

GCP RFP DNR Info Session

Department of Energy and Department of
Natural Resources
2026



Session Overview

- Welcome and Introductions
- Overview of Green Choice Program
- Department Overview
- Environmental Risks and mitigations
- Resources
- Questions

Department Overview

Department of Energy

The Department of Energy supports the use and development of energy resources to help increase energy security, create jobs, grow the economy and create social benefits. The department works to develop local, renewable energy and clean energy solutions to create new economic opportunities, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save people money on their energy bills.

Department of Natural Resources

The Department of Natural Resources manages, conserves, and protects Nova Scotia's forests, wildlife, minerals, Crown lands, and provincial parks. The department supports sustainable resource development, economic growth, biodiversity conservation, species-at-risk protection, wildlife management, and hunter safety, while overseeing mineral and petroleum titles and conducting research to ensure the sustainable use of Nova Scotia's natural resources.

Green Choice Program RFP

Green Choice Program RFP August 12, 2026 Draft

2.12 Environmental Risk

- a) For each Project Configuration, Proponents must submit as part of their Proposal:
 - i. a completed Prescribed Form: Environmental Risk which includes confirmation that each applicable Project Configuration of the proposed Project will meet human health criteria concerning shadow flicker and turbine noise based on modelling results and the Environmental Risk Questionnaire with responses supported by evidence; OR
 - ii. have an Environmental Assessment approval for the proposed Project.
- b) Prior to preparing Proposals, Proponents are encouraged to contact the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables by email at wildlifeEA@novascotia.ca to discuss the proposed Project Site and its potential impact on items such as wildlife, species at risk, wetlands, old growth forest or a core critical habitat.

Green Choice Program RFP

Environmental Risk
Green Choice Program RFP
August 12, 2026 Draft

Prescribed Form Requirements

- *Environmental Assessment Approval*
- *Human Health Impacts*
- *Environmental risk Questionnaire*

RFP Environmental Prescribed Form

Scoring Criteria Category		Maximum Points	
Energy Rate			50
Project Risk and Maturity			24
	Resource Assessment	3	
	Financing Plan	4	
	Experience	4	
	Environmental Risk	6	
	Project Site	7	
Engagement			10
Social and Economic Benefits			16
	Ownership	6	
	Social Programs	5	
	Economic Benefits	5	
Total			100

Green Choice Program RFP

Timeline Update

The table below provides the expected timeline of the Green Choice Program Procurement. Power Advisory reserves the right to adjust the schedule as needed.

