

# ANNUAL REPORT

2015-16



  
Newfoundland  
Labrador

Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs





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# Message from the Minister



It is my pleasure to present the Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office Annual Performance Report for the fiscal year 2015-16. As Premier and Minister of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs, I am accountable for the preparation of this report and the results reported herein. This Annual Performance Report has been prepared in accordance with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's Transparency and Accountability Act provisions.

Due to my passion and commitment to issues affecting Aboriginal people and Labrador, I assumed the ministerial responsibilities for Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs in addition to my duties as Premier. I have been supported in these ministerial responsibilities by all four members of the House of Assembly that represent the districts of Labrador. We have held monthly meetings to better understand and address the issues of Labrador and Aboriginal people. That is why I was so proud to raise and recognize the Labrador Flag at the two border crossings with Quebec this year and personally attend the raising in western Labrador. It was also a pleasure to attend National Aboriginal Day celebrations and celebrate the culture, heritage and achievements of Aboriginal people in our province.

The Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office, through hard work, advocacy and collaborative working relationships, plays a pivotal role in supporting the economic and social development of Labrador, as well as, focusing on the relationships with and the role of Aboriginal people in the province. The Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office is committed to supporting Labrador and Aboriginal people and reflecting these unique perspectives in all governmental programs and policies.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the dedication and commitment of the staff within the Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office and I look forward to continuing to address the opportunities and challenges in the year ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dwight Ball'. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Honourable Dwight Ball  
Premier and Minister of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs

# Overview

The Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office (LAAO) is an office within the Executive Council and reports to the Premier who is the Minister of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs. LAAO consists of two branches: Labrador Affairs and Aboriginal Affairs. Labrador Affairs focuses on the economic and social development of Labrador by ensuring that governmental policies and programs consider the perspectives of Labrador. Aboriginal Affairs concentrates on relationships with Aboriginal people and ensuring governmental programs and policies address the unique cultural and other needs of Aboriginal people.

## Staffing and Location

The Labrador Affairs branch has offices in Happy Valley-Goose Bay and Wabush, while the Aboriginal Affairs branch is located in the Confederation Building in St. John's. Eleven employees are located in the Happy Valley-Goose Bay office, one in Wabush and 12 in St. John's. The seasonal position was employed from December 2015 to April 2016.

As of March 31, 2016, LAAO consisted of 24 full-time employees (10 male and 14 female) and 1 seasonal position.

- Deputy Minister
- Secretary to the Deputy Minister
- Assistant Deputy Minister
- Secretary to the Assistant Deputy Minister
- Executive Director
- Director, Aboriginal Affairs
- Director, Labrador Affairs
- Director of Communications
- Communications Manager
- 2 Senior Negotiators
- Aboriginal Liaison
- 4 Senior Analysts – Labrador Affairs
- 5 Senior Analysts – Aboriginal Affairs
- Program Coordinator
- 2 Clerk Typist IIIs
- Trail Inspector (Seasonal)

## Financial Statistics

The 2015-16 budget for the Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office was \$3,639,815. For further details, please refer to the financial statements for 2015-16 at the end of this annual report. 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 2016.

# Mandate

The mandate of the Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office builds on the departmental notice under the *Executive Council Act* and is as follows:

- a) advance the social and economic development of Labrador and of the Aboriginal people in the province;
- b) co-ordinate and develop policies and programs relating to Aboriginal issues and issues affecting Labrador;
- c) to provide advice to discharge any Aboriginal duty of consultation which may rest upon the Provincial Government;
- d) provide public information on Aboriginal matters;
- e) support the exchange of information between government and residents of Labrador on issues affecting Labrador;
- f) work with the Federal Government respecting Labrador and Aboriginal issues;
- g) negotiate and ensure the implementation of land claims, self-government and other agreements related to Labrador and Aboriginal issues;
- h) consider the unique interests of the various regions of Labrador in developing and implementing programs, policies and services; and,
- i) develop and administer Labrador specific programs and services for which the office is responsible.

## Vision

**The Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office vision is of a strong and vibrant Labrador, Aboriginal people who are empowered to pursue their aspirations, and a diverse, inclusive, prosperous province, where all people have the opportunity to achieve their hopes, and contribute to their communities, regions, and the province.**

## Mission

**By March 31, 2017, LAAO will have sought to advance the social and economic development of Labrador and Aboriginal people in the province.**

# Lines of Business

## 1. Policy, Programs and Planning

In accordance with its mandate, the Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office (LAAO) is responsible for the development, implementation and administration of provincial policies and programs respecting Labrador and Aboriginal issues.

