



Nova Scotia Advisory Council on Status of Women

Presentation to the Standing Committee on Community Services
February 2, 2016



The Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women

Vision & Mandate

To advance equality, fairness, and dignity for all women and girls in Nova Scotia by influencing public opinion, policy and programming across the province in the following intersecting areas:

- Violence against women
- Leadership
- Economic security
- Health and wellness



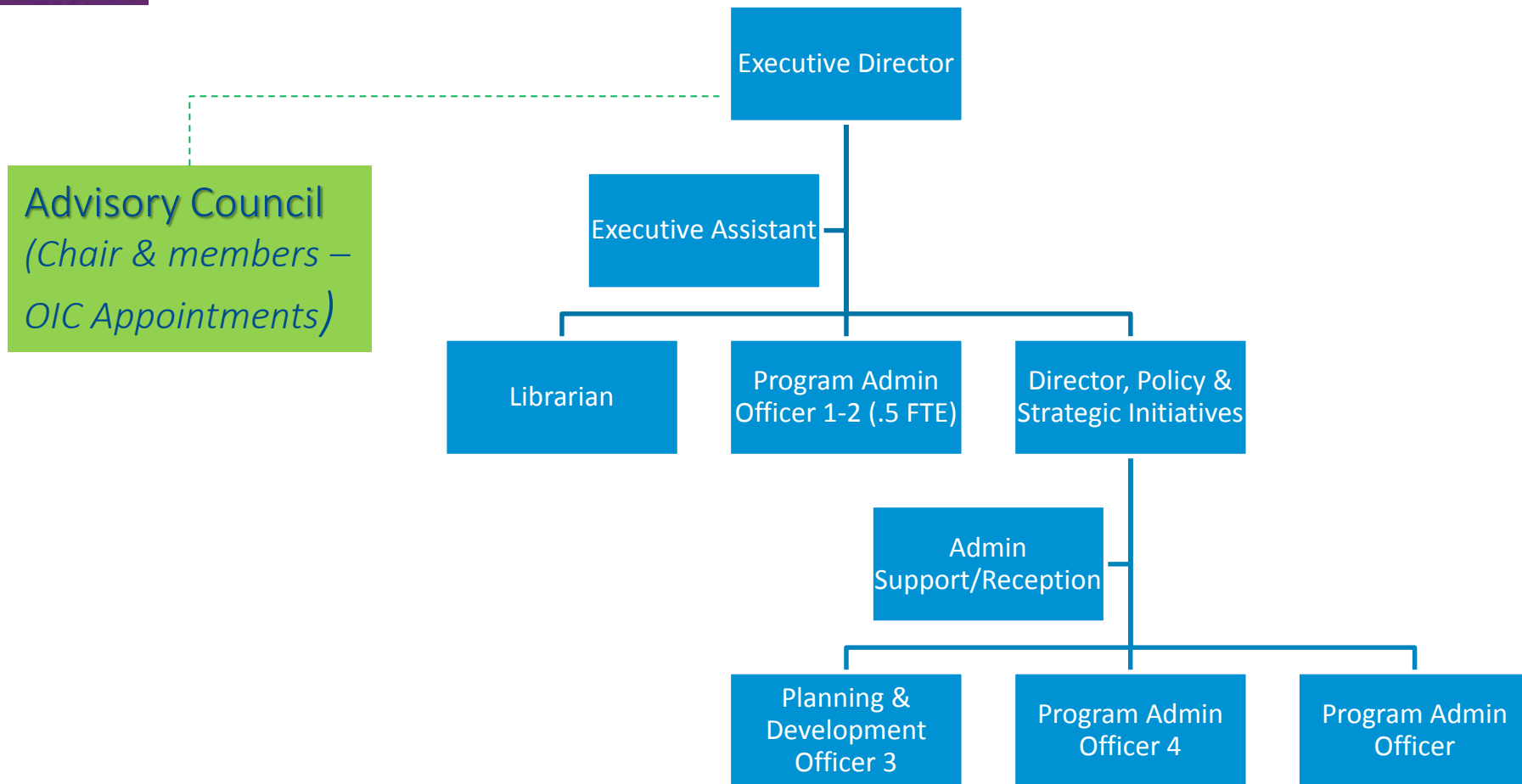
Legislative Framework

Legislation - *Advisory Council on Status of Women Act & Regulations*

- Enacted in 1977, this Act articulates, through legislation Nova Scotia's commitment to a sustained focus on equity for women
- Establishes Council - therefore, speaks to role and parameters of Council, and less to specifics of mandate and priorities of the office.



