Transmittal letters

From the Minister to the Lieutenant-Governor
The Honourable Jocelyne Roy Vienneau
Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick

May it please your Honour:

It is my privilege to submit the Annual Report of the Department of Energy and Mines, Province of New Brunswick, for the fiscal year April 1, 2014, to March 31, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Honourable Donald Arseneault
Minister

From the Deputy Minister to the Minister
Honourable Donald Arseneault
Minister of Energy and Mines

Sir:

I am pleased to be able to present the Annual Report describing operations of the Department of Energy and Mines for the fiscal year 2014-2015.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Jean Finn
Deputy Minister
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</table>
Minister’s message

Our government is focused on a diversified approach to grow both the energy and mining sectors in our province in a safe and responsible manner in order to create jobs and move the economy forward.

As one of the most strategically located provinces in Canada, we are home to a reliable transmission system and electrical grid, the largest oil refinery in the country, deep-water, ice-free ports with access to international markets and several mining development opportunities.

With several promising energy and mining projects on the horizon, such as the Energy East pipeline and opportunities focused on potash, lead, zinc, copper and molybdenum, among a variety of other province-wide initiatives, it is safe to say New Brunswick continues to punch above its weight in these sectors. Premier Brian Gallant is also co-leading the Canadian Energy Strategy working group, which will help act as a catalyst to projects such as the pipeline and other important nation-building energy projects.

The government’s main priorities continue to be creating jobs, helping families and improving our financial situation. I am confident that the projects and initiatives we’re pursuing will help us achieve all of these goals.

I am pleased to present to you the Department of Energy and Mines 2014-2015 annual report.

Honourable Donald Arseneault
Minister of Energy and Mines
Deputy Minister’s message

The 2014-2015 annual report by the Department of Energy and Mines is a continuation of steps undertaken to streamline reporting processes to ensure greater consistency between departments to help them meet their targets.

During the past fiscal year, the department updated several key pieces of legislation and began a variety of initiatives to help government achieve its strategic goals. For example, updates were made to the Oil and Natural Gas Act and amendments were also made to the Electricity Act to move Efficiency New Brunswick into NB Power to better align resources and reduce costs for ratepayers.

Departmental staff also participated in several stakeholder and industry-led events to promote New Brunswick as an ideal location for investment in the energy and mining sectors. Furthermore, the department hosted the 39th annual Exploration, Mining and Petroleum Conference in Fredericton to highlight government and industry activity in the province.

In addition, the department continued its efforts to be more efficient and accountable while improving services to the public. Through these efforts, it is well positioned to continue its activities with a greater emphasis on continuous improvement to create economic prosperity through the safe and responsible development and management of energy and mineral resources.

The dedicated team at the Department of Energy and Mines continues to work tirelessly as a performance-based organization. As we look to the year ahead, we are eager to set and meet additional targets and goals.

Jean Finn
Deputy Minister
Strategic priorities

Strategy 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 and continuously drive improvement.

The development of the strategy, using the formal management system, starts with a strategic vision of *Moving New Brunswick Forward*. This vision is anchored in four strategic themes that include:

- **More jobs**: Creating the best environment for jobs to be generated by New Brunswickers, by businesses, by their ideas, by their entrepreneurial spirit, and by their hard work. This includes providing seamless support to businesses, leveraging new technologies and innovation by supporting research and development, and developing a skilled workforce by improving literacy and education.
- **Fiscal responsibility**: Getting New Brunswick’s fiscal house in order through a balanced approach to decrease costs and increase revenues.
- **Best place to raise a family**: Designing social programs to make life more affordable and make New Brunswick the best place to raise family.
- **Smarter government**: Providing taxpayers with better value for their money by transforming the culture of government by eliminating waste and duplication, adopting new innovations in technology to improve services and savings and improving accountability measures.
Highlights

During the 2014-2015 fiscal year, the Department of Energy and Mines focused on these strategic priorities through:

Transitioning Efficiency New Brunswick into NB Power.

Announcing the re-instatement of the home insulation energy savings program to reduce energy use and lower costs for consumers.

