

# Newfoundland and Labrador Geographical Names Board 2017-18 Annual Activity Report



Newfoundland and Labrador Giant Floor Map  
Photo permission provided by Ellen Curtis of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society





## Message From The Chair

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

Dear Minister Byrne:

I am honoured to submit the Annual Performance Report for the Newfoundland and Labrador Geographical Names Board (NLGNB) for the period April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018. This report meets the requirements of the **Transparency and Accountability Act** for a Category 3 entity.

I sincerely thank my NLGNB colleagues for their devotion to the geographical names program. Their contributions of knowledge, skills and experience help set high place-naming standards both for the Province and Canada as a whole. A special note of appreciation is extended to our secretary Randy Hawkins, for his continuing dedication to the NLGNB. I acknowledge with gratitude the management and staff of the Enforcement and Resource Services Branch for their interest, support and technical advice. My special thanks go also to Peter Hearn, Director, GIS and Mapping Division, for his active encouragement and inspiring leadership.

It is pleasing to say the NLGNB successfully achieved its objectives as outlined in the Activity Plan of 2017-20. The strategic directions of Government related to the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources, including those outlined in **The Way Forward** have been considered in the preparation of this report.

As Chair of the NLGNB, I accept responsibility for the preparation of this report and the achievement of its objectives. My signature attached, both for myself and on behalf of the Board, signifies accountability for the reported results of activities for 2017-18.



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W.G. Handcock  
Professor Emeritus in Geography  
Chair

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## 1.0 Board Overview

Under the **Geographical Names Board Act** (the Act), the mandate of the Geographical Names Board (NLGNB) is to serve as an advisory body on names of geographical features in the province to the Minister of Fisheries and Land Resources (the Minister). The NLGNB falls under the administration of the Enforcement and Resource Services Branch. The NLGNB however has no statutory authority to collect revenue and is not required to submit financial statements.

As noted above, the NLGNB is established as the main authority in the province in recommending to the Minister, the proper status of and all changes related to the names of geographical features in the province.

During the past fiscal year NLGNB meetings were held on May 4-5 and November 2-3, 2017. From these meetings, 220 place name recommendations were accepted and approved by the Minister (signed March 28, 2018). The recommendations will be published in the Newfoundland and Labrador Gazette. The new name additions and changes to existing names were mostly those submitted by private citizens but in a few cases the proposals came from historical societies and field surveys by researchers. Throughout the reporting period the NLGNB has also been very active in partnering with other public agencies and departments of government in promoting the geographical names program and in particular planning educational activities to improve public knowledge about the value and cultural importance of names. These activities are outlined in the report itself.

The NLGNB works closely with the Geographical Names Board of Canada (GNBC) with respect to geographical feature naming standards, conventions and the maintenance of the National Geographic Names Database, where all approved geographical names in Canada are stored. The GNBC in turn is a member of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN), which encourages national and international geographical names standardization and promotes the international dissemination of nationally standardized geographical names information. UNGEGN is one of seven standing expert bodies of the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

### 1.1 Representation

The NLGNB is supported by one permanent staff member, Administrative Officer I from the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources (FLR). Members are appointed for a term of three years. The NLGNB operates under the departmental budget. Meetings

were held on May 4 – 5 and November 2 – 3 in St. John's. The table below lists the members of the NLGNB as of March 31, 2018.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Residence</b>
Dr. Gordon Handcock	Chairperson	2015-10-19 - 2018-12-31	Salvage & Mount Pearl
Mr. Gary N. Smith	Vice-Chairperson	2015-10-19 - 2018-12-31	Bishop's Cove, C.B.
Mr. Randy Hawkins	Secretary	2015-10-19 - 2018-12-31	St. John's
Ms. Cheryl Brown-McLean	Member	2015-10-19 - 2018-12-31	St. John's
Ms. Franca Smith	Member	2015-10-19 - 2018-12-31	Happy Valley-Goose Bay
Vacant	Member		

## 1.2 Budget and Expenditures

<b>NLGNB Expenditures</b>	<b>Total 2017-18 Expenditures</b>
Chair - Remuneration	\$2010.00
Travel Expenses	\$0.00
Meeting Expenses	\$177.10
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$2187.10</b>

Sub-section 3.6 of the Act allows for remuneration and expenses according to the Guidelines for Rates of Remuneration for Boards, Commissions and Agencies. Remuneration is only paid to the Chairperson because the other members are exempt from receiving remuneration as they are employees of Provincial or Federal Government, and an Agency. Funding to support the work of the NLGNB was provided to the entity by the GIS and Mapping Division, FLR.

