

Stephenville - Port aux Basques Regional Council Activity Plan 2011-14



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Message from the Chairperson

As a member of the Stephenville – Port aux Basques Regional Council, and in accordance with the Provincial Government's commitment to accountability, we submit the Regional Council's 2011-14 Activity Plan. My signature below is on behalf of the entire council, and is indicative of our accountability for the preparation of this plan and for the achievement of the objectives contained in the plan, pursuant to section 7(4) of the Transparency and Accountability Act. The Regional Council is a category III Provincial Government entity under the Transparency and Accountability Act and as such must table an Activity Plan.

Careful consideration was also given to the strategic directions of the provincial government in the preparation of this Activity Plan for the period April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2014.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Calvin White".

Calvin White, Member of Council
Stephenville – Port aux Basques Regional Council of the Rural Secretariat

1. Regional Council Overview

The Stephenville-Port aux Basques Regional Council is comprised of three members; one female and two male. The council currently has representation from larger and smaller communities throughout the region. Meetings of the council and associated costs are funded through the budget of the Rural Secretariat.

The Rural Secretariat also funds a regional planner position in the region, who among other duties, act as an information resource for the council and facilitates the work of the council. Currently the planner for the Stephenville – Port aux Basques region is Fred Campbell. His office is located with Innovation, Trade and Rural Development in Stephenville.

Regional Council members	Community
Audrey Gracie	Kippens
Eric Legge	Cartyville
Calvin White	Flat Bay

** For an updated listing of council members please visit <http://www.exec.gov.nl.ca/rural/regionalmem.asp>.*

2. Mandate

The Regional Council's mandate is:

- To develop a common, evidence-based understanding of the social, economic, environmental and cultural realities facing a region.
- To review key economic and social measures (e.g. education levels, demographic trends, health status, income levels, EI usage, economic diversity, etc) and to reach agreement on the priorities for change over the next five years.
- To identify policies and programs which either a) advance b) negatively impact or c) need to be developed to encourage the necessary change over the five-year period.
- To advance regional cooperation through the sharing of information on and discussion about the economic and social measures, and to encourage regional partners to take action on and be accountable for those areas within their mandates.
- To serve as a sounding board in their region for new or proposed initiatives.
- To select an individual to represent the region on the Provincial Council of the Rural Secretariat.

3. Lines of Business

The council supports the Rural Secretariat's four lines of business:

Citizen-based policy advice: The Rural Secretariat supports nine citizen-based Regional Councils, and one stakeholder-based Provincial Council, to develop policy and decision-making advice for submission to government. Typically, councils, with the support of Rural Secretariat staff, hold public engagement sessions involving citizens

and/or stakeholder group representatives, and conduct community-based research activities, to inform the development of advice documents.

Collaboration: The Rural Secretariat understands that sustainability in rural Newfoundland and Labrador can be significantly advanced through more and better collaboration between and among rural stakeholders including governments. Sometimes the Rural Secretariat works to support existing rural collaborative processes such as partnerships. Other times they work to help convene new regional collaborative processes such as networks or alliances. The broad goal is to help build a strengthened 'culture of collaboration' in rural Newfoundland and Labrador.

Research: The Rural Secretariat collaborates with provincial partners on a number of formal research endeavors that help to improve understanding of the challenges facing, and opportunities available to, rural regions of this province. The Rural Secretariat also works directly with regional partners and councils on a host of community-based research initiatives – small regional-level data-gathering efforts that give those involved the information and knowledge they need to effectively advise the Provincial Government on regional and rural policy issues.

Public dialogue and engagement: In addition to supporting councils to conduct public engagement efforts, the Rural Secretariat is also available to assist other Provincial Government departments to design and deliver their own public engagement initiatives. The Rural Secretariat also periodically convenes special deliberative dialogue initiatives on themes deemed to be of particular importance to the rural sustainability of this province, often in partnership with rural stakeholder groups and other government departments.

