

## Department of Environment and Conservation

### Annual Report 2007-2008



2008

Document is available online at [www.env.gov.nl.ca/env](http://www.env.gov.nl.ca/env)

Cover photos (clockwise from top): Pitcher Plant - Courtesy of Parks and Natural Areas Division; Lady Slipper - Courtesy of Parks and Natural Areas Division; Waterford River - Courtesy of N. Catto; Blueberries - Courtesy of Parks and Natural Areas Division; Main River - Courtesy of E. Pittman.

Header pictures: Clintonia and Cornus and Yellow Lady Slipper - Courtesy of Parks and Natural Areas Division

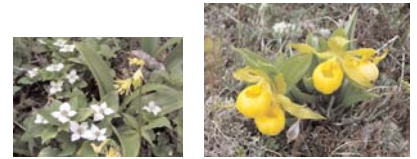


## Table of Contents

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Message from the Minister .....	ii
Overview of Department .....	1
Highlights and Accomplishments .....	3
Shared Commitments .....	9
Outcomes of Strategic Issues .....	11
Staff Accomplishments .....	19
Opportunities and Challenges .....	20
Financial Statement .....	21
Appendices	
I Lines of Business .....	23
II Mission Outcomes to Date .....	28
III Activities Related to the Provincial Climate Change Action Plan .....	30





## Message from the Minister

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In accordance with government's commitment to accountability, I present the 2007-08 annual performance report for the Department of Environment and Conservation. This report addresses the department's activities and outcomes from April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008, which is the last reporting period for the department's strategic plan 2006-2008. As minister, I am accountable for the preparation of this report and for the results contained herein.



It has been a very busy year and I would like to take the opportunity to highlight some of our achievements. Our Parks and Natural Areas Division introduced a new reservation system for the summer of 2007. A new electronic financial management system and new internet and communications system means that park patrons are now able to pay by debit in addition to credit cards. The Water Resources Division released a report on sustainable options for small drinking water systems and is now working on a plan of action for the management of drinking water in these areas. Our *Pesticide Control Regulations* were revised and strengthened to ensure that users of pesticides are more responsible for their actions. The *Sustainable Development Act* was passed in the House of Assembly in June, 2007. And finally, the Newfoundland and Labrador Green Fund was launched with approximately \$25 million to be spent on greenhouse gas reduction projects in the province.

In the department's next strategic plan, we are renewing our commitment to those goals and objectives that were delayed or incomplete in their outcomes due to circumstances beyond our control. Work will diligently continue on achieving the proposed outcomes for these goals and objectives as we work with the public on these important issues.

Hon. Charlene Johnson  
MINISTER





## Overview of Department

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The Department of Environment and Conservation, created in February 2004, is responsible for the protection and enhancement of the environment, management of the province's wildlife, inland fish, water, parks, natural areas and Crown land resources.

### Vision

The vision of the Department of Environment and Conservation is a clean, sustainable environment and healthy, resilient ecosystems in perpetuity for the social, physical, cultural, biological and economic well-being of the province.

### Mission

By March 31, 2011, the Department of Environment and Conservation will have reduced the adverse impacts of human activities on the environment to safeguard and improve the health of our ecosystems.<sup>1</sup>

### Mandate

The mandate of the Department of Environment and Conservation is derived from the Department of Environment and Conservation Notice, 2008 under the *Executive Council Act* on matters related to:

- the protection, enhancement and conservation of the quality of the natural environment, including water, air and soil quality;
- environmental assessment;
- the conservation, development, control, improvement and proper utilization of the water resources of the province;
- provincial lands;
- the management, preservation, control, protection and development of provincial parks, as defined in the *Provincial Parks Act*, provincial interests in all national parks established in the province by the Government of Canada; and wilderness and ecological reserves as defined in the *Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Act*;
- the management and control of measures for the protection, preservation and propagation of wildlife, including inland fish;
- the assessment, development and establishment of sustainability indicators for the sustainable development of natural resources of the province; and
- the management, protection and preservation of endangered species as defined in the *Endangered Species Act*.

1. The mission statement was altered slightly in the department's 2008-2011 Strategic Plan. Please refer to the Strategic Plan for updated wording.



## Department of Environment and Conservation Annual Report 2007-2008

### Lines of Business

The Department of Environment and Conservation is engaged in the following lines of business:

- Land Resources;
- Provincial parks, ecological and wilderness reserves, natural areas, and Canadian Heritage Rivers;
- Protection of wildlife and inland fish;
- Coordination of environmental assessments;
- Prevention of air, soil and water pollution;
- Water quality, availability and management of water resources;
- Climate change; and
- Sustainable development and strategic science.

For details on the Lines of Business of the department please see Appendix A.

### Staff

The Department of Environment and Conservation's main offices are located at Confederation Building in St. John's and at Deer Lake and Corner Brook. The department has regional offices in other locations in St. John's, Grand Falls-Windsor, Clarenville, Corner Brook, Gander, and Happy Valley-Goose Bay.

The department is responsible for the Salmonier Nature Park along with fourteen camping parks, six natural and scenic attraction parks, eleven park reserves and the T'Railway Provincial Park. In addition, there are twenty wilderness and ecological reserves, three wildlife reserves and special management areas, and one public reserve.

### Departmental Structure

The Department of Environment and Conservation consists of three branches: Environment, Lands and Natural Heritage. The branches are further subdivided into divisions and sections. The department also contains a Policy and Planning Division, a Sustainable Development and Strategic Science Division and a Communications Unit. The Institute of Biodiversity, Ecosystem Science and Sustainability (IBES),



housed at Memorial University (Sir Wilfred Grenfell College) is an integral component of the Sustainable Development and Strategic Science Division.

Water sampling in Labrador. Photo courtesy of C. Ramsay.





## Highlights and Accomplishments

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### Wildlife Division

A ten-year strategic development plan was completed for the Salmonier Nature Park which includes strategies to enhance the visitor experience and services, increase trail accessibility, and increase the park's role in nature-based tourism and wildlife viewing at the provincial level.

A new outreach program was also developed at Salmonier Nature Park. The program is centered around three themes - Bears, Endangered Species and Natural Legacies - and will be delivered to schools around the province.



Polar bear exhibit at Salmonier Nature Park. Photo courtesy of Salmonier Nature Park.

The 2007 Firearm Safety/Hunter Education Instructor Rendezvous was held in Gander, Newfoundland and Labrador on October 19-21, 2007. A variety of presentations were given including topics such as: bow hunting techniques; use of power point and hunter education tools training software; updates from the Canada Firearms Center; status of south coast Newfoundland Caribou; and policy and procedure updates from the College of the North Atlantic and the Wildlife Division.

Recognizing the importance of small mammals in northern ecosystems, a number of interested organizations across the province worked together to establish a network of small mammal monitoring sites in 2007. The Wildlife Division took a lead in this project with partner participation from the Institute for Environmental Monitoring and Research, Jacques Whitford, the Innu Nation, the Métis Nation, the Nunatsiavut Government, the Miawpukek First Nation of Conne, the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre and the Provincial Forestry Division. Project goals included identifying species and their distributions across the province; examining population trend data; and tracking changes in species distribution.



Pine Martin. Photo courtesy of Joe Brazil.



## Parks and Natural Areas Division

A new Provincial Parks Campsite Reservation service was introduced in May 2007. This system was implemented in response to the increased demand by the public to have a comprehensive reservation service to book campsites in advance of travel. The system was well received by park users and by the end of the camping season, the service had processed 7,635 reservations. In previous years the maximum number of reservations processed was 2,000. The service is available online at [www.nlcamping.ca](http://www.nlcamping.ca) 24 hours a day or by calling 1-877-214-2267 between 7:00am and 11:30pm, in season.

