



Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries

ANNUAL REPORT
2024-2025

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Province of New Brunswick

P.O. Box 6000, Fredericton NB E3B 5H1 CANADA

ISBN 978-1-4605-4394-8 (bilingual print edition)

ISBN 978-1-4605-4395-5 (PDF: English edition)

ISBN 978-1-4605-4396-2 (PDF: French edition)

ISSN 978-1-4605-3335-2 (PDF: English edition)

ISSN 978-1-4605-3334-5 (PDF: French edition)

TRANSMITTAL LETTERS

From the Minister to the Lieutenant-Governor

Her Honour The Honourable Louise Imbeault

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, 2024, to March 31, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,



Honourable Pat Finnigan
Minister

From the Deputy Minister to the Minister

Honourable Pat Finnigan
Minister of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries

Sir:

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, 2024, to March 31, 2025.



Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Brewer-Dalton
Deputy Minister

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MINISTER'S MESSAGE

We are fortunate to live in a province with such a rich diversity in local food offerings. Agriculture, aquaculture, and fisheries are part of the fabric of New Brunswick. Not only do these products find their way to our tables and define our culture, they provide economic benefit, create good jobs, and add to our provincial exports.

The New Brunswick agriculture, agri-food and seafood sectors were very active in 2024. This past year, we centered our efforts on diversifying our markets and building relationships and partnerships with new customers. The department, with industry, participated in 10 trade show events, two international trade missions to multiple countries of interest, and hosted three incoming missions. These activities generated over 400 leads for exporters.

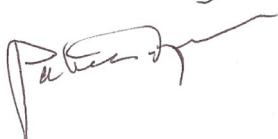
The department organized 10 in-market promotional activities in seven different countries, highlighting various New Brunswick seafood, agri-food and beverage products, establishing strong connections with customers and demand for our products.

Working with social media influencers, promotional activities reached local, national and targeted global audiences resulting in 1.3 million views. We supported activities in international markets, including promotions in partnership with restaurants, hotels and grocery chains, chef training, and other advertising.

We engaged regularly with agricultural producers, seafood processors, and fish harvesters to discuss the impacts of tariffs, share information and explore responses. These engagements helped to achieve a coordinated response to ensure that stakeholders voices were reflected in the Government of New Brunswick's tariff response action plan.

We strengthened efforts to support local purchasing by promoting made-in-NB products and encouraging consumers to choose locally grown and produced food, including through partnerships with initiatives like 'NB Made' and the 'Eat Local NB' campaign.

As a fourth-generation farmer, I am so proud to be Minister of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries. Bringing fresh, local and sustainably grown, raised and harvested food to tables here at home and around the world is truly fulfilling. Working with the dedicated staff of this department has been a pleasure, and I look forward to more success in 2025-2026.



Honourable Pat Finnigan
Minister of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries

DEPUTY MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries are incredibly important to New Brunswick's economy, particularly in coastal, rural and Indigenous communities. These sectors are vital in producing the high-quality food and beverages we enjoy everyday, not to mention some of our most valued and signature exports.

The Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries added to its strong track record of delivering results in the face of some significant challenges. Our role is to support our sectors and 2024-2025 has been a time of collaboration with many of our industry partners.

We provided \$8.5 million to producers during year two of the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership to fund 803 projects. This included the launch, on April 1, 2024, of year one of the Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program, which supported 45 agriculture producers for the maintenance and conservation of their land.

We developed and launched the 2024-2025 New Brunswick Fisheries Fund to support industry with market development, improve competitiveness through innovation and technology adoption, and build resilience in the aquaculture and fisheries sectors.

We are leading enhanced shellfish testing in all oyster-producing bays in the province, in collaboration with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, to respond to the emergence of Multinucleate Sphere Unknown (MSX) *Haplosporidium nelsoni* and Dermo *Perkinsus marinus* in New Brunswick waters.

We supported the development and launch of the Savour NB food and beverages partnership, under the *Local Food and Beverages Strategy 2021-2025*. In addition, through the New Brunswick Deliciously Canadian brand, we continued to promote New Brunswick products on the international stage and supported extensive export efforts of the New Brunswick food industry.

These are just a few examples of the accomplishments of the department during 2024-2025 all while navigating challenges and uncertainty.

I am pleased to be back at the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries and 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.



