

St. Johns Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board

Activity Plan

2026–2029



Chairperson's Message

Honourable Pleaman Forsey
Minister of Forestry, Agriculture and Lands
Confederation Building
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Dear Minister Forsey:

In accordance with the provisions of the **Transparency and Accountability Act (Act)** for category three public bodies, I am pleased to submit an Activity Plan for the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board (the Board). This activity plan meets the requirements of the **Act** and covers the period of April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2029.

The strategic directions of the Provincial Government related to the Department of Forestry, Agriculture and Lands (FAL) have been considered in the creation of this activity plan. More specifically, the work undertaken will support the Provincial Government in increasing Newfoundland and Labrador's food self-sufficiency.

My signature below is on behalf of the entire Board and is indicative of its accountability for the preparation of this plan and the achievement of its stated objective.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joan M Butler".

Appeal Board Member
St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board

Table of Contents

1. Overview	1
2. Mandate	2
3. Vision	2
4. Primary Clients	2
5. Issue	3

1. Overview

The Board was created to hear appeals of the decisions of the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority (the Authority) regarding development within the St. John's Urban Area Agricultural Development Area (ADA) and makes recommendations in writing to the Minister of FAL on appeals under the **St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area Regulations** (the Regulations).

There are approximately 12,152 hectares of land within the St. John's Urban Region ADA that fall within seven municipalities on the Northeast Avalon: St. John's, Conception Bay South, Logy Bay-Middle Cove-Outer Cove, Portugal Cove-St. Phillips, Flat Rock, Torbay and Pouch Cove.

Section 7 of the Regulations under the **Lands Act** requires the appointment of an appeal board to hear appeals of the decisions of the Authority. As per the Regulations, the Board is appointed by the Minister of FAL. The Board must have at least three members to hear an appeal. All members are regionally located within the Northeast Avalon. Appointments are made through a merit-based process; however, gender balance is also considered during the appointment process and efforts are made to ensure the Board is representative of the population it serves.

The number and timing of appeals requested dictates the meeting schedule; however, the Board typically meets six times per year.

In addition to the appointed members, the Board receives extensive operational support from FAL. Employees of FAL perform many day-to-day administrative functions of the Board. Budgetary support for operations is also provided through FAL.

Currently, the Board consists of the following members:

Name	Position	Region	Term
Eugene Legge	Member	Eastern	11/9/2023 – 11/9/2026
Joan Marie Butler	Member	Eastern	11/9/2023 – 11/9/2026
Vacant ¹	Member		

¹ Position to be filled in coordination with the Public Service Commission.

The Board does not generate revenue, and expenses typically include remuneration of members and travel expenses related to meetings, which are paid from the FAL budget. The Chairperson and members are remunerated at Level I rates and in accordance with Treasury Board Secretariat's Guidelines for Rates of Remuneration for Boards, Commissions and Agencies.

For further information, or to request this plan in an alternate format, please contact:

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2. Mandate

The Board has a mandate to:

- Hear appeals of the decisions of the Authority concerning applications to carry out development on land in the St. John's Urban Region ADA;
- Recommend that the Minister of FAL uphold, reverse or vary a decision of the Authority; and
- Maintain records of minutes, including the attendance and proceedings of the Board at all appeal hearings.

3. Vision

Through the assessment of appeals of applications for opportunities to carry out the development on land in the St. John's Urban Region ADA, the Board contributes to FAL's vision of sustainable renewable resources that are responsibly developed for the social, cultural, ecological and economic well-being of the province.

4. Primary Clients

The primary clients of the Board are individuals, companies 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 within the St. John's Urban Region ADA, and wish to appeal a decision of the Authority.

5. Issue

The Board reviews appeals of decisions made by the Authority. All appeals are given due consideration in accordance with the Regulations. The Board then makes recommendations to the Minister of FAL. All applications that are refused development by the Authority are notified of the opportunity to appeal the decision. The number and timing of appeals requested will dictate the meeting schedule of the Board and the number of appeals heard.

As its focus will remain the same for the entire planning period, the Board will report on the same objective in each of the three years covered by the plan.

Issue: Effectively Managed the Appeals Process

Objective: By March 31 of each year, the Board will have reviewed all appeals of decisions made by the Authority and made recommendations regarding each appeal to the Minister.