

Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture

# Strategic Plan

2020 - 2023





# Table of Contents

Minister's Message.....	1
Overview .....	2
Staff Complement .....	3
Online Services.....	4
Service Standards.....	6
Horizontal Initiatives.....	7
Contact Information.....	7
Mandate.....	8
Budget .....	8
Lines of Business .....	9
Animal Health.....	9
Education and Awareness .....	10
Licensing/Permitting.....	11
Inspection, Compliance, and Regulatory Enforcement .....	12
Marketing .....	13
Resource Research and Development .....	14
Sustainable Resource Management .....	16
Conservation.....	17
Primary Clients.....	18

Vision.....	19
Strategic Issues.....	19
Strategic Issue 1 - Maximizing the Benefits of Renewable Resources .....	19
Goal .....	21
Goal Indicators.....	21
Objective 2020-2021 .....	21
Indicators .....	21
Objective 2021-2022 .....	22
Objective 2022-2023 .....	22
Strategic Issue 2 - Food Safety, Security, and Self-Sufficiency .....	22
Goal .....	24
Goal Indicators.....	24
Objective 2020-2021 .....	24
Indicators .....	25
Objective 2021-2022 .....	25
Objective 2022-2023 .....	25
Annex A – Strategic Directions.....	i
Annex B – Inactive Entities.....	ii

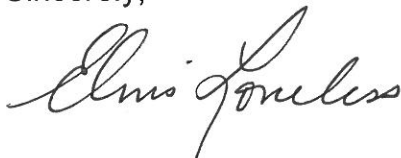
### Minister's Message

In accordance with government's commitment to transparency and accountability, I am pleased to submit to the House of Assembly and the people of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture's 2020-23 Strategic Plan. As Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture, I am accountable for the preparation of this plan and the achievement of the goals and objectives contained therein.

As a Category 1 government entity, under the **Transparency and Accountability Act** (the Act), the department is required to plan at an outcomes level and table a strategic plan every three years. In accordance with the Act, this document identifies the key areas the department will focus on during the planning period, in accordance with the Act, and consideration of the strategic directions of government, the department's mandate, and its fiscal resources.

Through the goals and objectives outlined in this strategic plan, the department will further contribute to its vision of sustainable renewable resources that are responsibly developed for the social, cultural, ecological, and economic well-being of the province.

Sincerely,



**HONOURABLE ELVIS LOVELESS, MHA**  
Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture

### Overview

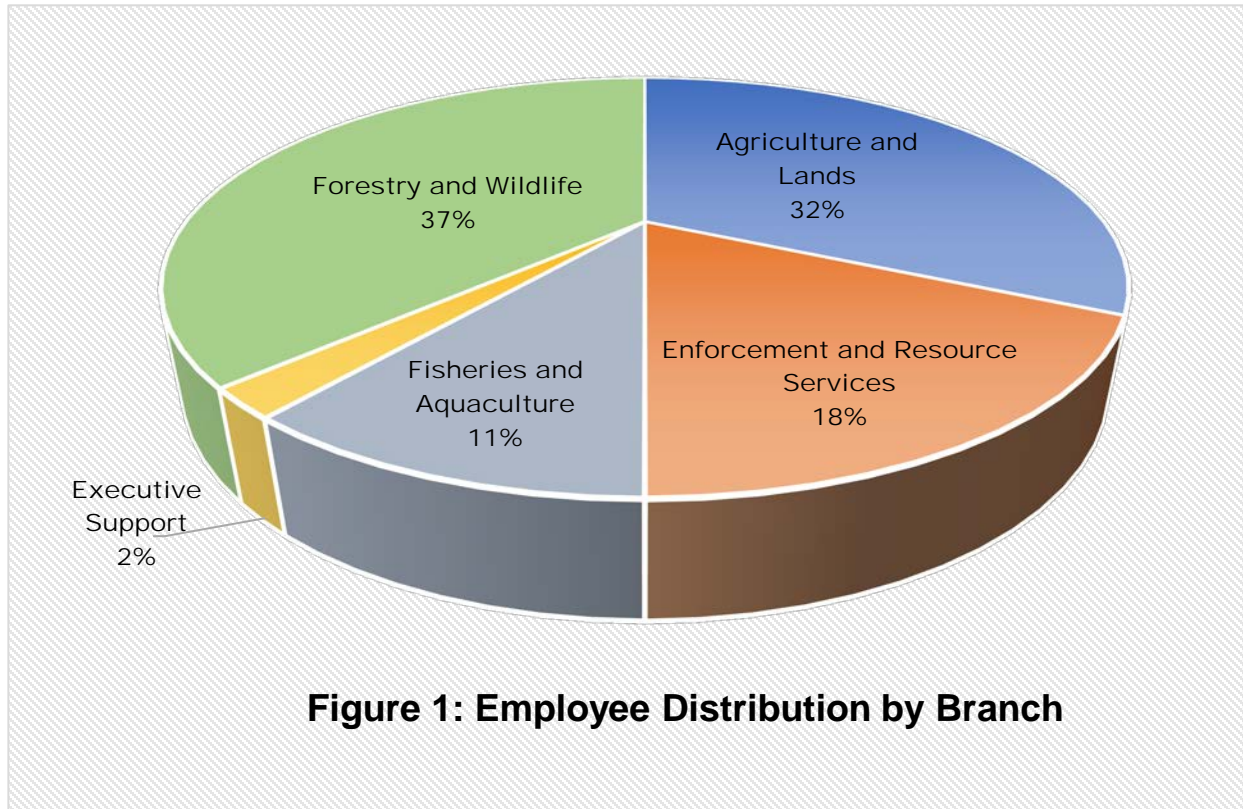
The Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture (FFA), formerly known as the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources, is a Category 1 government entity under the **Transparency and Accountability Act**. FFA supports and encourages the development and sustainability of the province's fishing, aquaculture, agriculture, and forestry industries, as well as Crown lands and wildlife. Its main responsibilities include:

- Licensing and regulating the province's aquaculture, fish processing, and forestry sectors;
- Effectively and sustainably managing and developing the province's aquaculture sector;
- Supporting the strategic development of renewable resources as a key pillar of economic growth within the province;
- Promoting the further development and diversification of competitive and sustainable agriculture businesses;
- Serving as stewards of the province's forests for the benefit of all residents; and,
- Conserving and protecting the province's inland fish, wildlife, forestry, and land resources.

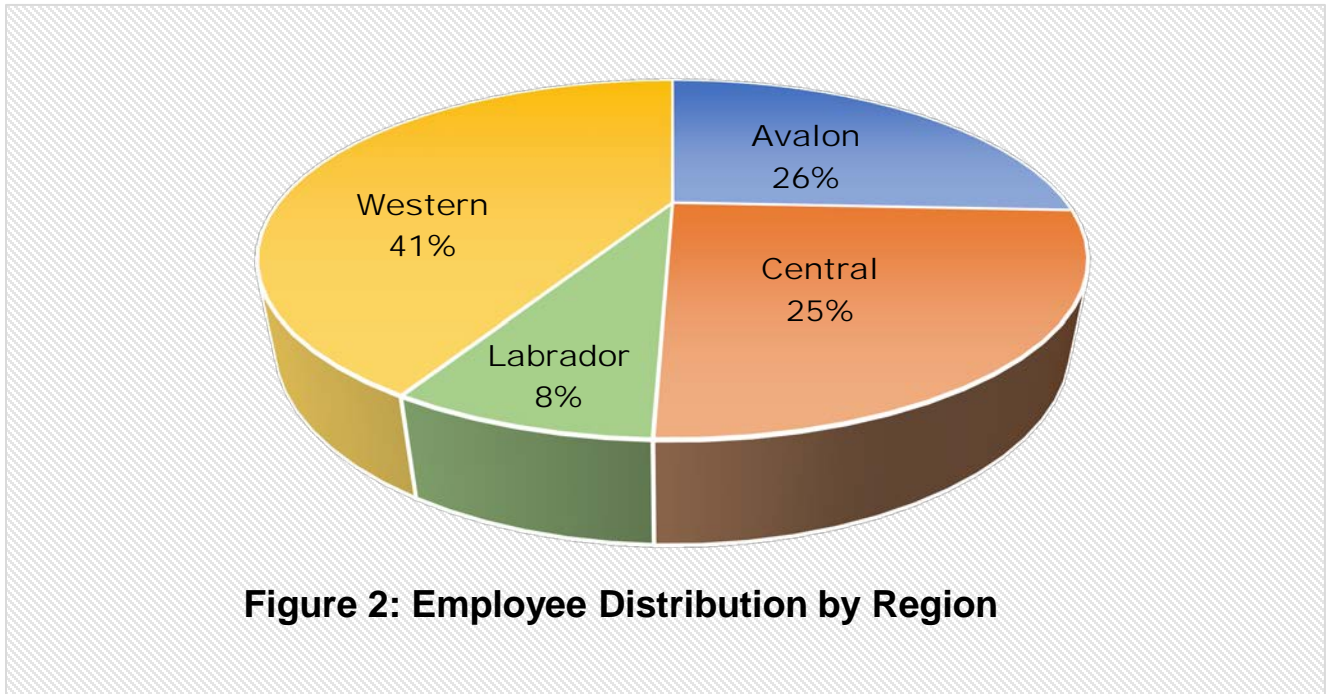
In addition, the department is responsible for conservation, marketing, sustainable development, and diversification efforts for sectors under its mandate. For additional information, please visit the department's website at: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/ffa/>.

## Staff Complement

As of March 31, 2020, the department had 552 employees and 911 positions (a significant number of seasonal positions start later in the spring). The distribution of employees among the four branches of the department is shown in Figure 1 below.



The department is headquartered in St. John's, with a total of 85 office locations in 48 communities throughout the province. Figure 2 shows the geographical distribution of employees throughout the province. Additionally, the department is comprised of 59 per cent male employees and 41 per cent female employees.



**Figure 2: Employee Distribution by Region**

## Online Services

The department offers a growing number of its services online. A current listing of online services is in the table below.

