

Newfoundland and Labrador  
Geographical Names Board  
2016-17 Annual Activity Report





## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The Honourable Gerry Byrne  
Department of Fisheries and Land Resources  
Petten Building  
P.O. Box 8700  
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Dear Minister Byrne:

I am pleased to submit the Annual Performance Report for the Newfoundland and Labrador Geographical Names Board for April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017. This report meets the requirements of the **Transparency and Accountability Act** for a Category 3 entity.

Under the **Geographical Names Board Act**, the Board's mandate is to serve as an advisory body in making recommendations on names of geographical features and places in the province to the Minister of Fisheries and Land Resources. Administratively, the NLGNB now falls under the supervision of the Enforcement and Resource Services Branch. The NLGNB meanwhile has no statutory authority to collect revenue and is not required to submit financial statements.

As chair, I would like to express my gratitude to my NLGNB colleagues who contributed their knowledge, skills and experience toward adding to and improving our toponymic database. I thank our devoted secretary Randy Hawkins for his tireless efforts and devotion to the work of the board. I also gratefully acknowledge the management and staff of the Enforcement and Resource Services Branch for their valued interest, support, and technical advice. A special thanks to Mr. Jeff Wood for his sound guidance in all that we do. I am most pleased that our new Assistant Deputy Minister, Mr. Tony Grace, met with us to discuss our geographical names program and to offer his encouragement in our current activities and future projects.

The NLGNB was successful in achieving its annual objectives as outlined in the Board's Activity Plan of 2014-17. The commitments of Government related to the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources, including those outlined in **The Way Forward** have been considered in the preparation of this report.

As the Chair, and on behalf of the Board, I accept accountability for the preparation of this report and the achievement of its objectives. My signature below is on behalf of the Board and signifies the Board's accountability for the reported results of its activities for 2016-17.

  
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W.G. Handcock  
Professor Emeritus in Geography  
Chair

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## 1.0 BOARD OVERVIEW

During our two-day meeting in October, 2016, approximately 75 new names were recommended for ministerial review and endorsement. The recommendations included Indigenous names and recent names submitted by public officials and private citizens.

Regretfully during the year, Mr. Ed Tuttauq, a member from Labrador, resigned his position on the NLGNB. His connection with the Nunatsiavut Government was very important and he made a significant contribution to our interactions with the Inuit community.

The NLGNB is the main authority for recommending to government, through the Minister of Fisheries and Land Resources, the proper status of and all changes related to names of places and geographical features in the province.

### 1.1 Representation

The NLGNB is supported by one permanent staff member, Administrative Officer 1 from the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources. Members are appointed for a term of three years. The NLGNB operates under the departmental budget. One meeting was held in St. John's. The table below lists the members of the NLGNB as of March 31, 2017.

Name	Role	Term	Residence
Dr. Gordon Handcock	Chair	2015-10-19 - 2017-03-31	Salvage & Mount Pearl
Mr. Gary N. Smith	Vice-Chair	2015-10-19 - 2017-03-31	Bishop's Cove, C.B.
Mr. Randy Hawkins	Secretary	2015-10-19 - 2017-03-31	St. John's
Ms. Cheryl Brown-McLean	Member	2015-10-19 - 2017-03-31	St. John's
Ms. Franca Smith	Member	2015-10-19 - 2017-03-31	Happy Valley-Goose Bay
Vacant			

### 1.2 Budget and Expenditures

NLGNB Expenditures	Total 2016-17 Expenditures
Professional Services (Chair)	\$1005.00
Travel Expenses	\$0.00
Meeting Expenses	\$188.50
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$1,193.50</b>

Funding to support the work of the NLGNB was provided to the entity by the GIS and Mapping Division of the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources. Given that the NLGNB held only one meeting in the report period, its budget is less than normal. The NLGNB typically budgets for two meetings in a report period.

## 2.0 HIGHLIGHTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

- A total of 160 names received ministerial endorsement during the report period. These names were published in the October 28, 2016, and the February 17, 2017, editions of the Newfoundland and Labrador Gazette. (The adoption of these names concludes all of the NLGNB recommendations from 2015 and 2016).
- The NLGNB received assent from the Nunatsiavut Government resulting in the adoption of two place name changes inside the Labrador Inuit Settlement Areas. Another name change proposed inside the Labrador Innu Lands was also endorsed.
- The NLGNB collaborated on the publication of an article in the MUN Gazette. The article, <https://gazette.mun.ca/research/landmark-achievement/> outlined a recent collaboration between the Innu Nation and the NLGNB with respect to the submission and adoption of 452 Indigenous place names.
- Given that 2016 was the centennial of the Battle of Beaumont-Hamel, the NLGNB implemented a World War 1 commemorative naming policy. Six commemorative names were subsequently adopted throughout the province. Another commemorative name in Rigolet is pending NLGNB review. This commemorative name was proposed by John Shiwak, the current mayor of Rigolet. This proposal requires further investigation.
- Significant advances were also made in recommending geographical names in more remote and natural resource areas, particularly in identifying suitable official locally-used names for forest access roads to facilitate and enhance economic and cultural development, safe travelling, and especially search and rescue.
- As noted, the success of the NLGNB program in 2016-17 stemmed largely from cooperative working partnerships between the NLGNB and different provincial and federal government agencies as well as Indigenous governments and organizations. The partners most engaged this year included:
  - The Earth Sciences Sector of Natural Resources Canada and the Geographical Names Board of Canada Secretariat in providing direct access to the federal database;
  - The federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans in dealing with names of coastal and underwater features and fishing grounds;
  - The former Forestry and Agrifoods Agency relating to names of forest access roads and other geographical features;