Kathy Brewer-Dalton
Deputy Minister

GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES

Delivering for New Brunswickers

The priorities the Government of New Brunswick (GNB) has focused on representing the stories and solutions we hear from residents across the province. Our goal is to make a difference and enhance the quality of life for everyone in the province we proudly call home. Together, we are learning, growing, adapting, and discovering new and transformative ways of doing business. GNB is focused on taking the necessary steps to move our priorities forward, and work is being done more efficiently and effectively every day. New Brunswickers are resilient, creative and compassionate people, and by working collaboratively, we can create the brighter future we all deserve. GNB is prioritizing partnerships and trusting and empowering the people and organizations on the ground working most closely with New Brunswickers to achieve results.

Priorities

GNB is focused on creating a brighter future for all New Brunswickers. To make progress towards this vision, several priorities have been identified within the following areas:

- Health care
- Affordability and housing
- Education
- The economy
- Environment
- Trusted leadership

We invite you to explore the commitments we have made within each priority area, as well as updates on our achievements and the metrics we use to measure success. For more information, visit: gnb.ca/accountability.

HIGHLIGHTS

During the 2024-2025 fiscal year, Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries focused on these government priorities through:

- Partnering with the Government of Canada, to administer the 2023 Canada – New Brunswick Potato AgriRecovery Initiative that paid \$6.4 million to 62 potato growers who incurred extraordinary costs from excessive moisture during the 2023 growing season.
- Supporting shrimpers on the Acadian Peninsula to transition to the redfish fishery. Nearly \$3.5 million, of which \$2.5 million was leveraged from the federal government, was awarded to Fédération Régionale Acadienne des pêcheurs professionnels via the Atlantic Fisheries Fund to identify the most effective tools and strategies to ensure sustainable redfish fishing by shrimpers in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.
- Delivering targeted programs to support growth in the fruit, vegetable and beef sectors, while supporting the environmental resiliency of agricultural landscapes:
 - Provided \$752,097 in funding to aid with heifer retention, improving animal genetics, modernizing animal handling systems, abattoir expansions, etc., in collaboration with the New Brunswick Cattle Producers Association and the Maritime Beef Council;
 - Supported 34 projects under the Fruit and Vegetable Industry Development Program with an investment of \$404,614 impacting 23 producers to support New Brunswick fruit and mixed vegetable producers who want to increase production; and
 - Supported 45 projects under the Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program with an investment of \$1,059,587 impacting 45 producers to support farmland robustness.
- Launching a new AgrilInsurance Program that allows maple producers to purchase insurance to protect them financially from production losses caused by natural perils, such as extreme weather conditions.
- Launching the *2024–2029 New Brunswick Wild Blueberry Pollination Strategy* to increase pollination resources while supporting a sustainable and growing beekeeping industry in New Brunswick.
- Launching a new online beekeeper registration system to encourage all beekeepers to register their bees, a requirement under the *Bee Act*.
- Supporting the development and launch of the Savour NB food and beverages partnership, under the *Local Food and Beverages Strategy 2021-2025*, which included a logo program to increase visibility for New Brunswick's food and beverage industry.
- Launching, in partnership with the Governments of Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, the Maritime Livestock Price Insurance Pilot Program which allows producers to purchase price protection on beef cattle in the form of an insurance policy in the event of unexpected market declines.

PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES

Outcome #1 Overall Agri-Food and Seafood Exports

Enable sector growth in the agri-food and seafood sectors by increasing export sales outside of Canada by three per cent in 2024.

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.