4. Values

The core values explain the character of the organization. The core values of the Rural Secretariat are as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Collaboration: | We are committed to building a culture of collaboration within Newfoundland and Labrador and beyond |
| Creativity/innovation: | We strive to transcend traditional ideas, rules, and patterns, and to work together to create new ideas, relationships, and approaches |
| Inclusion: | We acknowledge difference and cherish the views and perspectives of all. We will take steps to ensure all have an opportunity to express their own views |
| Learning culture: | We accept that we have a lot to learn and relish the opportunity to learn more |
| Participation/engagement: | We believe citizen/stakeholder/community engagement is essential to the development of good public policy |

- Teamwork:** We provide support to one another, work co-operatively, respect differing views and strive to make our work environments safe and enjoyable
- Honesty:** We are open and honest in all our dealings and maintain the highest integrity at all times
- Excellence:** We strive for excellence and quality in everything we do

5. Primary Clients

The Rural Secretariat has two primary client groups: clients within the provincial Government (departments and agencies) and clients external to government (citizens, nine Regional Councils, one Provincial Council, community and regional organizations, and stakeholder groups). It supports and brokers collaborative relationships between each of these primary client groups.

The primary clients of the Regional Council include the Rural Secretariat, the Provincial Council of the Rural Secretariat, and departments and agencies within the Provincial Government, among others.

6. Vision

The Stephenville – Port Aux Basques Regional Council supports the vision of the Rural Secretariat:

Vibrant rural regions and communities where collaborative organizations and engaged and informed citizens work closely with governments to advance rural sustainability.

Through its work, the council is identifying priorities that contribute to regional sustainability which considers economic, social, cultural and environmental aspects.

7. Mission

The Stephenville – Port Aux Basques Regional Council supports the mission of the Rural Secretariat:

By March 31, 2017, the Rural Secretariat will have worked with regional and departmental partners to improve the sustainability prospects of rural communities and regions.

The Stephenville – Port-aux-Basques Regional Council agrees with the mission of the Rural Secretariat and will strive to support it by providing advice to Government on issues affecting the region.

For additional detail please refer to the Rural Secretariat Activity Plan 2011-14.

8. Issues

Issue: Provide Advice to Government

In line with our mandate, the council will continue its work to provide advice to the Provincial Government on issues affecting sustainability in our region. Our approach will remain that of carrying out extensive research on an identified issue to ensure that council's discussions and deliberations are well informed. The council will engage with stakeholders, citizens and regional partners. The council will carefully consider the evidence gathered during these research and engagement activities and use this information to develop consensus on the policy advice to be submitted. This advice will then be communicated to the relevant departments within the Provincial Government. In our efforts to deliver relevant and timely advice, Council will be reporting on the same objective, listed below, for the three year duration of this activity plan. This relates to the strategic direction identified in this plan.

Objective:

By March 31, 2012 council will have provided advice to the Provincial Government on issues that relate to regional sustainability.

Measure:

Provided advice

Indicators:

- Issue identified
- Researched issue
- Consensus developed on advice to Government
- Communicated advice to Government