In 2007, a new electronic financial management system was introduced which would allow patrons to swipe credit or debit cards to pay for services within provincial parks. This was a dramatic change from previous years when parks operated on a manual system that did not allow the use of debit cards.

In support of these initiatives, provincial parks and the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) introduced a new satellite internet communications system. This allowed for internet and email access in provincial parks.

In April 2007, Sandy Cove Provisional Ecological Reserve was established under the *Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Act*. This reserve was established to protect endangered Long's Braya and the limestone barrens habitat in which it grows.



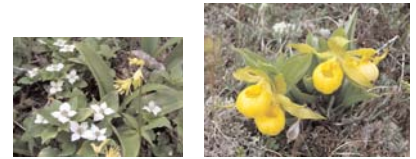
Long's Braya, Photo courtesy of D. House.

## Water Resources Management Division

The Surface Water Section released the annual *Drinking Water Safety Report* for April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007. Three new water supply areas were protected, two were amended and one was repealed. Five active watershed management committees were operational. The report *Sustainable Options for the Management of Drinking Water Quality in Small Water Systems* was completed. The report combines an assessment of the state of drinking water quality in Newfoundland and Labrador with a plan of action focusing on sustainable mitigative options for the management of drinking water quality in the province.

During fiscal year 2007-08, 381 permits were issued that dealt with various components of water-supply and sewer systems (such as construction and operation). Forty-five permits were issued regulating activities in Protected Public Water Supply Areas in order to ensure the integrity of drinking-water sources.

The Groundwater and Hydrologic Modelling Sections were successful in obtaining funding for two programs worth a total of \$161,000 under the Canada - Newfoundland and Labrador Water Supply Expansion Agreement. Funded by Agriculture and Agri-food Canada, four near real-time groundwater



## Department of Environment and Conservation Annual Report 2007-2008

level and water quality satellite platforms were installed on observation wells situated in farming areas in the province. In addition, a water quality index was developed for the farming community. A second program resulted in the report *Hydrogeology of Agricultural Development Areas - Newfoundland and Labrador*. Information provided by both programs is designed to help the farming community better utilize the water resources of this province.

The Water Rights Section evaluated 104 water use allocation proposals and issued 95 water use licenses. Proposals and licenses were for a variety of water use sectors including agricultural, aquaculture, mineral exploration, water power generation and other commercial and industrial uses. The section continuously updated its Registry of Water Rights which now contains more than 1,800 records. The section cooperates with the Nunatsiavut Government on water management and water rights related to the Labrador Inuit land claims agreement. Also, the section is involved in negotiations of water management and water rights related to the Labrador Innu land claims agreement.

The section collected water power rentals in the amount of \$483,000 compared to \$381,600 in 2006-07. One hundred percent of the funding was received from the federal government for two studies on the evaluation of agricultural water uses and, for the first time in the province, a pilot study on agricultural water conservation and efficiency measures.

Staff supervised a team of four Masters students from the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science at Memorial University during a study on the use of water resources for pulp and paper. This academic study won the Dean of Engineering's award in recognition of the exemplary performance in the Program of Master of Applied Science in Environmental Systems Engineering and Management. In addition, the section manager was invited to speak and comment on water use allocation and economic instruments in national events and with the University of Guelph. Staff also presented a paper in the 60th Annual Canadian Water Resources Association Conference in Saskatoon.

Managers of the Water Quality Monitoring Agreement Section and the Hydrologic Modelling Section were selected by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to lead a prestigious two-year Science for Peace project. Under this project, they will implement an environmental security and water resources management system using real time water quality warning and communications on the River Nile in Egypt. This is an international recognition of government's success in using innovative technologies.

The innovative Badger River Ice Monitoring Service developed by the Hydrologic Modelling Section in collaboration with C-CORE was used by other national and international government agencies.

The Hydrologic Modelling Section developed a new satellite based snow monitoring service for the Upper Humber watershed to enhance the flood forecasting service for the Humber River.



Black Tickle Domino Potable Water Dispensing Unit. Photo courtesy C. Ramsay.



## Department of Environment and Conservation Annual Report 2007-2008

The Hydrologic Modelling Section received funding through the federal government's GeoConnections program (<http://www.geoconnections.org>) to make the Drinking Water Quality Geographic Information System (GIS) application accessible to the public. This project will be completed in January 2009. The development of this portal will enhance decision making, sharing of information and management of water in the province. It will allow for improved ability to respond to matters of public health and safety.

The Water Investigations Section assessed and evaluated project proposals for alterations of bodies of water (e.g. bridges, dams, wharves, etc.) and issued 329 permits. One hundred and seventy-seven permits were issued for water and sewer projects. The section investigated more than one hundred water-related problems and complaints covering such issues as siltation, poor water quality, flooding and erosion.



Robert's Arm Protected Water Supply Area. Photo courtesy P. James.

## Pollution Prevention Division

The Industrial Compliance Section continued to work with Industry to improve air emissions and effluent discharges. Highlights include:

- The 1% sulphur in fuel limitation at the Holyrood Thermal Generating station has proved to significantly reduce sulphur dioxide and particulate emissions and has eliminated the heavy particulate events that were a major source of concern for many local residents.
- Companies involved in the fur tanning industry, in consultation with the department, have jointly initiated a study to determine the effect of tanneries effluent on the receiving waters. This effort will help establish the requirements for improvements to current effluent treatment systems.
- The section has been working closely with Abitibi Bowater on both the decommissioning of the Stephenville Mill as well as remediation of the old Asarco mine in Buchans.
- Work continues on the assessment and remediation of five contaminated sites in the province, with work completed at the Jerry's Nose site.

A number of key changes took place in terms of pesticides control. In April 2007, the *Pesticides Control Regulations* were revised and strengthened, making users of pesticides more responsible for their activities.

A new position of Pesticide Enforcement and Licensing Specialist is based in Gander to cover Central Newfoundland.



There were convictions on 2 of 4 charges that proceeded to court.

The Waste Management Section issued approximately 26 new Certificates of Approval for waste management operations dealing with composting, hazardous/special waste dangerous goods transportation and storage, and petroleum/heavy metal contaminated soil treatment facilities. Approximately 6790 tonnes of hazardous/special waste was diverted from landfill and transported for treatment /destruction outside the province in 2007-08.

With respect to agriculture, the Waste Management Section has worked closely with the Agrifoods Division of the Department of Natural Resources on a variety of waste management projects. A number of composting pilot projects have been successfully conducted on mink farms. As well, the section was involved in contingency planning with the province's poultry producers and in meeting federal compliance issues for Specified Risk Material with cattle producers. Waste disposal for the aquaculture industry which will involve composting and phyto-remediation techniques to meet criteria limits for heavy metals is an ongoing project with close cooperation with the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

The Waste Management section is an active participant in the ongoing Transport Canada Newfoundland and Labrador South Coast Oil Spill Risk Assessment Phase I and Phase II; the Shipping Federation Atlantic Forum and the Atlantic Region Marine Oily Waste Management working group.

This year, the Petroleum Storage and Management section distributed an additional 3,331 registration tags to licensed inspectors to use in the identification of registered systems. This constituted a drop of 79% in tag sales, compared to the previous year when 15,723 tags were distributed.

The registration of storage tank systems under the Storage and Handling of Gasoline and Associated Products Regulations, 2003, continued during the year and the numbers in the electronic database are now up to 3,738. Activities in this area have improved as a dedicated staff person was present for the full year.

This year saw increased activity in national code/standard development with staff participating in technical committee work at multiple meetings at both Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada (ULC) and Canadian Standards Association (CSA). This work is very important as the results are standards and codes which are an integral part of the regulations pertaining to hydrocarbon storage and management.

