

Department of Environment and Conservation

**Annual Performance Report
2006-2007**

Government of Newfoundland and Labrador



2007

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2006-2007 Annual Performance Report

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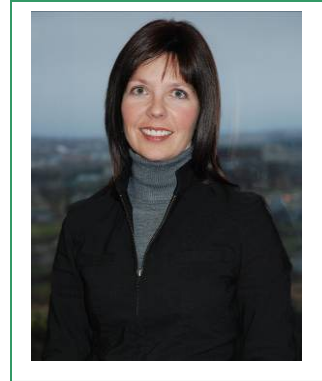
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Minister's Message

It is my pleasure to present this Annual Performance Report on the work of the Department of Environment and Conservation for fiscal year 2006-2007. This year one report, for the strategic planning cycle 2006-2008, provides an update on our progress toward a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. We have made significant advancements in the past year towards these goals.



Sustainable Development is one of our most important strategic initiatives. Government held province-wide public consultations which informed the development of our *Sustainable Development Act*. As required under the new *Act*, we will soon initiate the development of a Sustainable Environmental Management Plan and also the appointment of a Round Table on Sustainable Development to help guide the Province towards a sustainable future.

Climate change is one of our most significant environmental challenges. Our efforts in this Province will help in the global battle to reduce greenhouse gases and will also help anticipate and adapt to the local effects of climate change. As part of our commitment we proceeded with the implementation of many of the action items in our *Climate Change Action Plan* (2005). We saw the initiation of idle free zones outside government buildings; movement toward better efficiency standards for government vehicles and buildings; and various education initiatives for government employees and the general public. We will continue the initiation and implementation of the forty items in the Plan and in 2008 we will update the Climate Change Action Plan to reflect recent developments.

The Department initiated a process for public consultations and conflict resolution which will lead to the development of a Natural Areas System Plan for the Province. Twenty-eight eco-regions were delineated and competing and conflicting uses identified in fourteen of these regions. The future will see the development and implementation of a comprehensive plan aimed at the protection of the Province's eco-regions.

The Department also undertook significant park renewal in 2006-2007. We saw considerable infrastructure upgrades in many of the Province's parks including Butter Pot, Pinware River Park and Sir Richard Squires Memorial. We expect to see significant improvements made in the future as well.

As Minister of Environment and Conservation, I take responsibility for and I am accountable for the creation and accuracy of this report.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charlene Johnson".

The Honourable Charlene Johnson
Minister of Environment and Conservation

Overview of Environment and Conservation

The Department of Environment and Conservation was created in February 2004. It is responsible for the protection and enhancement of the environment, management of the Province's wildlife, inland fish, water, parks, and Crown land resources.

Vision

The vision of the Department of Environment and Conservation is a clean, sustainable environment and healthy, resilient ecosystems in perpetuity for the social, physical, cultural, biological and economic well-being of the Province.

Mission

By March 31, 2011 the Department of Environment and Conservation will have reduced the adverse impacts of human activities on the environment to safeguard and improve the health of our ecosystems.

Mandate

The mandate of the Department of Environment and Conservation is derived from various sources:

- The Department of Environment Notice, 2003 under the *Executive Council Act* on matters related to the protection, enhancement and conservation of the quality of the natural environment, including water, air and soil quality; and the conservation, development, control, improvement and proper utilization of the water resources of the province.
- The Department of Government Services and Lands Notice, 2003 under the *Executive Council Act* on matters related to provincial lands.
- The Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation Notice, 2003 under the *Executive Council Act* on matters related to the management, preservation, control, protection and development of provincial parks as defined in the *Provincial Parks Act*; provincial interests in all national parks established in the province by the Government of Canada; and wilderness and ecological reserves as defined in the *Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Act*.
- The Department of Forest Resources and Agrifoods Notice, 2003 under the *Executive Council Act* on matters related to the management, preservation, protection and development of wildlife and inland fisheries. This is a shared responsibility with the Department of Natural Resources.
- The *Wildlife Act* on matters related to wildlife reserves and the Salmonier Nature Park.

Lines of Business

The Department of Environment and Conservation is engaged in the following lines of business:

1. Land Resources;
2. Provincial parks, ecological and wilderness reserves, natural areas, and Canadian Heritage Rivers;
3. Protection of wildlife and inland fish;
4. Coordination of environmental assessments;
5. Prevention of air, soil and water pollution;
6. Water quality, availability and management of water resources;
7. Climate Change; and
8. Sustainable Development and Strategic Science.

For details on the Lines of Business of the Department please see Appendix A.

Staff and Regions

The Department of Environment and Conservation's main offices are located at Confederation Building in St. John's and at Deer Lake and Corner Brook. The Department has satellite offices in other locations in St. John's, Grand Falls-Windsor, Clarenville, Corner Brook, Gander, and Goose Bay. The Department is also responsible for Salmonier Nature Park and numerous provincial parks and wilderness and ecological reserves around the Province. There are fourteen (14) provincial camping parks, six (6) natural and scenic attraction provincial parks, eleven (11) provincial park reserves and the T'Railway Provincial Park completing the current parks system. In addition there are twenty (20) wilderness and ecological reserves, three (3) wildlife reserves and special management areas, and one (1) public reserve. The

Department is responsible for the administration and management of 92% of the Province's land base. The Department had a staff complement of 264 employees, of which 175 were male and 89 were female. Of these 214 were permanent positions and the remaining 50 were temporary, contract or seasonal. During the summer of 2006 the staff complement peaked at 355 with seasonal employees.

Branches

The Department of Environment and Conservation consists of four Branches: Environment, Lands, Natural Heritage and the newly formed Sustainable Development and Strategic Science Branch. These are further subdivided into divisions and sections. The Department also has a Policy and Planning Division, and a Communications Unit. The Institute of Biodiversity, Ecosystem Science and Sustainability (IBES), housed at Memorial University (Sir Wilfred Grenfell College) is an integral component of the Sustainable Development and Strategic Science Branch.

The lines of business in each Branch are primarily knowledge-based and the quality and extent of its products and services depends on a complement of competent professional and technical staff.

Legislative Authority

The Department of Environment and Conservation's mandate is informed by the Acts listed below and their associated regulations. Some aspects of enforcement under the *Environmental Protection Act* and the *Water Resources Act* are administered by the Department

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of Government Services. Some enforcement activities under the *Wildlife Act*, the *Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Act*, and the *Endangered Species Act* are administered by the Department of Natural Resources.

Legislation that is associated with the Department of Environment and Conservation are the:

- *Environmental Protection Act*;
- *Water Resources Act*;
- *Wildlife Act*;
- *Provincial Parks Act*;
- *Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Act*;
- *Endangered Species Act*;

- *Lands Act*;
- *Lands Surveyors Act*;
- *Geographical Names Board Act*;
- *National Parks Lands Act*; and
- *Sustainable Development Act*.