This report is available in alternate format. Please contact Mr. Randy Hawkins at 729-3909.

## 2.0 Mandate and Lines of Business

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 GNBC (formerly the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names) respecting the selection of new geographical names, the elimination of alternative or duplicated names, the correct or preferred spelling of established names, development of naming standards and other matters that may be of concern to the NLGNB or the GNBC;
- 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.”

### 3.0 Highlights and Partnerships

- Two NLGNB meetings were held in the 2017-18 reporting period.
- A total of 220 names received Ministerial endorsement on March 28, 2018 and will be published in Newfoundland and Labrador Gazette.
- Parks Canada and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador concluded two Joint Decisions in the report period regarding geographical names in Terra Nova National Park and L’Anse aux Meadows National Historical Site. These approvals resolved all of the current geographical feature issues within federal jurisdiction.
- The most important highlight of the report period saw the development of a partnership between the NLGNB and the Royal Canadian Geographical Society (RCGS). This partnership facilitated the development and production of the Newfoundland and Labrador Giant Floor map, shown on the cover. Measuring 11 metres by 8 metres, this map was principally funded by Newfoundland and Labrador RCGS members. The map promotes geographical awareness of

existing features (in addition to highlighting historical settlements) through Newfoundland and Labrador. A copy of this map was unveiled at the Manuels River Hibernia Interpretation Centre on March 2, 2018, introducing the geographical names component of our unique culture in a boldly interactive way. The NLGNB was engaged in a place name vetting process prior to the printing of the giant floor map to ensure the accuracy of the place names.

- The RCGS and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) developed curriculum-based activities with respect to the giant floor map project. The associated curriculum activities enable the map to be used by students in the provincial school system. The floor map can be borrowed free of charge for three-week periods by any school through the following web address: [http://www.canadiangeographic.com/educational\\_products/newfoundland\\_and\\_labrador\\_floor\\_map.asp](http://www.canadiangeographic.com/educational_products/newfoundland_and_labrador_floor_map.asp). The NLGNB is collaborating with EECD and RCGS to develop new activities related to the geographical naming process.
- As noted, the success of the NLGNB program in 2017-18 stemmed largely from cooperative working partnerships between the Board and provincial and federal government agencies as well as Indigenous governments and organizations. The partners most engaged this year included:
  - The Earth Sciences Sector of Natural Resources Canada and the Geographical Names Board of Canada Secretariat in providing direct access to the federal database;
  - Parks Canada with respect to the recommendations of geographical names in Terra Nova National Park and L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site;
  - The RCGS with respect to educational activities in connection with the Newfoundland and Labrador Giant Floor map; and,
  - The success of the NLGNB's program in 2017-18 was due to the cooperation and active participation of citizens of the province.

## 4.0 Report on Performance

The Newfoundland and Labrador Geographical Names Board reports on the same objectives and indicators for all three years of its 2017-20 Activity Plan.

### Issue 1: Preservation of Geographical Names

The NLGNB strives to keep pace with and contribute to national and international standards to ensure that these objectives will enhance our toponymic (place names)



program and contribute to the preservation of our cultural heritage. The preservation and maintenance of geographical names are given a very high priority. When applicable, cultural differences are respected and preserved by recording multiple official names for the same feature.

All geographical names are obtained on a voluntary basis. Typical practice has the NLGNB Secretary contacting people in various parts of the province, particularly in areas where there are numerous unnamed geographical features. Municipalities often provide the names and contact numbers for knowledgeable local residents who might have an interest in providing geographical name location information. Once potential contacts have been identified, those individuals are contacted by telephone and/or email. This has been the approach for over fifteen years. The data collection process is reactive to the names obtained in the report period. The total number of names processed in this report period includes a number of names collected in previous years that could not be verified or approved during earlier meetings of the NLGNB.

