



**Agricultural Land Consolidation  
Review Committee**

**Activity Plan**

**Fiscal Years 2017-20**



**Chairperson's Message**

Honourable Steve Crocker  
Minister of Fisheries and Land Resources  
Petten Building  
30 Strawberry Marsh Road  
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 Performance-Based Activity Plan for the Agricultural Land Consolidation Review Committee. This activity plan meets the requirements of the *Transparency and Accountability Act* for a Category 3 entity and covers the period April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2020.

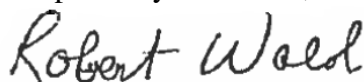
The Agricultural Land Consolidation Review Committee's mandate is to:

- (a) Ensure public awareness of Government's Agricultural Land Consolidation Program;
- (b) Evaluate applications for land acquisition under the Agricultural Land Consolidation Program based on established guidelines; and
- (c) Facilitate and conclude negotiations for a land purchase and sale agreement for applications that meet criteria.

The strategic directions of Government related to the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources, including those outlined in **The Way Forward**, have been considered in the creation of this activity plan. More specifically, the work undertaken in this plan will assist in reaching the target to increase Newfoundland and Labrador's food self-sufficiency from its current 10 per cent to at least 20 per cent by 2022.

My signature below is on behalf of the Agricultural Land Consolidation Review Committee and is indicative of the committee's accountability for the preparation of this Plan and the achievement of its objective.

Respectfully submitted,



**Robert Walsh**  
Chairperson

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# 1. Overview

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The Agricultural Land Consolidation Review Committee was established as part of a set of guidelines for the Agricultural Land Consolidation Program (ALCP) for the St. John's Agricultural Development Area that was initially approved by Cabinet in 1985. This program was established due to significant growth opportunities in the agriculture sector in Newfoundland and Labrador. Newfoundland and Labrador is currently only about 10 per cent self-sufficient in its non-supply managed agrifood requirements and it is critical that our Province makes significant progress towards food security. The Way Forward has committed to increase food self-sufficiency to at least 20% by 2022.

With respect to supply managed industries, it is equally important to increase opportunities for self-sufficiency in forages and continue to take advantage of opportunities to grow grains, which requires an expanded agricultural landbase.

The availability of suitable farm land is one of the more critical challenges facing the agriculture and agrifoods industry. In order to position this industry to take advantage of the tremendous growth opportunities, farmland has to be made available. The expansion and development of the landbase will provide the root crop sector with the means to increase local production and create opportunities to increase the consumption of locally-grown goods. For the supply managed sector, it will mean having access to more land for forage and grain production.

The Agricultural Land Consolidation Review Committee administers the Agricultural Land Consolidation Program designed to provide the opportunity for non-farmer landowners and retiring farmers to sell their granted land to the Provincial Government. In turn, Government makes this land available to existing commercial farmers, part-time farmers and new entrants who are in need of additional lands as Crown land agricultural leases.

The Agricultural Land Consolidation Review Committee is made up of several members of the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources (FLR) and chaired by a member of the public. All positions of the Agricultural Land Consolidation Review Committee are appointed by the Minister. In addition to formal committee members, technical representation and guidance is provided by FLR as well as private legal representation responsible for negotiations and legal processes.

The current committee structure is as follows:

Position	Name	Organization	Region
Chair	Robert Walsh	Public at Large	Eastern
Member	Richard Carey	Department of Fisheries and Land Resources	Provincial / Western
Member	Andrew Pike	Department of Fisheries and Land Resources	Eastern
Technical Support	Deanne McCarthy	Department of Fisheries and Land Resources	n/a
Technical Support	Megan Nichols	Department of Fisheries and Land Resources	n/a
Legal Representation	John Hogan	Wadden Peddigrew Hogan Law	n/a

The Agricultural Land Consolidation Review Committee receives operational support from FLR. Employees of the department perform many day to day administrative functions as part of their normal work activities. The Agricultural Land Consolidation Program is currently funded by the department through the Land Development Capital Budget which includes a budget of \$1.1 million for the purchase of land, in addition to funds to accommodate the expenses of legal and environmental costs associated with the delivery of the Program. The program does not generate revenue, and expenditures are dependent on annual applications presented for consideration for purchase and vary from year to year. Expenditure Details will be provided in the Annual Performance Report.

Remuneration provided for the Chairperson is as per Level 1 of the Standardized Rates for Rates of Remuneration for Boards, Commissions and Agencies.

## **2. Mandate**

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The Agricultural Land Consolidation Review Committee has a mandate to:

- (a) Ensure public awareness of Government's Agricultural Land Consolidation Program;
- (b) Evaluate applications for land acquisition under the Agricultural Land Consolidation Program based on established guidelines; and
- (c) Facilitate and conclude negotiations for a land purchase and sale agreement for applications that meet criteria.

### 3. Primary Clients

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The clients of the Agricultural Land Consolidation Review Committee are members of the public and organizations who wish to sell or relinquish arable land to the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador for allocation for agricultural purposes.

### 4. Objective

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The Agricultural Land Consolidation Review Committee facilitates purchases of land by the province for lease to farmers based on established guidelines. Applications are reviewed by the committee using established guidelines. Applicants wishing to sell suitable land are invited to commence negotiations for a purchase and sale agreement. A number of third parties may be involved in the process, such as land appraisers, land surveyors and lawyers. An environmental assessment may be required.

Applications to buy land from private landowners are solicited by departmental staff and industry. A brochure has been developed to provide additional awareness of the program to the general public.

As the focus of the committee will remain the same for the entire plan, the committee will report on the same objective and indicators in all three years.

**Objective:** By March 31, 2018, the Agricultural Land Consolidation Review Committee will have administered the Agricultural Land Consolidation Program in an effort to preserve and / or increase the province's agricultural landbase.

**Indicators:**

- Evaluated applications for land acquisition by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador under the Agricultural Land Consolidation Program based on established guidelines and policies;
- Facilitated and concluded negotiations for a land purchase and sale agreement for applications that meet program criteria;
- Allocated properties purchased as Agricultural Crown Land Leases; and
- Publicly communicated the opportunity to private landowners to sell private, agriculturally suited land through the Agricultural Land Consolidation Program.