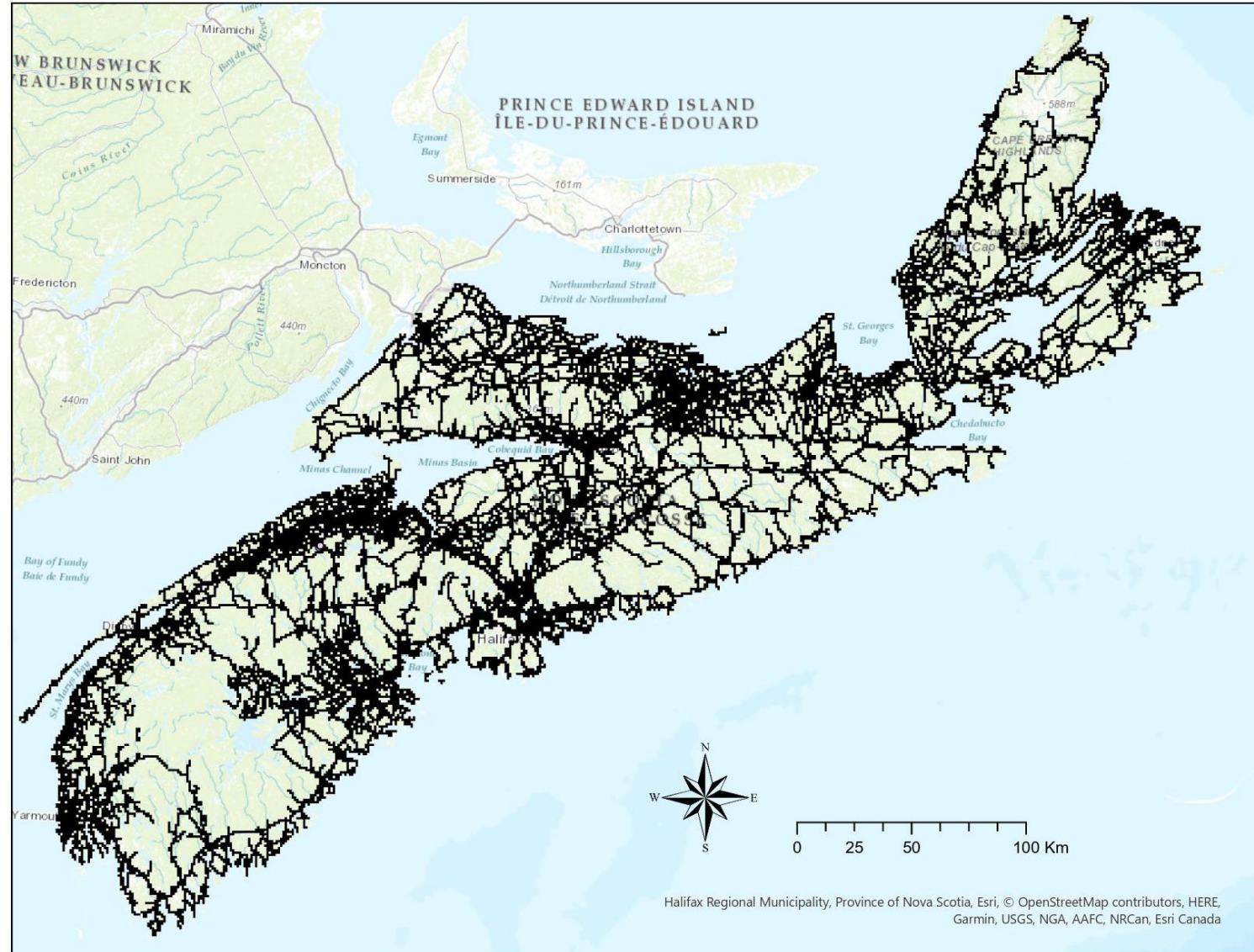
<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Posting of Draft RFP & PPA	June 2, 2026
Webinar	June 18, 2026
Deadline for Proponent Registration	September 17, 2026
Deadline for Feasibility Study Submission to IESO Nova Scotia	September 30, 2026
Issue Final RFP	September 10, 2026
Deadline for submitting questions and comments	October 8, 2026
Deadline for Issuing Addenda	October 29, 2026
Proposal Submission Deadline	January 14, 2027
Target Date for Notice of PPA Awards	May 6, 2027

Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

- Provincial Overview of Habitat, Flora and Fauna
- DNR Legislative Context
- Environmental Risk Assessment (Green Choice Program)
- Review of Wind Projects (Environmental Assessments)
- Baseline Information (Data and Surveys)
- Technical Comments and Key Considerations for Habitat, Flora and Fauna
- Mitigation, Monitoring and Adaptive Management Planning
- Permits and Authorizations (Crown Land Authorizations, ESA/Wildlife permits)
- Contact Information

Provincial Overview: Habitat, Flora & Fauna

- Hotspot for diverse species and ecosystems
- Migratory flyways for birds and bats
- Distribution of private and crown land
- Parks and Protected areas
- Roads and Communities



DNR Legislative Context

Legislation	Key Points
Wildlife Act	- Protected Wildlife: Raptors (Section 50) - Bird and Turtle Nests/Eggs (Section 51) - Scientific permits (Section 62)
Endangered Species Act (ESA)	- Prohibitions for Threatened and Endangered Species (Section 13) - ESA Permits (Section 14) 71 Species Listed: 33 Endangered, 13 Threatened
Crown Lands Act	- Activities on crown land require authorizations - Review and approvals are separate from EA process - Identifies other authorized activities (mining, forestry, recreation, public access) - IRM Review considers habitat, flora and fauna values similar to EA process - Policy and Practices: Old Growth, Rare Lichen, Species At Risk, Raptors
Other Provincial Acts under DNR	Provincial Parks Act, Beaches Act, Forests Act, Conservation Easement Act, Community Easement Act, Trails Act, Minerals Resources Act
Federal – Migratory Birds Convention Act and Species At Risk Act	- Protection for Migratory Species listed in Schedule 1 and Nest protection - Prohibitions for Threatened and Endangered Species on Federal lands as well as Migratory Birds, Aquatic Species - Permit requirements

Early Engagement is Encouraged.