General Revenue and Expenditures (Actual)

The Department's gross expenditure budget for 2006-07 was approximately \$26.7 million with related revenues of approximately \$8.5 million for a net expenditure of approximately \$18.3 million.

Primary Clients and Shared Commitments

Our Primary Clients

- the people of Newfoundland and Labrador;
- municipalities;
- large industries such as the pulp and paper, mining and oil and gas;
- business involved in such areas as pesticide application, waste management, heating oil or refrigeration services, amongst others;
- the engineering and waste management consultant community;
- the academic community and student populations;
- environmental non-governmental organizations;
- consumptive wildlife users, guides, outfitters and others involved in the wildlife industry;
- tourists; and
- the federal government and other provinces, territories and departments.

Entities that Report to the Minister

There are several entities associated with the Department of Environment and Conservation that report to the Minister. These are:

- The Multi-Material Stewardship Board;
- Newfoundland and Labrador Geographical Names Board;
- Species Status Advisory Committee;
- Voisey's Bay Environmental Management Board;

- Wilderness and Ecological Reserve Advisory Council; and
- Caribou Advisory Committee.

Shared Commitments on Strategic Directions

The Department of Environment and Conservation partners with other government entities on its key commitments. These shared commitments reflect a desired outcome that requires action by multiple entities.

The strategic directions that are relevant to this department that have shared commitments are Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management.

Sustainable Development

Sustainable Development is a pan-governmental initiative. Implementation of the legislation will require sharing resources and goals across all departments and sectors. This will require cooperation and shared commitments to succeed in the integration of social, economic and environmental concerns across government and society.

Climate Change

The Department partners with the Department of Transportation and Works, Natural Resources, Municipalities, other provinces and territories, the Government of Canada and New England Governors/ Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG/ECP) to fulfill this strategic requirement.

Solid Waste Management

The Department of Environment and Conservation is leading the development of regulation and standards for the Waste Management Strategy. The Multi-Material Stewardship Board (MMSB) continues to be a key partner in the implementation of the provincial Waste Management Strategy. The MMSB, an agency reporting to the Minister of Environment and Conservation, was established in 1996 to develop, implement and manage a variety of waste diversion programs in accordance with Government priorities. The Department of Municipal Affairs is the lead in implementing the Waste Management Strategy.

Highlights and Accomplishments 2006-2007

The Department of Environment and Conversation has a mission to reduce the adverse impacts of human activities on the environment to safeguard and improve the health of our eco-systems by 2011. Amongst the specific mission objectives there are themes relating to pollution prevention, remediation, regulations and standards, land management, natural areas and parks, water resources, sustainable development, wildlife protection, climate change, biodiversity and ecosystem management. Some specific achievements over the last year include:

- Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) completed at Appleton/Glenwood;
- STPs being constructed in St. John's and Stephenville;
- 4,615 (11.6%) fewer people were on boil water advisories (BWA) for the 2006-2007 year compared to the previous year. The overall number of BWA decreased from 222 to 215;
- One contaminated site clean-up at St. Anthony was completed and a further site cleanup initiated at Upper Trinity South Waste Disposal Site. These are two of five major clean-up projects that the Province intends to undertake by 2011;
- Sixty-one percent, 39 307 of an estimated 64 000, of residential oil tanks were inspected, tagged and registered in compliance with new regulations;
- One standard of the Waste Management Strategy written relating to the construction and

demolition of waste disposal sites. Four in progress relating to municipal solid waste landfill sites, municipal solid waste compost facilities, material recovery facilities, and municipal solid waste transfer stations. Three to be written relating to the closure of non-containment landfills, the education component of waste management facilities and municipal solid waste landfill sites for isolated communities.

- Increased number of species specific management plans by six including:
 - Red Crossbill Recovery Strategy;
 - Barrow's Goldeneye Management Plan;
 - Boreal Felt Lichen Management Plan;
 - Fernald's Milk Vetch Management Plan;
 - Harlequin Duck Management Plan; and
 - Polar Bear Management Plan.
- Improved health of select wildlife populations, for instance, COSEWIC recommended that the Newfoundland marten be listed down from 'endangered' to 'threatened'.
- New programs to monitor

Marten Kit



Courtesy of Wildlife Division

biodiversity included the:

- Damselfly and dragonfly monitoring program ;
 - Butterfly monitoring program;
 - Interdepartmental Biodiversity Working Group ;
 - Initiated Alien Invasive species monitoring program;
 - Bioblitz in Gros Morne National Park; and
 - Mealy Mountain Pollinator Monitoring Project.
- A number of idle-free zones in Government parking lots were created and an awareness campaign was implemented. The Province deployed 270 signs at over 100 government sites across the province of Newfoundland and Labrador. Further, the Government developed policies relating to energy efficient office equipment and government vehicles, hosted fuel efficiency seminars and various education and outreach events related to climate change.
 - The Wildlife Information Management System (WIMS), which is the database housing information on big game, small game, fish and guide licenses in the province, was upgraded in order to make it more user-friendly. This improved access and service to hunters, decreased the demand on front-line staff and provides a platform from which to add additional client and user enhancements in the future.

- Increased percentage of the land base that is being protected: Mistaken Point Extension Emergency Ecological Reserve designated March 16, 2007. Adding 296 ha/ 2.96 km² of land area.

Fossil at Mistaken Point Ecological Reserve



Photo Courtesy of the Department of Environment and Conservation (Doug Boyce)

Wildlife Division

In 2006-2007 the Wildlife Division leveraged over \$2.9 million for cooperative wildlife projects. These projects related to endangered species, such as the Newfoundland marten and limestone barrens plants, hunter education programs, stewardship programs, and wildlife research and management. The Wildlife Division has over 100 partners who work with us on wildlife management and conservation initiatives.

Woodland Caribou



Photo Courtesy of the Department of Tourism and Recreation

The Wildlife Division initiated the Enhanced

Caribou Management Strategy in 2006-

2007. This strategy will re-establish a baseline of information for caribou management and will provide insight into the causes of the current caribou population decline. The Wildlife Division hopes to continue the monitoring of 350 radio collars deployed on female caribou through to 2008 and to continue population surveys and classification work that provide information on caribou demographics. Additional work is underway to determine both the health of island caribou and the status of predator populations. As well, new caribou habitat management guidelines developed by the Wildlife Division were adopted by the Department of Natural Resources and forest industry partners.