Continuing to provide $2 million annually to fund the Low Income Energy Efficiency Program to help low-income households.

Updated the Oil and Natural Gas Act with respect to hydraulic fracturing.

Establishing the Commission on Hydraulic Fracturing.

Building relationships with other governments, provinces and industry to support the Energy East pipeline.

Supporting training efforts and initiatives for the Energy East pipeline.

Issuing a request for proposals for potash exploration rights in the Salt Springs area to create jobs and grow the economy.

Investing in specialized training to support First Nations at the Trevali mine.

Providing financial assistance to junior mining companies and prospectors to enhance exploration work.

Hosting the 39th annual Exploration, Mining and Petroleum Conference to highlight government and industry activity and promote exploration activity in the province.

Training and mentoring students to increase the number of highly qualified personnel available to the mineral industry through the Targeted Geoscience Initiative Program.

Beginning work on an integrated bedrock and surficial geology mapping strategy to update and improve business processes associated with the collection, presentation, dissemination and storage of geoscientific data.

Updating the department’s website to better serve clients and inform the public about geological, mineral and oil and gas activities in the province.
## Performance measures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>More jobs</strong></th>
<th><strong>Measures</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Optimize energy and mineral development</td>
<td>Total dollars spent on mineral exploration by hectare under tenure agreement (licence/lease)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiscal responsibility</td>
<td>Measures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achieve sustainable budget</td>
<td>Ratio of actual to budgeted expenditures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smarter government</td>
<td>Measures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Align leadership talent to drive execution of GNB Strategy</td>
<td>Employee engagement survey</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### More jobs

**Objective of the measure**
Optimize energy and mineral development.

**Measure**
Total dollars spent on mineral exploration by hectare under tenure agreement (licence/lease).

**Description of measure**
The measure assesses the level of mineral exploration that occurs in the province.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spent on mineral exploration/ha ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Overall performance**
Exceeded stretch target of $60/ha

- Baseline: $32/ha
- Target: $45/ha
- Actual: $66/ha

**Why do we measure this?**
The aim is to increase the level of mineral exploration leading to more economic activity during the exploration phase and adding value to properties that will lead to more mineral development in the future. Expenditures include grass-roots exploration and deposit appraisal.

**What initiatives or projects were undertaken in the reporting year to achieve the outcome?**
Through its various programs and activities, the department has promoted exploration activities and supported prospectors and junior mining companies in furthering their exploration work. The department has:

- Hosted a successful Exploration, Mining and Petroleum Conference in November 2014 with more than 415 delegates;
- Promoted the geological potential of New Brunswick at two international mining and exploration conferences;
- Published new geoscientific reports and data on mineral resources in New Brunswick; and
- Provided support to a number of prospectors and exploration companies through the Junior Mining Assistance Program and the Prospector Assistance Program.
Fiscal responsibility

**Objective of the measure**
Achieve sustainable budget.

**Measure**
Ratio of actual to budgeted expenditures.

**Description of measure**
The ratio measures whether the department is over or under budget on expenditures. The ratio will exceed 100 per cent when expenses are over-budget and be less than 100 per cent when under-budget.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>101</td>
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<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>99</td>
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<td>98</td>
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<td>97</td>
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<tr>
<td>96</td>
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<tr>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Overall performance**
Better than target of 100 per cent.

- Baseline: 97.28%
- Target: 100%
- Actual: 99.95%

**Why do we measure this?**
This indicator measures the department’s ability to manage its expenses within budget.

**What initiatives or projects were undertaken in the reporting year to achieve the outcome?**
The department was diligent in monitoring discretionary spending by using best practices on procurement of goods and services to ensure best price and quality. The department undertook process improvement initiatives to find efficiencies and savings. Waste Walk training sessions were offered to empower department employees to find efficiencies and eliminate duplication in their day-to-day operations. The department also undertook a space allocation initiative that resulted in its Saint John office being co-located with the Energy Efficiency group to enable savings through the optimization of office spaces.
Smarter government

Objective of the measure
Align leadership talent to drive government’s strategic direction.

Measure
Employee engagement survey.