Fish Processing, Fish Buyers, and Aquaculture Site Licensing and Development - Online Services	Frequently Asked Questions: <a href="https://www.gov.nl.ca/ffa/fishaq/online-services/faq/">https://www.gov.nl.ca/ffa/fishaq/online-services/faq/</a>  Portal Access: <a href="https://licensing.eservices.gov.nl.ca/citizenaccess/">https://licensing.eservices.gov.nl.ca/citizenaccess/</a>
Crown Lands Appointments, Applications and Fee payments	<a href="#">Crown Lands Appointment Booker</a>  Guidelines for the Preparation of Applications for Crown Lands: <a href="https://www.gov.nl.ca/ffa/files/lands-forms-pdf-crown-lands-application-guidelines.pdf">https://www.gov.nl.ca/ffa/files/lands-forms-pdf-crown-lands-application-guidelines.pdf</a>



## Strategic Plan 2020-23

	<p>Crown Lands Application:  <a href="https://www.gov.nl.ca/ffa/files/lands-forms-pdf-crown-lands-application.pdf">https://www.gov.nl.ca/ffa/files/lands-forms-pdf-crown-lands-application.pdf</a></p> <p>Crown Lands Application Fee Payment:  <a href="https://onlinepayments.gov.nl.ca/OnlinePayments/index.jsp">https://onlinepayments.gov.nl.ca/OnlinePayments/index.jsp</a></p> <p>Crown Lands Annual Invoices:  <a href="https://onlinepayments.gov.nl.ca/OnlinePayments/index.jsp">https://onlinepayments.gov.nl.ca/OnlinePayments/index.jsp</a></p>
Digital Air Photo, Data, and Map Sales	<a href="https://www.gov.nl.ca/ffa/lands/maps/aerialphotos/">https://www.gov.nl.ca/ffa/lands/maps/aerialphotos/</a>
Domestic Cutting Permit Renewal Application	<a href="https://apps.gov.nl.ca/forestry/form/form/edit/?template_system_id=DOMESTIC_WOOD_CUTTING_PERMIT">https://apps.gov.nl.ca/forestry/form/form/edit/?template_system_id=DOMESTIC_WOOD_CUTTING_PERMIT</a>
Report suspected poaching or illegal activity	<a href="https://www.gov.nl.ca/feedback/report-poaching/">https://www.gov.nl.ca/feedback/report-poaching/</a> <a href="http://www.stoppoaching.ca">www.stoppoaching.ca</a>
Forest Fire Hazard Mapping	<p>Observed readings for current date:  <a href="https://www.gov.nl.ca/ffa/public-education/forestry/forest-fires/fire-hazard-map/">https://www.gov.nl.ca/ffa/public-education/forestry/forest-fires/fire-hazard-map/</a></p> <p>Forecasted readings:  <a href="https://www.gov.nl.ca/ffa/public-education/forestry/forest-fires/fire-hazard-map-forecast/">https://www.gov.nl.ca/ffa/public-education/forestry/forest-fires/fire-hazard-map-forecast/</a></p>

In addition to Online Services, information on provincial programs and funding for renewable resource sectors can be found at the following links.

Agriculture Programs and Funding	<a href="https://www.gov.nl.ca/ffa/programs-and-funding/programs/">https://www.gov.nl.ca/ffa/programs-and-funding/programs/</a>
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Fisheries and Aquaculture Programs and Funding	<a href="https://www.gov.nl.ca/ffa/programs-and-funding/fisheries-and-aquaculture/">https://www.gov.nl.ca/ffa/programs-and-funding/fisheries-and-aquaculture/</a>
Forestry Programs and Funding	<a href="https://www.gov.nl.ca/ffa/programs-and-funding/forestry-programs-and-funding/">https://www.gov.nl.ca/ffa/programs-and-funding/forestry-programs-and-funding/</a>

### Service Standards

The department provides services according to defined standards, and regularly monitors them to ensure those standards are met or exceeded. The achievement of Service Standards is a shared responsibility between the FFA and its clients; and highly dependent on the submission of all required documentation to departmental staff in a timely fashion. Service Standard commitments vary to reflect the unique requirements of programs and services including:

#### Resident Big Game Licence Process

Following the application deadline date, the department will notify applicants of the resident big game licence draw results within six weeks.

#### Non-Resident Big Game Licence Process

Following the receipt of a licence order, for each ordering period, the department will process and issue licences within 20 business days. Following the receipt of a licence request, for the Newfoundland and Labrador Outfitters Association draw, the department will process and issue licences to successful outfitters within 10 business days.

#### Domestic Cutting Permit

Following the request for a Domestic Cutting Permit, the department will issue immediately for in-person requests at a local forest management district office and within 10 business days for requests received by email or phone. For online permit

renewals, residents may choose between receiving their Domestic Cutting Permit via email within 24 to 48 hours, or via postal mail within five to 10 business days.

### Crown Lands Application Process

Upon receipt of a completed Crown lands application, the department will notify applicants of the status of their Crown lands application within 90 business days. Status information will include either approval, refusal, or if the application is held, reasons for the hold, and information regarding follow up.

Up-to-date information on the department's Service Standards may be viewed at <https://www.gov.nl.ca/ffa/service-standards/>.