LAAO aims to ensure that provincial policies, programs and services consider the cultural concerns of the Aboriginal governments and organizations in the province, and Labrador-related issues, mainly via the provision of advice to provincial departments and agencies and participation in provincial horizontal initiatives.

LAAO strives to develop a focused approach to government's service delivery in Labrador and to Aboriginal people, and demonstrate government's commitment to support Labrador issues through the administration of Labrador specific programs for which LAAO is responsible.

## 2. Land Claims, Self-Government and Other Agreements

The Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office represents the province in tripartite negotiations among the Provincial Government, Federal Government and Aboriginal governments and organizations towards land claims, self-government, devolution and other agreements. LAAO is responsible for the coordinating government's implementation and management of these agreements.

## 3. Aboriginal Consultation

The Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office provides leadership and advice with respect to any duty to consult Aboriginal governments and organizations that may be owed by the Provincial Government. Government has updated its Aboriginal Consultation Policy on Land and Resource Development Decisions. This policy can be found on LAAO's website at: [www.gov.nl.ca/laa/publications/aboriginal\\_consultation.pdf](http://www.gov.nl.ca/laa/publications/aboriginal_consultation.pdf).

## 4. Coordination, Collaboration and Advocacy

The Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office is mandated to advance the social and economic development of Labrador and of Aboriginal people in the province. This is achieved through coordination and collaboration of Labrador and Aboriginal related initiatives. LAAO collaborates with Aboriginal governments and organizations, Provincial Government departments/entities, federal and municipal governments and industry organizations to advance the economic and social development of Labrador and of Aboriginal people. LAAO often takes a prominent role on Labrador focused committees such as the Senior Officials Working Group on Lower Churchill Impacts on the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay and the Labrador West Regional Task Force.

LAAO liaises with other northern ministries and assists in the management of intergovernmental relations on Labrador/northern issues, such as the Northern Development Ministers Forum. It also participates in inter-jurisdictional working groups and committees, including with National Aboriginal Organizations, to advance Aboriginal interests.

LAAO advocates for the Federal Government to discharge its Constitutional responsibility to all Aboriginal people in the province, in particular by providing all Aboriginal people access to the full suite of federal programs and services to which they are entitled.

# Shared Commitments

As an Office within the Executive Council, the work of the Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office is often implemented by means of advice, recommendations, and advancing Labrador and Aboriginal considerations. However, LAAO administered two Labrador-specific programs: the Labrador Transportation Grooming Subsidy and the Air Foodlift Subsidy. Many other programs and services that affect Labrador and Aboriginal people are implemented by other departments and agencies within the Provincial Government. It is the role of the LAAO to assist in making the programs and services of other entities more reflective of the needs of Labradorians and Aboriginal people.

Below identifies a number of cross-departmental initiatives where the Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office played a role to enhance economic and social development in Labrador and for Aboriginal people:

## Lower Churchill Development

The Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office administered Aboriginal consultation guidelines for both the Lower Churchill Hydroelectric Generation Project (LCP) and the Labrador Island Transmission Link Project. These guidelines continued to assist the proponent, Nalcor Energy, and provincial regulatory departments and agencies discharging any duty to consult that the province may owe to an Aboriginal government and organization. LAAO continued to field questions and provided assistance to both Nalcor Energy and provincial departments and agencies on the process set out in the guidelines.

LAAO continued to undertake the coordination role for the Provincial Government with the permitting process for the Lower Churchill development including Muskrat Falls, the Labrador Island Link and the Maritime Link. Specifically LAAO tracked all LCP permits required by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and monitored their completion.

## Supportive Living Action Team

A Supportive Living Action Team was established in April 2014 to address the displacement of individuals from the closure of a local boarding house in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. The action team consists of Provincial Government representatives, the Nunatsiavut Government, and the Salvation Army Church. The action team is chaired by Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation and the Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office participated as a member. As a member of the team, LAAO provided direct input and advice to build the supportive living model and the “Out of the Cold” initiative for Central Labrador.