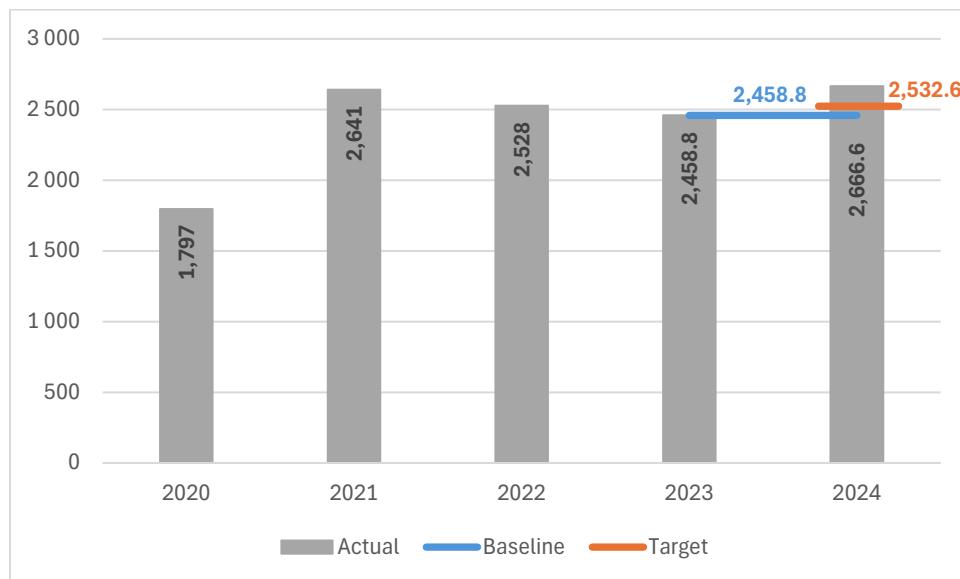
Overall Performance

The target for total agri-food and seafood export sales was exceeded in 2024. Export value increased by eight per cent (207.8 million) to \$2.67 billion in 2024. Compared to 2023, agri-food exports rose by four per cent (\$34.4 million) to a record-high \$813.8 million in 2024; while seafood exports grew by 10 per cent (\$173.4 million) to \$1.85 billion.

Initiatives or projects undertaken to achieve the outcome

The New Brunswick agri-food and seafood sector was very active in 2024. The department, with industry, participated in 10 trade show events, 2 international trade missions to multiple countries of interest, and hosted 3 incoming missions, generating over 400 leads for exporters. The department also organized 10 in-market promotional activities in 7 different countries highlighting various New Brunswick seafood, agri-food and beverage products, establishing strong connections with customers and demand for New Brunswick products. Working with social media influencers, promotional activities touched local, national and global audiences. Our reach was extended through our partnership with Chef Dennis Prescott which resulted in 1.3 million views.

Agri-Food and Seafood Exports (\$ millions)



Baseline: \$2,458.8 million (2023)* **Target:** \$2,532.6 million (3% growth from 2023)

Actual: \$2,666.6 million (8% growth from 2023) *2023 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. There is 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.

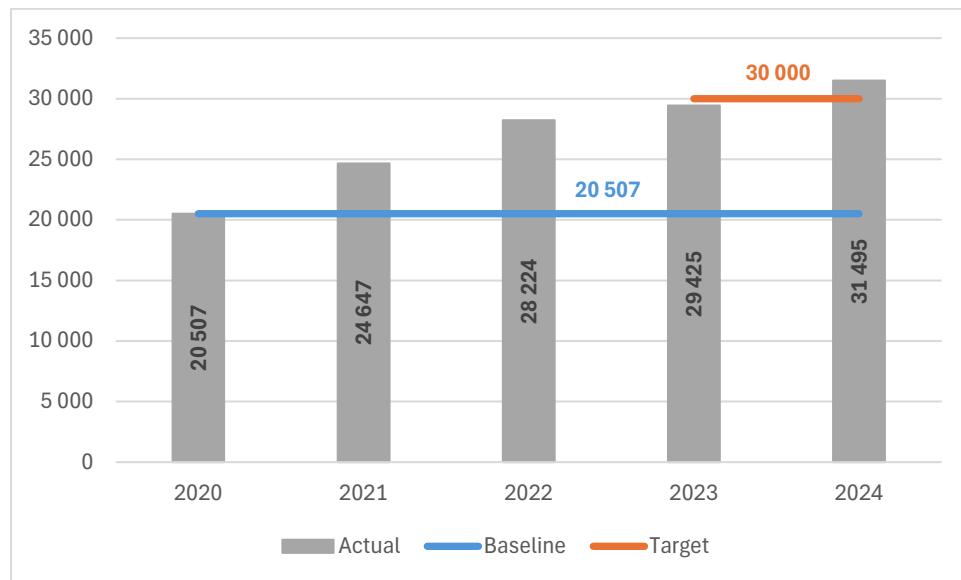
Overall Performance

Square metre growth in the CEA sector between 2023 and 2024 increased from 29,425 square metres to 31,495 square metres, representing an increase of 7 per cent. Farm cash receipts of greenhouse grown vegetables increased by 28 per cent during the same period (from \$2.38 million in 2023 to \$3.06 million in 2024).

Initiatives or projects undertaken to achieve the outcome

As the market for locally produced New Brunswick fruit and mixed vegetable crops has expanded significantly during the past few years, the department continues to provide funding support for the Fruit and Vegetable Industry Development program. In 2024, a total of \$405,000 was dispersed, which supported a net increase in CEA growing space, on-farm crop storage capacity, and production capacity. The funding contributions were provided under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership.