Description of measure
The results of three engagement questions from the March 2013 survey were compared to the 2014 survey. The three questions were: 1) My manager provides regular feedback on my performance; 2) I receive meaningful recognition for work well done; 3) Essential information flows effectively from senior leadership to staff.

Overall performance
Exceeds stretch target of 53 per cent.

Why do we measure this?
This measure provides the management team with insights into the current level of engagement and data to act upon in areas of opportunity; help shape the Public Service for today and the future; ensure the voice of GNB employees is heard during the process; and provide benchmarks to guide efforts for improving employee engagement.

What initiatives or projects were undertaken in the reporting year to achieve the outcome?
The department adopted the Formal Management Strategy; improved communication between the senior management team and staff; and celebrated departmental successes.
Overview of departmental operations

The mission of the Department of Energy and Mines is to create economic prosperity through the safe and responsible development and management of New Brunswick’s energy and mineral resources.

Each division and section plays a crucial role in the research, promotion and management of New Brunswick’s energy, mineral and petroleum resources.

Business Development and Community Relations Section

The role of the Business Development and Community Relations Section is to promote investment in energy, mineral and petroleum sectors in New Brunswick by fostering strategic partnerships; advancing community relations; serving as the departmental lead on First Nations engagement; and providing project management support.

Staff are responsible for marketing New Brunswick as a preferred location for mineral and petroleum investment; participating in national conferences; including lead responsibility for the department’s annual Exploration, Mining and Petroleum conference; managing an extensive geological, mineral and petroleum resources database; publishing geoscientific information on New Brunswick; collecting and collating mineral statistics; and liaising with industry on major projects in New Brunswick.

A key priority for the section is relationship building with First Nations. The section serves as the department’s primary contact for First Nations matters, working with other departments, First Nations communities and industry to encourage meaningful dialogue.

Section staff coordinates the department’s activities with other governments as it collaborates on Energy and Mines-related matters. New Brunswick has a long history of working collaboratively with its federal,

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**Hon. Donald Arseneault**  
Minister

**Jean Finn**  
Deputy Minister

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**Sam McEwan**  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Resource, Exploration, Development and Management Division

**Bill Brekenridge**  
Assistant Deputy Minister (acting)  
Energy Division

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**Keith Endresen**  
Executive Director  
Policy and Planning Division

**Bill Brekenridge**  
Executive Director  
Business Development and Community Relations Section

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**Tyler Campbell**  
Director (ECO)  
Communications Division

**Joanne Walker**  
Assistant Deputy Minister (DNR)  
Corporate Services Division
provincial, territorial and New England counterparts, providing support for various cooperative endeavours with respect to energy, upstream oil and gas, minerals and mines.

**HIGHLIGHTS**
Prepared five publication notices to inform clients and the public of the availability of departmental reports and maps that were published and made available on the department’s website.
Six geoscience reports and 27 map plates were published, and 195 Mineral Exploration Reports of Work were released to the public through the department’s website.
Supported the department’s participation in an energy-related missions to Brussels, led by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, to explore potential collaboration opportunities in the energy sector.
Increased engagement with First Nation communities by participating in regular bilateral meetings for the purpose of information-sharing and relationship-building.

**Communications Division**
The Communications Division is responsible for communicating the department’s activities, policies and initiatives to the public and to internal staff. The division is also the main point of contact for any inquiries or issues from the media or the public. Staff are responsible for providing leadership in delivering the department’s communications and public relations strategies; ensuring that corporate standards and guidelines are followed in all communications projects and activities; anticipating media issues and managing relations; preparing written material such as news releases and speeches; providing strategic advice to the minister and senior management on communications-related issues; providing support to the minister and senior staff during the legislative session; and administering the department’s website.

**Corporate Services Division**
The Corporate Services Division provides management and administrative support for programs and activities of the departments of Energy and Mines and Natural Resources. The division provides support and services to Energy and Mines’ staff in addition to the services it provides to the Department of Natural Resources (Human Resources Branch, Financial Services Branch and the Information Services and Systems Branch).

