

Government Purchasing Agency

# BUSINESS PLAN

2017-20







## MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

As Minister responsible for the Government Purchasing Agency, I am pleased to present the 2017-2020 Business Plan which sets out the Agency's goals and objectives for the next three years.

As Minister responsible for the Government Purchasing Agency, I am accountable for the preparation of the Business Plan and achievement of the goals and objectives specified within. Preparation of this plan has been set out in accordance with the requirements of a category 2 entity under the Transparency and Accountability Act.

In keeping with The Way Forward, the actions outlined within this document demonstrate the Agency's commitment to modernize procurement for public bodies. Our Government introduced public procurement legislation last fall which will increase transparency, consistency and flexibility within our procurement practices and ensure an open and competitive bidding process. Over the next three years, the Government Purchasing Agency will continue its commitment to quality improvements in our services, while continuing to find ways to improve the overall public procurement system.

To the employees of the Government Purchasing Agency, I would like to extend my sincere thanks for their innovation, expertise and contribution to this plan.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Perry Trimper". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Honourable Perry Trimper  
Minister Responsible for the Government Purchasing Agency

# Agency Overview

The Government Purchasing Agency (Agency) is the central procurement unit for the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. It is an independent branch of the Public Service under the control and management of a Chief Operating Officer. The Agency provides procurement, information, and training services to government departments and public bodies throughout Newfoundland and Labrador. It also maintains a website, [www.gpa.gov.nl.ca](http://www.gpa.gov.nl.ca), where the public may access current bidding opportunities as well as information on contract award summaries, relevant legislation, trade agreements and terms and conditions. Bidding opportunities within the province and other jurisdictions may also be accessed through this website.

The Agency operates under the authority of the Public Tender Act and Government Purchasing Agency Act. The Public Tender Act governs procurement of goods, services, public works and leases in the public sector. Its main goal is to ensure procurement is conducted in an open and competitive environment while maintaining fair and equitable opportunities for suppliers to compete for public sector business. The Agency's primary clients include provincial government departments, public bodies and the supplier community.

The Agency is comprised of four areas which carry out the work and mandate of the Government Purchasing Agency: Procurement, Strategic Sourcing, Audit, Information & Training and Policy, Planning & Administration. Headquarters for

the Agency is located at the Petten Building in St. John's. The Agency also maintains a warehouse facility in Pleasantville where surplus Government assets are held for disposal.

Further information about the agency can be found at

<http://www.gpa.gov.nl.ca/division/index.html>.

## Staff and Budget

Agency	Number of Staff	2017-18 Budget (Net)
Government Purchasing Agency	25	\$1,883,600

# Issue Statement – Modernized Public Sector Procurement

Increasing efficiencies in procurement has become a priority for the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. New and evolving techniques are continuously being proposed resulting in increased transparency, consistency and flexibility within our procurement practices. In December 2016, Bill 46 received Royal Assent aiming to modernize public procurement with a focus on following best practices getting the best value for the dollars being spent while providing our vendor community every opportunity to compete in our local market.

The goal identified reflects the results expected in the three-year timeframe while the objectives provide an annual focus. Indicators are provided for both the goal and the first year's objectives to assist both the Agency and the public in monitoring and evaluating success.

## **GOAL:**

By March 31, 2020, the Government Purchasing Agency will have modernized public sector procurement to ensure it is responsive to client needs.

## **Indicators:**

- New procurement legislation, regulations and policies are in force.
- Training materials have been developed for primary clients.
- Electronic Notification System is in place to support requirements of new legislation.

## **Objective 1:**

By March 31, 2018, the Government Purchasing Agency will have commenced regulatory and systems modernization.

### **Indicators:**

- Regulations, policies and training materials developed to support proclamation of the Public Procurement Act (with the exception of sections relating to supplier debriefing, complaint process and supplier performance and the electronic notification system).
- Requirements identified for the electronic notification system.

## **Objective 2:**

By March 31, 2019, the Government Purchasing Agency will have further advanced regulatory and systems modernization.

## **Objective 3:**

By March 31, 2020, the Government Purchasing Agency will have completed regulatory and systems modernization.

# Annex A: Strategic Directions

The Government Purchasing Agency has developed a Strategic Direction to align with the Way Forward document, the platform document A Stronger Tomorrow as well as the Ministerial mandate letter. The strategic direction relating to the Agency is provided below.

## **#1. Modernize Public Procurement Framework**

Outcome: To better support public bodies and suppliers with an improved procurement framework.

This outcome supports the modernization of public procurement and will require focus in the following areas:

- Development of regulations, policies and procedures to support Bill 46, Public Procurement Act.
- Monitoring and training of procurement practices.
- Development and implementation of an electronic notification system.