



5161 George Street  
Royal Centre, Suite 400  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 1M7

# Office of the Auditor General

## Nova Scotia

### AUDITOR GENERAL--March 2019 Report on Follow-up of 2015 and 2016 Recommendations

---

In his March 2019 Report on the Follow-up of 2015 and 2016 Recommendations made in 16 performance audits released today, March 26, Auditor General Michael Pickup noted the government continues to address recommendations from his previous audits, but risks remain when the government does not complete the improvements it said it would.

“This year’s overall completion rate dropped four points to 71 per cent compared to 2018, leaving government having to address 32 remaining recommendations from our 2015 and 2016 audits,” said Mr. Pickup.

The auditor general followed up on 113 recommendations, from 16 audits reported in 2015 and 2016, which government agreed to all but one and committed to implement.

In his report, the auditor general noted seven government organizations completed 100 per cent of their promised actions. The auditor general has set target completion rates of at least 80 per cent after two years.

“I am pleased by the 87 per cent completion rate for the recommendations from 2015, however, attention needs to be given to the fact only 46 per cent of the recommendations from 2016 have been completed. Government made commitments to Nova Scotians to complete these recommendations to address the known risks that they represent,” said Mr. Pickup.

In his report, the auditor general highlights the seven organizations that completed all of their promised actions, and the seven organizations that had rates lower than 60 per cent.

“This follow-up report is one tool to assist the public accounts committee, the House of Assembly, and the citizens of Nova Scotia in holding government accountable. Organizations with lower completion rates and outstanding recommendations need to be accountable to Nova Scotians to deliver on their promises to improve government,” said Mr. Pickup.

“We encourage these organizations to continue to work toward the timely completion of every recommendation we made to them, to address the continued risks, and to help promote better government for all Nova Scotians.”

The full report, one-page summary, highlight video, and five questions that Nova Scotians may want to ask government are available at [www.oag-ns.ca](http://www.oag-ns.ca).



---

FOR BROADCAST USE:

In his March 2019 Report on Follow-up of 2015 and 2016 Recommendations, Auditor General Michael Pickup says the overall completion rate dropped four points to 71 per cent compared to 2018 and the government still has work to do to complete the remaining 32 recommendations from his 2015 and 2016 audits.

The auditor general is pleased with the 87 per cent completion rate for recommendations from 2015 but is concerned that only 46 per cent of the recommendations from 2016 have been completed. He also noted 112 of 113 recommendations were agreed to at the time by government and that they had committed to implement them.

Seven organizations completed all their promised actions, while 11 organizations still have work to do. Seven of those 11 organizations had overall completion rates lower than 60 per cent.

He encourages all organizations with outstanding recommendations to work toward their timely and full completion and thereby address the risks they continue to pose to the interests of Nova Scotians.

The full report, one-page summary, highlight video, and five questions that Nova Scotians may want to ask are available on the auditor general's website.

-30-

Media Contact: Darleen Langille

902-424-4108

Email: [Darleen.langille@novascotia.ca](mailto:Darleen.langille@novascotia.ca)