## **Crown Lands Division**

To address the concerns regarding overdue Crown Lands accounts, a collections team comprising staff of both the Crown Lands Administration Division and Financial Operations was established.

The project originally had a two-year operating term; however, due to the success of the project it is currently in its third year. The two-year objective of the project was to reduce the overdue accounts receivable by \$1,500,000 by March 31, 2008. The project team met this objective in reducing the



## Department of Environment and Conservation Annual Report 2007-2008

accounts receivable by approximately \$2,300,000. The goal for 2008-09 is to reduce the receivables by an additional \$1,000,000.

In 2007-08, the division issued over 2,400 Crown land titles and allocated over 6,000 hectares of land. Annual revenues generated from land titles and administration fees totalled \$8,364,623.

### Sustainable Development and Strategic Science Division

The division continued its strategic research on caribou populations. Caribou composition surveys were conducted on a large number of herds in the spring and fall of 2007 and late winter 2008. A caribou calf mortality study continued on the Middle Ridge herds: calves were collared in June and December and their survival was monitored regularly. Report writing and publications continued as part of the caribou data synthesis. Four peer-reviewed manuscripts on Newfoundland caribou were published in 2007-08.



Caribou. Photo courtesy  
Department of Natural  
Resources.



## Shared Commitments

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The department works closely with other departments to achieve government's key commitments. The 2006-08 Strategic Directions that include shared commitments are Climate Change, Sustainable Development and Waste Management.

### Climate Change

The Newfoundland and Labrador Green Fund was launched in early March, 2008. This \$25 million fund incorporates resources from the federal EcoAction Trust Fund and the provincial government. The fund is open to businesses, institutions, environmental groups, or individuals seeking to develop applicable innovative greenhouse gas reduction projects in Newfoundland and Labrador. Approximately \$2.3 million has been allocated to improve efficiency standards and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions at provincial government buildings that are currently undergoing construction. These include the long-term care facility, law courts and supervised care bungalows in Corner Brook; the long-term care facility in Clarenville; the Carbonear General Hospital; the medical clinic in Grand Bank; and the Dr. Charles S. Curtis Memorial Hospital in St. Anthony. Another \$1.6 million was allocated to the City of St. John's for methane recovery at the city landfill. This project is expected to reduce GHG emissions by 50,000 to 65,000 tonnes annually.

The department continued to provide support to partners for climate change education and outreach. In particular, the department supported the Lung Association in the development of their environmental initiatives division in 2007. This division has been successful in promoting idle-free zones in schools in the Western school district.

The department also provided support to Memorial University for the Labrador Climate Change Conference at Northwest River in April 2008.



Department of Environment and Conservation's new hybrid Prius. Photo courtesy N. Rowsell.

### Sustainable Development

The Sustainable Development and Strategic Science Division saw an expansion over the last year. The *Sustainable Development Act* passed in the House of Assembly in June 2007. A Sustainable Development Round Table Support Secretariat was established in Corner Brook in the winter of 2008 and staff have been recruited.

In support of the Sustainable Development initiative, the Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Science



## Department of Environment and Conservation Annual Report 2007-2008

continued as a partnership with Memorial University. Twenty-six graduate student research projects are ongoing with another five in the initiation stage.

### Waste Management Strategy

The department participates on the technical and steering committees for the implementation of the provincial waste management strategy. One of the key components is attending regional waste management committee meetings. Staff have also attended a number of public meetings and meetings with the City of St. John's, consultants and stakeholders in order to further the strategy.

Progress on the provincial Waste Management Strategy continues with 40 waste disposal sites closed to date.

Waste management standards were developed for:

- Municipal solid waste compost facilities;
- Material recovery facilities;
- Closure of non-containment landfills;
- Municipal solid waste management and public education; and
- Household hazardous waste depots.

### Upcoming Issue: Caribou Strategy

Government announced \$15.3 million funding for a new, five-year science and management caribou strategy in February 2008. The Sustainable Development and Strategic Science Division is the lead on the development of a caribou strategy for the province. Implementation of the strategy is in the early stages but partners are expected to include other provincial departments (Wildlife Division, Department of Natural Resources and Department of Tourism) and stakeholder groups (the outfitters and trappers associations, the Wildlife Federation and the academic community).



Caribou. Photo courtesy of Department of Natural Resources.





## Outcomes of Strategic Issues

### Natural Areas System Plan

The purpose of a Natural Areas System Plan is to establish a comprehensive system of publicly supported parks and protected areas for citizens that protects the province's biodiversity and natural heritage; helps support a vibrant culture and economy; and enhances public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of our natural environment. The Natural Areas System Plan is in line with government's commitment to sustainable development as well as the province's commitments to the National Forest Strategy and Canadian Biodiversity Strategy. Government's Strategic Direction for the 2006-08 planning cycle was integrated management of a system of natural areas representing each of the province's eco-regions.

**Goal:** By March 31, 2008, the Department of Environment and Conservation will have identified a representative example of each of the province's eco-regions and have initiated implementation of a strategy for the protection of the province's eco-regions.

**Measure:** Identified Regions.

Indicators	Actual Results
Document prepared which identifies target regions.	A document was prepared identifying 29 study areas of the Island portion of the province. The natural regions in Labrador are not included in the current undertaking.

**Measure:** Initiated implementation of the plan.

Indicators	Actual Results
Process in place for land use conflict resolution.	The process is in place for land use conflict resolution in the form of an interdepartmental committee.
Public consultation completed on Natural Areas System Plan.	Public consultations have not been started due to delays in the conflict resolution process.



## Discussion of Results:

The process for identifying candidate study areas for the Natural Areas System Plan has been more complex than originally envisioned. Over the past two years, the department has completed biophysical assessments of the 25 natural regions on the island and this information was used to identify study areas and, where possible, alternate areas that capture the biological features representative of each natural region. These assessments were a significant piece of work and took 18 months to complete.

Consensus has not yet been reached on all study areas on the Island portion of the province. The Interdepartmental Committee approves the study areas once all departments are satisfied that their concerns have been addressed in the review of the areas. This process of reaching consensus among member departments on the areas in question has taken longer than anticipated.

Study areas have not yet been identified in Labrador due to delays in the interdepartmental conflict resolution process with regards to the study areas on the island.

The department's 2007-08 objective is essentially part of the overall two-year goal.

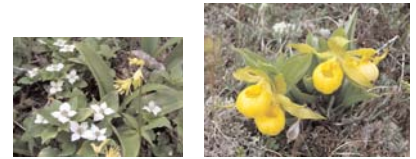
2007-08 Objective: By March 31, 2008, the Department of Environment and Conservation will have identified a representative example of each of the province's eco-regions.

Measure: Initiated implementation of protection of a representative example of the province's eco-regions.

2007-08 Indicator	Actual Results
Natural Areas System Plan initiated.	A process has been initiated to create a Natural Areas System Plan, but the plan itself has not been concluded due to delays in the conflict resolution process.

## Climate Change

In the 2006-08 planning cycle, government's Strategic Direction was adaptation to changes in climate and efficient use of energy resources. Government released a provincial *Climate Change Action Plan* in July 2005 in response to this issue of growing national and international importance. The action plan outlined 40 action items related to reduction of greenhouse gases and adaptation to climate change. Climate change is a long-term environmental issue and will be a long term commitment by government. Many of the actions in the 2005 provincial plan are initial first steps towards addressing climate change. These actions are intended to be further explored and revisited as science and technology around this issue evolves.



