

# **St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board**

## **Activity Plan**

**Fiscal Years 2014-17**





Government of Newfoundland and Labrador  
**St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board**

## Chairperson's Message

Honourable Derrick Dalley  
Minister of Natural Resources and the  
Minister Responsible for the Forestry and Agifoods Agency  
Natural Resources Building  
P.O. Box 8700  
St. John's, NL  
A1B 4J6

Dear Minister:

In accordance with the provisions of the *Transparency and Accountability Act* for category 3 public bodies, I am pleased to submit a Performance-Based Activity Plan for the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board. This Plan covers the period April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2017.

The Board has a mandate to ensure that appeals concerning decisions of the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority conform with the provisions of the *St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area Regulations* under the *Lands Act*.

The Board has reviewed the strategic direction of the Provincial Government in the area of forestry, agriculture and agrifoods, as communicated by the Minister of Natural Resources. As such, this plan has been prepared in support of a direction toward enhanced utilization, sustainability and public awareness of the forestry, agriculture and agrifoods sectors.

My signature below is on behalf of the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board and indicative of the Board's accountability for the preparation of the Plan and achievement of its annual objective.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter Morris".

Peter Morris  
Chairperson

# Table of Contents

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1. Overview	1
2. Mandate	2
3. Core Values and Guiding Principles	2
4. Primary Clients	3
5. Vision	3
6. Mission	4
7. Objectives	4
8. Appendix A: Strategic Directions	6
9. Appendix B: Map of the St. John's Urban Region ADA	7

## 1. Overview

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*Section 7 of the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area Regulations* under *the Lands Act* provides for the appointment of an appeal board to hear appeals of the decisions of the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority. The Appeal Board, also known as the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board, is to be appointed by the Minister. The Board must have at least three members.

The Appeal Board membership includes: Peter Morris, Chair; Brian Murphy, Cyril Power and Ed Woodrow as members. Mr. Morris has served on the Appeal Board for many years before serving as Chair. Both Mr. Murphy and Mr. Power served as members of the Board for several years, however 2014 will be the first year of Mr. Woodrows service as an Appeal Board Member.

The St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board receives extensive operational support from the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency. Employees of the Agency perform many day to day administrative functions. Budgetary support for operations is also provided through the Agency.

For further information contact: Mr. John DelRizzo, Land Management Officer, Brookfield Road (T) 729-1107.

## 2. Mandate

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The St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board was established to hear appeals of the decisions of the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority concerning applications to carry out development on land in the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area (see Appendix B) as defined by the *Lands Act* and specifically the *St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area Regulations*. The Board may recommend that the Minister of Natural Resources uphold, reverse or vary a decision of the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority and maintains records of minutes, including the attendance and proceedings of the Board at all appeal hearings.

## 3. Core Values and Guiding Principles

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The following are the core values and guiding principles of the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board and are closely linked to those of the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency:

**Integrity** - Each individual will be honest, dependable, fair, credible and trustworthy. They will openly acknowledge mistakes, seek to correct them and learn from them.

**Respect and Professionalism** - Each individual will apply legislation and policies equitably and will serve the Board's client groups to the fullest extent possible.

**Collaboration** - Each individual will seek the opinions and ideas of others in the application of legislation and policies.

**Innovation** - Each individual will demonstrate initiative and flexibility in responding to challenges and change.

**Safety** - Each individual views the personal safety of themselves and co-workers in the highest regard and will promote workplace safety at all times.

**Productive** – Each individual will maximize their productivity and efficiency in carrying out their duties.

**Timely** – Each individual will conduct their duties in a timely manner and meet all established deadlines.

**Diligence** - Each individual will be careful and persistent in the application or effort made in respect to the regulations and policies.

## **4. Primary Clients**

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The clients of the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board are individuals or organizations who apply through the municipal councils of the City of St. John's, Town of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's, Town of Pouch Cove, Town of Flatrock, Town of Torbay, Town of Logy Bay-Middle Cove-Outer Cove, and the Town of Conception Bay South to carry out development on land in the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area and wish to appeal a decision of the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority.