## Horizontal Initiatives

FFA also contributes to a number of horizontal initiatives across government. These include, but are not limited to, participation in:

- The Provincial Government's climate change action plan, which was released on March 1, 2019, includes actions that each of the partners will take to achieve the collective goal of growing industry and stimulating new private sector employment. It contains actions that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions from across the economy, stimulate clean innovation and growth, and build resilience to the impacts of climate change.
- A Digital by Design approach to service delivery, which was launched in April 2018, along with a five-year plan to enhance government services for residents.

## Contact Information

Contact information for the department, as well as for specific divisions, offices, and program areas can be found on the department's website at

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/ffa/department/contact/>.

### Minister's Office

Tel: (709) 729-3705

Fax: (709) 729-0360

Email: [flrminister@gov.nl.ca](mailto:flrminister@gov.nl.ca)

## Mandate

The mandate of the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture includes:

- Development and growth of renewable resource areas for fisheries, aquaculture, inland fish and wildlife, agriculture, and forestry, for optimum sustainable economic benefit to the Province as well as its ecological integrity.
- Conservation and protection of the province's inland fish, wildlife, wildlife habitat, forestry and land resources.
- Administration of Crown lands as a social and economic resource for the Province.
- Regulation of, and compliance and enforcement activities for animal health and protection, food safety, aquaculture, agriculture, fish processing, inland fish and wildlife, and forestry.

## Budget

For the 2020-21 fiscal year, the departmental budget is approximately \$89 million, broken down as in Figure 3.

Figure 3:

Branch	Budget
Agriculture and Lands	\$ 30,557,400
Enforcement and Resource Services	\$ 8,518,600
Fisheries and Aquaculture	\$ 21,362,000
Forestry and Wildlife	\$ 26,884,700
Executive and Executive Support	\$ 1,659,100
<b>Total Department</b>	<b>\$ 88,981,800</b>

### Lines of Business

#### Animal Health

The department's Animal Health Division (AHD), within the Agriculture and Lands branch, provides mobile clinical routine and emergency veterinary services to livestock and poultry owners throughout the province. In addition, it conducts diagnostic laboratory testing in support of farm animal veterinary services, and provides regulatory pre-processing food safety and quality testing, all of which is certified to the applicable ISO standards, to ensure that agricultural animal products meet or exceed regulatory requirements. The AHD conducts both active and passive disease surveillance to monitor, identify and control animal diseases of public health and economic importance. The division also has primary responsibility for provincial animal health and protection legislation, and plays a role in its oversight, the training of inspectors appointed under the legislation, and the provision of expert witness testimony or evidence, as required in the course of animal cruelty investigations or prosecutions.

The department's Aquatic Animal Health Division (AAHD) provides veterinary services and regulatory oversight of the aquaculture industry on behalf of the department. It supports the aquaculture industry by conducting active and passive surveillance, epidemiological studies, applied research and analysis. It operates a Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) accredited laboratory, which provides diagnostic support to the finfish and shellfish aquaculture industry. Regulatory programs include: reportable disease investigations; active surveillance; biosecurity audits; aquatic animal health management plan development and oversight; policy development and advice. The department provides support to the aquaculture industry, other provincial departments, the CFIA, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN), and Atlantic Canada aquatic animal health initiatives.

### Education and Awareness

The department provides activities to promote education and awareness around the province's natural resources. FFA utilizes education, awareness, and stewardship programs and initiatives to foster appropriate attitudes, respect, behavior, and appreciation towards wildlife and habitat. It provides education, awareness, and training programs such as firearm safety, hunter, and trapper education courses. It also promotes fire education, prevention, and mitigation, which aim to increase public awareness and reduce the threat wildfires pose.

In addition, FFA is responsible for the development and implementation of environmental education programs. It oversees the Salmonier Nature Park, which serves as a wildlife rehabilitation, interpretation, and research facility. It also develops educational materials on the fishery for school-aged children in support of awareness activities on coastal and ocean issues.

Within the agriculture sector, the department invests in awareness and public trust initiatives in the food system, including industry supports for Agriculture in the Classroom, Little Green Thumbs, Open Farm Day, Canada's Agriculture Day, and agricultural fairs.

The department administers public awareness programs (presentations to schools, service clubs, etc.) addressing public concerns on forest resource management issues and the development of district sustainable forest management plans.

In addition to specific education and awareness activities, the department also provides services to the public and/or provincial departments and agencies through Crown lands and GIS and Mapping, such as a map and air photo library service, Provincial Crown Lands Registry, topographic base maps, and the geodetic reference system for legal and engineering surveys. The department also has staff that provide training and resources on business development, feasibility, financial analysis, human resources, plant propagation, and animal husbandry, to name a few.

### Licensing/Permitting

FFA is responsible licensing and permitting as well as the development and implementation of policies and regulations related to each type of licence.

FFA fish processing licensing policies and procedures are used to support the Fish Processing Licensing Board to review and make recommendations to the Minister on all fish processing licensing requests.

