provide quality services to clients in both Official Languages. The department encourages and supports the use of both Official Languages in the workplace and invests in employee development through second language training. For a third consecutive year, the department did not receive any Official Language complaints and prides itself in this success.

Summary of Recommendations from the Office of the Auditor General

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

NAME AND YEAR OF AUDIT AREA WITH LINK TO ONLINE DOCUMENT	RECOMMENDATIONS
	TOTAL
N/A	N/A

IMPLEMENTED RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTIONS TAKEN
N/A	N/A

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

NAME AND YEAR OF AUDIT AREA WITH LINK TO ONLINE DOCUMENT	RECOMMENDATIONS	
	TOTAL	IMPLEMENTED
2019 V3 Chapter 7: Contaminated Sites Chap7e.pdf (agnb-vgnb.ca)	1	1

Report on the *Public Interest Disclosure Act*

As provided under section 18(1) of the *Public Interest Disclosure Act*, the chief executive shall prepare a report of any disclosures of wrongdoing that have been made to a supervisor or designated officer of the portion of the public service for which the chief executive officer is responsible. The Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries received no disclosure(s) of wrongdoing in the 2022 – 2023 fiscal year.