Pollution Prevention Division

The Industrial Compliance Section has worked with industry to make significant reductions in air emissions over the past year. Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro's Holyrood thermal generating station switched to 1% sulfur fuel resulting in a 50% reduction in sulfur dioxide and a 40% reduction in particulate matter emissions. The Abitibi Grand Falls Paper Mill installed a new electrostatic precipitator on their main boiler that recovers up to 99% of the particulate matter that would otherwise be released into the atmosphere. Continued improvements at the Come By Chance Oil Refinery further reduced the levels of sulfur dioxide released from the facility.

The Pesticide Control Section saw the addition of two new positions in Pesticide Licensing and Enforcement, leading to more pesticide compliance

inspections and quicker responses to complaint and inquiries.

The Waste Management Section (WMS) received over 200 compliance requests for Phase I Environmental Site Assessment. The Section updated the Federal/Provincial PCB inventory. There are currently six active storage sites in the Province.

Approximately thirteen (13) new certificates of approval were issued by the Department for WMS operations dealing with composting, hazardous and special waste/dangerous goods transportation and storage; and for petroleum and heavy metal contaminated soil treatment facilities. Approximately 2,375,943 kg and 2,800,511 L of hazardous and special waste were diverted from landfills and transported for treatment and destruction outside of the Province.

A successful composting research project was completed for the Department by a Memorial University of Newfoundland student researcher in collaboration with Agriculture Canada and Provincial Agrifoods Division. The project looked at differential growth rates and metals and nutrient uptake for various compost treatments in red cabbage and tomato plants.

The Waste Management Section has been working on the development a waste management strategy for oily debris from large scale marine spills. Currently, research includes a project to identify locally available resources in the event of a major marine spill event in Placentia Bay.

During 2006-2007 our National Air Pollution Surveillance (NAPS) network

of monitoring sites located in St. John's, Mt. Pearl, Grand Falls, Ferolle Point and Corner Brook were updated with DR DAS™ data management software. The software enables better management of the air monitoring data collected at the sites for the determination of air quality throughout the province.

Water Resource Management Division

The Water Rights Section evaluated 141 water use allocation proposals and issued 137 water use licences. The Section continuously updated its Registry of Water Rights which now contains more than 1600 records. The Section works cooperatively with the Nunatsiavut Government on water management and water rights related to Labrador Inuit Land Claims agreement.

The Water Rights Section led a study entitled "Syntheses and Analyses of Water Use Conservation/Efficiency Studies, Leading to Frameworks for a Pilot Study on Performance Indicators and Outreach and Education Mechanisms" for the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment.

The Hydrologic Modelling Section developed a new Automated Data Retrieval System (ADRS) database. The ADRS is used to collect, process and distribute hydrometric, climate and real-time water quality data. A web based application that allows better data management, data browsing/querying and graphing capabilities was also developed. In addition it developed a methodology to handle date-based drinking water quality guidelines. This improves the ability of WRMD to use different methods essential for analysis,

flagging of data that exceeds acceptable levels and value added products such as the Drinking Water Quality Index.

The watersheds for 117 Ambient Water Quality Monitoring stations (WQMA) were outlined and made available to the public through the CANAL (Canada and Newfoundland/Labrador Aqua Link) website. Having this data in Geographical Information System format enhances our ability to be proactive in addressing water quality issues. Public Water Supply Boundaries, Hydrometric Stations and WQMA Stations were published on Google Earth. This makes these key datasets available in this widely used, publicly available format.

The Water Quality Section established seven (7) Real Time Water Quality (RTWQ) stations at Reid Brook, Tailings Dam, Rattling Brook, Gill's Pond Brook, East Pond Brook, Minipi River below Minipi Lake and Southwest Brook below Southwest Pond (Water Supply Intake at the Miawpukek watershed) for a total of 14 RTWQ stations functioning by March 31, 2007.

The Surface Water Section released the annual Drinking Water Safety report for April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006. Nine water supply areas were protected, six (6) were amended and one was repealed. Five active watershed management committees were operational. A municipal guide to the development of watershed management plans was prepared.

A new sewage outfalls database was developed. A supporting web application was created to allow Community Water and Wastewater Section staff improved

ability to input and review sewage outfall data. This allows all WRMD staff to view sewage outfall locations and associated data such as pictures.

The Community Water and Wastewater Section saw two new water treatment plants (Windsor Lake in St. John's and in Gander) become operational. Two potable water dispensing units (Howley and St. Lawrence) became operational.

Parks and Natural Areas Division

Parks and Natural Areas Division planned for the introduction of a campsite reservation system for its fourteen (14) campsite parks. This new reservation system will much enhance service through both 1-800 and web based reservations systems. The new system makes available 768 of the 1011 sites for reservations which greatly increases the proportion of sites which are available from those under the previous telephone system from 16% to 76%. The system was scheduled to go online May of 2007 and provides a comprehensive and flexible system that increases user access and simplifies the use of our Provincial Parks system.

The Province re-initiated a Natural Area System Plan in 2006-2007. The purpose of the Plan is to identify study areas that will advance the implementation of the Province's protected areas strategy and conserve examples of the province's rich Natural heritage and biodiversity. The initial goals were to develop the plan, consult with the public, create a process for conflict resolution and identify the province's representative regions. With the exception of public consultations

these goals were met for the 2006-2007 year.

Parks and Park Renewal is a major strategic issue for the Province. Not only do parks provide protected natural habitat areas they also provide important tourism services and public access to the natural environment for all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians. Over the previous year, Parks and Natural Areas Division completed all of its Strategic Issue goals and it intends to complete Park upgrades over the next year to include comfort stations, more campsites, electrification and other amenities that the public have been demanding. Parks and Natural Areas is looking forward to providing these improved services.

Climate Change

The Policy and Planning Division has been working diligently to implement the Actions in the *Climate Change Action Plan* (2005). Climate Change has been of increasing concern for the public and media across Newfoundland and Labrador.



We are happy to report that as of March 31, 2007 the Province has initiated 36 of 40 items in the *Climate Change Action Plan*. We hope to continue with this success by moving forward with new initiatives aimed at reducing greenhouse gases and increasing the adaptive capacity of our communities to deal with the future effects of climate change.

Coastal and Ocean Management Strategy and Policy Framework

The Policy and Planning Division is working cooperatively with the provincial Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture to complete a Provincial Coastal and Ocean Management Strategy and Policy Framework. The Department of Environment and Conservation has a strong interest in coastal and ocean management including: marine oil spills and debris; impacts of climate change on the ocean and coastal areas; coastal zone planning and development; presence of ecological reserves in coastal areas; protection of marine areas and marine biodiversity; marine pollution from land-based sources; as well as, alien invasive species and the introduction and transfer of aquatic organisms. The Coastal and Ocean Management Strategy and Policy Framework Discussion Document is scheduled for release in 2007.