The NLGNB are sometimes contacted by the public for assistance with various local interest projects. The Northern Peninsula (Mekap'sk) Mi'kmaq Band contacted the NLGNB for assistance with their indigenous land use project. The NLGNB assisted by providing topographic maps and information regarding the geographical feature naming process.

This year a focus was mostly on Port de Grave as the NLGNB were in contact with a local person who was very knowledgeable about the local features and cultural history. This person and other contributors from the area submitted over 200 names for consideration.

**Objective 1:** By March 31, 2018, the NLGNB will have continued the name collection process of places and geographical features throughout the province.

Indicators	Accomplishments
Made contact with the general public through telephone, postal service, or email.	Contacted the Local Service District (LSD) of Pensons Arm by telephone in order to determine the proper or acceptable name(s) for the community. The "Arm" (water body) was being renamed to Pinsents Arm in response to local usage. The LSD was contacted to see if they were interested in changing the name of the community to Pinsents Arm as well. This proposal has also been communicated to the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment.  Made telephone contact with contributors and potential

	<p>contributors in Port de Grave and Grand Falls-Windsor. From time to time the Board is directed, by potential contributors, to contact other people they think may have additional information. The Board will then follow up usually by telephone.</p>
Collected names.	<p>Received in excess of 200 name submissions from contributors in Port de Grave. These submissions will be evaluated at an upcoming meeting of the NLGNB.</p> <p>In the report period, the NLGNB reviewed place name submissions from residents of: Lawn, Marystown, Grand Bank, Sweet Bay, Eastport, St. Brendan's, Sunnyside, Random Island, and Francis Harbour. The Southwest Arm Historical Society also submitted a few names of veterans for World War I commemoration. In all, 224 names were submitted and reviewed.</p> <p>Additional naming submissions are anticipated in the coming months.</p>
Responded to requests for names from citizens.	<p>Assisted the Northern Peninsula (Mekap'sk) Mi'kmaq Band, Inc. with their Land Use Project. Provided 1:50,000 map coverage for 36 National Topographic Series (NTS) sheets on the Northern Peninsula. Any names arising from the project will be brought forward to a future NLGNB meeting for consideration.</p> <p>Telephone discussions were held with Port de Grave contributors to finalize naming submissions.</p> <p>220 names recommended to the Minister, including: 153 new names, 61 name changes, and 6 existing names were rescinded. These names were adopted March 28, 2018.</p>

**Discussion of Results:** Additional commemorative name initiatives will also be explored in the near future. All naming recommendations received Ministerial assent within the report period. Not all names that are collected can be used. Each naming submission is considered on its own merit. Some submissions are very easy to evaluate while others are not. Additional information is sometimes required before a final recommendation can be made to approve or reject a submission.

## **Issue 2: Promote Public Awareness of Geographical Names Process**

The NLGNB is constantly searching for innovative ways to increase the awareness of the geographical names program. Articles, referenced in this document, were created

for the purpose of articulating the purpose, value, and importance of geographical names in our culture. Names provide a sense of history and may be seen as “cultural footprints on the landscape”.

The fostering of partnerships is a key component in this effort. The availability of articles highlighting the rich heritage of place names should also facilitate awareness and increase public interest. With the exception of the “The Bartlett Basin” in 2009, the geographical names process has not been well publicized in this province.

**Objective 2:** By March 31, 2018 the NLGNB will have developed geographical names public awareness strategies throughout government agencies and the general public.