Square Metres of Controlled Environmental Agriculture



Baseline: 20,507 square metres (2020) **Target:** 30,000 square metres by 2024

Actual: 31,495 square metres achieved in 2024

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. In 2024, the target for farm cash receipts is \$935.3 million or five per cent growth from 2023.

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

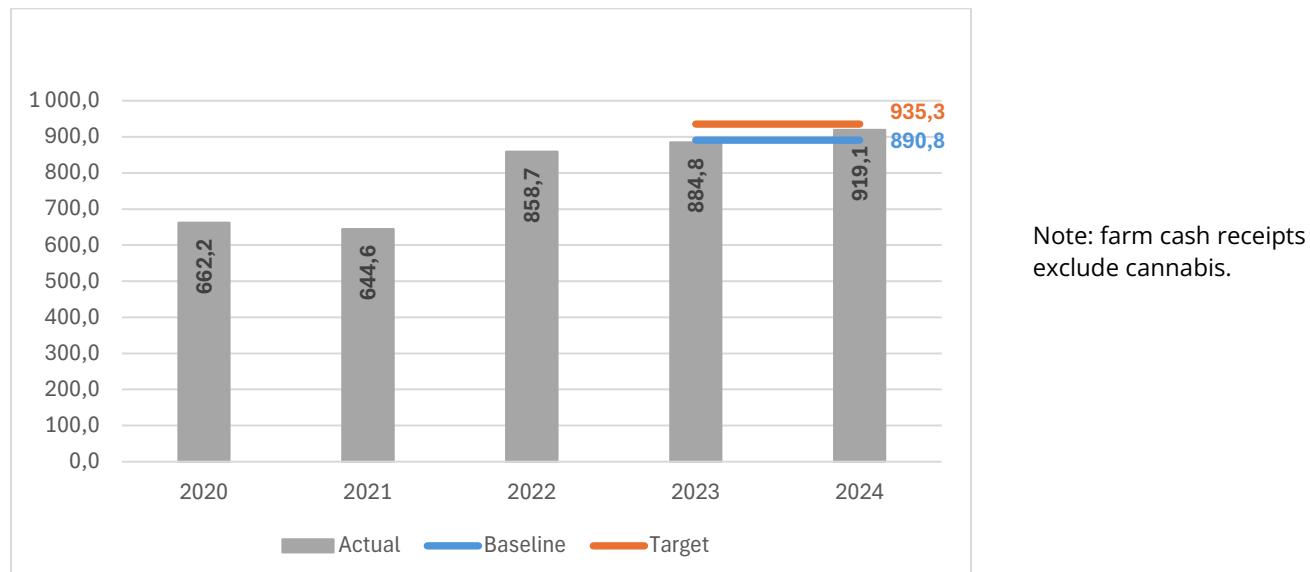
The target for farm cash receipts was not met in 2024. New Brunswick's farm cash receipts (excluding cannabis) totaled \$919.1 million in 2024, about 3 per cent (\$28.3 million) higher than in 2023. Compared to 2023, crop receipts (excluding cannabis) rose 4 per cent (\$18.3 million) to \$480.9 million in 2024, largely due to higher receipts for maple products, while livestock receipts were stable at \$411.8 million. Program payments increased by 51 per cent (\$9.0 million) to \$26.5 million in 2024.

Initiatives or projects undertaken to achieve the outcome

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

- Delivery of Year Two the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a 5-year federal-provincial-territorial agreement designed to provide cost-shared funding to industry in areas contributing to agriculture sector sustainability and growth; and
- Completed 96 per cent of the actions to date under the Local Food and Beverages Strategy 2021–2025.

Farm Cash Receipts (\$ millions)