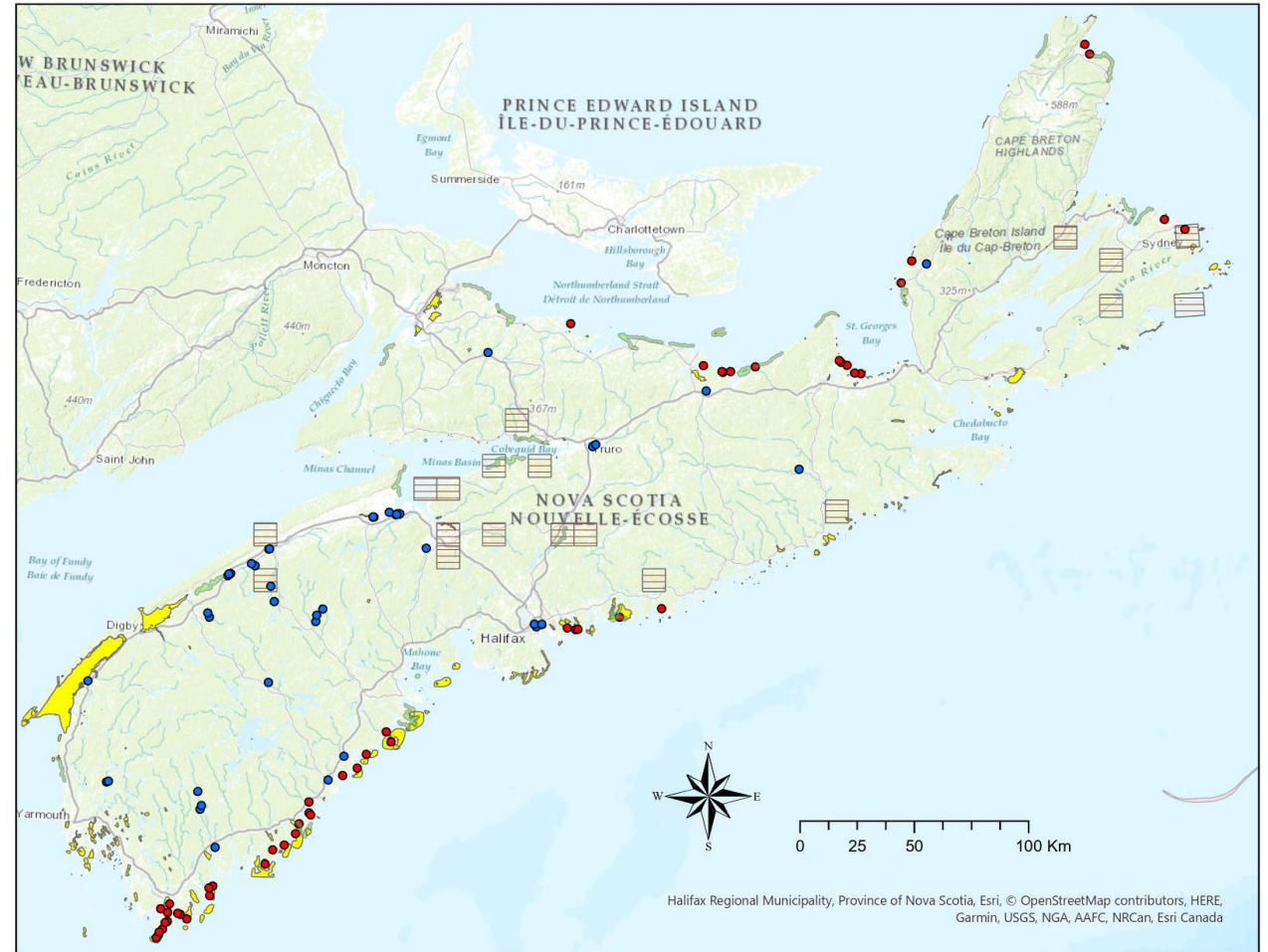
DNR can do a quick scan to help identify values and features in proximity of potential project areas. Permits and authorizations for activities related to crown land, wildlife and species at risk are separate from the EA process.