Goal: By March 31, 2008, the Department of Environment and Conservation will have commenced the implementation of the action items of the provincial *Climate Change Action Plan* which focus on reduction of greenhouse gases and adaptation to climate change.

Measure: Commenced implementation of the action plan.

Indicators	Actual Results
The number of action items that have been initiated.	During the reporting period, work has been initiated on all forty action items. A detailed list of the results for each year is available in Appendix III.
The production of annual status reports on the implementation of the plan.	Annual status reports for 2006 and 2007 are available on the departmental website.

## Discussion of Results

Since the *Climate Change Action Plan* was released in 2005, the department has worked to address each of the forty action items in the action plan. In some cases, the department has been quite successful in its efforts in relation to a specific initiative and has been able to further develop the initiative beyond what was originally planned. In other cases, the department may have refined specific initiatives due to further discussions and research or to a change in the national or international context. Due to the evolving nature of this file, the action plan was meant to be a "living" document that could be updated as required. The provincial *Energy Plan 2007* committed to an update of the *Climate Change Action Plan*. Environment and Conservation is currently working to revise the climate change plan to build upon previous actions and to include greenhouse gas reductions targets.

The department's annual objective for 2007-08 is mirrored in the two-year goal. The objective for 2006-07 identified specific actions that government intended to tackle in the first year, which focused on actions related to internal government processes. The remaining action items with a more external focus were intended to be addressed in the following year.

2007-08 Objective: By March 31, 2008, the Department of Environment and Conservation will have commenced the implementation of the remaining action items of the *Climate Change Action Plan*.

Measure: Remaining items initiated.

Indicators	Actual Results
Implementation of forty action items initiated.	Work has been initiated on all forty action items. The Department carried on with initiatives from 2006 and also focused on activities external to government. Work completed in 2007 is included in Appendix III.



Department of Environment and Conservation Annual Report 2007-2008

2007-08 Indicators	Actual Results
Annual status report on the implementation of the provincial Climate Change Action Plan released.	The annual status report for 2007 was completed and is available on the departmental website.

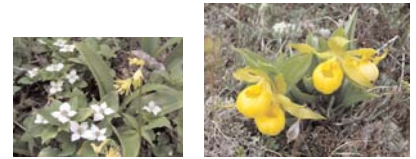
**Park Renewal**

The provincial park system is an important tourism resource for this province. In order to contribute to government's vision of a sustainable tourism industry, upgrades were needed for much of the park infrastructure to make them more compatible with current consumer demands. The goal for Park Renewal in the department's 2006-08 strategic plan was to address the infrastructure issue as part of making Newfoundland and Labrador a destination of choice.

Goal: By March 31, 2008, the Department of Environment and Conservation will have begun infrastructure upgrades on select provincial parks on a priority basis and completed a Park Renewal Master Plan.

Measure: Upgraded select parks

Indicators	Actual Results
The number of upgrades that have occurred in select parks in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three dumping stations</li> </ul>	The planning, consulting and tendering for dumping stations at Pinware River Provincial Park and J.T. Cheeseman Provincial Park occurred in 2006 and construction was started in these parks. Construction at Frenchman's Cove Provincial Park was completed. In 2007, dumping stations were completed in Pinware River Provincial Park, Sir Richard Squires Memorial Provincial Park and J.T. Cheeseman Provincial Park.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three comfort stations</li> </ul>	The planning, consulting and tendering for comfort stations at Pinware River Provincial Park, Sir Richard Squires Memorial Provincial Park and Butter Pot Provincial Park occurred in 2006 and construction was started. Construction in these parks was completed in 2007.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interpretation centres</li> </ul>	No results to report due to reprioritization of park renewal strategy actions. Work is scheduled for 2009-10.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trails</li> </ul>	No results to report due to reprioritization of park renewal strategy actions. Work is scheduled for 2008-09.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electrification</li> </ul>	No results to report due to reprioritization of park renewal strategy actions. Work is scheduled for 2008-09 and 2009-10.



Indicator	Actual Results
Campground expansions	Twelve campsites were added to Butter Pot Provincial Park in 2006. In 2007, campground expansions were completed in Pinware River Provincial Park (seven pull through campsites completed); Sir Richard Squires Memorial Provincial Park (19 campsites enlarged); and Butter Pot Provincial Park (25 new campsites completed).

Measure: Development of a Park Renewal Master Plan.

Indicator	Actual Results
Master plan document prepared.	Document was not prepared. Planning and implementation of upgrades is being done under the four-year Park Renewal Strategy. (See Discussion of Results below)

### Discussion of Results

Work has been progressing on the upgrades to the park infrastructure. Following the publication of the department's 2006-08 strategic plan, and given that a Park Renewal Master Plan was not developed, the Parks and Natural Areas Division received approval for a three-year park renewal strategy to address the necessary upgrades. A substantial increase in the cost of construction meant that a fourth year was subsequently added. It was determined that the initial focus of the upgrades should be to bring all provincial parks up to a minimal standard to include flush toilets and showers before proceeding with additional upgrades. Work on interpretation centres, trails and electrification was planned for years three and four of the strategy, which is past the reporting period for the outcomes of the strategic plan. The department is on track to complete these additional upgrades as per the revised strategy. Work continues to upgrade infrastructure that was not specifically outlined in the 2006-08 strategic plan: site upgrading in Goosebury Cove Provincial Park; road repairs in Chance Cove Provincial Park; road and building upgrades in Notre Dame Provincial Park; and purchase of recycling containers for Butter Pot Provincial Park and playground equipment for four provincial parks occurred in 2007-08. When parks open for business in the summer of 2008, all camping parks will have showers, flush toilets and dumping facilities available for public use.

A Park Renewal Master Plan has yet to be developed due to staff resource issues. In the absence of a park planner, who would be responsible for developing the master plan, divisional staff have proceeded with infrastructure upgrades as per the approved renewal strategy and have contracted professional planners where required. This approved course of action for Parks Renewal was by means of a four-year work plan or Park Renewal Strategy; 2007-08 was year two of the four-year plan.

In assessing whether or not the department was able to meet the Parks Renewal goal, it should be noted that upgrades have begun on the provincial parks and that a substantial amount of work has been undertaken.



**Department of Environment and Conservation Annual Report 2007-2008**

The department's annual objective for 2008 was essentially a repeat of the two-year goal.

2007-08 Objective: By March 31, 2008, the Department of Environment and Conservation will have completed a Park Renewal Master plan for all parks and continued upgrading of select provincial parks.

Measure: Development of a Park Renewal Master plan

2007-08 Indicator	Actual Results
Draft Park Renewal Master plan document prepared.	Document was not prepared.

Measure: Upgrading selected parks.

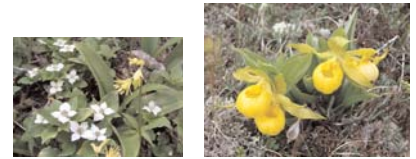
2007-08 Indicators	Actual Results
Three dumping stations	Dumping stations were completed in three parks: Sir Richard Squires Memorial Provincial Park, Pinware River Provincial Park and J.T. Cheeseman Provincial Park.
Three comfort stations	Comfort stations were completed in three parks: Butter Pot Provincial Park, Sir Richard Squires Memorial Provincial Park and Pinware River Provincial Park .
Interpretation centres	No results to report due to reprioritization of park renewal strategy actions.
Trails	No results to report due to reprioritization of park renewal strategy actions.
Electrification	No results to report due to reprioritization of park renewal strategy actions.
Campground expansions	In 2007, campground expansions were completed in Pinware River Provincial Park (seven pull through campsites completed); Sir Richard Squires Memorial Provincial Park (19 campsites enlarged); and Butter Pot Provincial Park (25 new campsites).