As the lead agency for aquaculture licensing in the province, the department manages a one-stop shop licensing process. Through authority granted under the **Aquaculture Act**, the department coordinates input from all relevant provincial and federal agencies, as well as any organizations, groups, or individuals who have interests in aquaculture development, to approve aquaculture site licences. Under the **Animal Health and Protection Act and Regulations**, the department licenses fur farms and licenses abattoirs under the **Meat Inspection Act**, while training Digital Government and ServiceNL meat inspectors.

The department issues hunting and trapping licences, Newfoundland and Labrador Guide licences, permits for the non-consumptive use, possession, importation and export of wildlife (and parts thereof). It issues licences and permits for commercial or domestic timber cutting, commercial or domestic sawmilling, burning, operating during the fire season, timber export, the purchase of timber, protection of livestock from wild animals, bear protection, replacement of a big game licence, removal of nuisance animals, game export, temporary outdoor identification cards, possession for taxidermy, transport of firearms, and fur bearer export. It also issues licences for an array of purposes such as cottages, commercial resource based cabins, sawmill sites, pastures, trails, boathouses, and wharves.

The licensing and permitting line of business also involves the administration of the various licensing/permitting systems and databases, which includes the collection and analysis of statistical information.

### Inspection, Compliance, and Regulatory Enforcement

Through the Fisheries and Aquaculture Inspection Programs, FFA conducts comprehensive inspection, compliance, and enforcement duties for the fishing and aquaculture industries within its legislative authority. Fisheries field representatives conduct inspections at fish buying stations, processing plants, aquaculture sites, dockside, and on board vessels throughout the province. In addition, the department is responsible for auditing fish buyers and processors located throughout the province to ensure compliance with regulations, policies, and conditions of licences.

Programs related to aquaculture site containment as well as the maintenance, biosecurity, surveillance, and regulation of fish health on aquaculture sites throughout the province are included in this line of business. These activities ensure compliance with the **Aquaculture Act and Regulations, The Fish Inspection Act and Regulations**, and ministerial directives.

Enforcement services include resource enforcement, which focuses on protecting the province's valuable inland fish, wildlife, and forestry resources through the enforcement of provincial and federal laws and regulations relating to them. Furthermore, there is a strong focus to increase public safety through the enforcement of All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV) and firearms regulations.

The department also uses compliance and enforcement as a tool in forestry management delivered by conservation officers located at various regional/district offices across the province. In addition to enforcing forestry regulations under the **Forestry Act**, conservation officers are authorized to enforce provisions of a number of other Acts and regulations.

In agriculture, the Farm industry Review Board addresses compliance issues under the **Natural Products Marketing Act** and the **Farm Practices Protection Act**. The **Animal Health and Protection Act** grants the Minister the authority to designate inspectors to administer the Act and its regulations.



Additionally, the department enforces lands legislation and addresses incidents of unauthorized use and occupation of Crown lands.

### Marketing

FFA provides marketing support services to the Newfoundland and Labrador fish, seafood, and agrifoods industries. FFA collaborates with industry, providing innovative and collaborative solutions for market development, support, and intelligence. This includes professional and technical support, promotional activities, and market analysis. The department also offers a wide range of programs and services aimed at maximizing production and market development to increase market awareness and demand in domestic and international markets.

Specific marketing support services include in-market activities, participation in trade shows and missions, advertising, food service, and retail promotions, and support for private sector marketing initiatives. FFA provides market analysis and support to industry by collecting and distributing timely market intelligence and information to industry stakeholders.

The department collaborates with other Provincial Government departments, the industry and market development branches of other provinces, federal departments and agencies such as the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Agriculture and Agri- Food Canada, DFO, and Global Affairs Canada, to coordinate participation in various trade shows and missions, and the implementation of other marketing and promotional activities.

For the agrifoods sector, the department supports the development of primary and secondary products of animal and plant based industries, specializing in professional extension support through the delivery of training; evaluating, recommending, and implementing new opportunities for primary and secondary agrifoods products; and developing new markets and products.

### Resource Research and Development

FFA places a strong emphasis on research and development to foster innovation. It assists the fishing, aquaculture, agriculture, and forestry industries through the provision of technical and financial support in development. Innovation within these sectors is fostered through extensive interaction with the private sector, industry-related organizations, other government departments, and academia.

This line of business includes development projects aimed, for example, at enhancing seafood quality throughout the value chain (from harvesting to packaging) to maximize catch value and scientific research on fisheries. The goal of this activity is to enhance the viability, productivity, diversification, sustainability, and competitiveness of the sectors. Where relevant, this involves a focus on the development of value-added and secondary production. The department is also responsible for the delivery of the Fisheries Research Grant Program, which provides funding support for research initiatives that enhance our understanding of the province's fish stocks and contribute to sustainable fisheries management.

The department is responsible for the sustainable and orderly development of the aquaculture industry. The Aquaculture Development Division oversees the administration, licensing, planning, development, and delivery of aquaculture policies and programs aimed at promoting a robust regulatory environment, creating new economic opportunities for the province, including the Aquaculture Capital Equity Program (ACEP) and promoting public trust. In addition, the department works with industry to collect, monitor and assess biological and environmental conditions on existing aquaculture sites and new growing areas to support sustainable industry expansion.