Environmental Risk Assessment (GCP2)

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Environmental Risk Assessment

- Species At Risk
- Significant Species and Habitat (SigHab)
- Migratory Birds and Bats
- Parks/Protected Areas
- Old Growth
- Wetlands
- Roads



DNR Review of Wind Projects Environmental Assessments

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- **Habitat, Flora and Fauna Values (Baseline)**
- **Potential Effects of Wind Project Activities (Positive and Negative)**
 - Construction: Fragmentation, creation, alteration or loss of habitat
 - Operation: Direct, indirect, mortality, injury, attraction, avoidance
 - Cumulative effects of regional development activities
 - Decommission and reclamation activities
- **Avoidance and Mitigation**
 - Timing windows, buffers on known/identified values, increase cut-in speed, blade feathering, real-time detection technology, blade visibility, minimize artificial lighting at night, roads planning
- **Monitoring and Adaptive Management Planning**
 - Pre-emptive and responsive opportunities

Baseline Information: Surveys and Data

- **Desktop:** Known Values and Habitat Modeling
- **Pre-construction Field Surveys (over entire project footprint/study area)**
 - **Birds:** Point Counts, ARUs and Radar
 - **Bats:** ARUs, Habitat for Roosting/Foraging/Hibernacula (AMOs)
 - **Lichens:** Transects, Rare-Lichen Habitat (BFL)
 - **Moose:** Transects, PGI, Cameras (Fragmentation)
 - **Turtles:** Transects (Road construction, water crossing, habitat alteration)
 - **Old Growth:** Habitat for SAR, Assessments and Policy (DNR)
 - **Wetland:** Habitat for SAR, Assessment and Policy (ECC)

Recommend 2 years of bird and bat surveys (and Mainland Moose)

Data Submission (Spatial)

- **Survey location, effort and timing:** Shapefiles with points, polygons, transects to show survey coverage including dates.
- **Survey Results:** Shapefiles of all flora and fauna occurrences detected including individual waypoints by species and date observed.

DNR Technical Review and Key Considerations for EA Wind Projects

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Details of Technical Review:

- Project activities, specific values in proximity, potential effects, avoidance and mitigation options, and cumulative effects

Key Considerations:

- **Additional Surveys and Data:** Are there gaps in data and survey coverage? Are additional surveys needed to inform mitigation/monitoring activities?
- **Wildlife Management Plan:** Avoidance and mitigation (buffers, timing, best practices), post-construction monitoring and adaptive management planning, wildlife encounter response plan including SAR and Invasives species, cumulative effects and reclamation activities.
- **Legal Obligations:** permits, authorizations and legislative requirements

Mitigation, Monitoring and Adaptive Management Planning

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Wildlife Management Plan:

- Avoidance and Mitigation Plan of potential negative effects
- Wildlife Response Plan: Species At Risk, Wildlife Encounters
- Bird/Turtle Nests, Invasive Species Prevention, Reclamation
- Cumulative Effects (Construction and Operational)

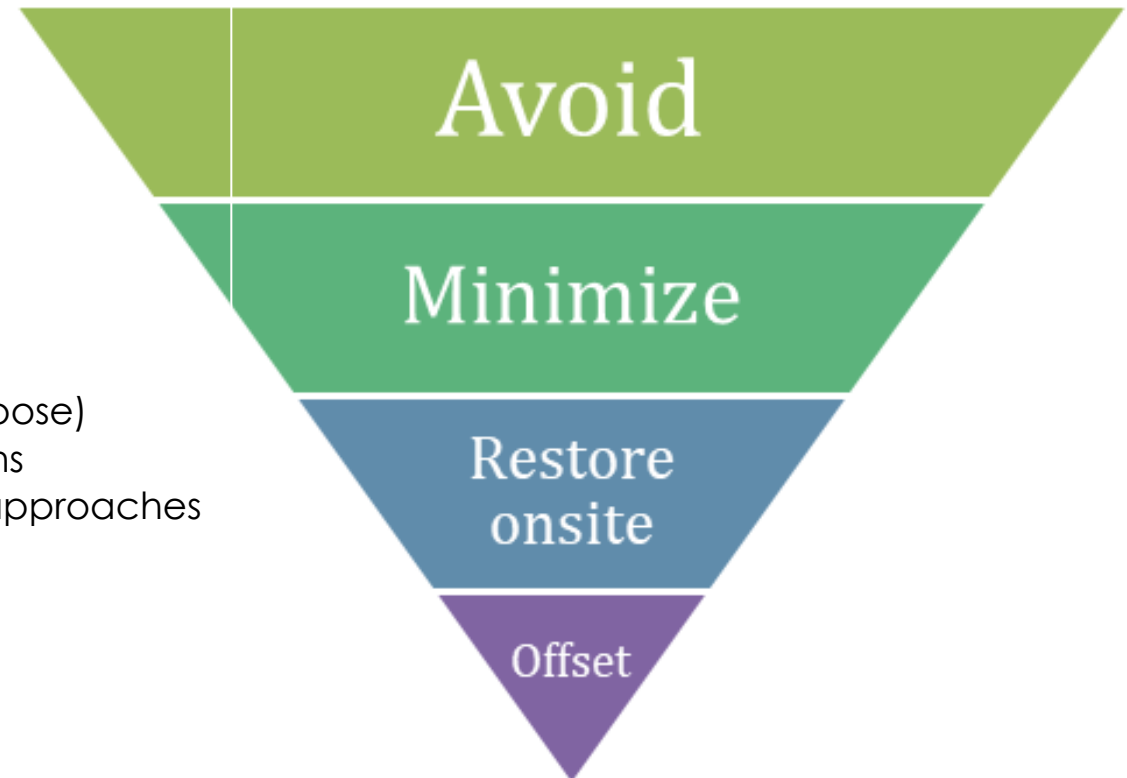
Additional Surveys: for Birds and Bats (and other possible species)