Sustainable Development and Strategic Science

In May of 2006 the Sustainable Development and Strategic Science (SDSS) Branch, in cooperation with the Policy and Planning Division, released *A Discussion Document on Sustainable Development* to highlight the various issues of Sustainable Development related to the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

In 2006-2007 the Department undertook ten public consultation sessions on Sustainable Development across the province. This resulted in a "What We Heard" document where the comment and suggestions from the public and various stakeholders were integrated. The comments were used to help

develop recommendations for the Sustainable Development Act.

The department is studying caribou calves mortality as part of its efforts to arrest the decline of the woodland caribou population in Newfoundland and Labrador. This initiative is part of a larger caribou research and management strategy designed to assess caribou populations on the island of Newfoundland.

SDSS participated in the successful pilot of the Environmental Science Curriculum (ESC) in our K-12 school system. It is a unique multi-agency partnership initiative between Departments of Education and Environment and Conservation and a number of other provincial (5) and federal (5) departments and one non-profit organization. The combined efforts of the partners are creating a new high school environmental science resource which is current, relevant to Newfoundland and Labrador issues, and developed through local expertise. ESC focuses on the critical thinking and decision making skills associated with the issues of natural resources of our province.

Institute for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Science and Sustainability (IBES)

IBES is a joint initiative between Memorial University of Newfoundland and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador through the Department of Environment and Conservation. IBES functions as the formal linkage between government departments and the academic research

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community and facilitates the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. IBES has been very successful in student participation over the last five years with 18 science projects successfully implemented. Project opportunities and diversity continue to increase as 17 new projects have been proposed. Universities now engaged with IBES research include:

- Memorial University (Newfoundland and Labrador);
- Trent University (Ontario);
- Laurentian University (Ontario);
- Dresden University (Germany);
- University of York (UK); and
- University of East Anglia (UK).

Strategic Issues—Outcomes and Objectives

Issue: Natural Areas System Plan

Budget 2006 committed \$259,000 per year for two years for the development of a Natural Areas System Plan. The Natural Areas System Plan is in line with Government's commitment to sustainable development as well as Newfoundland and Labrador's commitments to the National Forest Strategy and Canadian Biodiversity Strategy.

The goal represents the stage that the Department can expect to have reached by the end of two years, rather than a final well-being outcome for the Province related to the protection of eco-regions. It is expected that it will take two years to identify the representative examples, to develop an appropriate plan, and to begin implementation.

Goal: *By March 31, 2008, the Department of Environment and Conservation will have identified a representative example of each of the Province's eco-regions and have initiated implementation of a strategy for the protection of the Province's eco-regions.*

2006-2007 Outcomes, Measures and Indicators

Objective 1: By March 31, 2007, the Department of Environment and Conservation will have areas identified and established the processes for conflict resolution and public consultation.

Performance Measure 1: Identified regions

Indicator: Document prepared which identifies target regions.

Outcome: Document Prepared that identified 28 candidate target areas.

Indicator: Natural Areas System Plan is communicated publicly.

Outcome: Indicator not met. Public discussion document and communications plan are being prepared. The process for conflict resolutions has been extensive and involved due to the complexity and extended discussions to address conflicts.

Performance Measure 2: Process for conflict resolution

Indicator: Consultations have commenced with Government departments and stakeholders.

Outcome: In process: Interdepartmental working committee to review areas. Fourteen areas have conflict resolution in process, fourteen remaining. No stakeholder consultations have been done to date.

Indicator: Where necessary, recommendations will have been made to reconcile competing and conflicting uses.

Outcome: Interdepartmental Committee in place to resolve conflicts.

Indicator: Whether the process has been adopted.

Outcome: Process adopted.

Performance Measure 3: Process for public consultation.

Indicator: Document will be prepared outlining the process for public consultation.

Outcome: Public Consultation document is being prepared.

2007-2008 Objectives, Measures and Indicators

Objective 2: By March 31, 2008, the Department of Environment and Conservation will have identified a representative example of each of the Province's eco-regions.

A Natural Areas System Plan will be developed to support Government's commitment to Sustainable Development as well as Newfoundland and Labrador's commitments to the National Forest Strategy and Canadian Biodiversity Strategy.

Performance Measure 1: Initiated Implementation of Protection of a representative example of the Province's eco-regions.

Indicator: Natural Areas System Plan initiated.

Issue: Climate Change

Climate change is an issue of national and international importance: the change

in climate has the potential to alter the functioning of the global ecosystem while strategies for dealing with this

issue are also transforming the economy. There has been considerable activity at the federal-provincial level on this issue. The Government of Canada signed the Kyoto Protocol which requires Canada to lower its greenhouse gas emissions by 6% below the 1990s levels. In April 2005, Newfoundland and Labrador signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the federal government on addressing climate change. Government then released the Newfoundland and Labrador Climate Change Action Plan in July 2005, which outlines 40 action items around reduction of greenhouse gases and adaptation to climate change. The provincial government will carry out its climate change objectives as the

budget allows and, where possible, will collaborate with the federal government to achieve these objectives.

Climate change is a long-term problem: even if we are successful in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, climate change is expected to continue for at least a century simply based on the level of gases currently in the atmosphere. This means that Government's response to climate change must also be long-term. Many of the actions in the Provincial Plan are not intended to be one-time activities. For this reason, the goal over the next two years is to have commenced implementation of the activities in the Plan.

Goal: *By March 31, 2008, the Department of Environment and Conservation will have commenced the implementation of the action items of the provincial Climate Change Plan which focus on reduction of greenhouse gases and adaptation to climate change.*

2006-2007 Outcomes, Measures and Indicators

Objective 1: By March 31, 2007, the Department of Environment and Conservation will have implemented select items of the Provincial Government's Climate Change Action Plan internal to the provincial government.

Performance Measure 1: Implementation of select action items.

Indicator: The development of a Government policy on the use of energy efficient office equipment.

Outcome: Development of policies relating to energy efficient office equipment is ongoing.

Indicator: The number of idle-free zones in Government parking lots.

Outcome: 270 signs deployed at over 100 government sites across the province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Indicator: The development and implementation of new standards for Government vehicles.

Outcome: Department of Environment and Conservation in cooperation with Transportation and Works created and plans to implement policies relating to energy efficiency of government vehicles.

Indicator: The number of vehicle fuel efficiency seminars undertaken (e.g. FleetSmart).

Outcome: ENVC in cooperation with Transportation and Works has initiated a program aimed at all staff operating heavy equipment. All critical staff trained in efficiency seminars.

Indicator: The number of education / outreach events organized for Government employees.

