

# North East Avalon Regional Plan Oversight Committee

Activity Plan  
2014-17

## Message from the Chair

I am pleased to present the 2014-17 Activity Plan for the North East Avalon Regional Plan Oversight Committee. This committee is comprised of representatives of the 15 municipalities from Witless Bay to Holyrood, including Wabana/Bell Island. I am excited to be involved in the process as we work together towards developing a regional land use plan for government's consideration.

As Chairperson of this committee, I can attest that this plan has been prepared in accordance with the *Transparency and Accountability Act* requirements for a category three entity. Careful consideration has been given to the strategic directions of government. In particular, the committee's activities will contribute to the "community partnership" and "regional cooperation" components of the *Strengthened Municipal Capacity* strategic direction.

As a committee, we look forward to advancing the development of a new regional land use plan. My signature below is indicative of the committee's accountability for the preparation of this three-year activity plan and for achieving the objectives of the plan.



**STEVE KENT**

Minister of Municipal  
And Intergovernmental Affairs

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## Overview

The principal function of the North East Avalon Regional Plan Oversight Committee is to facilitate the development of the North East Avalon's regional land use plan for recommendation to government. As such, the committee oversees the work and preparation associated with development of a plan which will help lead future growth and development in the region.

The North East Avalon region includes the area from and including the Towns of Witless Bay and Holyrood and all lands north from there to Cape St. Francis, including Wabana/Bell Island. The committee is established pursuant to section 9 of the *Urban and Rural Planning Act, 2000*. It is comprised of mayors from each of the region's 15 municipalities and the Minister of Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs as Chairperson. In addition, the committee is supported by Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador (MNL), serving in the capacity of project management lead, and the Department of Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs.

In accordance with the committee's Terms of Reference, the committee is responsible for the following:

1. Approving the terms of reference/call for proposals to engage a consultant for preparation of a draft regional plan;
2. Reviewing the recommendations of a review committee comprised of representatives of MNL, the department, and technical staff from the region regarding the proposals and making a final recommendation to the Minister with regard to the preferred consultant;
3. Directing the work of the project management lead (MNL) and their project management consultant, with regards to needed engagement of individuals and organizations to learn about current issues within the regional planning area;
4. Advising the planning consultant, through or in conjunction with MNL, on issues within the regional planning area;
5. Providing available background material or studies to the planning consultant, through MNL;
6. Reviewing and approving an appropriate public consultation process, based on recommendations from MNL, its project management consultant, the department, the planning consultant;

7. Communicating progress on the regional plan development to municipal councils and provincial departments, as applicable to the individual committee member;
8. Reviewing drafts of the regional plan and providing comments to the consultant, through or in conjunction with MNL and their project management consultant;
9. Recommending to the Minister approval of the final version of the draft regional plan; and;
10. Working with the department to organize statutory public hearings on the draft regional plan, as required by the *Urban and Rural Planning Act, 2000*.

Current members of the committee are as follows:

- Minister Steve Kent (Chair) Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs
- Mayor John Kennedy Town of Logy Bay – Middle Cove – Outer Cove
- Mayor Ken McDonald Town of Conception Bay South
- Mayor Gary Gosine Town of Wabana
- Mayor Patrick O’Driscoll Town of Bay Bulls
- Mayor Sébastien Després Town of Witless Bay
- Mayor Randy Simms City of Mount Pearl
- Mayor Gary Goobie Town of Holyrood
- Mayor Dan Bobbett Town of Paradise
- Mayor Joedy Wall Town of Pouch Cove
- Mayor Dennis O’Keefe City of St. John’s
- Mayor Moses Tucker Town of Portugal Cove – St. Philip’s
- Mayor Christopher Dredge Town of Bauline
- Mayor Darrin Thorne Town of Flatrock
- Mayor Nat Hutchings Town of Petty Harbour – Maddox Cove
- Mayor Ralph Tapper Town of Torbay

## **Budget and Expenditures**

The committee does not have an office or staff, nor does it manage any funds or financial statements. Further, members of the committee do not receive remuneration.

Prior to commencing the North East Avalon Regional Plan, the Province and the 15 municipalities agreed to share the cost of developing the plan on a 50/50 basis, including the costs of a project management firm and a consultant. The municipalities contribute on a per

capita basis using the 2011 Statistics Canada Census. MNL, in its capacity as project management lead, administers the funds on behalf of the plan partners.

## Mandate

The mandate of the committee is to oversee the preparation of a regional land use plan for the North East Avalon regional planning area.

As this planning area has no designated regional planning authority, the Minister is the regional authority for that area as per section 7(2) of the *Urban and Rural Planning Act, 2000* (URPA). As such, the committee derives its mandate from section 9 of the URPA which states:

*9. (1) Where a regional authority for a regional planning area is the Minister,*

*(a) the preparation of a regional plan for that area shall include a procedure for consultation with the municipalities and other appropriate persons and organizations in the regional planning area; and*

*(b) he or she may appoint persons to oversee the consultation procedure and development of the regional plan.*

*(2) Persons appointed under paragraph (1)(b) shall include representatives from each municipality and other persons and organizations that the Minister considers appropriate from the regional planning area.*

To view the *Urban and Rural Planning Act, 2000* in its entirety, please visit:

<http://assembly.nl.ca/Legislation/sr/statutes/u08.htm>.