## Torngat Mountains and Mealy Mountains National Park Committees

The Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office has non-voting observer status at meetings of the Torngat Mountains Cooperative Management Board. This board assisted Parks Canada in an advisory capacity regarding the management of the Torngat Mountains National Park, including the development of policy for visitor use of the park.





On July 31, 2015, the former Minister of Environment and Conservation, along with the Federal Minister of the Environment and Minister responsible for Parks Canada announced Akami-uapishku - KakKasuak - Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve as Canada's forty-sixth national park. The agreement between the Governments of Newfoundland and Labrador and Canada will see the transfer of 10,700 square kilometres of land from the province to Canada to create the National Park Reserve. The national park proposal was the subject of engagement with Labradorians, local communities, stakeholders and Aboriginal governments and organizations. LAAO participated on the provincial negotiating team for the federal-provincial land transfer agreement.

## Labrador Aboriginal Training Partnership

The Labrador Aboriginal Training Partnership (LATP) was established in 2009 in preparation for major resource developments in Labrador. LATP was mandated, in collaboration with the Nunatsiavut Government, the Innu Nation, the NunatuKavut Community Council and Nalcor Energy, to develop and oversee a comprehensive training plan to prepare individuals for employment opportunities. It was co-funded by the Provincial Government and the Federal Government, in partnership with the Nunatsiavut Government, Innu Nation, NunatuKavut Community Council and Nalcor Energy.

The board was comprised of the following voting members: the Nunatsiavut Government, Innu Nation, NunatuKavut Community Council and Nalcor Energy. The Federal Government is a non-voting board member, as are the Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office, Advanced Education and Skills, Education and Early Childhood Development, and Intergovernmental Affairs. LAAO participated in meetings and provided advice on proposals related to LATP from a Provincial Government perspective.

## Other Shared Commitments

The Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office also participated on other shared commitments with governments, community groups and other stakeholders. In most cases, LAAO provided advice and input on initiatives of Labrador and Aboriginal interests. Other shared commitments in 2015-16 included:

- Represented on the Climate Change Ministerial Committee;
- Represented on both the Deputy Ministers Steering Committee and Working Group of Arctic Opportunities;
- Represented on the Deputy Ministers Committee for the Violence Prevention Initiative;
- Represented on the Deputy Ministers Committee and the Officials Committee in support of the Poverty Reduction Strategy;
- Participated on the Deputy Ministers Committee regarding the idling/closure of Wabush Mines;
- Member of the Labrador Winter Games Board;
- Advisory capacity on Destination Labrador;
- Participates on the Canada-NL Committee on Oceans Management;
- Advisory capacity on the Community Advisory Panel in Labrador West;
- Participates on the Advisory Board for the Food Security Network;
- Participates as a member of the Homelessness Partnering Strategy;
- Participates as a member of the Happy Valley-Goose Bay Homelessness/Transitional Housing Working Group; and
- Represented on the Newfoundland and Labrador Geographical Names Board.

Additional details on the specific actions taken by LAAO can be located in Section 8 Report on Performance.

# Highlights and Accomplishments

## Northern Lights 2016

Northern Lights is a joint venture between the Labrador North Chamber of Commerce and the Baffin Regional Chamber of Commerce that showcases Canada's northern jurisdictions, including Nunavut, Nunavik, Labrador and Nunatsiavut. It aims to promote business, economic development, and tourism and cultural opportunities in these areas, as well as relationship building between northern and southern stakeholders. Northern Lights 2016 took place in Ottawa January 27-30, 2016. Premier Ball was proud to represent the province at this event, deliver a key note address, and meet with many Labrador and Aboriginal leaders and stakeholders.

## Labrador Winter Games

The Labrador Winter Games brought together athletes and spectators from across Labrador for a week of competition and fellowship. The event takes place every three years and is held in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador provided \$500,000 in funding towards the thirty-first games in March 2016. This year's games included the participation of 500 athletes and 600 volunteers. Many provincial government officials attended the games and events, including Premier Ball who welcomed the athletes during the opening ceremonies.

## Second National Roundtable on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

The Second National Roundtable on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls took place on February 26, 2016. February 24, 2016 was set aside for a family gathering for families of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. On February 25, 2016, families met with other participants of the national roundtable to discuss their recommendations for ending violence directly with provincial and territorial leaders. This gathering included a sharing circle and a blanketing ceremony with families, as well as federal/provincial/territorial and National Aboriginal Organization leaders. Newfoundland and Labrador was represented by the Minister of Justice and Public Safety. The second national roundtable agreed to action-based collaboration as outlined in the Outcomes and Priorities for Action to Prevent and Address Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls document. This document outlines 20 priorities for action. Additional national roundtable commitments included to participate and fully cooperate in the national inquiry process, and to refashion the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group to include the Federal Government.