Outcome: The Division of Policy and Planning has undertaken various education and outreach events for government employees. These included seminars on hybrid cars, information booths on Idle Free Zones and distribution of information through newsletters. It has also coordinated several presentations of *An Inconvenient Truth* by Al Gore most notably a public showing at The Rooms Provincial Museum.

2007-2008 Objectives, Measures and Indicators

Objective 2: By March 31, **2008**, the Department of Environment and Conservation will have commenced the implementation of the remaining action items of the *Climate Change Action Plan*.

Performance Measure 1: Remaining items initiated.

Indicator: Begin implementation of forty action items initiated.

Indicator: Annual Status Report on the Implementation of the provincial *Climate Change Action Plan* released.

Issue: Park Renewal

Provincial Parks are an important tourism resource for the Province, but the park infrastructure is aging and not

keeping pace with consumer demand. In 1995, a Task Force on Provincial Parks recommended to Cabinet that a recapitalization program was needed. This year, a multi-year renewal program

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started that will see upgrades to the parks including comfort stations, campground expansions and interpretation centres.

The goal for this issue should be viewed as a stepping stone toward development

of a comprehensive plan for recapitalization of the provincial parks. The initiative will proceed beyond 2008 as the Department's budget allows.

Goal: *By March 31, 2008, the Department of Environment and Conservation will have begun upgrades on select provincial parks on a priority basis and completed a Park Renewal Master Plan.*

2006-2007 Outcomes, Measures and Indicators

Objective 1: By March 31, 2007, the Department of Environment and Conservation will have begun infrastructure upgrades in select provincial parks.

Performance Measure: Completed comfort stations.

Indicator: Upgrading in three parks.

Outcome: Comfort Stations (washing and hygiene facilities) completed in Butter Pot Park, Pinware River Park, and initiated in Sir Richard Squires Memorial Park.

2007-2008 Objectives, Measures and Indicators

Objective 2: By March 31, 2008, the Department of Environment and Conservation will have completed a Park Renewal Master Plan for all parks and continued upgrading of select provincial parks.

Performance Measure 1: Development of a Park Renewal Master Plan.

Indicator: Draft Park Renewal Master Plan document prepared.

Performance Measure 2: Upgrading Selected Parks.

Indicator: Three dumping stations

Indicator: Three comfort stations

Indicator: Interpretation centres

Indicator: Trails

Indicator: Electrification
Indicator: Campground expansion

Issue: Sustainable Development

The development and implementation of a Sustainable Development Act was identified as a commitment in the Throne Speeches of 2004 and 2005. The proposed Sustainable Development legislation is intended be the legislative framework for a Strategic Environmental Management Plan.

As with climate change, sustainable development is a long-term

commitment on the part of Government. The outcomes of Government's Sustainable Development initiative will not likely be visible in a two-year time frame. Within this short period, Government will have created the mechanisms such as an Act, the Round Table and the Strategic Environmental Management Plan that will lay the foundation for a more sustainable society.

Goal: *By March 31, 2008, the Department of Environment and Conservation will have commenced implementation of the sustainable development initiative.*

2006-2007 Outcomes, Measures and Indicators

Objective 1: By March 31, 2007, the Department of Environment and Conservation will have developed draft sustainable development legislation and conducted public consultations on the Sustainable Development process.

Performance Measure: Public consultations (including opportunities for equitable participation of women).

Indicator: Report submitted on public consultations.
Outcome: Report completed and is being reviewed for release.

Performance Measure: Draft legislation.

Indicator: Recommendations made on content of legislation.
Outcome: Recommendations made.

2007-2008 Objectives, Measures and Indicators

Objective 2: By March 31, 2008, the Department of Environment and Conservation will have commenced implementation of the Sustainable Development initiative.

Create the mechanisms such as the Act, the Round Table and the Strategic Environmental Management Plan that will lay the foundation for a more sustainable society.

Performance Measure: Commenced implementation of the Sustainable Development initiative.

Indicator: Development of the Sustainable Environmental Management Plan Initiated.

Indicator: Legislation passed.

Indicator: Mechanisms proposed for establishing and operating a Round Table.

Opportunities and Challenges Ahead

The strategic issues of the Department of Environment and Conservation over the next year include Sustainable Development, Provincial Land Management, the Natural Areas System Plan, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management. There are specific opportunities and challenges that we must address.

Wildlife Division

The Wildlife Division has major opportunities for the future. One major ecological question that the Division faces is to understand the current population decline in the island's woodland caribou population and understanding the role of coyotes in our ecosystems. The department has an interest in clarifying the roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders in wildlife research and management to ensure better cooperation and management of wildlife in the Province. An opportunity and challenge will be the implementation of a province-wide information and education program for wildlife management and conservation without a regional support structure.

Sustainable Development

The Sustainable Development Initiative will require the formation of the Round Table and its associated administrative structures. There will be the requirement of expanding the capacity of the Sustainable Development and Strategic Science Branch to facilitate the sustainable stewardship of

our Province's environmental, social and cultural resources. Further to this the Branch will be intensely involved in developing a Sustainable Environmental Management Plan that will act to operationalize the principles of sustainability across the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and all sectors of society. SDSS Branch will also continue developing and initiating its Environmental Science Curriculum Project, expand the research into caribou calf mortality and continue to expand the roles and capabilities of IBES.

Climate Change/NL Green Fund

Climate Change remains one of our biggest challenges. The resources needed to affect reductions in greenhouse gases are considerable. The Province is well on its way towards reducing its greenhouse gas emissions and will proceed to update its Climate Change Action Plan to ensure that this happens. Our challenge is to develop new and efficient methods for affecting this change. We will need to create better linkages with other levels of government and with our provincial and territorial partners. For example the Federal Government has granted the Province \$23 million in *ecoAction* "Trust Fund" that we will use to finance various initiatives and programs that show concrete reductions in greenhouse gases through our own *Newfoundland and Labrador Green Fund*. This is a major opportunity for the province to reduce our effects on the environment.

Parks and Natural Areas

Parks and Natural Areas hopes to see the Main River Provincial Park created in the near future. This will make an excellent addition to the existing Main River waterway as a Canadian Heritage River. The Main River passes through terrain that is home to 70 species of bird, caribou from the Northern Peninsula herd, many kinds of waterfowl, as well as moose, black bear, and the endangered Newfoundland marten. Atlantic salmon and brook trout swim in its waters. Its unique ecosystems belong to two of the province's ecoregions.

The Natural Areas System Plan (NASP) is ongoing and represents an excellent opportunity for the Department to take management control of its natural areas. The Parks and Natural Areas Division hopes to complete the Plan and initiate sustainable management and protection of the natural areas of the Province. The challenge is to complete data collection of the 28 identified regions, continue the productive forest analysis for the NASP and resolve possible land use conflicts. The goal is to complete a Natural Areas Systems Plan that will set out the policies and guidance to effectively manage our natural areas.

