

Newfoundland and Labrador Geographical Names Board

Department of Environment and Conservation
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

2012-13 Annual Activity Report



Table of Contents

1.	MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR.....	2
2.	BOARD OVERVIEW.....	4
2a.	Mandate and Lines of Business.....	4
2b.	Representation.....	5
2c.	Vision.....	5
2d.	Mission.....	5
3.	SHARED COMMITMENTS.....	6
4.	HIGHLIGHTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS.....	6
5.	OUTCOMES.....	7
6.	FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.....	11

1. MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

This fiscal year has been a very productive period for the Newfoundland and Labrador Geographical Names Board (NLGNB) in its first full year of operation since appointment. Three (3), two-day meetings were held: May 31- June 1, 2012; September 6-7, 2012; and November 29-30, 2012, during which some 2,300 geographical names were reviewed and recommended for ministerial approval. Part of the first meeting was devoted to a review of 1,406 naming proposals which were initially discussed during three board meetings held in 1993. The names were previously approved by the Minister at that time, however, due to an error in the decision list date, these names were never published in the Gazette. As a result, this list needs to be resubmitted for ministerial adoption. Nonetheless the balance of the 900 NLGNB recommendations, mostly new geographical names from field work with a few name changes proposed by members of the general public, represents an outstanding record of achievement and efficiency in comparison with totals of former years or decision lists of other naming jurisdictions across the nation reported to annual meetings of the Geographical Names Board of Canada.

A highlight of the year was the attendance at our NLGNB meeting on September 6, 2012 of Mr. Gregory Jeddore, Forestry Manager, Miawpukek First Nation of Samiajij Miawpukek (Conne River). This was truly an historic event as it was the first time the Miawpukek has formally consulted with us on the relevance of geographical names to their culture and in their region of the province. The NLGNB was assured that we can now anticipate much more participation of the Miawpukek, along with other Aboriginal/First Nations groups, in submitting place-name proposals for consideration under the *Geographical Names Board Act*.

The NLGNB was also again very successful through our voluntary field work program in the collection and submission of new names, and needed changes to existing toponymy by individuals, groups and other institutions of the general public with local knowledge and an interest in the naming process. This activity as in former years was supervised by the Secretary to ensure that data submitted meet the NLGNB's established principles and guidelines before being brought forward for review. Through this process we are gradually filling in the map of the province with locally used toponyms in areas where there was hitherto no systematic field work.

A total of two newspaper articles were published which dealt with geographical features and place names. The first article was published in the August 16, 2012 edition of The Packet. The second article was published in the January 10, 2013 edition of The Advertiser.

No further progress to report on plans to include a unit on toponymy in the province's High School social studies course NL history and culture 2205.

In performing its functions, the NLGNB appreciates the interest, support and counsel of Mr. Allan Chafe, the Director of Surveys and Mapping Division, the unit responsible for administration of the NLGNB, as well as the technical advice and guidance to the Secretary given by Mr. Jeff Wood, project engineer. Of particular note, during the year a revised method of

preparing names for NLGNB meetings was implemented which proved to be very helpful and engaging for members and resulted in a more efficient method of making decisions.

Ongoing business from last year included: the uploading of provincial names to the federal dataset, corrections and improvements to extant names in the database especially those related to adjustments to positional coordinates, collection, delineation and verification of geometries for features for which a student was employed in the summer 2012.

As ever I feel obliged to commend our Secretary, Mr. Randy Hawkins, for his dedication and steadfast work. His thoroughness in preparing for meetings and carrying out duties on behalf of the NLGNB especially in establishing goodwill liaisons and cooperation with members of the public in handling toponymic requests and in collecting and verifying the accuracy of names are much appreciated. Largely through his efforts, the work of the NLGNB has again made remarkable progress in this fiscal year.

As Chair, I can attest that the NLGNB is accountable for the results reported in this document.



W.G. Handcock
Professor Emeritus in Geography
Chair

2. BOARD OVERVIEW

2a. Mandate and Lines of Business

The Newfoundland and Labrador Geographical Names Board (NLGNB) is appointed by the Minister of the Department of Environment and Conservation for a three (3) year term. The administration of the NLGNB falls under the Director of Surveys and Mapping, Lands Branch, Department of Environment and Conservation. The work of the NLGNB is supported by an Administrative Officer, who is an employee within the Surveys and Mapping Division.

The main responsibility of the NLGNB is to administer the *Geographical Names Board Act*.

The Act empowers the NLGNB with the following duties:

- gather, collate and record information respecting names of places and geographical features in the province;
- consult with and advise government departments and agencies, municipalities and other bodies or persons concerned with the selection of place names or the renaming of places and features regarding the suitability and spelling of the names;
- consider and make recommendations respecting a proposed change in the name of a place or geographical feature already in use that may be considered or be represented to be inappropriate to the place or geographical feature to which it is applied;
- collaborate with the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (now known as the Geographical Names Board of Canada) respecting the selection of new geographical names, the elimination of alternative or duplicated names, the correct or preferred spelling of established names and other matters that may be of concern to the NLGNB or the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names;
- hold public meetings or invite submissions to NLGNB meetings where dispute arises or may arise with respect to the naming or renaming of a place or geographical feature; and
- recommend to the Minister for approval the names of places or geographical features.