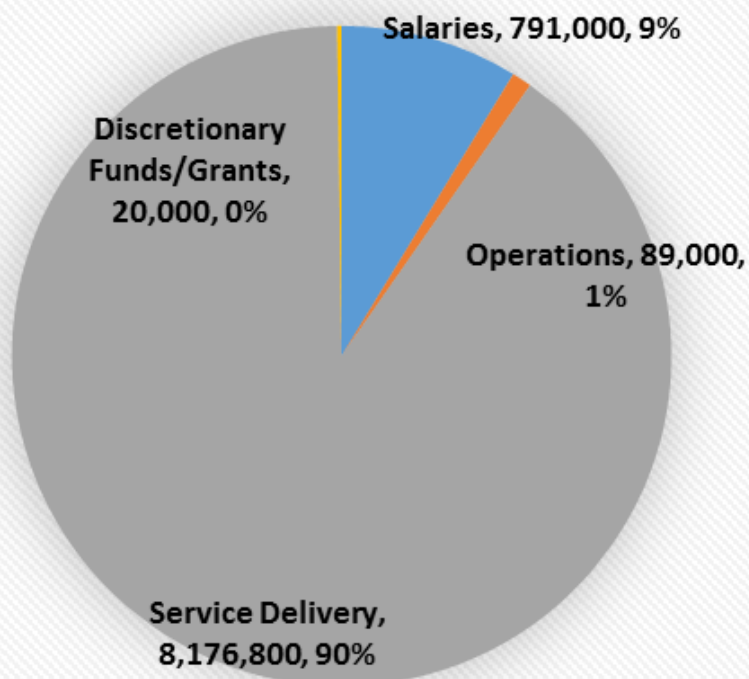
Current Organizational Structure





Budget

Total Budget: \$9.07M



■ Salaries ■ Operations ■ Service Delivery ■ Discretionary Funds/Grants



The Advisory Council: Current role

- The Council has capacity for 12 members
- Members are Order in Council Appointments
- Regional and cultural representation on the council is key
- The Council fulfills its mandate by supporting the Status of Women Office by considering issues impacting women and girls and contributing their expertise and a cultural and regional focus



The Demographics: Women in Nova Scotia

Women in Nova Scotia

- 51% of the population
- 49.6% Of The Nova Scotia Labour Force
- Highest rates of High School Completion and post secondary enrollment
- Women entrepreneurs are the fastest growing sector in new businesses

And...



The Demographics: Women in Nova Scotia

- Under-represented in leadership, trades, sciences and technology
- Employment is concentrated in the minimum wage sector
- Women experience higher rates of poverty
- Highest rates of violent victimization are for women, especially in the 18–24 age group
- Women are the predominant victims of intimate partner violence and sexual violence



Status of Women Office:

Areas of focus





Gender Based Analysis

The SW office approaches all issues using a **gender analysis** and is an overarching framework that guides all our work and shapes our activities within government and across communities.

- Information, guidance and support to departments and agencies within government
- Collaborating with Cabinet Advisors to build capacity for gender analysis in policy development across government



Violence Against Women

The SW Office is the focal point for shaping government's responses to violence against women and girls.

- Co-led the **Domestic Violence Action Plan** and supported the development of the Province's **Sexual Violence Strategy**
- NS Delegation to the **National Roundtables on Violence against Indigenous Women and Girls**
- Co- leading a new collaboration approach together with **Mount Saint Vincent University** and community partners to build a prevention focused network
- Published ***Making Changes***, a key resource for women leaving violence



Community Partnerships

Governance and Accountability

- Manage the funding portfolio for Women's Centres, Transition Houses and Alice Housing
- Oversight of 8 million in operational grants
- Developing outcomes based service agreements

Community Collaborations

- Ongoing partnership with Nova Scotia Native Women's Association
- Part of the design team that shaped the **Restorative Inquiry into the Nova Scotia Home for Coloured Children** and continues to host the **Voices** group



Economic Security and Leadership

Women Innovating in Nova Scotia (WINS) Bursary in partnership with NSCC

- Began in 2009 with a 100K endowment supported by annual interdepartmental contributions
- Over 150 bursaries provided to women

Leadership

- Campaign schools and support of enfranchisement awareness
- Partnership with Centre for Women in Business

Youth - Girls Resiliency

- Girls Roundtable leadership program
- Partner and supporter of Techsploration



Status of Women Office Contributions

- **Intersectional focus on issues** that impact the lives of women & girls
- **Relationship builder internal and external to Government** and a resource for program areas that impact women and girls
- **Models inclusive & respectful engagement** on complex and controversial issues
- **Actions** equity issues