

NEWS RELEASE

January 6, 2026

David MacNeil Named Executive Director of Nova Scotia Energy and Regulatory Boards Tribunal

Mr. MacNeil, an experienced executive and technology systems leader, will join the Nova Scotia Energy and Regulatory Boards Tribunal on January 26, 2026. He will assume the role of Executive Director following the retirement of Paul Allen on March 31, 2026. Mr. Allen has steadfastly served as Executive Director for 38 years, including time with the Tribunal's predecessor, the *Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board*.

Established on April 1, 2025, the Tribunal is an independent body that provides administrative, advisory, and human resource support to the [Nova Scotia Energy Board](#) and the [Nova Scotia Regulatory and Appeals Board](#). As Executive Director, Mr. MacNeil will oversee strategic and operational planning, day-to-day administration of several departments (including HR, finance, IT, advisory and clerk services, communications, and records management), public and participant engagement, and leadership of roughly 35 staff.

Mr. MacNeil is joining the Tribunal after a 23-year career at Cox & Palmer, a full-service Atlantic Canadian law firm, where he was most recently Chief Technology Officer. During his tenure, he also served as Technology Lead for Document Management for the [Mass Casualty Commission](#). In that role, Mr. MacNeil developed a platform to support and manage the extensive volume of documents filed as part of the Commission's multi-year, independent public investigation.

He says the experience supporting a major public inquiry strengthened his commitment to public service and ultimately influenced his decision to make a career change.

"The work that goes on at the Boards has a real impact on people's daily lives," said Mr. MacNeil. "I'm excited to apply my background in creating systems to serve people better to an organization with such an important public mandate."

Stephen McGrath, the Chair of the Boards, agrees that Mr. MacNeil has the right skillset for the role of Executive Director: "He brings deep leadership experience and a strong record of innovation. His ability to guide complex operations will strengthen our commitment to fair, effective, and transparent regulation and adjudication."

Mr. MacNeil is a graduate of St. Francis Xavier University. In addition to his degree in information systems, he has certifications in change management, financial management, and collecting and preserving electronic documents. Mr. MacNeil lives in Dartmouth with his family.

The Energy Board regulates electric and natural gas utilities, and gasoline and diesel pricing, ensuring that rates are fair and reasonable, and that regulated entities meet legal requirements. The Regulatory and Appeals Board regulates municipal water utilities, auto insurance rates, and motor carrier licensing, and adjudicates a variety of appeals, including those related to property tax assessments, municipal planning, fire safety, and liquor licensing.

For media inquiries, please contact:

Rebecca Brown

Communications Officer

Energy and Regulatory Boards Tribunal

T: (902) 424-9282

E: rebecca.brown@novascotia.ca