**Sustainable Development**

Government's Strategic Direction was sustainable development of the province's natural resources. The development and implementation of a *Sustainable Development Act* was identified as a commitment in the 2004 and 2005 Throne Speeches. The proposed Sustainable Development legislation is intended to be the legislative framework for a Strategic Environmental Management Plan.

Goal: By March 31, 2008, the Department of Environment and Conservation will have commenced implementation of the sustainable development initiative.

Measure: Commenced implementation of the sustainable development initiative.



Indicators	Actual Results
Development of the Strategic Environmental Management Plan will be initiated.	In 2006-07, staffing was started for policy staff dedicated to this issue. Research was undertaken on approaches taken in other jurisdictions, including New Zealand, Australia, United Kingdom and other Canadian provinces. Research was also undertaken into public and private sustainable development models and comparable policies and related legislation. Work commenced on appropriate outreach and communications materials. In 2007-08, research commenced on conflict resolution models. The format for the Strategic Environmental Management Plan was developed. Work commenced on the development of a sustainable development lens and a sustainable development assessment tool. A workshop on sustainable development for government departments was developed. Further staffing took place.
Legislation drafted.	In 2006-07, research into sustainable development legislation was completed. Public consultations were held. The <i>Sustainable Development Act</i> passed in the House of Assembly in June 2007. Work commenced on sustainable development regulations, a sustainable development procurement policy and a strategy for sustainability indicators, which are all required in the <i>Act</i> .
Mechanism proposed for establishing and operating a Round Table.	In 2006-07, a staffing plan was created for the Round Table Secretariat and resources were sought to fill positions. Research was undertaken on comparable round table mechanisms and potential membership. In 2007-08, staffing was completed. The protocol document was drafted and submitted for review. Provisional membership for the Round Table was submitted for review.

## Discussion of Results

The department commenced implementation of the sustainable development initiative with the release of a discussion document in 2005. This was followed by a series of public consultations in May and June 2006. The *Sustainable Development Act* received royal assent in the House of Assembly on June 14, 2007. Since that time, the department has been working to put in place the necessary human and financial resources to carry out the initiative, including the development of a Strategic Environmental Management Plan, the Sustainability Indicators Strategy, a Sustainable Procurement Policy, and all appropriate conflict resolution mechanisms. In addition to ongoing scientific research, current research and policy development activities include the development of communications and outreach materials, creation of the Sustainable Development Regulations, and the development of an internet portal for the Sustainable Development Initiative.



## Department of Environment and Conservation Annual Report 2007-2008

Three staff positions, including director, were filled in spring of 2008. This established the Sustainable Round Table Support Secretariat, which will take the lead on the coordination and facilitation of all Round Table activities. Mechanisms for the organization and implementation of the Sustainable Development Round Table are currently under review.

The department's annual objective for 2007-08 mirrored the two-year goal. The measures and indicators listed were the same and therefore the results are also the same.

2007-08 Objective: By March 31, 2008, the Department of Environment and Conservation will have commenced implementation of the sustainable development initiative.

Measure: Commenced implementation of the sustainable development initiative.

2007-08 Indicators	Actual Results
Development of the Strategic Environmental Management Plan initiated.	In 2007-08, research commenced on conflict resolution models. The format for the Strategic Environmental Management Plan was developed. Work commenced on the development of a sustainable development lens and a sustainable development assessment tool. A workshop on sustainable development for government departments was developed. Further staffing took place.
Legislation passed.	The <i>Sustainable Development Act</i> passed in the House of Assembly in June 2007. Work commenced on sustainable development regulations, a sustainable development procurement policy and a strategy for sustainability indicators, which are all required in the <i>Act</i> .
Mechanism proposed for establishing and operating a Round Table.	In 2007-08, staffing was completed. The protocol document was drafted and submitted for review. Provisional membership for the Round Table was submitted for review.





## Staff Accomplishments

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Mac Pitcher of the Salmonier Nature Park was the recipient of the Public Service Award of Excellence for 2007 for his knowledge and work on issues related to animal disease surveillance and wildlife research management.

In recognition of its real-time water monitoring program, the Water Resources Management Division was awarded 250,000 EUR project by NATO in May 2007 to establish a real-time water monitoring program on Nile River in Egypt. The objective of the project is to enhance the environmental security of the Nile River. The project is due for completion in July 2009.

In January 2008, Haseen Khan of the Water Resources Management Division was selected as a technical expert for World Health Organization's (WHO) Water and Sanitation Roster. The roster consists of technical experts who can be mobilized to respond to water and sanitation projects as per WHO's requirement.

Shane Mahoney, Executive Director of the Sustainable Development and Strategic Science Branch, was named the 2008 International Conservationist of the Year by the Safari Club International Foundation in recognition of his conservation efforts. Shane received this award at a ceremony in Washington, D.C..

In August and September 2007, Tara Kelly, Senior Policy, Planning and Research Analyst, participated in the US State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program. This competitive program brings international visitors to the United States to learn about American actions on the participants' areas of expertise. As part of this program, Tara had the opportunity to travel to Washington (D.C.), Chicago, Kansas City, Sacramento and New York and meet with government officials, representatives of non-governmental organizations and others on climate change policy and air pollution regulation.

Three departmental employees were awarded the Fellow of the School of Graduate Studies of Memorial University for 2007-08: Kyla Brake, Conor O'Dea and Colleen Soulliere. This award is in recognition of outstanding academic achievement throughout a graduate programme.

Dr. Abdel-Zaher Kamal Abdel-Razek of the Water Resources Division, as part of a project with the Program of Master of Applied Science in Environmental Systems Engineering and Management at Memorial University, supervised a team of four Chinese Masters students who won first place for their study on the use of water resources for pulp and paper. Dr. Abdel-Razek's team was awarded the rank of Team #1 as well as "exemplary performance in the capstone project course" by the Dean of Engineering.



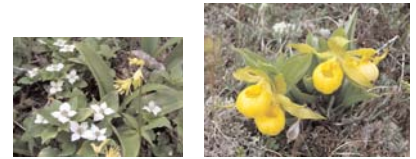
## Opportunities and Challenges

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As the outcomes section of this report indicates, the department has had challenges in meeting its goals for the strategic issues identified. Three of the four strategic issues continue to be of a strategic nature and will continue into the 2008-11 strategic plan (Park Renewal is excluded, but is still being dealt with as an operational issue). The department must clearly identify goals that fall within the department's sphere of control and set out realistic expectations for these files. The department must then work diligently to ensure that the annual indicators and overall goals are met.

In terms of opportunities, advancements were made this past year in the area of enforcement of pesticides regulation and this trend is expected to continue.

The launch of the NL Green Fund this year presents an exciting opportunity for the department. With approximately \$20 million remaining to be allocated over the next two years, the department is looking forward to working with its partners on a wide variety of greenhouse gas reduction projects.



## Financial Statement

Unaudited Statement of Expenditure and Related Revenue for the year ending 31 March 2008 from the *Report on the Program Expenditures and Revenues of the Consolidated Revenue Fund*. Government departments are not required to include audited statements in this report.