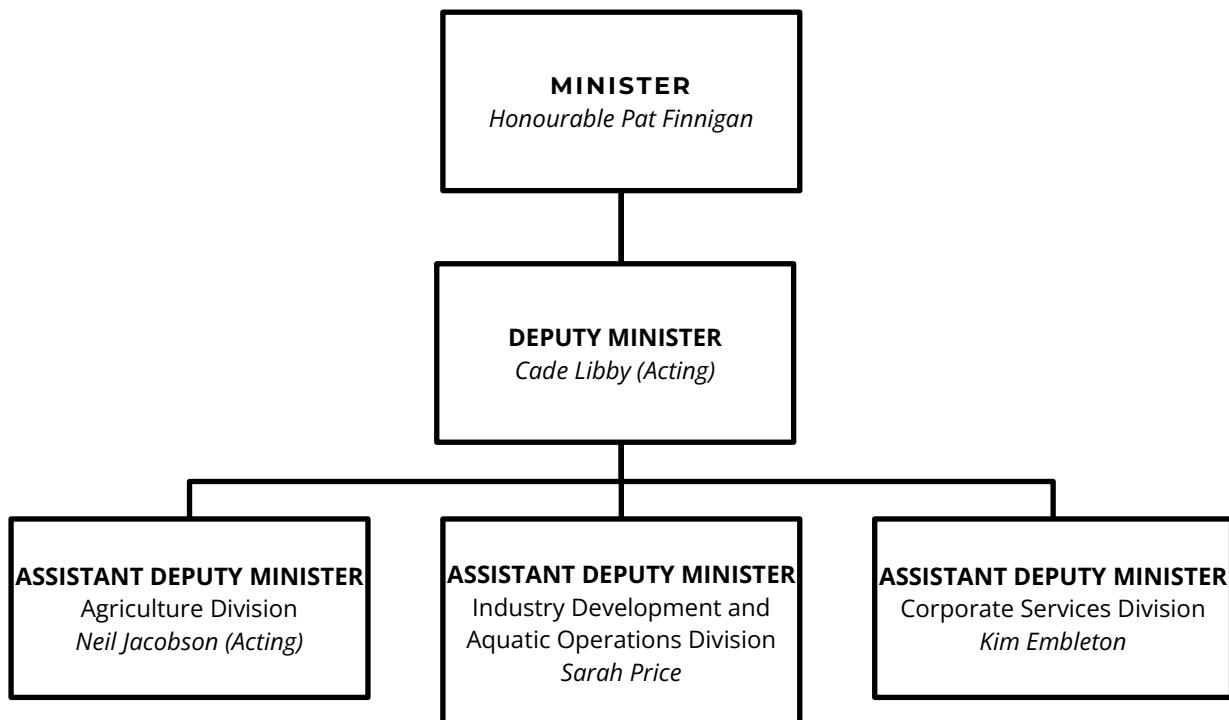
Baseline: \$890.8 million (2023)* **Target:** \$935.3 million (5 per cent growth from 2023)

Actual: \$919.1 million (3 per cent growth from 2023) *2023 number revised by Statistics Canada

OVERVIEW OF DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS

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.

High-Level Organizational Chart



DIVISION OVERVIEW

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 2024 – 2025 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; Livestock Sector Development; Crop Sector Development; and Sector Development – Potato.

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).

The **Livestock Sector Development Branch** provides technical advisory services; strategic and innovative research and monitoring; collaborates with the livestock and livestock feed sectors to improve profitability, competitiveness and sustainability; provides regulatory oversight; and develops and implements strategic initiatives and programs to support economic development and growth.

The **Crop Sector Development Branch** provides crop technical advisory services; integrated pest management and diagnostic services; environmental programing 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 land management, climate change and agri-environmental file for the Agriculture Division, and represents the department and agricultural sector interests on various intergovernmental, regional, and national committees.

The **Sector Development – Potato 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.

INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND AQUATIC OPERATIONS DIVISION

The Industry Development and Aquatic Operations Division consists of four branches: Aquaculture and Extension Services; Commercial Fisheries, Aquarium NB and Marine Facilities; Marketing and Trade – Food; 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.

The **Commercial Fisheries, Aquarium NB and Marine Facilities Branch** provides specialized advice and services to support and advocate for New Brunswick's interests in the commercial fisheries sector. The branch provides technical advice to support funding programs aimed at maintaining responsible practices and developing innovative practices that provide 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, Aquarium NB and Marine Facilities Branch includes three separate units: Commercial Fisheries, New Brunswick Aquarium and Marine Centre, and Marine Facilities.

The **Marketing and Trade – Food Branch** provides strategic delivery and coordination of market development and trade initiatives. This includes the 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 New Brunswick products, the promotion and expansion of seafood and agri-food export markets, and the compilation of market intelligence and other market access related activities.

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.

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, and the Regulatory Affairs 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.

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

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.

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.

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 trade policy analysis, economic forecasting, monitoring, research, statistical analysis and reporting. The branch supports departmental programs to align towards common goals and conducts improvement projects to close gaps. This work is done using process improvement, project management, change management, and other innovative techniques. Additionally, the branch is responsible for the management of ministerial correspondence.