## Devolution of Income Support

The Income Support Devolution Plan amongst the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, Government of Canada and the Innu continued to progress in 2015-16. During 2015-16, the Province continued to deliver Income Support to clients in both communities. As part of the planning stage, moving towards Income Support Devolution, key activities included training and capacity development for both the Innu (client service delivery) and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) (quality assurance). During the latter part of 2015-16, new clients were able to apply to receive Income Support directly from the Innu. These activities were supported by a provincial mentor. LAAO provided advice and support to AES's Income Support Division and acted as an advocate vis-à-vis the federal government. It is expected that devolution of Income Support will occur effective April 1, 2016.

## Meeting of Canada's Premiers and National Aboriginal Organization Leaders

In July 2015, Premiers from across Canada met with the National Aboriginal Organization leaders in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. Premiers from Canada's 13 provincial and territorial governments traditionally meet with National Aboriginal Organization leaders in the summer. The National Aboriginal Organization leaders at the meeting were from the Assembly of First Nations; the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (now the Indigenous Peoples Assembly of Canada); the Métis National Council; the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami; and, the Native Women's Association of Canada. The Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office worked with the Department of Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs (MIGA) on the planning and logistics of this meeting in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. Outcomes of that meeting included:

- **Approval of the Report of the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group (AAWG)**

The AAWG is comprised of the provincial and territorial ministers responsible for Aboriginal Affairs and the above noted five National Aboriginal Organization leaders. The report addresses Aboriginal education, Aboriginal economic development, violence against Aboriginal women and girls, Aboriginal housing and disaster mitigation in Aboriginal communities.

- **Children in Care Report**

In response to discussions on the disproportionate number of Aboriginal Children in Care in comparison to non-Aboriginal children across the country, the Provincial/Territorial Aboriginal Children in Care Working Group was tasked with writing a report on this issue which was submitted to Premiers and National Aboriginal Organization leaders at their July 2015 meeting in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, and to Premiers at their 2015 Council of Federation meeting in St. John's. This report to Canada's Premiers provides examples of existing programs and services that have been shown to reduce the number of Aboriginal children in child welfare systems and/or improve outcomes for Aboriginal children in care. The report highlights a number of issues and challenges, and profiles some best and promising practices along three strategic child welfare themes: root causes of abuse and neglect; prevention and early intervention strategies for Aboriginal families; and better supporting the capacity of the child welfare workforce.

- **Socio-Economic Action Plan for Aboriginal Women**

The AAWG struck a working group to develop the Socio-Economic Action Plan for Aboriginal Women. The working group prepared and presented a foundational document intended to help guide the preparation of the plan. The 2015 AAWG Report to Premiers and National Aboriginal Organization Leaders included a recommendation to endorse the foundational document and a recommendation supporting the advancement of the Plan. At the July 2015 in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Premiers and leaders endorsed the foundational document to help guide the preparation of the plan, to be presented to the AAWG at its Spring 2016 meeting.

## Northern Development Ministers' Forum

The Northern Development Ministers' Forum (NDMF) provided federal, provincial and territorial regions and officials representing Canada's North an opportunity to discuss common interests and raise awareness of northern issues. The forum is typically designed around a common subject and a series of priority projects as identified by recommendations made by ministers at previous year's forum.

The Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office represented the province on the NDMF and is a member of the NDMF Senior Officials Working Group.



## Labrador West Regional Taskforce

The Labrador West Regional Taskforce (LWRT) was established in February, 2012 by the Iron Ore Company of Canada. The Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office and the Department of Natural Resources are co-chairs who facilitate the LWRT meetings. The LWRT was created to identify potential impacts on the region in relation to mining development.

The LWRT is comprised of Provincial Government departments/entities, mayors from both Labrador City and Wabush, a representative from the Town of Fermont, Quebec, a representative from the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and local mining industry representatives. Other stakeholders were invited to meetings based on the agenda.