Executive and Support Services	Actual
Minister's Office	\$237,398
Executive Support	972,617
Administrative Support	356,677
Policy Development and Planning	(1,955,646)
Sustainable Development and Strategic Science	1,184,540
Administrative Support (capital)	1,457,663
<b>Total Executive and Support Services</b>	<b>\$2,253,249</b>
Environmental Management and Control	
Pollution Prevention	\$2,169,551
Water Resources Management	2,244,751
Water Quality Agreement	400,413
Environmental Assessment	557,043
Voisey's Bay Environmental Management Board	136,468
<b>Total Environmental Management and Control</b>	<b>\$5,508,226</b>
Lands	
Crown Land	\$2,995,342
Land Management and Development	(5,581,692)
Surveying and Mapping	839,137
Geomatics Agreements	272,093
<b>Total Lands</b>	<b>\$(1,475,120)</b>
Parks and Natural Areas	
Parks and Natural Areas	\$4,733,193
Park Development	181,385
<b>Total Parks and Natural Areas</b>	<b>\$4,914,578</b>



Department of Environment and Conservation Annual Report 2007-2008

Wildlife	
Administration, Licensing and Operations	\$1,362,601
Endangered Species and Biodiversity	475,928
Stewardship and Education	1,089,983
Habitat, Game and Fur Management	3,334,674
Research	1,480,574
Cooperative Wildlife Projects	739,159
Institute for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Science	437,240
<b>Total Wildlife</b>	<b>\$8,920,159</b>
<b>Total Net Expenditure for Department</b>	<b>\$20,121,092</b>



## Appendix I - Lines of Business

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The Department of Environment and Conservation provides the following lines of business:

### **Land resources**

The Department of Environment and Conservation is responsible for the administration and management of the province's land resources.

- maintains map and air photo library services;
- maintains the Provincial Crown Lands Registry;
- investigates adverse land claims;
- reviews and inspects legal surveys;
- prepares legal documents of title for all dispositions of Crown land;
- produces and distributes topographic base maps for provincial departments and agencies;
- provides the geodetic reference system for legal and engineering surveys and topographic mapping;
- provides new aerial photography; a repository/archive of provincial aerial photography; and scanning/printing services;
- facilitates the official naming of geographical features and place names and maintains the joint federal/provincial data base;
- provides the central data-store and on-line base layers for GIS applications;
- provides standards and consultation services in geomatics;
- facilitates federal/provincial collaboration in geomatics (Building the Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure (CGDI) under the Canadian Geomatics Accord);
- produces Crown title maps;
- develops land use management plans;
- maintains the Land Use Atlas;
- enforces lands legislation and addresses incidents of unauthorized occupation of Crown land;
- coordinates within government the inter-departmental review of crown land development through the interdepartmental land use committee (ILUC);
- develops land use policy; and
- administers the leasing, sales and transfers of Crown land.

### **Provincial parks, ecological and wilderness reserves, natural areas, and Canadian Heritage rivers**

The department is responsible for:

- the management and administration of provincial parks (the Newfoundland T'Railway Provincial Park is jointly managed by a special T'Railway Council);
- designation and management of wilderness and ecological reserves under the *Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Act*;



## Department of Environment and Conservation Annual Report 2007-2008

- development and implementation of environmental education programs within select provincial parks and wilderness/ecological reserves;
- implementation of protection measures for Canadian Heritage Rivers in the province;
- negotiation of the land transfer to the federal government for National Parks; and
- issuance of various permits for provincial parks, ecological and wilderness reserves:
  - wilderness and ecological reserves entry permits;
  - provincial park daily / seasonal vehicle entry permits;
  - commercial operator permits;
  - commercial operator permits (tour boat);
  - educational tour permits;
  - scientific research permits;
  - seabird ecological reserve special access permits; and
  - seabird ecological reserve guide permits.

### Wildlife and inland fish

The department protects, manages and conserves the province's biodiversity, wildlife resources and wildlife habitat. This includes:

- determining the status of species in the province according to the National Accord for the Conservation of Species at Risk to which the province is a signatory;
- developing and implementing stewardship agreements to support the recovery of species at risk;
- identifying, designating and developing recovery strategies for species at risk according to the *Endangered Species Act*;
- developing and implementing strategies for the conservation of biodiversity;
- designating and managing wildlife areas;
- administering the Salmonier Nature Park - a wildlife rehabilitation, interpretation and research facility;
- developing management plans for consumptive species which are then published in the annual hunting and trapping guide;
- issuing hunting and trapping licenses;
- developing policies and guidelines regarding wildlife utilization;
- issuing Newfoundland and Labrador Guide licenses;
- providing education, awareness and training programs such as firearm safety, hunter and trapper education courses;
- implementing the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, including providing assistance in the development of agreements to support wetland and coastal stewardship initiatives;
- developing long term landscape level planning to minimize conflicts between wildlife and other land uses;



## Department of Environment and Conservation Annual Report 2007-2008

- permitting for the non-consumptive use, possession, importation and export of wildlife and parts thereof;
- collecting scientific information to provide input into the sustainable management of wildlife, including inland fish populations, and habitat;
- utilizing education, awareness and stewardship programs and initiatives to foster appropriate attitudes, respect, behavior and appreciation towards our wildlife and habitat.

### Environmental assessments

The department coordinates the provincial environmental assessment process for new development, which includes:

- accepting proposed undertakings;
- gathering background information concerning the environmental impacts of the proposals;
- analyzing information according to a well defined set of environmental assessment procedures;
- providing recommendations to the minister as to whether a project can proceed in an environmentally acceptable manner; and
- conducting select surveillance on projects released from the environmental assessment process.

### Air, soil and water pollution

The department is responsible for prevention of pollution of the province's air, water and soil ecosystems, including:

- Preparation and issuance of Certificates of Approval and licenses for:
  - industrial operations;
  - waste management systems (in collaboration with Government Services Centre);
  - waste dangerous goods transporters;
  - pesticide vendors, operators and applicators; and
  - heating oil storage tank inspectors;
  - developing policies, guidelines, protocols, and regulations;
  - developing training material and providing training;
- Enforcement of Certificates of Approval, license conditions and legislation through:
  - inspections, other than those done by Government Services Centre;
  - the development of environmental monitoring programs in collaboration with industry;
  - audits of the environmental monitoring programs;
  - audits of environmental laboratories;
  - the monitoring of criteria air contaminants; and
- Designation of contaminated sites and auditing risk assessments based on environmental site assessments.



## Department of Environment and Conservation Annual Report 2007-2008

- Responsible for providing technical advice and outreach.
- Responsible for managing remediation of industrial and military contaminated sites that are the responsibility of government.
- Responsible for maintaining a registry of contaminated sites.

### Water Resources

The department ensures that the province's water resources are protected, conserved and enhanced to provide the greatest possible sustainable benefits to the province. Responsibilities include:

- designation of protected water supply areas and protected wellheads;
- monitoring and analysis of chemical water quality of community water supplies;
- issuance of well driller licenses;
- inspection of water well structures in accordance with requirements of the *Well Drilling Regulations*;
- comprehensive training for municipal water operators of community water and wastewater systems;
- hydrologic modeling;
- investigation of water-related problems and complaints;
- overseeing inspections of dams;
- granting of water rights;
- maintenance of a water rights registry;
- issuance of permits for community water and sewage systems, extensions and alterations;
- monitoring and inspection of community water and wastewater systems;
- provision of technical assistance on community water and sewage, hydrology, hydraulics, and environmental design of water related structures;
- maintenance of various online water quality and quantity databases and GIS resources; and
- conducting studies on groundwater resources, flooding, water resource impacts and water use.

### Horizontal Initiatives

The department is lead in two key government-wide initiatives: government's response to climate change and sustainable development. These are evolving files and thus the programs and services offered by this department in these areas are also evolving. The programs and services that the public can expect from the department on these two initiatives are outlined below:

#### Climate Change

Specifically, the department is responsible for:

- Implementation of the provincial Climate Change Action Plan;





## Department of Environment and Conservation Annual Report 2007-2008

- administration of the Newfoundland and Labrador Green Fund; and
- creation of stakeholder awareness on greenhouse gas reduction strategies and climate change impacts and adaptation.

