

## **Session 1: Forest Sector & Forestry Transition Team Update** Wednesday, February 10th @ 7pm

### **Speaker Biographies**

#### **Update from the Province: Transition supports and Ecological Forestry**

**Speaker:** Julie Towers, Deputy Minister of the Nova Scotia Department of Lands & Forestry



Julie Towers became the Deputy Minister of the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources in December 2016.

Julie has extensive experience in natural resource management, applied research and consulting within government and with the private sector.

After beginning her career as a wildlife biologist in the private sector, Julie first joined government in 1992. She has since held various senior roles in the departments of Environment and Natural Resources, prior to becoming deputy minister at Aboriginal Affairs, Immigration, and Natural Resources – now known as Lands & Forestry.

Julie holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Toronto and a Master of Science degree from University of New Brunswick in biology.

The deputy minister helps oversee the stewardship of Nova Scotia's biodiversity, forest, and park resources. This includes the administration of the province's Crown land.

#### **Responsibilities**

- overseeing day to day operations of the department
- administration of Crown land
- stewardship of biodiversity, forest and provincial park resources

#### **Previous roles**

- CEO – Nova Scotia Office of Immigration
- CEO - Office of Aboriginal Affairs
- Executive Director of Renewable Resources, Nova Scotia Department of Lands and Forestry

## Forestry Transition Team Update

**Speaker:** Kelliann Dean, Deputy Minister of the Nova Scotia Department of Intergovernmental Affairs and Chief Executive Officer of the Office of Immigration

Kelliann's career spans 33 years in public and private sector leadership, strategic planning, business development, communications, board governance and business financing. She has successfully managed complex stakeholder relationships with a visionary leadership style characterized by a passion for building strong teams and partnerships to achieve results. As the longest serving Deputy Minister in Nova Scotia, she has provided strategic advice to Premiers and Ministers since 2004.



Kelliann became Deputy Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Chief Executive Officer of the Office of Immigration in June 2019. She served as Deputy Minister responsible for Municipal Affairs and Intergovernmental Affairs from 2016 to 2019 as well as Chair of the Municipal Finance Corporation. From 2013 to 2016 she was Deputy Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage as well as Chair of the Nova Scotia Provincial Lotteries and Casino Corporation and, Chair of the Nova Scotia Museum Board of Governors. She was appointed Public Service Commissioner from 2010 to 2013 and Deputy Minister of Tourism, Culture and Heritage from 2004 to 2010 during which time she served on the Board of Directors for the Canadian Tourism Commission. Before returning to Nova Scotia in 2001 as Vice President, Nova Scotia Business Inc., she held various positions at the Business Development Bank of Canada, in Montreal and Halifax.

Kelliann holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration from St. Mary's University and a Public Relations Degree from Mount Saint Vincent University.

<https://novascotia.ca/iga/dmbio.asp>