

2016 in review

Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy



HIGHWAY SAFETY DIVISION



Key Achievements

Legislation

- o Amended the Highway Traffic Act (HTA) with the introduction of Hannah's Bill to provide more inclusive language for those with mobility impairments.
- o Amended all outdated Regulations under the Highway Traffic Act as part of the Monitoring Standards in Regulations Project with the Standards Council of Canada.
- o Amended HTA with updated bicycle definition that will allow for the development of Bicycle Regulations.
- o Strengthened legislation to combat impaired driving by adding enhanced vehicle impoundment rules, increasing ignition interlock term for 2nd time offenders and raising the age for zero tolerance of Blood Alcohol Content.

- o Amended the Off Highway Vehicle Act to allow for the inclusion of Scenic Heritage Roads in amended regulations that will allow snowmobiles on closed seasonal roads in an effort to give operators more options for their sport and to keep these machines off private property.
- o Implemented a regulatory amendment to allow for an on-line defensive driving course that makes this option more available to Islanders
- o Implemented a regulatory amendment to allow demerit points credit for anyone successfully completing a motorcycle safety course.
- o Implemented a policy that restricts motorcycle operators to operate motorcycles of 550 cc or under unless they are tested on a larger motorcycle.
- o Amended the Highway Traffic Act to prohibit the use of engine brakes in any area where the posted speed limit is 60 kph or less or where a sign is posted prohibiting the use of an engine brake.

Provincial Partnerships

- o Signed a new contract for the ignition interlock program provider with the other Atlantic Provinces.
- o Developed and issued a request for proposal to provide a new driver license/voluntary ID card issuance system to the four Atlantic Provinces, published through procurement services in PEI.
- o Participated in the Completion of an updated Canadian Driver License Agreement by the Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators - Ready for Signature.
- o Participated in the Completion of a Distracted Driving National Action Plan (Traffic Injury Research Foundation TIRF).
- o Participated in the development of a Cannabis Impaired Driving White Paper (CCMTA) "Provides a environmental scan to identify the impacts of legalization of cannabis in Canada."

Highway Safety Programs

- Provided metadata / datasets for the Open Data Project on the following items
 - Vehicle Registration Breakdown
 - Total Number of Drivers by Class
 - Conservation Plates
 - Convictions for Impaired Drivers, Fatalities, Collisions, Collisions with Injuries
 - IRP Revenue for Canadian Jurisdictions
 - IRP Revenue for American Jurisdictions.
- Worked with the PEI Potato Board to develop a container weighing process for potato shippers that meets the new shipping code requirements leading to a smooth transition for Island producers.
- Worked with the Federation of Agriculture to form a committee tasked with the development and publication of a off-highway vehicle practical guide for users and landowners.
- Developed an improved approach to integrated check points throughout the province involving multiple police agencies with an emphasis on speeding and aggressive driving
- Worked with Cycling PEI to conduct bicycle helmet surveys as well as leading the "head-start program" with police agencies to emphasize the importance of proper helmet use. Provided funding to Cycling PEI of \$1,000 to purchase helmets to promote safe cycling.
- Worked with a local motorcycle organization to develop, publish and disseminate motorcycle safety brochures.
- Implemented the updated National Safety Code Standard 11 on commercial vehicle inspections. Employed Arabic speaking staff person to assist in the delivery of Access PEI and Highway Safety Division services.
- Implemented Motor Vehicle and Driver License Renewal email notification service.

ACCESS PEI



Key Achievements

The major achievement for Access PEI for this past year was the Lean Six Sigma project on Commercial Vehicles.

Some of the key points of success from this project were:

- o Staff learning curve was reduced from approximately 1 year to 1 week.
- o More clients are coming in with the proper paperwork resulting in fewer return visits.
- o The elimination of 68% of the DVS override approval requests to managers.
- o There is an updated commercial vehicle training manual.
- o All CSR's have received hands-on training at the Borden Scales office.
- o An overall reduction in the variation of time to complete a commercial vehicle transaction.

