

BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA /  
Form 40-F  
December 19, 2006

**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549  
Form 40-F**

[Check one]

**REGISTRATION STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 12 of THE SECURITIES  
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

or

**ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13(a) OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES  
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the fiscal year ended October 31, 2006

Commission File Number 001-31316

**THE BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA**

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Canada

(Province or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

6029

(Primary Standard Industrial Classification Code Number (if applicable))

Not Applicable

(I.R.S. Employer Identification Number (if applicable))

44 King St. West, Scotia Plaza 8<sup>th</sup> floor,

Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5H 1H1

(416) 866-3672

(Address and telephone number of Registrant's principal executive offices)

The Bank of Nova Scotia, One Liberty Plaza, 25<sup>th</sup> floor,

New York, N.Y., U.S.A. 10006

Attention: Douglas Cooper

(212) 225-5000

(Name, address (including zip code) and telephone number (including area code)  
of agent for service in the United States)

Securities registered or to be registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act.

| Title of each class | Name of each exchange<br>on which registered |
|---------------------|--|
|---------------------|--|

|   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| Common<br>Securities registered or to be registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act. | New York Stock Exchange |
|---|-------------------------|

Not applicable

(Title of Class)

Securities for which there is a reporting obligation pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Act.

Not applicable

(Title of Class)

For annual reports, indicate by check mark the information filed with this Form:

Annual information form

Audited annual financial statements

Indicate the number of outstanding shares of each of the issuer's classes of capital or common stock as of the close of the period covered by the annual report.

|                                |             |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Common Shares                  | 989,512,188 |
| Preferred Shares,<br>Series 12 | 12,000,000  |
| Preferred Shares,<br>Series 13 | 12,000,000  |

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant by filing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the Exchange Act). If  Yes is marked, indicate the filing number assigned to the Registrant in connection with such Rule.

Yes

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No

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the Registrant was required to file such reports) and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

Yes

No

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### **CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES**

Management's responsibility for financial information contained in the Annual Report is described on page 88 of Exhibit 3, 2006 Consolidated Financial Statements. In addition, the Bank's Audit and Conduct Review Committee of the Board of Directors has reviewed, and the Board of Directors has reviewed and approved, the 2006 Consolidated Financial Statements and Management's Discussion and Analysis prior to release. Scotiabank is committed to providing timely, accurate and balanced disclosure of all material information and to providing fair and equal access to such information. The Bank's disclosure policies and practices are published on its website.

Disclosure controls are procedures designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in reports filed with, or submitted to, securities regulatory authorities is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified by these regulators. This information is accumulated and communicated to the Bank's management, including the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Chief Financial Officer (CFO), as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

Internal control over financial reporting is a process designed by, or under the supervision of, senior management, and effected by the Board of Directors, management and other personnel, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and preparation of the Bank's consolidated financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), including a reconciliation to United States GAAP. These controls include policies and procedures that:

- pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the Bank;

- provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with GAAP, and that receipts and expenditures are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the Bank; and

- provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use or disposition of the Bank's assets that could have a material effect on the annual financial statements or interim financial statements.

The management of the Bank is responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures, and have designed such disclosure controls and procedures, to ensure that the required objectives of these disclosure controls and procedures have been met.

As of October 31, 2006, the Bank's management evaluated the effectiveness of its disclosure controls and procedures, as defined under the rules adopted by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the Canadian securities regulatory authorities. This evaluation was performed under the supervision of, and with the participation of the CEO and the CFO. In addition, the Bank's management has assessed whether during the 2006 fiscal year, there have been any changes in the Bank's internal control over financial reporting that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Bank's internal control over financial reporting.

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The Bank continually reviews and enhances its systems of controls and procedures. However, because of the inherent limitations in all control systems, the Bank's management acknowledges that its disclosure controls and procedures will not prevent or detect all misstatements due to error or fraud. In addition, management's evaluation of controls can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurance that all control issues that may result in material misstatements, if any, have been detected.

Based on the evaluation of disclosure controls and procedures, and the assessment of changes in internal control over financial reporting, the CEO and CFO have concluded that, subject to the inherent limitations noted above:

the Bank's disclosure controls and procedures are effective; and

during the 2006 fiscal year, to the best of their knowledge and belief, there have been no changes in the Bank's internal control over financial reporting that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Bank's internal control over financial reporting.

#### **INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING**

Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and the Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm are provided in Exhibit 5.

#### **AUDIT COMMITTEE FINANCIAL EXPERT**

All of the members of the Bank's Audit and Conduct Review Committee of the Board of Directors (audit committee) are financially literate and independent, and one or more members of the audit committee meet the definition of a financial expert. The Bank's board of directors has determined that Mr. Ronald A. Brenneman is an audit committee financial expert and is independent, as that term is defined by the New York Stock Exchange's corporate governance standards applicable to the Bank.

The Securities and Exchange Commission has indicated that the designation of a person as an audit committee financial expert does not impose on such person any duties, obligations or liability that are greater than the duties, obligations and liability imposed on such person as a member of the audit committee and board of directors in the absence of such designation.

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### **CODE OF ETHICS**

The Bank has adopted a code of ethics, entitled Scotiabank Guidelines for Business Conduct. These guidelines have been in place for many years and apply to all directors, officers and employees of the Bank. The Scotiabank Guidelines for Business Conduct are available on the Bank's website at [www.scotiabank.com](http://www.scotiabank.com), in the Corporate Governance section, and are available in print to any person, without charge, upon written request to the Secretary of the Bank at the Toronto executive office address shown above. Effective November 1, 2006, the supplement to the Scotiabank Guidelines for Business Conduct, entitled Scotiabank Policy for Raising Accounting, Internal Accounting Control, or Auditing Matter Concerns (Accounting Concerns Policy), was replaced by a revised supplement entitled Financial Reporting Whistleblower Policy, which is posted on the Bank's website. Amendments to the Scotiabank Guidelines for Business Conduct and waivers, if any, for directors and executive officers will be disclosed on the Bank's website. There were no such waivers granted in fiscal 2006.