Section 9 of the *Act* states “Notwithstanding sections 5 to 8, this Act shall be read and applied in conjunction with the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement Act* and, where a provision of this Act is inconsistent or conflicts with a provision, term or condition of the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement Act*, the provision, term or condition of the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement Act* shall have precedence over the provision of this Act.”

2b. Representation

All meetings are held in St. John's. The table below lists all members of the NLGNB.

Name	Role	Residence
Dr. Gordon Handcock	Chair	Salvage
Mr. Gary N. Smith	Vice-Chair	St. John's
Mr. Randy Hawkins	Secretary	St. John's
Ms. Margarita Andersen (Rita)	Member	Nain
Ms. Franca Smith	Member	Happy Valley-Goose Bay
Ms. Cheryl Brown-McLean	Member	St. John's

2c. 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. The *Geographical Names Board Act* promotes the cultural aspect of this vision.

The vision of the NLGNB is to record and preserve the oral and written geographical names for functional use and as an important part of our cultural heritage. These names are made official for use in all government correspondence and documents, published literature, research reports, newspapers and magazines, road signs, public buildings and maps and charts throughout the Province.

2d. Mission

By March 31, 2017, the NLGNB will have made recommendations to the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador in relation to any new geographical names.

Performance Measure: Made recommendations to Government.

Indicators	Accomplishments
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Processed naming recommendations from the general public and other stakeholders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The NLGNB reviewed and recommended for Ministerial approval a total of 2,295 new names and/or name changes.

3. SHARED COMMITMENTS

As previously indicated, the success of the Newfoundland and Labrador Geographical Names Program in 2012-13 was largely due to cooperative working partnerships between provincial and federal government agencies. The following partners played an active role in operational procedures this year:

- The Earth Sciences Sector of Natural Resources Canada and the GNBC Secretariat, in providing direct access to the federal database.
- The Department of Fisheries and Oceans, with respect to names of coastal and underwater features and fishing grounds around Newfoundland and Labrador.
- The Miawpukek First Nation of Samiajjj Miawpukek (Conne River) with respect to names in that area of the province
- The Innu Nation with respect to geographical place names in the proposed Innu Land Claim areas of Labrador.

Additionally, the success of the NLGNB's program is also due to the cooperation and assistance of the local residents within our Province.

4. HIGHLIGHTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Three (3) NLGNB meetings were held in the 2012-13 report period.

Among the names reviewed in the 2012-13 fiscal year, 2,295 geographical names were recommended. These now await Ministerial approval. One (1) of these 2,295 names is located within the boundary of Gros Morne National Park, and was recommended by the NLGNB and has been referred to Parks Canada, and the Minister of Environment and Conservation.

While not within the NLGNB's jurisdiction, the NLGNB notes that there was one (1) municipality name change and one (1) municipality whose boundary was changed. These changes were enacted under the authority of the *Municipalities Act, 1999*:

- Local Service District of Caplin Cove-Southport. The existing boundary was changed.
- Local Service District of Harcourt-Monroe-Waterville was changed to the Local Service District of Smith's Sound.

The NLGNB also responded to inquiries and requests for geographical name information from the general public.

5. OUTCOMES

The NLGNB will be reporting on the same objectives and indicators each year as indicated in the 2011-14 Activity Plan. Where an indicator has not been fully met, an explanation is provided.

The following objectives identify the priorities of the NLGNB for fiscal years 2011-12, 2012-13, and 2013-14. The objectives include performance measures and indicators to facilitate the evaluation of the NLGNB's success. While the NLGNB will carry out the same objectives for each year of the plan, the indicators may be adjusted each year, as necessary.

This section provides the results of work performed over the past year on the objectives as outlined in the NLGNB's 2011-14 Activity Plan. Each objective pertains to an issue of key importance to the NLGNB.

Issue 1: Data Integrity and Management

With the advent of better mapping and computer technologies, standards for data management are continually changing. The NLGNB strives to ensure that the provincial dataset is up to date with the current standards.

Objective 1: By March 31, 2013 the NLGNB will have focused on the improvement of our provincial geographical names dataset to ensure that it meets with existing Canadian national standards.

Performance Measure: Improvement of the provincial geographical names dataset.

Indicators	Accomplishments
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Geographical names collected and entered in dataset.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">304 provincial geographical names were added to the federal dataset. These will be discussed at future meetings.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Revisions made to current names in dataset.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1,361 existing database records were edited and uploaded to the federal dataset.This total includes positional coordinate and attribute updates.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Revisions made to feature coordinates to improve accuracy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Coordinate updates are on-going.