Appendix A: Strategic Direction

1. **Title:** Rural Newfoundland and Labrador

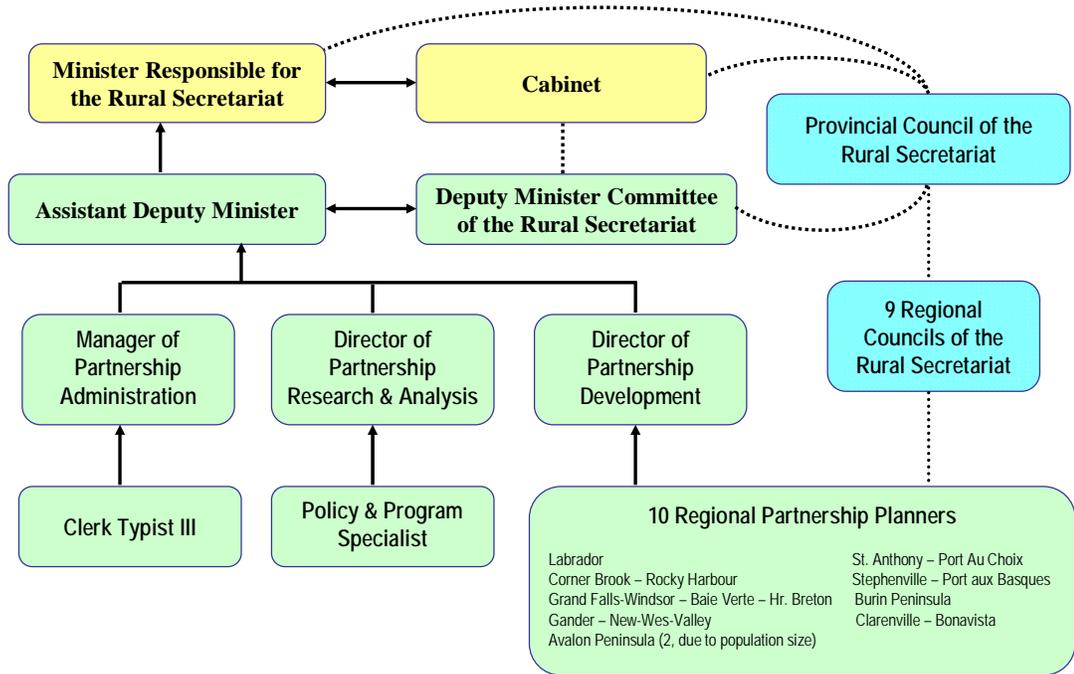
Outcome Statement: A sustainable rural Newfoundland and Labrador.

Clarifying Statement: This outcome requires systemic intervention by the Rural Secretariat in the areas of:

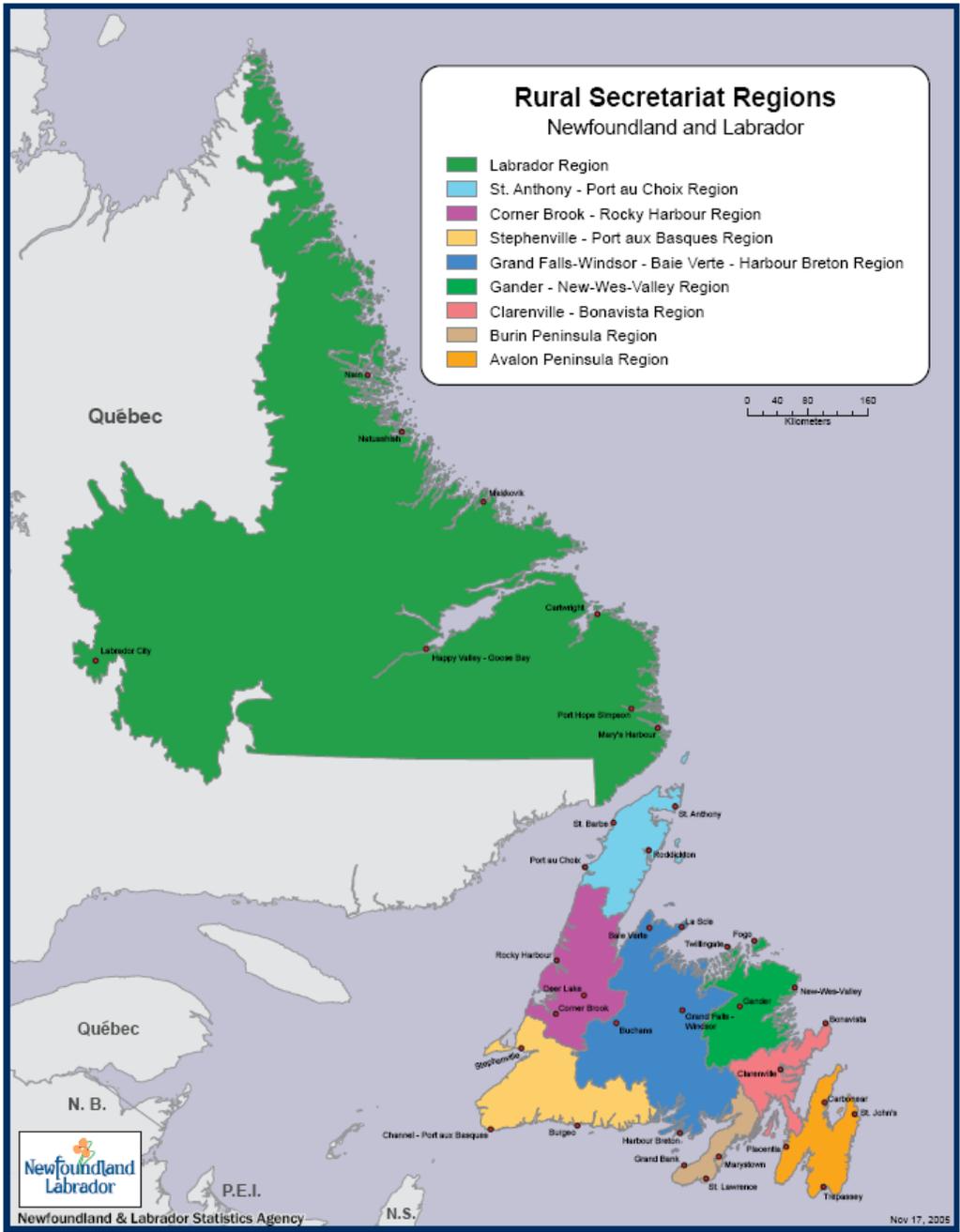
- Citizen-based policy advice
- Public dialogue and engagement
- Collaboration
- Research

Focus Areas/Components of the Strategic Direction	This Direction is:
	addressed in the council's activity plan
1. Citizen-based policy advice	X
2. Public dialogue and engagement	X
3. Collaboration	X
4. Research	X

Rural Secretariat Structure



Appendix C: Map of Rural Secretariat Regions



Mandate of the Rural Secretariat

The Rural Secretariat's mandate is to:

- Promote the well-being of rural Newfoundland and Labrador through a comprehensive and coordinated approach aimed at integrating economic, social, cultural aspects of rural and regional development.
- Act as the focal point for government to work with local and regional partners to build strong and dynamic regions and communities.
- Ensure that rural concerns are considered throughout the Provincial Government and promoted at the federal level.
- Carry out research and analysis of economic and social issues affecting rural Newfoundland and Labrador.
- Help communities and regions identify and take advantage of growth opportunities.
- Promote awareness of provincial and federal programs and services regarding rural communities.

Mandate of the Provincial Council of the Rural Secretariat

The Provincial Council mandate is:

- To develop a common, evidence-based understanding of the social, economic, environmental and cultural realities facing Province.
- To review key economic and social measures (e.g. education levels, demographic trends, health status, income levels, Employment Income usage, economic diversity) and to reach agreement on the priorities for change over the next five years.
- To identify and advise the provincial government on policies and programs which either a) advance, b) negatively impact or c) need to be developed to encourage the necessary change over the five year period.
- To advance cooperation through the sharing of information on and discussion about the economic and social measures, and to encourage government and community partners to take action on and be accountable for those areas within their mandates.
- To serve as an external sounding board for government for the development of strategies, policies, programs and budget issues that will affect Provincial and Regional sustainability.

Photo Credits



Courtesy of Sam Organ



Courtesy of Sam Organ



Courtesy of Sam Organ



Courtesy of Sam Organ



Rural Secretariat

Fred Campbell

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