The department offers agricultural business development programs and advisory services to the agriculture and agrifoods industry. The Provincial Agrifoods Assistance Program provides non-repayable financial support to further strengthen and grow the

agricultural sector including investment in agricultural land development and infrastructure to support food self-sufficiency. The Community Garden Support Program provides financial assistance to community organizations, municipalities, and schools to establish new community gardens or expand existing gardens. Communities benefit from increased access to fresh, nutritious, locally grown food. FFA also delivers the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP), a federal-provincial cost-shared program, that provides investment to strengthen domestic market development, agriculture innovation and growth, risk management, environmental sustainability and climate change, value-added agriculture and agrifood processing, and public trust. The department offers business advisory services to new entrants and existing farmers to research and analyze opportunities to increase profitability and competitiveness in the Newfoundland and Labrador agriculture industry.

The department's forest management programs are responsible for the development of forest-related research programs and science capacity in the province consistent with themes of the Provincial Sustainable Forest Management Strategy and other guiding documents. In addition, the department delivers a wide range of programs and services to support business development in the resources sector and coordinates within government the inter-departmental review of Crown land development.

Through its Agriculture Research and Development Programs, the department also carries out applied research and development to build science-based knowledge and innovation capacity. Primary research is intended to grow and diversify the agriculture industry; the department's scientists collaborate with industry so that the science is applicable and can be adopted to be used on Newfoundland and Labrador farms. Activities include investigating opportunities to improve on-farm competitiveness and profitability; research production practices of crops and livestock, both to increase industry diversification; and, enhance environmental sustainability.

### Sustainable Resource Management

The department works to ensure a balance between environmental, economic, and social values, with management plans and programs which safeguard viable resources that are economically sustainable and provide employment.

The department offers a number of programs and services in the areas of land resource stewardship, forest management, geographic information systems, mapping, and land use management. It designates and manages wildlife areas and is responsible for the administration and management of the province's Crown land resources. The department uses environmental planning to assist the agricultural sector to comply with environmental standards and uses land management planning for future agricultural use in light of the many other demands on the province's land resource. It also has a Land Consolidation Program for the purchase of private land as a means of protecting the agricultural land base and providing land to farmers as agriculture leases.

The department's forest management and protection programs include: sustainable forest management planning, silviculture, resource roads construction, forest inventory, forest fire suppression, and forest insect control. Forest insect damage, especially from the Spruce Budworm, is on the rise in our province, as are forest fires. The department's fire suppression program and insect treatment and monitoring program are equipped to tackle these challenges, with assistance from the public in practicing fire safety and reporting major insect and disease damage. The fire suppression program, along with the department's Wildlife Control Programs, are also important programs in terms of public safety.

The department's Environmental Management System, which provides a framework for forest management activities on managed Crown forests, is registered to the ISO 14001:2015 standard, an environmental management standard used in all industry sectors to demonstrate commitment to environmental protection.

The department contributes to the sustainable management of our adjacent fish resources by providing significant input into federal decision-making processes to ensure the province receives maximum benefit from the resource. The department also plays a significant role in the sustainable management of our coastal and ocean resources through strong collaborative relationships with other federal and provincial departments, as well as industry stakeholders and academia. This includes activities such as marine spatial planning and marine protected area network planning.

### Conservation

The department is responsible for conservation of the resources under its mandate and jurisdiction, such as our province's forest resources, agricultural land, and Crown land resources. It protects and conserves the province's biodiversity, fish and wildlife resources, and wildlife habitat. It also develops management plans for consumptive species and collects scientific information on fisheries, wildlife, and farmed species to provide input into the sustainable management of wildlife, including inland fish populations, and their habitats. In addition, the department designates and manages wildlife areas to support conservation efforts.

FFA is responsible for identifying, designating, developing, and implementing recovery strategies for species at risk according to the **Endangered Species Act**. It determines the status of species in the province according to the National Accord for the Conservation of Species at Risk, and develops and implements stewardship agreements to support the recovery of these species.

The department develops and implements strategies for the conservation of biodiversity, develops and implements biodiversity monitoring programs, and implements the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

Many of the department's other lines of business support conservation both directly and indirectly. Conservation is particularly supported by education and awareness,

inspection, compliance, regulatory enforcement, resource research and development, and sustainable resource management.

### Primary Clients

The primary clients of FFA include individuals or groups who use the department's services and resources, and who have an influence on the department's business. In delivering its mandate, FFA identifies the following as primary clients:

<b>Agriculture</b>	
Agriculture and Agri-food Canada	Horticulture Council of Newfoundland and Labrador
Chicken Farmers of Newfoundland and Labrador	Newfoundland and Labrador Beekeepers Association
Dairy Farmers of Newfoundland and Labrador	Newfoundland and Labrador Fur Breeders Association
Egg Producers of Newfoundland and Labrador	Newfoundland and Labrador Young Farmers Forum
Farmers and Producers	Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture
Food First NL	Pet and Livestock Owners
<b>Fisheries and Aquaculture</b>	
Aquaculture Operators	Marine Institute (Centre for Fisheries Ecosystem Research)
Association of Seafood Producers	Newfoundland Aquaculture Industry Association
Fish Harvesters	Processing Plant Workers
Fish, Food and Allied Workers – Unifor	Seafood Processors of Newfoundland and Labrador
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Unaffiliated Seafood Buyers and Producers
<b>Forestry</b>	
Canadian Council of Forest Ministers	Natural Resources Canada - Canadian Forest Service
Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Ltd.	Newfoundland and Labrador Lumber Producers Association
Domestic and commercial harvesting and sawmill operators	Newfoundland and Labrador Forest Industry Association

