

St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority

Annual Performance Report

April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013



Chairperson's Message

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

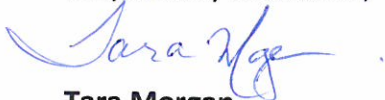
Dear Minister:

In accordance with the provisions of the *Transparency and Accountability Act* for category 3 public bodies, I am pleased to submit the Annual Performance Report for the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority for the period April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013.

The St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority was successful in fulfilling its objective for the reporting period. The Authority was also successful in furthering the Strategic Directions of the Minister of the Department of Natural Resources towards innovation, promotion, development and overall sustainability in the province's agriculture and agrifoods sectors.

My signature below is on behalf of the Authority and indicative of the Authority's accountability for the results reported on its activities for 2012-13.

Respectfully submitted,



Tara Morgan
Chairperson

Table of Contents

Overview	1
Contact Information:	1
Mandate:.....	2
Values:.....	2
Clients:	3
Vision:.....	3
Mission:.....	3
Activities.....	4
Objective:	4
Measure:	5
Indicators:	5
Financial Information.....	6
Conclusion.....	6

Overview

Section 3 of the *St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area Regulations* under the *Lands Act* provides for the appointment of a St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority. The Authority is to be appointed by the Minister. The Authority must have at least five people including a Chairperson and a Secretary. In keeping with the regulations, the Authority is made up of members from the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency, as well as members from other resource departments.

For the majority of the 2012-13 reporting year, the Authority consisted of the following members:

Hazen Scarth, Forestry and Agrifoods Agency
Raymond Tucker, Forestry and Agrifoods Agency
Granville H. Martin, Forestry and Agrifoods Agency
Kevin King, Department of Government Services
Kimberly Blanchard, Department of Municipal Affairs
Gerry Wicks, Forestry and Agrifoods Agency.

Changes to the Authority during the 2012-13 reporting year occurred due to retirements. Mr. Martin retired in August of 2012 and left the Committee; Deanne McCarthy joined the Committee after that time.

The St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority receives extensive operational support from the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency. Employees of the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency perform many day to day administrative functions, and may consult other staff regarding applications where necessary. Budgetary support for operations is provided through the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency as well.

Contact Information:

Mr. John DelRizzo, Land Management Officer, St. John's (T) 729-1107

Mandate:

The St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority was established to consider applications for development activities in the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area as defined by the *Lands Act*. This area includes: City of St. John's, Logy Bay-Middle Cove-Outer Cove, Torbay, Flatrock, Pouch Cove, Portugal Cove-St. Philips and Conception Bay South. The Authority may approve and issue permits or notices of approval, refuse applications, cancel permits and exercise other powers necessary to assess land development applications under the regulations. For further details, please refer to the *St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area Order* and/or the *St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area Regulations*, both under the *Lands Act*.

Values:

As outlined in the Authority's 2011-14 Activity Plan, the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority performs its duties within the following core values and guiding principles, most of which have been established by 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 Authority'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.

Clients:

The clients of the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority are members of the public, individuals or organizations, who apply through municipal councils to develop land in the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area.

Vision:

Through assessment of applications for development opportunities on land in the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area, the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority contributes to the vision of the Agency. The Agency, which is part of the Department of Natural Resources, is 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."

Mission:

Planning guidelines associated with the *Transparency and Accountability Act* encourage small public bodies like the Authority, 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 2011-14 Activity Plan, the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority 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 Land Development Advisory Authority considered its role in assisting the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency in achieving its mission for the planning period. The Authority has a role in strengthening and sustaining the agriculture resource by making recommendations on applications for development in the St. John's Urban Region Agricultural Development Area 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 Authority.

“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 Authority 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, 2011 to March 31, 2014 on the Departments website at www.gov.nl.ca/nr.

Activities

The St. John’s Land Development Advisory Authority contributes to these strategic directions by protecting agricultural land and farm activities in the St. John’s Urban Region Agriculture Development Area by reviewing applications for development activities in that area. By regulating development in the S. John’s Urban Region Agriculture Development Area to ensure consistency with agricultural purposes, the activities of the Authority support government’s strategic directions, as stated in the Forestry and Agrifoods 2011-2014 Strategic Plan, toward agriculture and agrifoods resource sustainability as well as agriculture and agrifoods innovation, promotion and development.

The objective measures and indicators are derived from the 2011-2014 Activity Plan of the St. John’s Land Development Advisory Authority. The 2011-2014 Activity Plan is available on the Department of Natural Resources’ website at: www.gov.nl.ca/nr or from Tara Morgan, Manager of Soils and Mapping Services, at (709-637-2084).

Objective:

The St. John’s Land Development Advisory Authority will have worked to ensure development activities in the St. John’s Urban Region Agriculture Development Area are compliant with the Acts and Regulations, thus supporting ongoing, sustainable agricultural development in the area.

Measure:

Development activities are compliant with the Act and Regulations.

Indicators:

- Reviewed all applications and rendered decisions
- Updated applications registry to reflect decisions
- Communicated decisions to municipalities in a timely manner
- Monitored development activities for compliance with regulations through site visits

In 2012-13, the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority met on fifteen occasions to review forty-one applications for agricultural and non-agricultural development within the boundaries of the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area. The applications were reviewed by a quorum of the Authority. Of the 41 applications that were reviewed: two applications were farm related; ten applications were for residential construction; two commercial; eight for land severances; two for sod removal; three were for backfilling; and nine were for the construction of sheds/garages. One application each were also received for an airstrip, change of use, demolition of grain tanks, second driveway, heavy equipment storage, aquaponics facility and rezoning. Out of the 41 applications received and processed, 20 were approved, 12 were refused, six were outside the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area, two were deferred and one was withdrawn. Five decisions of the Authority were appealed to the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board. The 2012-13 annual report of the Appeal Board is available on the Department of Natural Resource's website at www.gov.nl.ca/nr.

The Secretary of the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority maintained and updated a registry of all applications, including decisions. Within 30 days of a decision, the Secretary has forwarded the decisions of the Authority to the applicable Municipality which is responsible for informing applicants of its decision including an explanation of the Authority's decision pursuant to the Regulations. Applications were processed in a timely fashion.

Members of the Authority work within the St. John's Urban Region Agricultural Development Area regularly and actively monitor for development activity to ensure compliance with respect to the regulations.

The 2013-14 Annual Report will be based on the same objective, measure and indicators.

Financial Information

Audited financial statements are not required as the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority is budgeted through the Department of Natural Resources. There are no per diems, travel or other costs associated with the administration of the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority.

Conclusion

The St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority is committed to fulfilling its mandate and will continue to do its part to further the vision and mission of the Department of Natural Resources, Forestry and Agrifoods Agency.