- The Innu Nation regarding geographical place names in Innu Land Claim areas of Labrador;
- The Nunatsiavut Government for names within Labrador Inuit Lands (LIL) and the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area (LISA) outside LIL;
- Parks Canada concerning names within Terra Nova National Park; and,
- The Advisory Committee of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment Museum on the subject of geographical names and commemoration of the participation of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians in World War 1.
- Additionally, the success of the NLGNB's program in 2016-17 was due to the cooperation and active participation of citizens of the province.

### **3.0 REPORT ON PERFORMANCE**

During a two-day meeting, October 20 and 21, 2016, the Newfoundland and Labrador Geographical Names Board (NLGNB) made significant progress during the fiscal year. During the report period, the NLGNB commemorated six World War 1 veterans and it concluded the adoption of two Indigenous names which involved collaborating with the Nunatsiavut Government on the adoption of two names in Labrador. The adoption of these names marked the first collaboration between the NLGNB and the Nunatsiavut Government. The cultural impact of a recent Innu place names submission was also celebrated in <https://gazette.mun.ca/research/landmark-achievement/>. This interim work was coordinated by the board secretary through email and telephone contacts with board members, various government departments, municipalities, institutions and organizations and members of the general public.

#### **Issue 1: Data Integrity and Management**

With the advent of improved mapping and computer technologies, standards for toponymic (place-name) data management are continually changing. The NLGNB strives to keep pace with and contribute to national standards to ensure that these measures will enhance our toponymic program and contribute to the preservation of our cultural heritage.

All geographical names are obtained on a voluntary basis. The data collection process is reactive to the names obtained in the report period. The total number of names processed in this report period may include names that have been collected over previous years.

**Objective 1:** By March 31, 2017, the NLGNB will have maintained the provincial geographical names dataset to ensure that it meets with existing Canadian national standards.

Indicators	Accomplishments
Collected and entered geographical names in the dataset.	150 new geographical names were entered in the dataset during the report period.
Made revisions to current names in the dataset.	195 geographical name records were modified in the dataset in 2016-17.
Ensured that data integrity was in accordance with provincial guidelines and principles.	The NLGNB makes every effort to ensure that its data is not only in accordance with national standards, it has a vested interest in ensuring that the standards that are followed in Newfoundland and Labrador are also well known on the national level. This is particularly true with respect to our provincial Indigenous place naming practices.

**Discussion of Results:** All geographical names approved by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador are added to and maintained in the federal database. As such, the federal and provincial datasets for Newfoundland and Labrador are the same. Likewise, the provincial and federal database maintenance structures are also identical. As new geographical entities are generated there is an implicit need for database upgrades. Some of these updates are still in progress.

## **Issue 2: Natural Wilderness Areas and Lands of Indigenous Occupancy**

Indigenous names continue to be given a high priority both on the provincial and federal level. While no new names other than a commemorative name were submitted during the report period the NLGNB is very pleased to report success in areas of Indigenous occupancy.

During the year, the Board's role in assisting toponymic research and recommending for official approval Innu geographical names in Labrador was highlighted in an article published in Memorial University's faculty magazine *The Gazette*, March 22, 2017. "LANDMARK ACHIEVEMENT Hundreds of Innu Place Names for Southern and Central Labrador awarded legal status," was written by Janet Harron, communications advisor in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. This presentation was meant to illustrate an exemplary collaborative project involving a government agency (NLGNB), academic researchers (Mr. Peter Armitage and Dr. Marguerite MacKenzie) and Indigenous people. Peter Armitage is noted as saying that this particular research project was "an important contribution to the Innu and our knowledge of the cultural history of the province." The article also cites the researchers as acknowledging that the support and encouragement of the Board particularly the contribution of Board Secretary, Mr. Randy Hawkins, were major factors in the project's success.