## Primary Clients

The committee identifies its primary clients as those individuals, groups, or organizations who are the principal users and/or beneficiaries of the regional land use plan for the North East Avalon. This includes: citizens, stakeholders, community organizations, governments, and government organizations with an interest and/or concern in the regional land use planning of the region.

## Values

Values are the fundamental attributes that guide behaviour and decision-making. They explain the character the committee desires to promote. The value action statements ensure the core values are visible throughout the committee by identifying specific actions that can be observed during the period of this activity plan.

<b>Respect</b>	Each individual accepts differences, embraces diversity and acknowledges the competencies and contributions of his or her colleagues.
<b>Accountability</b>	Each individual accepts responsibility for his or her actions and understands that, as public servants, they are ultimately responsible to citizens.
<b>Innovation</b>	Each individual focuses on finding new solutions and exploring best practices that benefit the overall support and delivery of the committee's mandate.
<b>Collaboration</b>	Each individual actively engages in open dialogue and shared efforts to achieve successful outcomes for all.
<b>Professionalism</b>	Each person takes initiative and demonstrates sound judgement, adaptability and excellence in meeting the challenges of the job.

## Vision

The vision of the committee is of communities in the North East Avalon region with viable, sustainable municipal services led by strong local governments.

## Mission

Given the committee's limited mandate, the development of a mission with accompanying measures and indicators would be redundant to the objectives, which are already developed in the current activity plan.

## Strategic Issue

### Regional Land Use Plan

The North East Avalon has experienced exponential growth and development in recent years. Moreover, growth in this region is expected to continue for the foreseeable future. Land use planning in the region is currently guided by the municipal plans for each of the 15 municipalities, including the St. John's Urban Region Regional Plan which was approved in 1976.

Over the last number of years, a number of plans have been updated and amended, while others remained unchanged. As such, the committee recognizes that that the resulting policies and strategies of the regional plan and associated municipal plans may be inconsistent with each other. Updating the regional plan, and municipal plans where necessary, will help ensure a coherent and sustainable vision and land use strategy towards the growth and development of the region.

A new regional land use plan is required to address the following issues:

- Settlement and development needs;
- Infrastructure needs;
- Transportation needs;
- Economic projections;
- Natural environment considerations;
- Climate change;
- Agricultural resource lands and food security;
- Hazards or limitations to development;
- Provision for use of alternative energy sources;
- Parks, recreation and trails;
- Aggregate resources;
- Open space;
- Coastline development;
- Climate change and associated development considerations;
- Water supply and protection issues;
- Regional growth strategy; and,
- Future development opportunities.

In developing the land use plan, the committee will consult with participating municipalities, as well as government representatives and other individuals and organizations that have an interest in land use in the region. The committee will also work with MNL, in its capacity as project management lead for the regional plan, and will provide oversight to the project management firm hired to undertake various components of the development of a land use plan.

The development of a regional land use plan for the North East Avalon supports the Minister's strategic direction relating to *Strengthened Municipal Capacity*. The committee's efforts in developing a regional land use plan for recommendation to the Minister will contribute to the "community partnership" and "regional cooperation" components of this strategic direction. The committee will facilitate these components by engaging municipal stakeholders in the development of a regional land use plan that will benefit local governments, the Provincial Government and residents of the region.

Given the committee's mandate is to develop a regional land use plan for recommendation to government, the committee has determined that a three-year goal is not applicable at this time. Instead, the committee will report on the same annual objective in each year of the plan, however the indicators will change in subsequent years covered by the plan.

**Annual Objective:** By March 31, 2015, the committee will have overseen and facilitated the development of the North East Avalon's regional land use plan.

**Measure:** Has overseen and facilitated the development of the regional land use plan.

**Indicators:**

- Approved terms of reference/call for proposals for a consultant.
- Recommended preferred consultant.
- Advised consultant and project management lead of issues within the regional planning area.

## Strategic Directions

Strategic directions are the articulation of desired physical, social or economic outcomes and normally require action by more than one government entity. These directions are generally communicated by government through platform documents, Throne and Budget Speeches, policy documents, and other communiqués. The *Transparency and Accountability Act* requires departments and public bodies to take into account these strategic directions in the preparation of their performance-based plans. This action will facilitate the integration of planning practices across government and will ensure all entities are moving forward on key commitments.

The committee falls under the responsibility of the Minister of Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs, and as such must take into consideration the strategic directions as communicated to the committee from the Minister. Each strategic direction is comprised of a number of components or focus areas. The committee must take these into consideration in the development of their 2014-17 activity plan. The relevant departmental strategic direction and associated component areas are as follows:

### **Strategic Direction: Strengthened Municipal Capacity**

**Outcome:** Strengthened municipal capacity through community partnerships, regional cooperation initiatives, and stakeholder engagement.

Components of Strategic Direction	This direction is addressed in the committee's:		
	Activity plan	Operational plan	Work plan
Community Partnerships	✓		
Regional Cooperation	✓		