Financial Statements

Department of Environment and Conservation
Statement of Expenditure and Related Revenue
For the Year Ending March 31, 2007

	Actual
Executive Support and Services	
Minister's Office	\$ 235 986
Executive Support	1 138 575
Administrative Support	435 084
Policy Development and Planning	481 358
Administrative Support (Capital)	891 502
Total	\$ 3 182 505
Environmental Management & Control	
Environmental Management (Pollution Prevention)	\$ 2 290 079
Water Resources Management	2 143 256
Environmental Assessment	636 864
Total	\$ 5 070 199
Lands	
Crown Land	\$ 2 794 502
Land Management & Development	(6 087 364)
Surveying & Mapping	918 584
Geomatics Agreements	98 407
Total	\$ (2 275 871)
Parks & Natural Areas	
Parks and Natural Areas	\$ 4 098 304
Park Development	149 640
Total	\$ 4 247 944

Continued...

2006-2007 Annual Performance Report

Wildlife

Administration, Licensing and Operations	\$ 1 278 326
Endangered Species and Biodiversity	428 541
Stewardship and Education	428 541
Habitat, Game and Fur Management	2 310 611
Research	2 472 984
Cooperative Wildlife Projects	312 378
Institute for Biodiversity, Ecosystem Science and Sustainability	285 348
Total	\$ 8 048 419

Total Net Expenditure	\$ 18 273 196
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Expenditure and revenue figures included in this document are based on public information provided in the *Report on the Program Expenditures and Revenues of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for Fiscal Year Ended 31 March 2007*.

Appendix A

1. Land Resources

The Department of Environment and Conservation is responsible for the administration and management of the province's land resources. In particular the Department:

- maintains a map and air photo library services;
- maintains the Provincial Crown Lands Registry;
- investigates adverse land claims;
- reviews and inspects legal surveys;
- prepares legal documents of title for all dispositions of Crown Land;
- produces and distributes topographic base maps for provincial departments and agencies;
- provides the geodetic reference system for legal and engineering surveys and topographic mapping;
- provides new aerial photography; a repository/archive of provincial aerial photography; and scanning/printing services;
- facilitates the official naming of geographical features and place names and maintains the joint federal/provincial data base;
- provides the central data-store and on-line base layers for GIS applications;
- provides standards and consultation services in geomatics;
- facilitates federal/provincial collaboration in geomatics (Building the Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure (CGDI) under the Canadian Geomatics Accord);
- produces Crown title maps;
- develops land use management plans;
- maintains the Land Use Atlas;
- enforces lands legislation and addresses incidents of unauthorized occupation of Crown land;
- coordinates within Government the inter-departmental review of crown land development (ILUC);
- develops land use policy; and
- administers the leasing, sales and transfers of Crown land.

2. Provincial parks, ecological and wilderness reserves, natural areas, and Canadian Heritage Rivers

The Department of Environment and Conservation is responsible for:

- the management and administration of provincial parks (the Newfoundland T'Railway Provincial Park is jointly managed by a special T'Railway council);
- designation and management of wilderness and ecological reserves under the *Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Act*;
- development and implementation of environmental education programs within select provincial parks and wilderness/ecological reserves;

- implementation of protection measures for Canadian Heritage Rivers in the province;
- negotiation of the land transfer to the federal government for National Parks; and
- issuance of various permits for provincial parks, ecological and wilderness reserves:
 - entry permit;
 - commercial operator permit;
 - commercial operator permit – tour boat;
 - educational tour permit;
 - scientific research permit;
 - seabird ecological reserve special access permit; and
 - seabird ecological reserve guide permit.

3. Protection of wildlife and inland fish

The Department of Environment and Conservation protects, manages and conserves the Province's biodiversity, wildlife resources and wildlife habitat. This includes:

- determining the status of species in the Province according to the national Accord for the Conservation of Species at Risk to which the Province is a signatory;
- designating species at risk according to the *Endangered Species Act*;
- developing recovery strategies for species at risk according to the *Endangered Species Act*;
- designating and managing wildlife areas;
- developing recovery strategies for species at risk according to *Endangered Species Act*;
- administering the Salmonier Nature Park;
- developing management plans for consumptive species which are then published in the annual hunting and trapping guide;
- issuing hunting and trapping licenses:
 - Beaver trapline licenses;
 - General trapper's licenses;
 - Moose and caribou licenses;
 - Spring and fall black bear licenses; and
 - Small Game and Furbearing licenses;
- issuing Newfoundland and Labrador Guide licenses and disabled anglers hunting and fishing licenses;
- providing firearm safety / hunter education courses and trapper education courses;
- providing assistance in the development of agreements to support wetland stewardship initiatives;
- reviewing development activities and recommending mitigation measures that are intended to minimize impacts on wildlife and wildlife habitat;
- providing research to support wildlife management activities; and
- publishing reports and general information.

4. Coordination of environmental assessments

The Department of Environment and Conservation coordinates the provincial environmental assessment process for new development, which includes:

- registration and screening of undertakings;
- actively soliciting public input into registered undertakings;
- conducting further environmental assessment of undertakings;
- communicating environmental science pertaining to registered undertakings;
- releasing projects from the environmental assessment process; and
- conducting select surveillance on projects released from the environmental assessment process.

5. Prevention of air, soil and water pollution

The Department of Environment and Conservation is responsible for prevention of pollution of the Province's air, water and soil ecosystems. Responsibilities include:

- preparing and issuing Certificates of Approval and licenses for
 - industrial operations;
 - waste management systems (in collaboration with Government Services Centre);
 - waste dangerous goods transporters;
 - pesticide operators and applicators; and
 - heating oil storage tank inspectors;
- developing policies, guidelines, protocols, and regulations;
- enforcing Certificates of Approval, license conditions and legislation through
 - inspections, other than those done by Government Services Centre;
 - the development of environmental monitoring programs in collaboration with industry;
 - audits of the environmental monitoring programs;
 - audits of environmental laboratories; and
 - the monitoring of criteria air contaminants;
- management of contaminated sites (both commercial and residential) and risk assessments based on environmental site assessments;
- providing technical advice and outreach;
- managing remediation of select industrial and military contaminated sites that are the responsibility of Government;
- maintaining a contaminated sites registry; and
- providing select reports and information to the public.