### **Sustainable Development**

The department is responsible for:

- strategic research on wildlife species, notably caribou, in support of the sustainable development initiative;
- provision of support for the Sustainable Development Round Table;
- the development of indicators and a provincial sustainability report as directed by the *Sustainable Development Act*;
- development of public education and outreach information related to sustainable development;
- development and coordination of graduate research projects through the Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Science; and
- general promotion of sustainable development within government and the larger community.



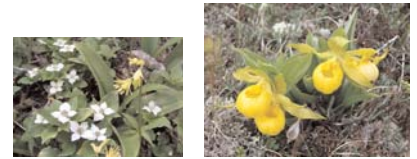
## Appendix II - Mission Outcomes to Date

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The mission spans two planning cycles and thus the outcomes reported here should not be interpreted as final outcomes. They are reported to provide an update of actions that the department has taken since 2006.

**Measure: Reduced adverse impacts of human activities on the environment.**

Indicators	Actual Results
Five less contaminated sites.	Three sites have been remediated: Jerry's Nose, West Bay and St. Anthony.
Increased treatment of septic tank waste by 50%.	No change to date.
Increase from 15% to 40% in the percentage of population being serviced by sewage treatment plants.	No change at this time; the percentage will go to 40% when the St. John's sewage treatment plant is completed.
One hundred percent of residential oil tanks meeting regulated standards.	Between 65% and 75% are now meeting standards.
Increased number of standards for landfills.	Five standards have been completed.
Increased number of species specific management plans.	New revised recovery strategies and action plans were drafted for Newfoundland Marten, Long's Braya and Fernald's Braya.
Land management framework developed.	Land management framework in place for Crown lands.
Promulgation of a <i>Sustainable Development Act</i> .	The <i>Act</i> passed in the House of Assembly in June 2007; it has not yet been proclaimed.
Improved enforcement practices.	Pesticides enforcement officers have all been trained in RCMP - Basic Investigation Skills, Level 1 training course. Staff has also taken RCMP training on obtaining and executing a search warrant. Standardized protocols are being developed around legal documentation, monitoring and court proceedings. Staff has been equipped with new technologies to gather and record evidence. A new enforcement position has been created.
Better data management.	Developed and maintained the NL Conservation Areas Reporting and Tracking System (CARTS), a national database which stores protected areas information.



<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Actual Results</b>
Improved quality assurance and quality controls.	The Manager of Environmental Science and Monitoring is entering a second three-year term on the Canadian Association Laboratory Accreditation Inc.
Revised regulations.	Pesticides Control Regulations were revised in April 2007 to make pesticide users more responsible for their activities.

**Measure: Improved health of the ecosystem.**

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Actual Results</b>
Improved health of select wildlife populations.	Three species saw their status improve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The anatum and tundrius Peregrine Falcons went from Threatened to Vulnerable</li> <li>• The Newfoundland Marten went from Endangered to Threatened.</li> </ul>
Increased percentage of the land base which is protected.	Sandy Cove Provisional Ecological Reserve established (15 ha). Minimal percentage increase.
Increased monitoring of biodiversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new small mammal monitoring network established province-wide.</li> <li>• Terrestrial land bird monitoring stations have been established around the island.</li> <li>• New monitoring initiative has been established for bats.</li> <li>• Wildlife Watchers Program initiated to coordinate volunteer monitoring initiatives for a variety of taxonomic groups and species, including butterflies, dragonflies, frogWatch, eagles, plants, and exotic beneficial (biocontrol) insect monitoring.</li> <li>• Increased endangered Piping Plover monitoring in J.T. Cheeseman and Sandbanks Provincial Parks.</li> </ul>
Decrease in the number of communities with elevated trihalomethane (THM) levels by 10%.	The number of communities with elevated THM levels has decreased by 8.72% since the previous reporting period.
Decrease in the number of communities on boil water advisories by 25%	There has been a slight increase in communities on boil water advisories since 2005-06; likely due to increased precautionary action by individual communities when undertaking construction and maintenance activities.



## Appendix III - Activities related to the Provincial Climate Change Action Plan

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The department's activities in fulfillment of the provincial Climate Change Action Plan are outlined below. As lead on the climate change file, however, Environment and Conservation is responsible for gathering information on activities throughout government and initiating discussions on this important topic. The action plan is a government-wide initiative and thus not all the commitments are the responsibility of this department to deliver. All 40 action items were addressed throughout government, but activities undertaken independently by other government department's are not included in the list below.

### Action Items as listed in the Climate Change Action Plan (2005).

### Departmental Activities

#### Intergovernmental Relations (Actions 1-4)

#### 2006

#1. The provincial government will cooperate with federal/provincial/territorial agencies with respect to joint initiatives and the attainment of national objectives.

Coordinator position in place to facilitate access to federal funding. (Action #2)

#2. The provincial government will facilitate access to federal implementation funding by supporting submissions by public and private sector agencies.

#### 2007

Reviewed and provided input on the National Adaptation Strategy by Natural Resources Canada. (Action #1)

#3. The provincial government will participate in the development of national and local strategies that address the long-term impacts of climate change and identify appropriate adaptation initiatives.

Active participant on the NEG/ECP Standing Committee for Transportation and Air Quality. (Actions #1 & #4)

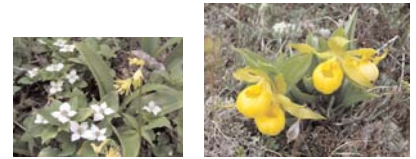
#4. As per commitments under New England Governors/Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG/ECP) Climate Change Action Plan, the provincial government will dedicate resources to compile data on energy consumption, vehicle fuel use and emissions from government operations.

Work ongoing with the Council of the Federation to accelerate research on clean energy sources. (Actions #1 & #4)

PIEVC study assessing infrastructure needs resulting from climate impacts- Placentia. (Action #3 & #19)

NL Green Fund announced with \$25 million available for greenhouse gas reduction projects. (Action #3)

Researched and attended meetings pertaining to the Climate Registry. (Action #1)



### Government Operations (Actions 5-8)

#5. Government will develop a House-in-Order (HIO) Strategy which will include elements of the commitments under the NEG/ECP, in particular fleet management and purchase of low emissions office equipment.

#6. Government will establish an energy use reduction target for provincial buildings and work towards its implementation.

#7. Government will be examine the possibility of "bundling" remaining public buildings to take advantage of economies of scale in retrofitting smaller facilities that otherwise would not be economical to retrofit.

#8. Government will work to raise awareness among employees on climate change.

### 2006

No idling policy for government vehicles and requires vehicles to be operated in a fuel efficient manner. (Actions #5 & #8)

Fleetsmart seminars have been held for employees of Dept. of Transportation and Works. (Actions #5 & #8)

Presentation on Hybrid cars by Honda Canada Inc for government employees. (Action #8)

Launch of Clean Air Zones and Idling Free booth. (Actions #8 & #10)

Presentation to staff on climate change during Environment Week (Action #8).

### 2007

Held discussions with Transportation and Works to incorporate energy efficiency into the evaluation formula for light duty vehicle acquisition and lease. (Action #5)

Green procurement policy under development. (Actions #5, #6 & #8)

Researched LEED Silver standard for new buildings and initiated discussions with other departments. (Action #5 & #6)

Arranged the Climate Crisis presentation by Peter Corbyn in collaboration with BOMA, NEIA and City of St. John's. (Action #8)

Airing of the documentary "An Inconvenient Truth" for government employees. (Action #8)



Department of Environment and Conservation Annual Report 2007-2008

**Transportation (Actions 9-12)**

#9. Government will develop an information campaign aimed at motorists to make them aware of linkages between climate change and auto usage.