During 2015-16, the LWRT discussed specific topics around the closure of Wabush Mines and possible renewed interest in the mine by other companies, continued impact on the communities of Labrador West and mining development due to the price of iron ore, assistance for local businesses and industries to diversify and expand operations, and the future plan going forward.

## Aboriginal Consultation and Policy Advice

All resource development applications and environment assessment registrations were reviewed by the Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office to ensure Aboriginal and Labrador perspectives were considered and appropriate Aboriginal consultation conducted. Advice was provided on all mineral exploration referrals, Crown Land applications and quarry permits and continued to work with other Provincial Government departments and agencies to ensure Labrador and Aboriginal perspectives and asserted or settled Aboriginal rights were considered in government initiatives. This was accomplished through interdepartmental communication and consultation, attending committee meetings, providing input into interdepartmental working groups, providing Aboriginal consultation advice, reviewing resource development applications and environmental assessment processes, and utilizing an Aboriginal and Labrador lens in policy and decision making processes.



## Land Claims and Self Government Agreements

Negotiations continued between the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, through the Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office, the Innu Nation and the Federal Government toward a Final Land Claims and Self Government Agreement and implementation plan. Negotiations also continued toward a final self-government agreement and implementation plan with the Miawpukek First Nation and the Federal Government. LAAO continued to take a lead role in the implementation of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement and provided advice to all departments respecting their implementation obligations.

## Combined Councils of Labrador

The Combined Councils of Labrador (CCL) was established to provide Labrador municipal representatives, including the five Inuit Community Governments established by the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement, an opportunity to discuss and unite on common interests and advocate on behalf of Labrador. The Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office has provided an annual operating grant to the CCL to support community collaboration since 2007-08. LAAO worked closely with the CCL by coordinating and facilitating discussions on issues in Labrador.

## Labrador Transportation Grooming Subsidy

In 2015, the Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office continued to provide funding to support the Labrador Transportation Grooming Subsidy (LTGS). The purpose of the LTGS is to maintain snowmobile trails to remote Labrador communities that do not have year-round road connections to service centers. The communities include Hopedale, Makkovik, Postville, Rigolet, Williams Harbour, Norman Bay, Black Tickle, and Mud Lake.

LAAO worked with the Economic and Statistics branch of the Department of Finance to develop, conduct and analyze data from a trail user survey. Reports were finalized on groomer inspections, trail inspector updates and a snowmobile drag pilot project. Information from the reports was incorporated into the overall evaluation of the LTGS program.

Additional details on the specific actions taken by the Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office, on the above noted Highlights and Accomplishments, are provided in the following section Report on Performance.

# Report on Performance

In consideration of government's strategic directions to enhance economic and social development in Labrador and strengthen relations with Aboriginal people, governments and organizations, and the mandate and financial resources of the Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office, the following issues have been identified as the key priorities of the minister:

1. Support the economic and social development of Labrador and Aboriginal people;
2. Advance for consideration and increase awareness of the unique perspectives of residents of Labrador and Aboriginal people; and
3. Ensure the Provincial Government discharges any Aboriginal Consultation duty that it may owe.

## Issue 1

### Support the economic and social development of Labrador and Aboriginal people

The Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office supports the economic and social development of Labrador and of Aboriginal people through its development and analysis of government policies, programs and services to ensure they meet the needs of the people they are designed to serve. LAAO has been given the opportunity to provide comments, questions and feedback on governmental programs and services that may have an impact on Labrador and/or Aboriginal governments, organizations or individuals. LAAO often works collaboratively with other provincial departments and also federal and municipal colleagues to advocate for Labrador and on Aboriginal matters.

## Report on Objective

**Goal A1:** By March 31, 2017, LAAO will have promoted sustainable development by considering impacts of major resource developments on communities in Labrador and on Aboriginal people.

**Objective A1.2:** By March 31, 2016, LAAO will have promoted sustainable development by considering impacts of major resource development on communities in Labrador and on Aboriginal people.

**A1.2 Measure:** Promoted sustainable development by considering impacts of major resource development on communities in Labrador and on Aboriginal people.