HIGHWAY CAPITAL DIVISION



Key Achievements

- o TIE replaced 14 bridge structures from large structures to small structures.
- o TIE Capital division completed paving projects with a total length of over 40 kilometres.
- o First contract using Hot Mix Re-cycle type of construction, completed two kilometres of this type of construction.
- o Construction of two round-a-bouts at Poplar Island Intersection and Maypoint Intersection.
- o Trans Canada Highway Realignment was announced, and Phase one of Trans Canada Highway Realignment was completed.
- o Completed year four of our five-year program to change all street lighting in the Province to LED lighting.
- o Continued to install Raised Pavement Markings (RPM) for positive guidance for night time driving.

INFRASTRUCTURE DIVISION



Key Achievements

- o Negotiated Clean Water and Wastewater Fund/Public Transit Infrastructure Fund bilateral agreement, enabling over \$56 million in new federal funding to become available for water, wastewater, and public transit projects over the next two years.
- o The Infrastructure Secretariat currently oversees infrastructure funding for over 200 active projects, and processed claims in the following amounts under each of the following active funding programs in the 2016 calendar year:
 - Communities Component, Building Canada Fund – four projects, \$0.5 million

- Small Communities Fund, New Building Canada Fund – nine projects, \$2.5 million
 - Provincial Infrastructure Fund – 14 projects, \$1.3 million
 - Clean Water and Wastewater Fund – four projects, \$1.1 million
 - Gas Tax Fund – multiple projects in 49 municipalities, over \$11.8 million
 - o Secured federal funding for renewal of Charlottetown Area transit fleet from new Public Transit Infrastructure Fund (\$1 million total project cost).
- In addition to this, assistance was provided to other arms of the provincial government in securing federal infrastructure funding for their projects (e.g. new submarine electrical cables (Energy division); multiple road and bridge projects, including Western Extension of Charlottetown Perimeter Highway (Capital Projects division).
- o Led preparation and support for Minister and Deputy Minister at six federal/provincial/territorial meetings dealing with infrastructure, transportation, and highway safety issues.

LAND AND ENVIRONMENT DIVISION



Key Achievements

Environmental Management Section

- o Provided environmental planning, permitting and regulatory compliance during construction and maintenance work performed by the Department, or others within the provincial Right-of-Way. Issued approximately 300 environmental approvals for Department and other projects occurring within the public ROW.
- o Bonshaw Hills Provincial Park
 - o Constructed 20 kilometres of multi-use trail and a wheelchair accessible natural playground
 - o In cooperation with MCPEI, named the main trail at Bonshaw the 'J'ika'we'katik Trail' (Pronounced - Jih Ga Way Ga Dig) after the traditional Mi'kmaq name for the West River.
 - o Protected more than 400 acres of land in the Bonshaw Hills Provincial Park under the *Natural Areas Protection Act* (NAPA).

- o Successful environmental planning and management, including public consultation regarding the Trans Canada Highway Realignment Project – Phase 1 – Roundabouts at Poplar Island and Maypoint.
- o In collaboration with the Town of Souris, we developed and initiated coastal management restoration works along the Souris causeway beach and tourist area. Future works to be completed in conjunction with Federal climate change funding program.
- o Completed over 20 cooperative projects across the Island with local watershed groups aimed at improving fish habitat and reducing erosion and sedimentation

Properties Section

- o Responded to approximately 450 requests for support in the site-specific management activities of divisions within our department, other provincial government departments, provincial boards, agencies and crown corporations, local development corporations and the general public.
- o Developed a new Acquisition of Lands Policy (including an Expropriation of Lands Policy) to provide direction on the procedures to be followed relating to the acquisition of real property interests by the Department on behalf of the Province. This new policy will ensure that all property owners are treated fairly and equally with regard to compensation for their land.
- o Developed an agreed-upon approach with PWGSC/Government of Canada and other crown agencies to work collaboratively on the Provincial Duty-to-Consult process.