6. Water quality, availability and management of water resources

The Department of Environment and Conservation ensures that the Province's water resources are protected, conserved and enhanced to provide the greatest possible sustainable benefits to the Province. Responsibilities include:

- designation of protected water supply areas and protected wellheads;
- monitoring and analysis of chemical water quality of community water supplies;

- issuance of well driller licenses;
- inspection of water well structures in accordance with requirements of the Well Drilling Regulations;
- comprehensive training for municipal water operators of community water and wastewater systems;
- hydrologic modeling;
- investigation of water-related problems and complaints
- overseeing inspections of dams
- granting of water rights;
- maintenance of a water rights registry;
- issuance of permits for community water and sewage systems, extensions and alterations;
- monitoring and inspecting of community water and wastewater systems;
- providing of technical assistance on community water and sewage, hydrology, hydraulics, and environmental design of water related structures;
- maintenance of various online water quality and quantity databases and GIS resources;
- conducting studies on groundwater resources, flooding, water resource impacts and water use;
- preparation of an annual drinking water report;
- development of policy guidelines; and
- production of technical reports.

7. Climate Change

The Department of Environment and Conservation is the lead on the Province's response to the issue of climate change. Specifically, the Department is responsible for:

- Preparation and implementation of the provincial Climate Change Action Plan;
- Reporting on the implementation of the Action Plan;
- Facilitating stakeholder access to federal climate change funding;
- Creating stakeholder awareness around climate change;
- Provincial Coastal and Ocean Management Strategy and Policy Framework; and
- Administration of the \$23M federal ecoAction Trust fund to reduce greenhouse gasses.

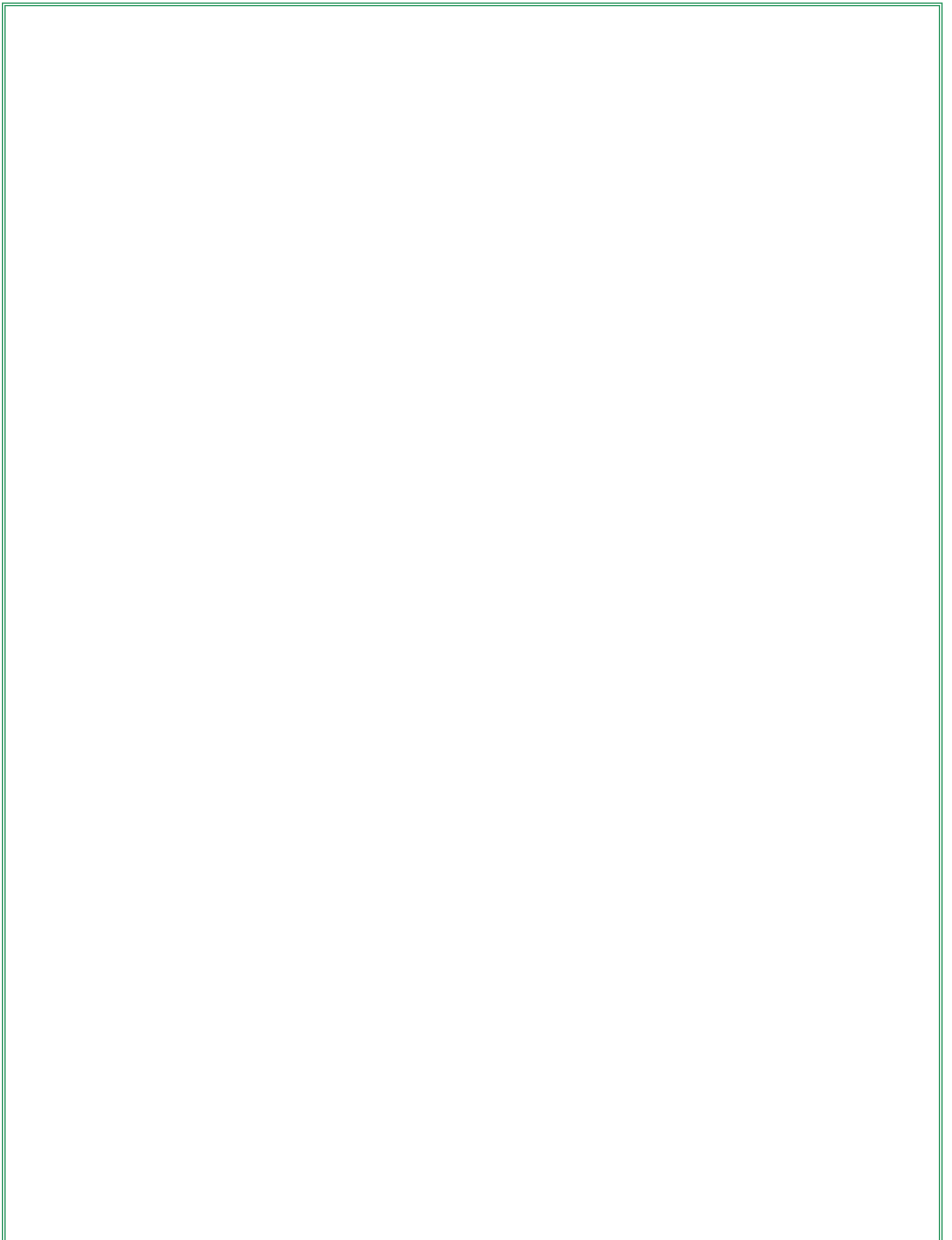
8. Sustainable Development and Strategic Science