## **5. Vision**

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Through assessment of appeals of applications for opportunities to carry out development on land in the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area, the Agriculture Appeal Board contributes to the vision of the Department of Natural Resources, stated as follows:

"The vision of the Department of Natural Resources is a province that realizes the full benefit from the sustainable development of its natural resources."

## 6. Mission

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Planning guidelines associated with the *Transparency and Accountability Act* encourage small public bodies like the Appeal Board, to consider the development of mission statements. The mission statement is the priority focus area of a public body over two planning cycles (six years). The statement identifies the measures and indicators that will assist a public body and the public in monitoring and evaluating success at the end of the six year period. The planning guidelines provide the flexibility, however, for small public bodies to determine for themselves whether the development of mission statements adds value to planning efforts.

During the development of its 2014-17 Activity Plan, the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board determined that an applicable mission statement would be unduly repetitive of its mandate and, therefore, opted to forgo development of a mission statement at that time.

Instead, the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board considered its role in assisting the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency in achieving its mission for the planning period. The Board has a role in strengthening and sustaining the agriculture resource by making recommendations on applications for appeals of decisions made by the St. John's Urban Region Agricultural Development Area Advisory Authority in consideration of direction under the regulations to ensure development is consistent with agricultural purposes. As such, aspects of the following general statement from the mission of the Agency related to agriculture and agrifoods sectors apply to the Board.

"By March 31, 2017, the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency will have supported programs and services to strengthen and sustain forestry, agriculture and agrifoods industry development in an innovative and economically beneficial manner."

The Board has determined that it has no material impact on achievement of measures and indicators of the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency's mission statement.

The complete mission of the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency is found in its Strategic Plan for the period covering April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2017 on the Departments website at [www.gov.nl.ca/nr](http://www.gov.nl.ca/nr).

## 7. Objectives

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The St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board reviews appeals of decisions made by the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority. All appeals are given due consideration under the regulations. The Board makes a recommendation to the Minister.

The St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board considered the Strategic Direction of the Provincial Government as it relates to the forestry, agriculture and agrifood sectors as communicated by the Minister of Natural Resources. As such, this plan has been prepared in support of a direction toward enhanced utilization, sustainability and public awareness of the forestry, agriculture and agrifoods sectors.

The following area has been identified as the key priority of the Board for the three year period April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2017. The objective below applies to each year covered by this plan and will be reported on in relevant annual reports.

**Issue 1:** Developments on Land in the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area

**Objective:** The St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board will have reviewed all appeals of decisions by the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority under the applicable Act and Regulations.

**Measure:** Reviewed all appeals

**Indicators:**

- Reviewed appeals and made recommendations to the Minister of Natural Resources
- Recorded minutes of proceedings



## 8. Appendix A: Strategic Direction

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

The St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board needs to consider Strategic Direction as communicated to the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency by the Minister of Natural Resources. For the 2014-17 planning period, these directions are outlined in the table below.

<b>Title</b>	Natural Resource Development (Forestry, Agriculture and Agrifoods)
<b>Outcome Statement</b>	Enhanced utilization, sustainability and public awareness of the forestry, agriculture and agrifoods sectors.
<b>Focus Areas</b>	Industry Development Research and development Awareness and Education Resource Sustainability

The priority and activities outlined in the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board's 2014-17 Activity Plan are supportive of this Strategic Direction. The table below clearly identifies which of the strategic direction focus areas are addressed in the activity plan and which, if any, do not apply to the Board.

Strategic Direction Component (Focus Area)	This direction is ...	
	addressed in the entity's Activity Plan	not applicable
Industry Development	X	
Research and Development		X
Awareness and Education		X
Resource Sustainability	X	

## **9. Appendix B: Map of the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area**

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# St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area

 Agriculture Development Area Boundary

Department of Natural Resources  
Land Resource Stewardship Division  
Soils and Mapping Services,  
April 2014