**Objective 2:** By March 31, 2017 the NLGNB collected and processed traditional Indigenous geographic names.

Indicators	Accomplishments
Communicated with persons with good knowledge of remote and natural wilderness areas and Indigenous groups.	The NLGNB communicated with Mayor Jack Shiwak, Mayor of the Inuit Community of Rigolet concerning the commemoration of John Shiwak, an inuk, (Inuit) sharp-shooter who was killed in World War 1.
Collected and recorded Indigenous names and geographical names from remote and wilderness areas.	<p>Only one Indigenous name was collected and recorded in the report period. The name was proposed to commemorate an Inuit soldier who was killed in battle in World War 1.</p> <p>This commemorative name was proposed by John Shiwak, the current mayor of Rigolet. A recommendation on this proposal requires further investigation.</p>
Reported on issues/challenges with the collection and processing of Indigenous names and new names from remote and wilderness areas.	<p>The NLGNB is very pleased to report that three place name changes were officially adopted on February 2, 2017. Two of these three names were the first ones to receive Nunatsiavut Government assent since the signing of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement in December 2005. The third name change received the assent of the Innu Nation.</p> <p>Past experience indicates that the due processing of Indigenous names requires a lot of time and patience. Great progress has been made in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador with respect to the development of Indigenous places naming policies and practices. The processing of Indigenous place names is a very complicated process involving both linguistic and culture expertise. In March of this year the cultural impact of a recent Innu Nation place names submission was chronicled in the following article, <a href="https://gazette.mun.ca/research/landmark-achievement/">https://gazette.mun.ca/research/landmark-achievement/</a> .</p>

**Discussion of Results:** Indigenous place names have been a major focus area throughout Canada and the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador in recent years. The NLGNB is very proud to endorse and encourage the collection and processing of Indigenous place names throughout this province whenever the opportunity arises.

Memorial University's Gazette article on the Innu Nation's Indigenous names is a testament to the importance of this process.

### Issue 3: Public Outreach and Awareness

The geographical names program contributes to preserving the cultural heritage of all citizens throughout the province. The NLGNB continues to actively seek engagement of interest groups in the program and the naming process.

The NLGNB, mainly through our secretary, conducted very productive consultations and liaisons with members of the general public, academics, writers, researchers, municipalities, government departments and agencies, as well as Indigenous governments and organizations having a vested interest in geographical names.

**Objective 3:** By March 31, 2017 the NLGNB engaged the public in the geographical naming process.

Indicators	Accomplishments
Contacted municipalities.	The City of Corner Brook and the Towns of Avondale, Flower's Cove, and Grand Falls-Windsor were contacted in connection with the provision of World War 1 commemorative naming proposals in their respective jurisdictions. Three geographical names were adopted. Two additional commemorative names were also submitted by the Southwest Arm Historical Society. All six of these commemorative names were adopted October 19, 2016.
Contacted researchers and special interest groups.	Thanks to the assistance of researchers with the Advisory Committee of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment Museum and the Southwest Arm Historical Society, the NLGNB was able to recommend six World War 1 commemorative names for adoption.  The NLGNB continue to use provincial Harbour Authorities as a source of general public contacts for marine based names.
Contacted members of the general public.	Contacts this year included residents of Little Catalina, Admirals Beach, Marystown, Poole's Cove, Newmans Cove, Gaultois, Hermitage-Sandyville, Jersey'side, Cannings Cove, Torbay, Hillview, Point au Gaul, King's Cove, Milltown, Princeton, English Harbour East, Garden Cove, Lamaline, Little Heart's Ease, St. Bride's, Southport, South East Bight, Lord's Cove, St. Lawrence, St. Bernard's-Jacques Fontaine, Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Eastport, Rencontre East, Harbour Mille, Petite Forte, Paradise and Gooseberry Cove.

<p>Collaborated with other provincial/federal government agencies.</p>	<p>The NLGNB is in the process of finalizing a Joint Decision with Parks Canada in connections with the Terra Nova National Park geographical naming submissions from last year. Other Joint Decisions in L'Anse aux Meadows will be finalized in the near future.</p> <p>The NLGNB collaborated with the Geographical Names Board of Canada Secretariat on policy review of all geographical naming jurisdictions in Canada. This policy scan was conducted over a two-week period in March of 2017. The provincial perspective proved to be very productive and insightful. The review afforded a great opportunity to review the current process and streamline procedures to increase greater efficiencies.</p> <p>In recognition of the Canada 150 anniversary, the NLGNB made recommendations for two thematic map series which will be published by Natural Resources Canada.</p>
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**Discussion of Results:** Public engagement is important to the operation and success of the geographical names program in the province. The NLGNB takes and welcomes every opportunity to encourage residents to become actively involved in the process.

Progress was notable in the following: the commemorative naming project related to the participation of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians in World War 1 in consultation with Lt.-Col. (Retired) Norman Bull and Mr. Frank Gogos (Chair), of the Advisory Committee of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment Museum and with representatives of local communities and organizations.

The Newfoundland and Labrador Geographical Names Board reports on the same objectives, measures and indicators for all three years of its 2014-17 Activity Plan.

#### 4.0 OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

The NLGNB has discussed and will continue to explore with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, school boards and teachers, the possibility of including place-name studies as a unit in the high school cultural course, Newfoundland Studies 2205, beginning first with a pilot project in a selected school. The NLGNB considers this to be an excellent opportunity to engage the public more meaningfully in the geographical names program. Hopefully the NLGNB will be able to introduce the geographical names program in the school system in the near future and, in association with the Department of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation, use geographical names as a central theme in promoting cultural tourism, highlighting the cultural history

and heritage of the province, and increasing public awareness of the geographical names program.

Significant advances were also made in recommending geographical names in more remote and natural resource areas, particularly in identifying suitable official locally-used names for forest access roads to facilitate and enhance economic and cultural development, safe travelling, and especially search and rescue.