The **Financial Services Branch** is responsible for financial resources management. It includes the management of expenditures and revenues in accordance to acts, regulations, policies and accounting standards. It also provides financial advice, financial reporting, support and other services.

The Human Resources Services Branch provides strategic and operational advice and assistance on all human resource management matters in support of the department’s objectives. Services include the recruitment, training and development of quality staff, human resources planning, succession planning, engagement, Official Languages, Performance Management, classification and compensation, employee and labour relations as well as health, wellness and safety.

The **Information Services and Systems Branch** is responsible to develop, manage and support the department’s information technology and information management services and systems. The branch is responsible for coordinating the strategic data and application development of GIS, development and maintenance of software applications, departmental records management and internal and external sales.
and services. In addition, the branch is responsible for Information Assurance and Risk Management ensuring compliance with GNB’s Information Systems Security Policy.

**Energy Division**

The Energy Division provides a number of services related to the energy sector for consumers and industry. With a particular focus on the downstream side of the energy sector, the division maintains a number of acts and regulations that balance industry and consumer needs.

The Energy Division is divided into two areas: electricity and petroleum. The electricity group focuses on the electricity sector by working closely with NB Power and municipal utilities to ensure efficient and transparent regulation of the sector and the promotion of energy efficiency and climate change initiatives.

The petroleum group provides insight into market trends and works with industry and consumers to ensure adequate supply of products while maintaining price stability.

Both groups monitor New Brunswick Energy and Utilities Board (EUB) hearings related to the sector and work with the EUB to ensure acts and regulations are working effectively. They also work closely with other provincial departmental colleagues and interest groups as needed on sector-specific issues.

**Policy and Planning Division**

The Policy and Planning Division provides support and direction for corporate planning and major policy initiatives within the department and is responsible for the coordination and provision of strategic planning activities and policy development directly, and indirectly, under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Energy and Mines. This includes policy any regulatory support for NB Power and the EUB.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Implemented the Employee Orientation Program, which includes a large safety element complying with the requirements of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*.
- Implemented the new corporate Attendance Support Program and reduced the overall level of departmental absenteeism.
- Conducted 14 permanent hires and 20 non-permanent hires as well as facilitated numerous classification reviews to assist with the overall restructuring of the department.
- Reviewed telephone requirements within the department and eliminated lines where appropriate to achieve savings.
- Provided cross-training opportunities for employees.
- Supported management in ensuring the department delivered services and initiatives.
- Implemented a new IT governance process through a process improvement initiative.
- Began implementing the Electronic Information Management Systems (EIMS) for departmental records.
- Supported and maintained departmental applications.

- Completed amendments to the *Gas Distribution Act, 1999* that increased the fees paid by Single End Use Franchises in New Brunswick and established new criteria for granting new franchises.
- Completed a review of the *Petroleum Products Pricing Act*, including public consultations to ensure the continued effectiveness of the act and its regulations in reducing the daily volatility in retail petroleum prices as well as providing the lowest possible price to consumers without jeopardizing the supply of products.
- In August 2014, amended the *Electricity from Renewable Resources Regulation* to increase the renewable energy target within the province to ensure that a minimum of 40 per cent of NB Power’s in–province sales come from renewable resources by 2020.
- Worked with the electric utilities and Efficiency NB to develop a three-year Electricity Efficiency Plan for the province that was launched in August 2014.
- Completed legislative amendments to move Efficiency New Brunswick into NB Power.
The division's responsibilities include the review and development of policy, involvement in the legislative processes and implementation of commitments under Moving New Brunswick Forward.

The division represents the department on several interdepartmental committees, including the Provincial Emergency Action Committee of Government.

The division carries out several coordinating and reporting functions for the department related to requests for information under the Right to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, legislative and policy business and coordination of submissions to the department for review under the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation.

The Geological Surveys Branch is composed of two sections: Geological Surveys North and Geological Surveys South. The branch is responsible for developing and maintaining a geoscience knowledge base and providing advice to the public and private sectors regarding mineral and petroleum resources and land use. The branch actively promotes the province’s mineral and petroleum resource potential and administers an Exploration Assistance Program to stimulate mineral exploration in New Brunswick.