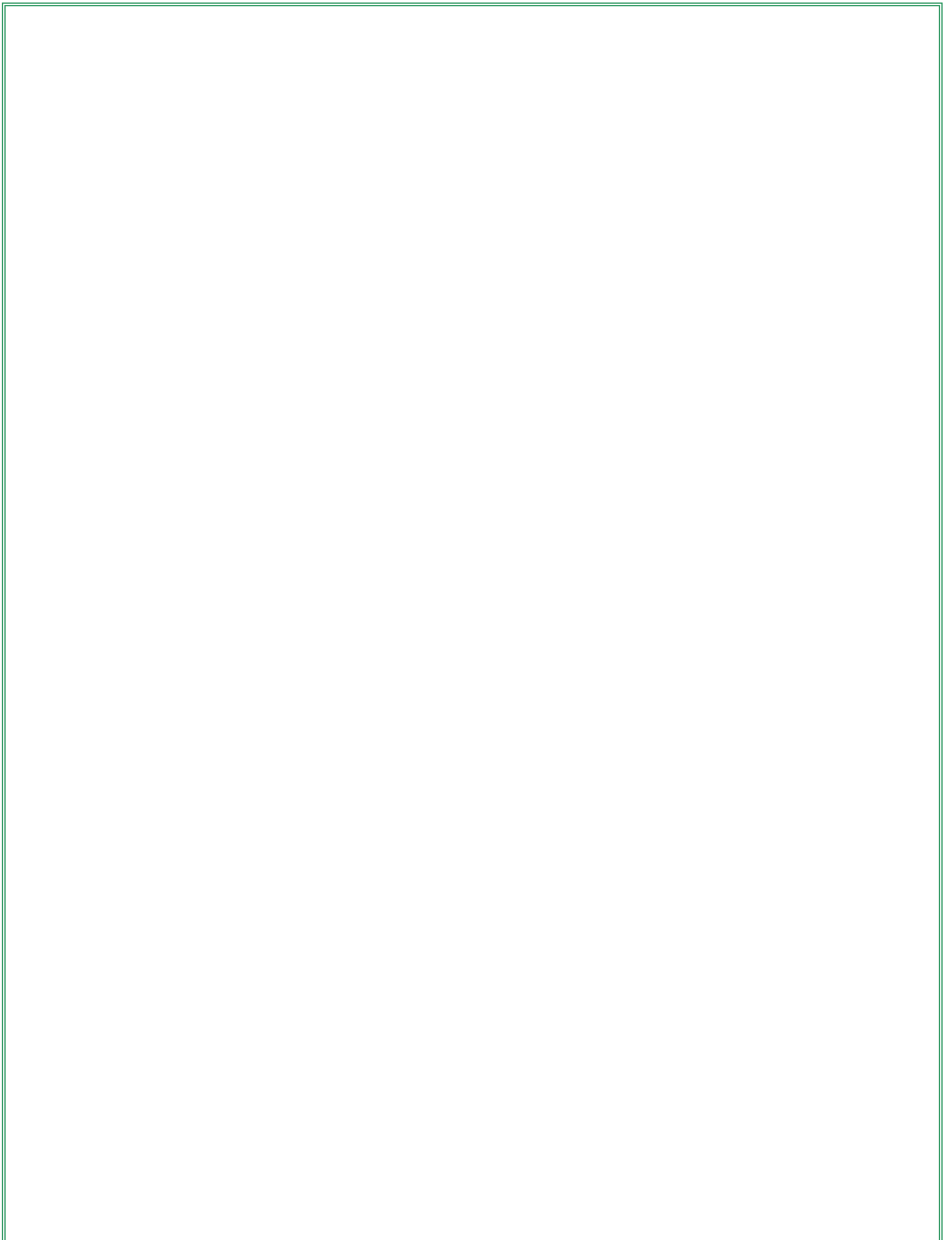
The Department of Environment and Conservation is the lead on Government's Sustainable Development Initiative, which includes:

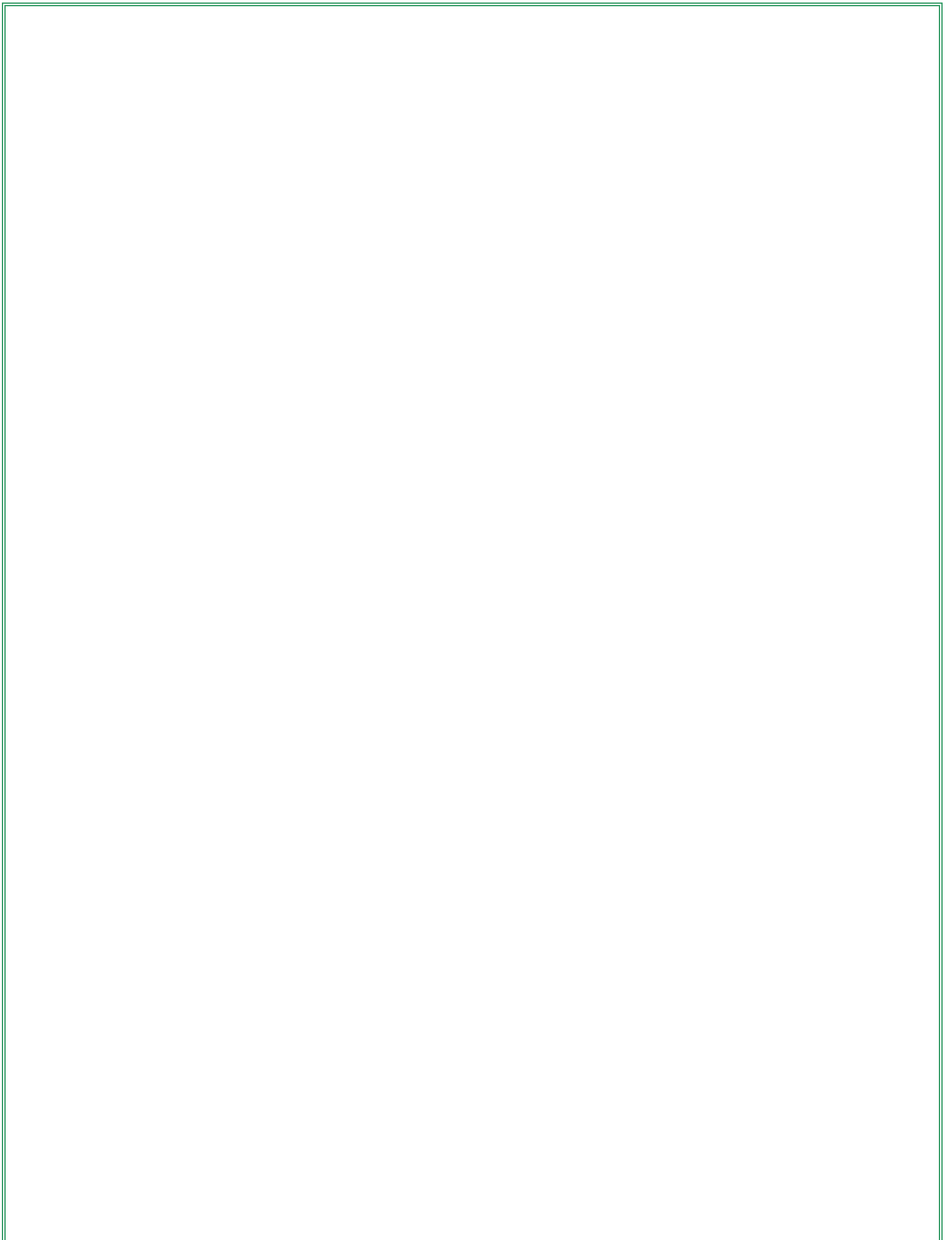
- Preparing recommendations for a Sustainable Development Act;
- Soliciting from the public industry and the academic community input into a Sustainable Development Act;
- Liaising with the public, industry and the academic community to identify research opportunities;

- Communicating with the academic community through the Institute for Biodiversity and Ecosystems Science on science expertise on issues related to resource and sustainability projects; and
- Public Outreach and Education.











Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Department of Environment and Conservation

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