Forestry Safety Association of Newfoundland and Labrador	Northern Peninsula Loggers Association
FPInnovations	Registered Professional Foresters of Newfoundland and Labrador
Maritime Lumber Bureau	Value Added and Secondary Manufacturers
<b>Wildlife</b>	
Atlantic Salmon Federation	Nature Conservancy Canada
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society	Newfoundland and Labrador Outfitters Association
Canadian Wildlife Service	Parks Canada
Ducks Unlimited Canada	Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Friends of Salmonier Nature Park	Stewardship Association of Municipalities
Hunters, trappers and anglers	Tourism operators
Labrador Hunting and Fishing Association	
<b>General</b>	
College of the North Atlantic	Humber Environment Action Group
Environmental groups	Indigenous Governments and Groups
General public	Memorial University – Grenfell Campus

## Vision

The Vision of the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture is that of sustainable renewable resources that are responsibly developed for the social, cultural, ecological, and economic well-being of the province.

## Strategic Issues

### Strategic Issue 1 - Maximizing the Benefits of Renewable Resources

Our province's renewable resources continue to be a source of economic, cultural, and recreational value for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians. Renewable resources require protection and sustainable management in a way that fully recognizes the cultural significance of these resources as well as the social, economic, and recreational

activities related to them. The department endeavours to respond to the needs of renewable resource sectors and will continue to do so in the next three years with a focus on creating employment, exploring and supporting opportunities to fully utilize raw materials, and creating opportunities to engage more people in traditional cultural and recreational activities such as hunting, wood cutting, fishing, and growing food.

In partnership with the aquaculture industry, the department is pursuing opportunities and removing barriers to support sector growth and cultivate conditions that will foster new and expanding business activity and stimulate private sector employment. This includes modernizing legislation and policies to support industry growth. The growth of this industry translates into real socio-economic benefits for our rural, coastal, and inland communities.

Maximizing the benefit of resources will also be fostered through collaboration with stakeholders to apply scientific knowledge, as well as traditional Indigenous knowledge, to decision-making processes. Continuing collaborative activities with stakeholders, such as an ongoing two-year, \$1.3 million project under the federal Agricultural Clean Technology Program, will assist in maximizing Newfoundland and Labrador's cool-climate growing conditions, while protecting the environment, increasing agriculture production, and utilizing the by-products of other natural resource industries. The department will also collaborate with the Federal Government and other stakeholders on fisheries resource and coastal and ocean management initiatives.

Collaboration between renewable resource sectors will also assist in maximizing resource utilization and associated benefits. In supporting activities to explore and mitigate the impacts of climate change, the department will also improve the preservation of our forests, wildlife, and plant biodiversity, along with other provincial renewable resources. These actions support the strategic directions of government, namely A Better Economy, Healthier People, Better Living, and A Bright Future, as well as the goal of the Forest Sector Work Plan to grow the forest industry and stimulate new private sector employment. Many of these activities will also support the people of



Newfoundland and Labrador in dealing with the ongoing socioeconomic stresses of the COVID-19 pandemic by increasing economic, cultural, and recreational activities.

### Goal

By March 31, 2023, the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture will have supported growth of renewable resources for the socioeconomic benefit of the province.

#### Goal Indicators

- Supported industry diversification in renewable resource sectors, including initiatives to maximize resource utilization.
- Collaborated with stakeholders to advance the sustainable development of resources.
- Improved sustainable management of our forests, wildlife, and plant biodiversity.
- Explored the impacts of climate change on renewable resource sectors, and identified potential mitigation activities.
- Modernized legislation and policies to support industry growth.
- Collaborated with the Federal Government and other stakeholders on fisheries resource and coastal and ocean management initiatives.

#### Objective 2020-2021

By March 31, 2021, the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture will have introduced actions to facilitate the growth of renewable resource sectors for the socioeconomic benefit of the province.

#### Indicators

- Worked to develop amendments to the **Aquaculture Act and Regulations**.
- Explored the use of technology to improve natural resource protection, utilization, and promotion.

- Provided funding toward the establishment of regional equipment banks.
- Increased large-scale potato production and certified seed potato production at the Centre for Agriculture and Forestry Development.
- Launched the Secondary Forestry Processing Innovation Fund for development of secondary forestry processing innovation pilot projects
- Enhanced silviculture activities.

### Objective 2021-2022

By March 31, 2022, the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture will have developed additional measures to facilitate the growth of renewable resource sectors for the socioeconomic benefit of the province.

### Objective 2022-2023

By March 31, 2023, the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture will have implemented additional measures to support the growth of renewable resource sectors for the socioeconomic benefit of the province.