The **Regulatory Affairs Branch** provides leadership, coordination and support regarding the Minister's legislative business. The branch also manages Agencies, Boards and Commissions appointments, 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, provides policy administrative support to the department's Policy Management Committee.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

EXPENDITURES IN DETAIL 2024-2025 (\$)

ORDINARY PROGRAM	MAIN ESTIMATES	APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS*	FINAL BUDGET	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries	48,470,000	26,050,800	74,520,800	58,472,400	(16,048,400)
Total 2024-2025	48,470,000	26,050,800	74,520,800	58,472,400	(16,048,400)

*Includes Supplementary Estimate of \$25,000,000

CAPITAL ACCOUNT	MAIN ESTIMATES	APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS	FINAL BUDGET	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
Capital Equipment	65,000	-	65,000	42,700	(22,300)
Strategic Infrastructure	400,000	-	400,000	200,100	(199,900)
Total 2024-2025	465,000	-	465,000	242,800	(222,200)

LOANS AND ADVANCES	MAIN ESTIMATES	APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS	FINAL BUDGET	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
New Brunswick Agricultural Insurance Commission	1,600,000	-	1,600,000	-	(1,600,000)
Loan Programs	7,000,000	-	7,000,000	2,371,500	(4,628,500)
Total 2024-2025	8,600,000	-	8,600,000	2,371,500	(6,228,500)

REVENUE IN DETAIL 2024-2025 (\$)

REVENUE	MAIN ESTIMATES	APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS	FINAL BUDGET	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
Return on Investment	400,000	-	400,000	708,000	308,000
Taxes on Consumption	-	-	-	(3,800)	(3,800)
Licences and Permits	243,000	-	243,000	238,600	(4,400)
Sales of Goods and Services	6,050,000	-	6,050,000	5,613,000	(437,000)
Miscellaneous	71,000	-	71,000	66,500	(4,500)
Conditional Grants - Canada	5,628,000	-	5,628,000	9,939,400	4,311,400
Total 2024-2025	12,392,000	-	12,392,000	16,561,700	4,169,700

CAPITAL RECOVERIES	MAIN ESTIMATES	APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS	FINAL BUDGET	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
Capital Recoveries - Own Source	-	-	-	54,500	54,500
Total 2024-2025	-	-	-	54,500	54,500

LOANS AND ADVANCES	MAIN ESTIMATES	APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS	FINAL BUDGET	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
Recoveries	700,000	-	700,000	1,179,400	479,400
Total 2024-2025	700,000	-	700,000	1,179,400	479,400

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 2024-2025 for the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries.

NUMBER OF PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES AS OF DEC. 31 OF EACH YEAR		
EMPLOYEE TYPE	2024	2023
Permanent	171	170
Temporary	47	46
TOTAL	218	216

The department advertised 8 competitions, including seven open (public) competitions and one closed (internal) competition.

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)	1
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)	4
Lateral transfer	The GNB transfer process facilitates the transfer of employees from within	16(1) or 16(1)(c)	2

APPOINTMENT TYPE	APPOINTMENT DESCRIPTION	SECTION OF THE CIVIL SERVICE ACT	NUMBER
	Part 1, 2 (school districts) and 3 (hospital authorities) of the Public Service.		
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)	8
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
Enactment of General Regulation (2024-62) under the <i>Livestock Health Act</i>	August 16, 2024	<p>Created to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Help modernize the protection of livestock health, as well as support compliance and enforcement provisions, including the establishment of administrative penalties.

The acts for which the department was responsible in 2024-2025 may be found at:
[Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries](#)

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 2024 – 2025 in each of the four areas of focus.

Strategic Objective 1

Ensure high quality, equal bilingual services to all New Brunswickers:

- 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.

Strategic Objective 2

Provincial government employees are able to work and pursue a career in the official language of their choice:

- 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.
- As part of the ongoing process for employee orientation and performance management, employees were required to read the policies related to Official Languages.
- Employees are able to attend training and development in the official language of their choice.

Strategic Objective 3

New Brunswickers understand the socio-economic benefits of bilingualism through improved and effective communication and better support:

- Correspondence and information were provided to the public in the official language of their choice.

Strategic Objective 4

Positive measures are implemented to promote the development of both official linguistic communities:

- 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.
- Employees are able to attend training and development in the official language of their choice.

Conclusion

The department understands, promotes, and honours its obligations under the *Official Languages Act* and related policies. It 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. There were no official language complaints received in the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

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

The department did not receive any recommendations from the Auditor General's reports in 2023 and 2024.

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
N/A	N/A	N/A

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 of wrongdoing in the 2024-2025 fiscal year.