#10. Government will establish idle free zones around public buildings to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and other contaminants.

#11. Government will conduct a feasibility study for development of commuter parking areas at key junctions.

#12. Government will study the energy efficiency of the provincial ferry fleet in an effort to reduce fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

**2006**

Provided funding to assist Conservation Corp and City of St. John's with Green Team Initiatives to increase public awareness around unnecessary idling. (Actions #9 & #10)

Worked with Marine Institute to complete 2 studies on the use of marine feedstock for biodiesel. (Action #12)

**2007**

275 Clean Air signs installed at entrances to targeted government buildings across the province. (Action #10)

Worked with Lung Association to promote an "Idle Reduction Policy" for schools and hospitals. (Action #10)

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**Human Health (Actions 13-14)**

#13. Government will continue to raise the profile of climate change and health among public health professionals in this Province.

#14. The provincial government will monitor policy developments within Canadian and international health communities on tools and methods to assess the potential impacts of climate change on public health.

**2006**

A two-day conference on the health impacts of climate change was held in March, 2006.

**2007**

Staff participated in the federal/ provincial/ territorial Committee on Health and Environment. Climate change was discussed at committee meetings.

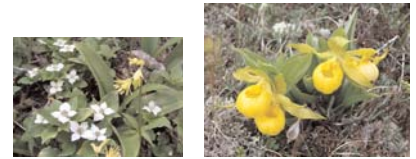
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**Ecosystem Health (Action 15)**

#15. Government will promote and implement climate change monitoring in provincial protected areas.

**2006**

Worked with Memorial University on climate change risks to natural areas.



**Education (Actions 16-17)**

#16. Government will partner with post-secondary institutions on climate change initiatives.

#17. Government will continue to provide support for the Newfoundland and Labrador Climate Education Centre.

**2006**

Worked with Marine Institute to complete 2 studies on the use of marine feedstock for biodiesel. (Action #16)

Funding granted to assist the Climate Change Education Centre in public education efforts. (Action #17)

**2007**

Involved in an ongoing All Risk Hazards Assessment Project with MUN. (Action #16)

Funding granted to assist the Climate Change Education Centre in public education efforts. (Action #17)

Funding granted to assist Memorial University with a climate change conference in Labrador - Climate Change and Renewable Resources in Labrador: looking toward 2050 (Action #16).

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**Municipalities (Actions 18-23)**

#18. Government will continue to work internally and with Memorial University of Newfoundland to assess the vulnerabilities of local communities to climate change.

#19. Government will work to educate key decision-makers about the impacts of climate change and engage them in dialogue on appropriate adaptation strategies.

**2006**

Ongoing Risk Hazards Assessment Project with MUN. (Action #18)

Climate Change Adaptation Workshop for Municipalities - Corner Brook/St. John's. (Actions #19, #20 & #23)

Flood Risk Mapping and development in flood plains ongoing. (Action #18)

PIEVC study assessing infrastructure needs resulting from climate impacts- Placentia. (Action #3 & #19)

Funding granted to assist Ocean Net in public education efforts. (Action #19)



Department of Environment and Conservation Annual Report 2007-2008

**Municipalities (Actions 18-23) continued**

#20. The provincial government will organize a workshop on climate change impacts and adaptation for municipalities.

#21. Government will establish an interdepartmental committee to develop a provincial land use policy.

#22. Government will require that infrastructure projects receiving public funds meet a standard set of criteria with respect to climate change.

#23. Government will encourage all municipalities to participate in the Federation of Canadian Municipalities climate change programs and will facilitate participation of small or unincorporated communities.

**2007**

Ongoing Risk Hazards Assessment Project with MUN. (Action #18)

Climate Change Adaptation Workshop for Municipalities - Gander. (Action #19, #20 & 23)

Flood Risk Mapping and development in flood plains ongoing. (Action #18)

Higher standards for infrastructure receiving public funds is being discussed with relevant groups and reviewed as part of the municipality workshops. The City of St. John's will fulfill this commitment with the Land fill gas recovery project. (Action #22)

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**Industry**

#24. Government will continue dialogue with industry and to advocate for climate change strategies that are in the interest of local industry.

**2006**

Climate Change implications considered in Environmental Assessment process.

Active on national committees addressing large final emitters.

**2007**

Industry emission review completed.

Accounting of Greenhouse gas equivalents for the largest emitters completed.

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**Buildings**

#25. Government will promote energy efficiency in public and low income housing.

**2006 and 2007**

Work ongoing with Newfoundland and Labrador Housing.





**Natural Resources Industries (Actions 26-37)**

**2006 and 2007**

#26. Government will partner with academic institutions, industry and stakeholders to promote local research initiatives on carbon management.

Most of the work on action items being undertaken by various other government departments (eg. Fisheries and Aquaculture and Natural Resources).

#27. Government will continue to monitor developments in climate change science, decisions around carbon accounting and the impacts on forest management. Government will share this information with industry with an intent to revise the provincial forest management planning process and guidelines where appropriate.

Environment and Conservation participates in various coastal and oceans initiatives with the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Actions # 28, 30, 32, 36,37).

#28. Government will initiate dialogue with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, industry and stakeholders on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

#29. Government will work with industry partners and fishers to review regulations and policies limiting vessel lengths with a view to advocating for federal regulatory changes that will promote safety and fuel efficiency of vessels.

#30. Government will raise awareness among members of the fishing industry on climate change impacts and emerging safety issues.

#31. Government will encourage the development and implementation of technologies, equipment and vessel design to increase fuel efficiency and safety aboard vessels.



**Department of Environment and Conservation Annual Report 2007-2008**

**Natural Resources Industries (Actions 26-37) - continued.**

#32. Government will develop partnerships to encourage research on local climate change impacts on the fishing and aquaculture industries.

#33. Government will engage industry stakeholders, other government departments and non-governmental organizations in research and development of new commercial fisheries species.

#34. The provincial government will work in cooperation with the federal government and research institutions to promote policies that advocate sustainable harvest levels for commercial fisheries in light of climate change.

#35. Government will implement long-term environmental monitoring and assessment for existing and potential aquaculture sites.

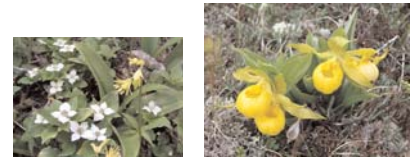
#36. Government will promote the consideration of climate change impacts in areas of the Province that have initiated efforts towards Integrated Coastal Zone Management Planning.

#37. The provincial government will promote climate change awareness at the planning stages of Marine Protected Areas with a view to encouraging research and adaptive management in these areas.

**2006-2007**

Most of the work on action items being undertaken by various other government departments (eg. Fisheries and Aquaculture and Natural Resources).

Environment and Conservation participates in various coastal and oceans initiatives with the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.



## Renewable Energy

#38. Government will implement an energy plan to ensure that all energy sources are used first to provide reliable, affordable supply of power for domestic use and for Province-wide economic developments, and then to take advantage of business opportunities in export markets to sell energy that is in excess of our needs on terms that secure maximum benefits for the Province.

## 2007

The department provided input into the development of the provincial Energy Plan 2007.

The department provided funding through the NL Green Fund for feasibility studies on, and potential implementation of, methane capture from large existing landfills and utilization as an energy source for heating, electricity generation or municipal vehicle fleets.

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## Sustainable Development

#39. Government will include climate change considerations in its Sustainable Development Strategy.

#40. Government will report annually on the provincial Climate Change Action Plan.

## 2006-2007

Climate change is being considered in government's sustainable development initiative (Action #39).

Action plan updates for 2006 and 2007 are available on the department's website (Action #40).