Post-Construction Monitoring: minimum of 2 years for Bats, Birds (and Moose)

- Consistency between pre and post-construction survey locations
- Guidance based on peer-reviewed science and jurisdictional approaches

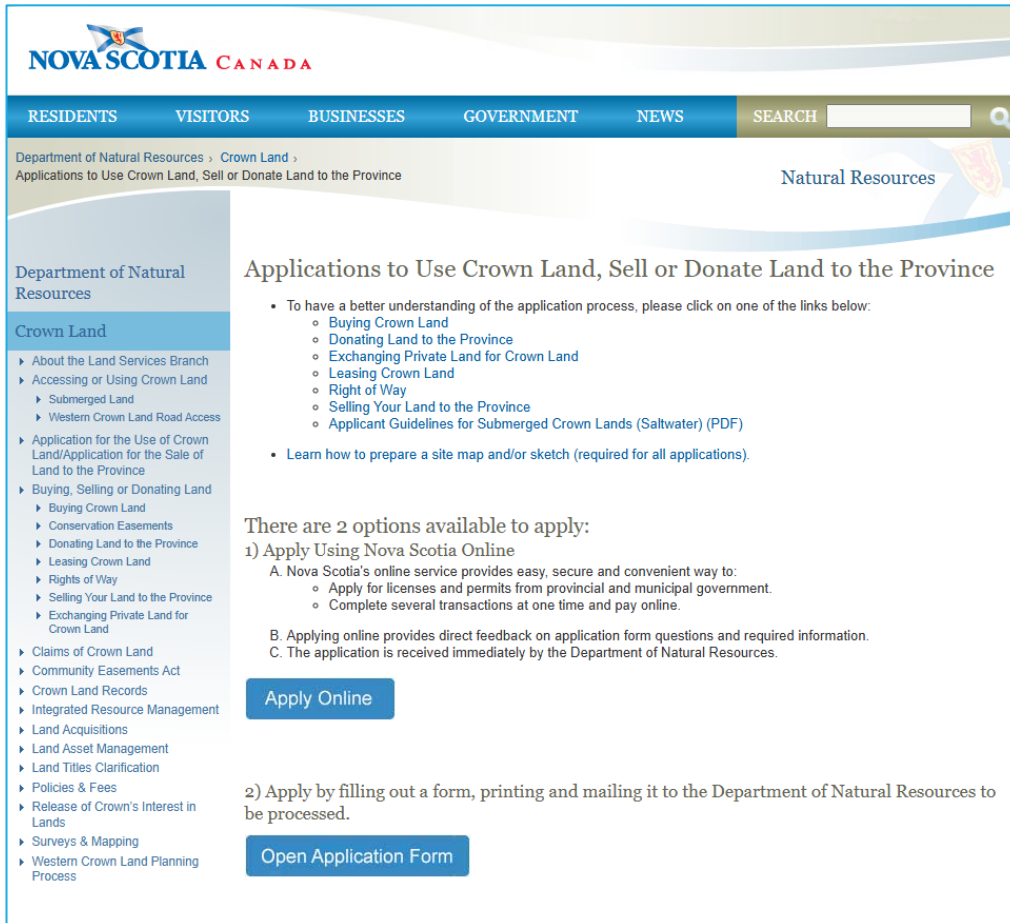
Adaptive Management Plan:

- Development of Thresholds and Triggers
- Continued innovation and creative solutions
- Pre-emptive versus responsive opportunities
- Guidance based on peer-reviewed science and jurisdictional approaches



Permits and Authorizations

- DNR Permits and Authorizations are **separate process**



NOVA SCOTIA CANADA

RESIDENTS VISITORS BUSINESSES GOVERNMENT NEWS SEARCH

Department of Natural Resources > Crown Land > Applications to Use Crown Land, Sell or Donate Land to the Province

Natural Resources

Department of Natural Resources

Crown Land

- About the Land Services Branch
- Accessing or Using Crown Land
 - Submerged Land
 - Western Crown Land Road Access
- Application for the Use of Crown Land/Application for the Sale of Land to the Province
- Buying, Selling or Donating Land
 - Buying Crown Land
 - Conservation Easements
 - Donating Land to the Province
 - Leasing Crown Land
 - Rights of Way
 - Selling Your Land to the Province
 - Exchanging Private Land for Crown Land
- Claims of Crown Land
- Community Easements Act
- Crown Land Records
- Integrated Resource Management
- Land Acquisitions
- Land Asset Management
- Land Titles Clarification
- Policies & Fees
- Release of Crown's Interest in Lands
- Surveys & Mapping
- Western Crown Land Planning Process

Applications to Use Crown Land, Sell or Donate Land to the Province

- To have a better understanding of the application process, please click on one of the links below:
 - Buying Crown Land
 - Donating Land to the Province
 - Exchanging Private Land for Crown Land
 - Leasing Crown Land
 - Right of Way
 - Selling Your Land to the Province
 - Applicant Guidelines for Submerged Crown Lands (Saltwater) (PDF)
- Learn how to prepare a site map and/or sketch (required for all applications).

There are 2 options available to apply:

1) Apply Using Nova Scotia Online

A. Nova Scotia's online service provides easy, secure and convenient way to:

- Apply for licenses and permits from provincial and municipal government.
- Complete several transactions at one time and pay online.

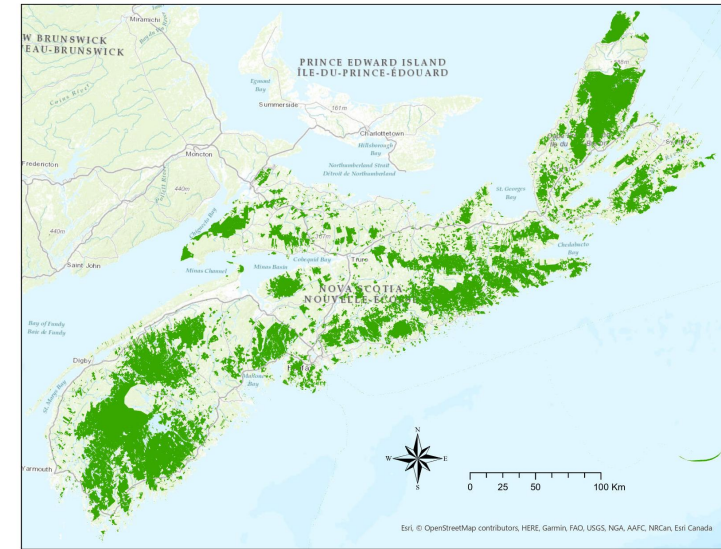
B. Applying online provides direct feedback on application form questions and required information.

C. The application is received immediately by the Department of Natural Resources.

[Apply Online](#)

2) Apply by filling out a form, printing and mailing it to the Department of Natural Resources to be processed.

[Open Application Form](#)



Applications to Use Crown Land, Sell or Donate Land to the Province | novascotia.ca

**Wildlife Act and Endangered Species Act
Permits and Authorizations**

Email: wildlifeEA@novascotia.ca

Contact Information

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Department of Natural Resources Land Use Planning Division

WildlifeEA@novascotia.ca

Questions?

Thank you