## Strategic Issue 2 - Food Safety, Security, and Self-Sufficiency

Food producers and consumers alike are interested in the safety and quality of food products. Food safety programs monitor for pathogens, contaminants, and residues that could cause food-borne illness. Food quality refers to nutritional quality and consumer acceptability. Local agrifoods businesses strive to produce safe, high quality food through best management practices and compliance with regulatory oversight. Food safety and food quality in the livestock sector begins at the farm level with raising healthy animals in a safe, clean environment, and implementing protocols for disease monitoring and control.

Food security is generally defined as the access for all people at all times to enough food for a healthy, active life. In contrast, food self-sufficiency is defined as being able to meet consumption needs (particularly for staple food crops) from domestic production rather than by buying or importing. For many years, both food security and self-sufficiency have been a concern in the province, particularly when transportation routes are interrupted due to weather or other circumstances. These conditions have highlighted the requirement to grow more food locally. Initiatives like the Community Garden Support Program and the Vegetable Transplant Program have demonstrated the department's commitment to increase food security and self-sufficiency, bringing access to fresh, healthy food to communities.

In October 2017, the Province launched an agriculture sector work plan developed through a partnership between industry and the Provincial Government to increase food self-sufficiency. In support of the Provincial Governments commitment to raise the province's food production to 20 per cent by 2022, the department has already taken a number of steps to increase food self-sufficiency, including increasing the availability of Crown lands for agriculture purposes and by supporting new entrants and farmers.

During the 2020-23 period, the department will explore opportunities to increase the production of locally-produced foods and food products and expand the production of potato and other crops. These actions will advance the production of safe and healthy foods for domestic and export markets, supporting access to fresh, local food, particularly in rural and Indigenous communities. With the COVID-19 pandemic further highlighting the need to increase food self sufficiency, while creating challenging fiscal conditions, it is more important than ever to increase food security.

In order to increase food production for export markets, the department will explore niche and non-traditional market opportunities for the promotion of local foods and food products. The department will also support enhanced services and programs related to food safety and security to ensure producers are complying with legislative requirements and producing optimal quality product. It will also collaborate with

stakeholders to realize enhancements to the provincial meat industry enhance aquaculture and fish processing inspections under its Quality Assurance Program. These actions support the strategic directions of Government, namely A Better Economy, Healthier People, and Better Living.

### Goal

By March 31, 2023, the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture will have advanced the production of safe and healthy foods for domestic and export markets.

#### Goal Indicators

- Explored opportunities to increase the production of locally-produced food and food products.
- Enhanced services and programs related to food safety, self-sufficiency, or security.
- Explored niche and non-traditional market opportunities for the promotion of local foods and food products.
- Expanded production of potato and other crops.
- Collaborated with stakeholders to realize enhancements to the provincial meat industry.
- Enhanced aquaculture and fish processing inspections under the Quality Assurance Program.

#### Objective 2020-2021

By March 31, 2021, the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture will have continued to build on actions that support the production of safe and healthy foods for domestic and export markets.

### Indicators

- Introduced supports to protect and maintain the health of Newfoundland and Labrador's bee population.
- Provided support for the development of agricultural land and establishment of agricultural infrastructure.
- Assisted new entrants.
- Provided supports for market development, food safety, innovation or growth.
- Advanced the establishment and expansion of community gardens.
- Supported industry initiatives for value-added products.
- Enabled hunters to share moose and caribou meat with food banks.

### Objective 2021-2022

By March 31, 2022, the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture will have advanced support for the production of safe and healthy foods for domestic and export markets.

### Objective 2022-2023

By March 31, 2023, the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture will have reviewed its programs and services to support the production of safe and healthy foods for domestic and export markets.

### Annex A – Strategic Directions

Strategic directions are the expressions of desired physical, social, or economic outcomes that would normally require action by, or involvement of, more than one government entity. These directions are generally communicated by government through platform documents, the Speech from the Throne, annual budget speeches, policy documents, and other communiqués. The **Transparency and Accountability Act** requires departments and public bodies to take into account these strategic directions in the preparation of their performance-based plans.

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has identified the following strategic directions for the 2020-2023 planning cycle. These themes were considered, as appropriate and applicable, in the development of this document.

- A Better Economy
- Healthier People
- Better Living
- A Bright Future
- A More Efficient Public Sector

### Annex B – Inactive Entities

There are 22 Category 3 entities which report to the Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture. In addition, a Disciplinary Board, which may be established if necessary under the authority of the **Professional Fish Harvesters Act**, has not been established to date. If a Disciplinary Board is established, it will report to the Minister and it will table an Activity Plan and subsequent Annual Performance Report in compliance with the **Transparency and Accountability Act**.

The following entities are Category 3 public bodies which report to the Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture and were inactive for either the period April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020 (for fiscal year end entities), or January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019 (for calendar year end entities). In the event that any of these public bodies becomes active, it will prepare and table an Activity Plan and subsequent Annual Performance Report in compliance with the **Transparency and Accountability Act**.

Forest Land Tax Appeals Board

Newfoundland and Labrador Farm Products Corporation

Newfoundland and Labrador Geographical Names Board

Timber Scalers Board





