

BRIEFING NOTE: Accountability

The Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act
August 2022

RECOMMENDED ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES:

- Require the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change to prepare assessment reports which include the following to ensure adequate information and transparency from the annual reporting:
 - Specific information on GHG inventories, such as sectoral emission reduction
 - Specific information on pathways, such as the emission projection per year to the Net Zero 2050 goal that includes information on absolute emission reduction projections and offsets used to achieve this target
 - In addition to a progress report, require Minister to address and provide reasons for failure to meet any of the goals set out in EGCCRA, and how the deficit will be accounted for and adjusted in forthcoming years
 - Require the Minister to consult and include advice from the Round Table on Environment and Sustainable Prosperity in the annual report
- In addition to the goals embedded in the Act, create interim climate objectives that will provide more clarity on the decarbonisation pathway, and improve the likeliness of achieving the 2030 and 2050 targets stated in the Act.
- Direct the Environment and Sustainable Prosperity Roundtable to conduct an annual assessment of EGCCRA, that does not need to be triggered by a request from the ministers.
- Devote additional resources to the enforcement of environmental laws, including ministerial orders issued under the Environment Act as well as Environment Act offences prosecuted by Nova Scotia's Public Prosecution Service.



RATIONALE:

- Improving accountability of EGCCRA also improves the predictability of climate action, augmenting certainty for investors, businesses, municipal and federal governments and the public.
- Enacting more stringent climate accountability regulations will enhance the likelihood of achieving long-term goals such as net zero emissions by 2050.
- As it stands the "Climate Change Plan for Clean Growth" is the primary planning requirement of EGCCRA, however it is not clear whether the "Climate Change Plan for Clean Growth" will simply provide high level descriptions of the measures the Government of Nova Scotia intends to take to achieve the goals of the Act. We recommend that regulations require that the "Climate Change Plan for Clean Growth" include interim GHG reduction targets in addition to the goals set out in the Act.

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