The Resource Exploration and Development Branch is composed of the Petroleum Resource Development section, and Mining and Mineral Resources section. Overall, the branch administers and manages the allocation of Crown mineral, petroleum, peat and aggregate rights, and the exploration and development of these rights through a comprehensive legislative and regulatory framework.

HIGHLIGHTS

Amended to the Oil and Natural Gas Act to provide the authority to implement government’s commitment to impose a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing in New Brunswick.

Provided policy support leading up to the appointment of the Commission on Hydraulic Fracturing, tasked with undertaking a comprehensive review, related to government’s five key areas, regarding the practice and effects of hydraulic fracturing in the province.

Furthered efforts to negotiate an accord with the Government of Canada to provide for the joint and equal management of offshore petroleum resources.

Acquired 1,000 km of digitally enhanced industry seismic profiles from the Northumberland Strait and adjacent onshore areas to assess the potential of oil and natural gas deposits in New Brunswick’s eastern offshore region.

Provided more than $454,000 in financial assistance to 15 junior mining companies and more than $311,000 to 64 prospectors.

Collaborated with the Geological Survey of Canada and the University of New Brunswick to increase the understanding of tin-tungsten-molybdenum deposits in New Brunswick.

Developed an integrated geological mapping strategy to manage the collection and distribution of digital geoscientific data.

Saw a total of 22 mining leases in good standing and four mines in seasonal operation.

Saw a total of 26 companies extract peat in the province.

Generated more than $42 million in royalties for the province (includes $21 million in adjustments from previous years).

Completed operational approvals for 2014 programs.

Resource, Exploration, Development and Management Division

The Resource, Exploration, Development and Management Division is composed of the Geological Surveys Branch and the Resource Exploration and Development Branch. The division’s overall mandate is to provide relevant geological knowledge, advice and support to the public and private sectors, while managing the sustainable exploration and development of Crown mineral, petroleum, aggregate and peat resources through the effective administration of legislation and regulations under the jurisdiction of the department.
## Financial information

### Expenditures in detail 2014-2015 ($)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ordinary Program</th>
<th>Main Estimates</th>
<th>Appropriation Transfers</th>
<th>Final Budget</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>698,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>698,000</td>
<td>746,400</td>
<td>48,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy Management and Business Development</td>
<td>3,797,000</td>
<td>393,200</td>
<td>4,190,200</td>
<td>4,356,100</td>
<td>165,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource Exploration, Development and Management</td>
<td>4,635,000</td>
<td>10,300</td>
<td>4,645,300</td>
<td>4,426,200</td>
<td>(219,100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total 2014-2015</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,130,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>403,500</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,533,500</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,528,700</strong></td>
<td><strong>(4,800)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>Main Estimates</th>
<th>Appropriation Transfers</th>
<th>Final Budget</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Return on Investment</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>2,400</td>
<td>(3,600)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licences and Permits</td>
<td>1,926,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,926,000</td>
<td>1,506,900</td>
<td>(419,100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sale of Goods and Services</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>5,600</td>
<td>(400)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royalties</td>
<td>16,530,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>16,530,000</td>
<td>20,410,700</td>
<td>3,880,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fines and Penalties</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>(400)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total 2014-2015</strong></td>
<td><strong>18,469,000</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td><strong>18,469,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>21,936,200</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,467,200</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Summary of staffing activity

