

Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority

**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

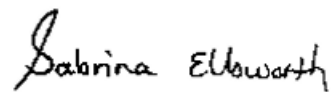
Dear Minister Forsey:

In accordance with the provisions of the **Transparency and Accountability Act** for category three public bodies, I am pleased to submit the Activity Plan for the Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority (the Authority). This activity plan meets the requirements of the **Transparency and Accountability Act** for a category three entity and covers the period 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 creation of this activity plan. More specifically, the work undertaken in this plan will assist with increasing food production in Newfoundland and Labrador.

My signature below is on behalf of the Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority and is indicative of the Authority's accountability for the preparation of this plan and the achievement of its stated objective.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sabrina Ellsworth". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sabrina Ellsworth MSc, P. Ag
Chairperson

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1. Overview

Section 3 of the **Wooddale Agriculture Development Area Regulations** (the Regulations) under the **Lands Act** (the **Act**) provides for the appointment of the Authority. The Authority reviews applications for development in the Wooddale Agriculture Development Area (ADA), located near Bishop's Falls, to ensure development within the area is planned and carried out in a manner that ensures the full potential of the area's resources is reached.

Members of the Authority are appointed by the Minister of FAL (the Minister). Appointments are made using a merit-based process; however, gender balance is considered during the appointment process and efforts are made to ensure the Authority represents the population it serves. In accordance with the Regulations, the Authority must have at least five members, including a Chairperson and a Secretary.

Currently, the Authority consists of the following members:

Name	Position	Representing
Sabrina Ellsworth	Chairperson	Director, Agriculture Production and Research, FAL
Austin Jayne	Secretary	Land Management Officer, FAL
Terry Gedge	Member	Agriculture Development Officer (Agriculturalist III),
Rodger Primmer	Member	Regional Lands Manager, Crown Lands, FAL
Bradley White	Member	District Ecosystem Manager, Forest Services, FAL
Kayla Willis	Member	Land Management Specialist, FAL

All members are appointed by virtue of their position. The Authority receives extensive operational support from FAL. Departmental employees appointed to the Authority perform many day-to-day administrative functions and may consult other staff regarding individual applications where necessary. There are no operating expenses as all members are Government of Newfoundland and Labrador employees.

2. Mandate

The Authority was established to consider applications for development activities in the Wooddale ADA as defined by the **Lands Act** and as further described in subsection 3(3) and 3(4) of the **Wooddale Agriculture Development Area Regulations**. A map of the Wooddale ADA is included as Appendix A. 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 more details on the Regulations, please refer to the House of Assembly website at: <http://assembly.nl.ca/Legislation/sr/regulations/rc961079.htm>.

3. Vision

The Authority contributes to the vision of FAL through assessment of applications for agricultural development activities in the Wooddale ADA. The vision of FAL is that of sustainable renewable resources that are responsibly developed for the social, cultural, ecological and economic well-being of the province.

4. Primary Clients

The clients of the Authority are existing and proposed agricultural landowners in the Wooddale ADA as well as members of the public who apply to undertake development activities in the Wooddale ADA.

5. Issue

The Regulations were established to support ongoing sustainable agricultural development in the area. The Authority reviews applications for all proposed developments within the boundaries of the Wooddale ADA in accordance with the Regulations. Applications are submitted on the appropriate forms. Applications are reviewed by the Authority, provided there is a quorum of three members including the Chairperson and Secretary. All applications are given due consideration under the Regulations and are either approved or refused according to same. The applicants are then notified of the decision of the Authority within 30 days. In the case of a refusal, the applicant may appeal in writing to the Minister within 30 days after the applicant is notified of the decision by the Authority.

The following issue has been identified as the key priority of the Authority for the three-year period April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2029. As the focus of Authority will remain the same for the entire planning period, the Authority will report on the same objective in all three years.

Issue: Development in the Wooddale Agricultural Development Area

Objective: By March 31 of each year, the Authority will have ensured development activities in the Wooddale Agricultural Development Area are compliant with the **Act** and Regulations, thus supporting ongoing, sustainable agricultural development in the area.

Appendix A: Wooddale Agriculture Development Area Map