Surveys Section

- o Prepared approximately 60 legal survey plans and provided survey support for all Departments, and investigated the status of approximately 35 roads upon the request of various departments and the general public.
- o Provided legal survey support for all of the Department's road and bridge projects, including the larger Provincial Capital Projects such as the TCH Extension Phase 1 (Poplar Island and Maypoint Road Intersection) and Phase 2A (North River Intersection), realignment of TCH at Mount Mellick and Alberton Storm Sewer.
- o Sponsored Beehive Project for the PEI Architects Association.

ENERGY CORPORATION



Key Achievements

Cable: Working closely with Maritime Electric as the construction agent for the project, the PEI Energy Corporation saw the PEI-NB underwater cable project advanced in 2016 with the following highlights:

- Secured the necessary environmental permits and other approvals to begin project construction.
- Actively consulted and involved First Nations, fishers and local community stakeholders in the approvals and construction phases of the project.
- Increased the federal funding commitment to the project by approximately \$19 million (increased level of support to 50% of eligible project costs).
- Completed cable protection/burial in the near shore marine environment.
- Partially completed cable protection/burial in water depth greater than 12 metres.

Wind: The province's four wind farms, developed by the PEI Energy Corporation, generate more than 260 million kilowatt-hours of emission-free electricity per year for Island consumers.

- o The province's four wind farms will generate annual revenue of approximately \$20 million for the province through power purchase agreements with Maritime Electric Company, Limited.
- o In 2016, ongoing production from the province's four wind farms, provided 18% of all electricity consumed on PEI; wind energy from all sources provided 25%.

Energy Division:

To date, efficiency PEI has received and/or processed 532 grants at a value of \$335,619.54. Since April 2016, efficiency PEI has:

- o implemented new rebate programs to simplify application process,
- o introduced financial assistance for home energy audits,
- o increased focus on public education and information, and
- o hired Community Outreach Coordinator to expand our online presence and develop and distribute information materials.

STATUS OF WOMEN



Key Achievements:

- o The Minister Responsible for the Status of Women represented the province at the Roundtable on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in Manitoba and continues to be briefed on F/P/T/I activities that relate to Indigenous women and girls, such as the National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The Interministerial Women's Secretariat continues to partner with Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat on issues that relate to Aboriginal women and girls.
- o The IWS has updated its gender and diversity analysis guide. The new version specifically includes the transgender population. A gender and diversity analysis brochure has also been updated for 2016.
- o Women in PEI: A Statistical Review was published in May 2016.

PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING



Key Achievements

- The Division was successful in providing capital project management services which saw over 100 capital building projects tendered. These projects total more than \$18.5 million. Projects highlights include the work require to set up more than 50 schools with wireless technology as part of the Education Link initiative.
- Tendering of Ecole Belle Cloche in Souris PEI as well as continued construction work at the new Queens County Highway Depot were managed under the control of the division.
- The Division provided technical assistance to departments in Government related to the management and removal of asbestos containing ceiling tile.
- The Building Maintenance and Accommodations section implemented fire evacuation plans in all Government buildings with fire alarm systems.

HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE



Key Achievements

- o In the summer of 2016 we paved approximately 77 kilometres as part of the recap program.
- o We have continued to rationalize positions through attrition and to right-size the division for efficient delivery of service.
- o Salt spread during the winter of 15/16 was at its lowest in almost 10 years, this was achieved while the number of lane-kilometres and the number of routes with 24 hour service has increased during that time. This reduction was achieved by a combination of optimizing/monitoring spread rates, increased use of liquids (salt brine) through pre-wetting and anti-icing programs and movement towards use of adaptable blades on our plows.
- o We have been working on being more strategic with our asphalt patching with the aim of reducing the tonnage of asphalt placed without compromising safety. Appropriate standards for arterials/collectors and local rural secondary roads are set taking into consideration traffic volumes and traffic speeds.

2014 - 11,070 tonnes

2015 - 10,600 tonnes

2016 - 8,250 tonnes

This increased efficiency in patching has been carried out with no noticeable increase in the number of complaints.