Indicators	Accomplishments
<p>Collaborated with other provincial/federal/municipal government agencies as well as members of the general public in order to create a greater awareness of the geographical names process;</p>	<p>Assisted Parks Canada with the development of a new protocol for the joint decisions of geographical feature naming inside of Parks Canada jurisdiction. Joint decisions are needed for areas of federal jurisdiction inside the province. Feature naming requires approval from both the NLGNB and GNBC.</p> <p>Assisted the Royal Canadian Geographical Society (RCGS) with the verification of current and historical place names by comparing the information on the map to the names in the geographical names database prior to the printing and unveiling of the new Newfoundland and Labrador Giant Floor map. (Please refer to Issue 3 for additional information on this educational initiative). Prior to verification there were 92 Provincial Parks listed on the map instead of 45 and the Town of Paradise had been omitted.</p> <p>Assisted with the development of a new protocol for future municipality name changes with the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment.</p>
<p>Drafted educational documents to explain the purpose, value, and importance of geographical names in our culture;</p>	<p>In 2017-18, the NLGNB drafted 10 educational documents to explain the purpose, value, and importance of geographical names in our culture:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Newfoundland Nomenclature Board</li> <li>2. A Brief Sketch of Place-Names in Newfoundland</li> <li>3. Landmark Achievement</li> <li>4. The Viking Trail (excerpt from Canadian Geographic Travel, Winter 2017-18)</li> <li>5. Possessives in Geographic Names</li> <li>6. “Dr. E.R. Seary Remembered”, Canoma, 10 (2),33.</li> </ol>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. "E.R. Seary", Encyclopedia of Newfoundland and Labrador</li> <li>8. Toponymic Tour of the Southern Avalon: The Irish Loop The Study of Place Names (Geographical Names)</li> <li>9. "A Trip Around the Bay": St. John's (Fort William) to Carbonear (Carbonear Island), W.G. Handcock &amp; C.W. Sanger.</li> <li>10. Community Based Mapping: Change Islands.</li> </ol> <p>Educational documents will be posted on the GIS and Mapping website as they are approved for dissemination.</p> <p>In addition, EECD and RCGS educational activities developed for the Newfoundland and Labrador Giant Floor map were evaluated for accuracy by the NLGNB. The NLGNB are now collaborating with the RCGS for the development of additional educational activities with respect to geographical naming processes.</p> <p>Submitted a report on existing Indigenous place name policies in Newfoundland and Labrador to the Geographical Names Board of Canada. This report will be used to contribute to the development of a national Indigenous place names policy in the near future.</p>
<p>Disseminated information regarding the purpose, value, and importance of geographical names in our culture.</p>	<p>In 2017-18, the NLGNB finalized and disseminated four educational documents regarding the purpose, value, and importance of geographical names in our culture on the GIS and Mapping Division website:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An Introduction to Geographical Names and the NLGNB</li> <li>2. GNBC Delineation Guidelines 1.0</li> <li>3. Principles and Procedures for Geographical Naming 2011</li> <li>4. Nomenclature</li> </ol> <p>Additional documents are in final draft form that outline the rich heritage of place names in Newfoundland and Labrador and will be posted on the website as they are finalized in 2018-19.</p>

**Discussion of Results:** In the report period the NLGNB was able to forge a new partnership with the RCGS. This partnership has seen the development of the Newfoundland and Labrador Giant Floor Map. Newfoundland and Labrador is privileged to be the first province in Canada to have an interactive giant floor map of this nature.

This map has great potential to increase public awareness of place names. This opportunity was further enhanced in March of 2018, when a copy of the map was purchased by the Manuels River Hibernia Interpretation Centre. The map can be viewed upon request. The map and its associated interactive activities will promote public awareness of the geographical names in a totally different perspective than ever before. An example of one of the activities involves locating abandoned or relocated communities on the map.

### **Issue 3: Engage Schools in the Geographical Naming Process (GNP)**

The EECD and the NLGNB have been discussing the possibility of introducing place names into the school system for a few years. This delay was associated with choosing a school for the development of a pilot project. As referenced earlier, recent developments in connection with the giant floor map project ensure that place names will be integrated into the curriculum in a way that all students will benefit. The Newfoundland and Labrador Giant Floor map by RCGS, EECD and FLR and its associated activities demonstrate that the schools are engaged in educating students about geographical names in our province.

**Objective 3:** By March 31, 2018 the NLGNB will have continued to work toward the development of a GNP lesson plan for the school system.

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Accomplishments</b>
Continued to collaborate with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development on the best practices to implement the geographical names process in the school system	<p>In February the NLGNB was made aware of the imminent production of the Newfoundland and Labrador Giant Floor map (See report cover). The NLGNB provided a means of name verification prior to the official launching of the Newfoundland and Labrador Giant Floor map at the Manuels River Hibernia Interpretation Centre. NLGNB name verifications included such suggestions as updating park categories and including Battle Harbour as a National Historic District. The verification process ensured that the information used to create the map was current as geographical feature names may have changed or been added through the NLGNB process. NLGNB suggestions were added to the map prior to its release.</p> <p>The giant floor map is 35 feet by 26 feet and is the first provincial floor map in production. It was funded by Newfoundland and Labrador members within the RCGS. The associated curriculum activities were provided with the assistance of EECD. These activities are directly linked to a variety of curriculum guides spanning the entire provincial curriculum. This is one best practice to implementing geographical names process in the school system.</p>