### **PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES**

The disclosure provided in Table 34 Fees paid to the shareholders' auditors on page 78 of Exhibit 2, Management's Discussion and Analysis, is incorporated by reference herein. The nature of these services is described below:

Audit services generally relate to statutory audit, accounting consultation, other regulatory-required auditor attest services, as well as services associated with registration statements, prospectuses, periodic reports and other documents filed with securities regulatory bodies or other documents issued in connection with securities offerings.

Audit-related services include accounting consultation, attest services not directly linked to the financial statements that are required by regulatory bodies, and audits of employee benefit plans and other associated entities. Additionally, included in 2005 were fees for services related to the review of documentation and testing results related to internal control over financial reporting.

Tax services outside of the audit scope represent transfer-pricing surveys required by tax authorities, and assistance with the preparation of corporate and personal tax returns in limited circumstances. Fees for 2005 are also attributed to advice and consultation on certain international tax matters, and tax implications of capital market transactions, insurance activities, and capital tax.

Other non-audit services are primarily translation services. Additionally, the 2005 fiscal year includes corporate recovery services and compensation surveys.

None of the above services were approved pursuant to an exemption under paragraph (c)(7)(i)(C) of Rule 2-01 of Regulation S-X from the requirement that the audit committee pre-approve the services. The majority of the hours expended on the audit of the 2006 consolidated financial statements were attributable to work performed by the full-time permanent employees of the Bank's independent auditors, KMPG LLP, and for the audit of the 2005 consolidated financial statements, KPMG LLP and PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. The Audit and Conduct Review Committee's pre-approval policies and procedures, revised effective November 28, 2005, were attached as Exhibit 5 to the Bank's Form 40-F for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2005. The Bank moved from two independent audit firms to a single independent audit firm for fiscal 2006.

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**OFF-BALANCE SHEET ARRANGEMENTS**

The disclosure provided under Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements on pages 40 to 41 and Variable Interest Entities on page 67 of Exhibit 2, Management's Discussion and Analysis, is incorporated by reference herein. Additional information from note 1 on pages 95 to 99, note 4(b) on page 102, note 6 on pages 103 and 104, note 13 on pages 106 and 107, note 14 on page 108, note 21 on pages 117 and 118, note 22 on pages 119 to 122, and note 23 on pages 122 to 125 of Exhibit 3, 2006 Consolidated Financial Statements, is incorporated by reference into Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements in Management's Discussion and Analysis.

**CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS**

The disclosure provided under Contractual Obligations on page 61 of Exhibit 2, Management's Discussion and Analysis, is incorporated by reference herein. Additional information from note 10 on page 105, note 17 on pages 112 and 113, note 21 on pages 117 and 118, and note 22 on pages 119 to 122 of Exhibit 3, 2006 Consolidated Financial Statements, is incorporated by reference into Contractual Obligations in Management's Discussion and Analysis.

**IDENTIFICATION OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

The Bank's audit committee is composed of the following directors: Hon. Michael J.L. Kirby (Chair), Ronald A. Brenneman, Hon. Barbara J. McDougall, Elizabeth Parr-Johnston, Paul D. Sobey, and Barbara S. Thomas. Ex-officio member: Arthur R.A. Scace.

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**Undertaking**

Registrant undertakes to make available, in person or by telephone, representatives to respond to inquiries made by the Commission staff, and to furnish promptly, when requested to do so by the Commission staff, information relating to: the securities registered pursuant to Form 40-F; the securities in relation to which the obligation to file an annual report on Form 40-F arises; or transactions in said securities.

**Signatures**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Exchange Act, the Registrant certifies that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form 40-F and has duly caused this annual report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereto duly authorized.

Registrant: **THE BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA**

By: /s/ R. Waugh  
Name: Richard E. Waugh  
Title: President and Chief Executive Officer

Date: December 19, 2006

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**EXHIBIT INDEX**

| <b>Exhibit No.</b> | <b>Description</b>  |
|--------------------|---|
| 1.                 | Annual Information Form dated December 19, 2006   |
| 2.                 | Management's Discussion and Analysis (pages 25 through 85 of the 2006 Annual Report)  |
| 3.                 | 2006 Consolidated Financial Statements (pages 87 through 131 of the 2006 Annual Report)   |
| 4.                 | The following page of the 2006 Annual Report is also incorporated by reference into the Annual Information Form:<br><br>Principal Subsidiaries (page 132 of the 2006 Annual Report) |
| 5.                 | Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and<br>Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm<br>(page 86 of the 2006 Annual Report)              |
| 6.                 | Corporate Governance  |
| 7.                 | Auditors' Consent in respect of the fiscal year ended October 31, 2006  |
| 8.                 | Auditors' Consent in respect of the fiscal year ended October 31, 2005  |
| 9.                 | Comments by Auditors for U.S. Readers on Canada - U.S. Reporting Difference   |
| 10.                | Shareholders' Auditors' Report, November 29, 2005   |
| 11.                | Certifications required by Rule 13a-14(a) or Rule 15d-14(a), pursuant to Section 302 of the U.S. Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.  |
| 12.                | Certifications required by Rule 13a-14(b) or Rule 15d-14(b) and 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as enacted pursuant to Section 906 of the U.S. Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.                  |