Pursuant to section 4 of the Civil Service Act, the Deputy Minister of the Department of Human Resources delegates staffing to each Deputy Head for his or her respective departments. Please find below a summary of the staffing activity for 2014-2015 for the Department of Energy and Mines.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employee type</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Permanent</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporary</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>58</strong></td>
<td><strong>65</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The department advertised eight competitions, including four open (public) competitions and four closed (internal) competitions.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appointment type</th>
<th>Appointment description</th>
<th>Section of the Civil Service Act</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Specialized professional, scientific or technical | An appointment may be made without competition when a position requires:  
– a high degree of expertise and training  
– a high degree of technical skill  
– recognized experts in their field                                                                                                                       | 15(1)                            | 0      |
| 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)                         | 0      |
| 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)                         | 0      |
| Lateral transfer                               | The government transfer process facilitates the transfer of employees from within Part 1, 2 (School Boards) and 3 (Hospital Corporations) 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)                      | 4      |
| 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 Energy and Mines and no complaints were submitted to the Ombudsman.
## Summary of legislation and legislative activity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill #</th>
<th>Name of legislation</th>
<th>Date of Royal Assent</th>
<th>Summary of changes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>An Act to Dissolve the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Agency of New Brunswick</td>
<td>March 27, 2015</td>
<td>The amendment to the Act effectively moves the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Agency of New Brunswick into NB Power.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>An Act to Amend the Oil and Natural Gas Act ([<a href="http://www.gnb.ca/legis/bill/pdf/58/1/Bill-9">http://www.gnb.ca/legis/bill/pdf/58/1/Bill-9</a>. pdf](<a href="http://www.gnb.ca/legis/bill/pdf/58/1/Bill-9">http://www.gnb.ca/legis/bill/pdf/58/1/Bill-9</a>. pdf))</td>
<td>March 27, 2015</td>
<td>The amendment to the Act clarifies the regulation making authority pertaining to well-completion operations, specifically with respect to the regulation of hydraulic fracturing. It also provided the authority to the Lieutenant-Governor In Council to make regulations respecting well-completions and included the authority to prohibit hydraulic fracturing operations.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of regulation</td>
<td>Effective date</td>
<td>Summary of changes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity from Renewable Resources Regulation</td>
<td>Aug. 12, 2014</td>
<td>Amended the regulation to include all existing renewable energy in the province and increased the target to 40 percent of in-province sales by 2020.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Licence to Search and Lease Regulation</td>
<td>April 1, 2014</td>
<td>Amended regulations to provide for a new economic rent royalty structure for natural gas production.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Summary of Official Languages activities

| Introduction                                                                 | The department continued to work on its *Official Languages Action Plan* to address the four sectors of activity identified in GNB’s *Plan on Official Languages*. The following outlines some actions taken in each of the areas of focus. |
| Focus 1 | Ensure access to service of equal quality in English and French throughout the province: The objective the department sought to address in 2014-2015 was to make certain that all written and oral communication with clients was done in the Official Language of their choice. Random audits were conducted to verify that the active offer and service were provided in the client's Official Language of choice. Missed opportunities were addressed through case-by-case interventions. In addition, all linguistic profiles are updated biannually to ensure the department's ability to provide services in both Official Languages 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: The objective the department sought to address in 2014-2015 was to confirm that personnel services and other administrative services provided to employees were offered and provided in the employees' Official Language of choice. Human Resources advisors continue to ensure that personnel services and other administrative services are offered and provided in the employee's Official Language of choice and all issues are addressed as required in a timely fashion. Meetings are held in both Official Languages or in the Official Language of the client's choice (e.g., presentations slides in both Official Languages). The use of both Official Languages is encouraged for small meetings. Larger meetings provide simultaneous interpretation or, in some cases, may be offered in English and French separately. |
| Focus 3 | The objective the department sought to address in 2014-2015 was to make sure that employees take into account the Official Language of choice when meeting and consulting with the public. Correspondence and information is 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 GNB's obligations with respect to Official Languages: The objective the department sought to address in 2014-2015 was to make sure that the employee performance review process included a review of GNB's Official Languages obligations. Employees are expected to review and understand the Language of Service and Language of Work policies each year as noted in the annual employee performance appraisal. |
| Conclusion | The department recognizes its obligations under the *Official Languages Act* and related policies and makes a conscious effort to provide quality services to clients in both Official Languages. The department supports the use of both Official Languages in the workplace and supports second-language training. Meeting the departmental linguistic profiles for bilingual job positions is an ongoing challenge in carrying out the *Official Languages Action Plan*. |
Summary of recommendations from the Office of the Auditor General

There were no recommendations to the Department of Energy and Mines from the Office of the Auditor General during this reporting period.

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 Energy and Mines did not receive any disclosures of wrongdoing in the 2014-2015 fiscal year.