	<p>The activities associated with this map will provide educational experiences and opportunities for any member of the general public, student or adult.</p> <p>The corporate participation of the Manuels River Hibernia Interpretation Centre signifies that place names play a vital educational role in the culture of all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians. The availability of the map at the Manuels River Hibernia Interpretation Centre will ensure schools on the Avalon Peninsula will have access to this giant floor map, which will maximize students' opportunities to appreciate our unique culture. The current activities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activity 1: Our Home</li> <li>• Activity 2: A closer look</li> <li>• Activity 3: Natural vs Constructed</li> <li>• Activity 4: How does our Government work?</li> <li>• Activity 5: Transportation around Newfoundland and Labrador</li> <li>• Activity 6: What digs?</li> <li>• Activity 7: Protecting our land</li> <li>• Activity 8: Abandoned Communities</li> <li>• Activity 9: Indigenous Peoples of Newfoundland and Labrador</li> <li>• Activity 10: We are unique — Newfoundland and Labrador Culture and Traditions</li> </ul> <p>This map highlights our historical place names as well as our current place names, providing an historical snapshot of place names in our culture. The NLGNB is working with the EECD and RCGS to develop a geographical naming related activity.</p>
<p>Developed “best practices” document(s) for the collection and recording of geographical names.</p>	<p>Due to competing priorities, the Best Practices documents were not completed. The NLGNB will continue to develop a variety of “best practice” documents over the next couple of years. In the coming weeks the NLGNB will contact a local teacher in the St. John’s area for information with respect to the classroom use of the Newfoundland and Labrador Giant Floor map. Information will be collected on the best practices for using the giant floor map to improve the educational experience. At present there is no feedback available. The development of these documents will continue for the next couple of years.</p> <p>The NLGNB will draft additional documents to augment the existing activities currently associated with the Newfoundland and Labrador Giant Floor map. Any new activities will be submitted to the RCGS and the EECD for evaluation and</p>

incorporation into their educational activities.
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**Discussion of Results:** The giant floor map was developed primarily as an educational tool to facilitate interactive student experiences in learning geography including the study of place names. Prior to the printing of the map, the NLGNB was engaged to ensure that the names on the map were accurate. This exposure gave the NLGNB insight into how the map would be used and how potential activities could be developed to educate NL youths about how places are named. The planned associated activities accord well with the current provincial curriculum. Students now have the opportunity to learn about place names as never before. Field trips may be scheduled to visit the Manuel's River Interpretation Centre. Additionally, teachers may opt to borrow the map for three-week periods. A hopeful expectation is that the giant map school program will encourage students to become active participants in the geographical names program.

For additional information on the Newfoundland and Labrador Giant Floor map, see the following

[http://www.canadiangeographic.com/educational\\_products/giant\\_floor\\_maps.asp](http://www.canadiangeographic.com/educational_products/giant_floor_maps.asp) link.

## 5.0 Opportunities and Challenges

- The NLGNB in collaboration with the RCGS and EECD can use the Newfoundland and Labrador Giant Floor map to increase the awareness of the geographical names process in this province. This collaboration will ensure that all curriculum standards and existing map activities remain consistent and the map and names are accurate. The development of new activities will further enhance the awareness of geographical names.
- Articles illustrating the cultural and historical value of geographical names will be posted on the FLR website. Links to other interesting websites on the traditional nomenclature in Newfoundland and Labrador might also be listed. These articles will heighten the awareness of geographical names and their importance in developing a strong sense of place and cultural identity. More documents are still in draft form and will be posted as they are finalized.
- Opportunities to commemorate the sacrifice of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians in World War I and World War II still exist. Information about provincial veterans is readily available on several provincial websites. Where applicable, the NLGNB will collaborate with provincial communities in order to promote the commemoration of veterans in this province through place naming.

- Maintain contact with stakeholders and interested members of the public and build new relationships through telephone, email and face-to-face meetings for the purpose of soliciting future geographical name submissions.