Issue 2: Digital Delineation

Digital delineation is a new and precise method of mapping the geometry of a given geographical feature or place name. These standards are developed on a national level. While

many water features have already been identified as part of the national hydrology layer, we have made significant progress in delineating many water and land features over the last year.

Objective 2: By March 31, 2013 the NLGNB will have implemented a digital delineation process in accordance with nationally recognized guidelines.

Performance Measure: Implementation of digital delineation process.

Indicators	Accomplishments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Features delineated digitally and entered into a geometry database. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work continued on the digital delineation of coastline features in addition to land-based features. A summer student, employed for nine weeks, delineated 3,392 features. These digital delineations were verified and imported into the federal geometry database in March 2013. • The delineations were created in accordance with nationally recognized standards. • These verified delineations will become available for public use at a future date.

Issue 3: Commemoration Naming Program

On a number of occasions, the NLGNB has been requested to assist in celebrating significant historical events by recommending approval of appropriate names for associated geographical features.

Objective 3: By March 31, 2013 the NLGNB will have worked towards a strategy for a provincial Commemorative Naming Program.

Performance Measure: Work progressed on strategy.

Indicators	Accomplishments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research conducted on existing programs in Canada. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon review it was identified that this research was already completed prior to the creation of the 2011-2014 Activity Plan. Upon reflection this indicator should not have been included in that plan. There is nothing further to report on this indicator.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Names proposed to provincial and/or federal jurisdictions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During this year the NLGNB did not recommend any commemorative naming applications.

Issue 4: Communications

The NLGNB has gained a higher profile due to the use of the internet and an increased effort to reach out to members of the public for input on issues arising from previous field surveys.

Objective 4: By March 31, 2013 the NLGNB will have engaged in activities to increase the visibility and profile of the NLGNB.

Performance Measure: Engaged in activities to increase visibility and profile.

Indicators	Accomplishments
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Add new links to the existing departmental website which highlight the geographical naming process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The NLGNB would like to have a link created to three (3) documents on the departmental website. The documents have been provided to the department for their review.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contact volunteer, local residents who are knowledgeable about the toponymy of the Province.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Potential geographical names contributors were contacted in the Melrose, Cannings Cove, Grand Falls-Windsor, Buchans and St. Anthony.• The NLGNB has consulted with the Innu Nation with respect to 89 naming applications in the Innu Land Claim areas of Labrador.• The NLGNB has contacted the Miawpukek First Nation of Samiajij Miawpukek (Conne River).
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of speaking engagements by the NLGNB.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Gregory Jeddore, Forestry Manager, Miawpukek First Nation of Samiajij Miawpukek (Conne River), gave a presentation of his work/history and stressed the importance of preserving the cultural heritage of his people.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Articles published.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A total of two newspaper articles were published which dealt with geographical features and place names. The first article was published in the August 16, 2012 edition of The Packet. The second article was published in the January 10, 2013 edition of The Advertiser.

Issue 5: Involve Schools in the Geographical Naming Process

Our school system is an excellent venue to exhibit the importance and relevance of our rich cultural history. Youth can play an active role in the collection of the geographical names that have become part of their family's history. By encouraging such active participation in the name collection process youth can play an active role in the preservation of their own cultural history.

Objective 5: By March 31, 2013 the NLGNB will have worked on a strategy for the introduction of the geographical features into selected schools within the Province.

Performance Measure: Work commenced on strategy.

Indicators	Accomplishments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact the Department of Education to determine the best curriculum choice to introduce geographical names. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This indicator was addressed in the last reporting period. There is no need to make further contact regarding this indicator.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage in consultation and involvement with the Department of Education with respect to the implementation of this process in selected schools within the Province. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-going consultation with the Department of Education throughout every phase of the School Project Proposal.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft a proposal to implement the geographical names process in the school system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal was drafted and forwarded to the Program Development Division of the Department of Education on 2012-02-01.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact the necessary school boards to get permission to introduce the geographical names project into the curriculum. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pending. The project is still being evaluated at the inter-department level.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choose a school to implement the program as a pilot project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No school selected in this reporting period. The project is being evaluated at the inter-departmental level. The project has not yet received final approval to proceed.

6. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Expenditures		
NLGNB Expenditures	Total 2012-13 Expenditures	Projected 2013-14 Expenditures
Professional Services (Chair)	\$3015.00	\$3,015.00
Travel Expenses	\$218.99	\$750.00
Meeting Expenses	\$679.44	\$1,000.00
Totals	\$3913.43	\$4,765.00
The above stated Expenditures and Projection are verified correct.		

Funding to support the work of the Newfoundland and Labrador Geographic Names Board was provided to the entity by the Survey and Mapping Division of the Department of Environment and Conservation.