Indicators	Accomplishments
<p>Monitored the economic and social development initiatives for Labrador and Aboriginal people via, but not limited to, such forums as Northern Ministers Development Forum, and Expo Labrador:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office co-chaired the Senior Officials Working Group with the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay relating to potential impacts from the Lower Churchill projects on the town. With respect to this issue, a capacity agreement between the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay was signed on August 25, 2015 that provided additional resources to the town.</li> <li>• LAAO represented the province on the Northern Development Ministers' Forum (NDMF) and is a member of the NDMF Senior Officials Working Group. LAAO led a priority project entitled "Managing Change" and coordinated a panel discussion which examined the impacts, changes and lessons learned from large-scale natural resource developments at the 2015 Forum that was held in Whitehorse, Yukon.</li> <li>• The NDMF establishes priority projects to address distinct northern development opportunities and challenges. LAAO engages relevant departments/entities to assist with these projects when necessary. For the 2015 NDMF, LAAO engaged Service NL and the Department of Business, Tourism, Culture and Rural Development for input on the priority project "Innovating Development".</li> <li>• LAAO also participated in and/or attended: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Northern Exposure Labrador Opportunity Conference and Trade Show;</li> <li>– Public Consultations held throughout Labrador by stakeholders or other provincial entities;</li> <li>– Expo Labrador Trade Show and Conference;</li> <li>– Labrador North Chamber of Commerce and Labrador West Chamber of Commerce sessions and luncheons;</li> <li>– Violence Prevention Labrador meetings;</li> <li>– Poverty Reduction roundtable sessions;</li> <li>– National Aboriginal Women's Summit; and</li> <li>– Supportive Living Action Team meetings.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Through attendance at the above noted meetings and conferences, LAAO was able to learn of concerns from Labradorians and Aboriginal people, and held discussions with stakeholder groups and municipal, provincial and federal colleagues. The information gathered allowed LAAO to better inform policy and programs throughout 2015-16.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As co-chair of the LWRT, the Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office was responsible for coordinating meetings, arranging relevant presenters, preparing minutes and following up on action items. LWRT meetings were held in St. John's on September 23, 2015 and two meetings in Labrador West on May 27, 2015 and February 24, 2016. In 2015-16, the task force discussed issues around the lower price of iron ore and the impact on development, community impacts and future opportunities. The LWRT served as the impetus for the region's Regional Growth Strategy. Both municipalities are responsible for the recommendations in this strategy, but the municipalities keep the LWRT apprised of work on the strategy.</li> <li>• LAAO participated as a non-voting member of the Board for the Labrador Aboriginal Training Partnership. Meetings were held quarterly in 2015-16 and as a non-voting member, LAAO provided advice from a Labrador and Aboriginal perspective on proposals and future considerations.</li> </ul>



Indicators	Accomplishments
<p>Provided input on environmental assessments, particularly integrating any needed Aboriginal consultations into environmental assessments and post-environmental assessment permitting:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2015-16, LAAO monitored approximately 650 permits pertaining to the Lower Churchill Project and maintained contact with relevant departments and entities to ensure that permits for the project were completed in a timely fashion.</li> <li>• The Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office reviewed and provided feedback on numerous environmental assessments, post-environmental assessment permitting and Land Use submissions that impacted Labrador, including projects such as Wabush 3, Wabush Mines decommissioning, Walsh River Bridge Area Quarry Expansion and Roy's Knob Quartzite project, in order to ensure that Labrador and Aboriginal perspectives were considered and that Aboriginal governments and organizations were consulted appropriately.</li> <li>• Additionally, LAAO developed project specific Aboriginal consultation guidelines to assist Provincial departments and agencies in the discharge of any Duty to Consult that the province may owe to Aboriginal organizations during the post-environmental assessment permitting phase, including the Luce Lake Dewatering Project, and the Wabush 3 Project.</li> <li>• LAAO provided advice and support to provincial departments and agencies and project proponents during the environmental assessment and post environmental assessment phases, largely through meetings and correspondence.</li> </ul>
<p>Advocated for federal investment and policies that are reflective of the economic and social needs and opportunities for Labrador and Aboriginal people:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2015-16, LAAO advocated the Federal Government for continued support to 5 Wing Goose Bay. LAAO attended meetings with Goose Bay Citizen's Coalition and reviewed reports and documentation pertinent to 5 Wing Goose Bay.</li> <li>• LAAO participated in discussions with local municipalities and stakeholders and sent correspondence to the federal Minister of Transport Canada regarding the 2015 summer airstrip maintenance in Wabush. The discussions and correspondence expressed concerns over the maintenance timeframe and potential implications for passenger and emergency services.</li> <li>• In 2015-16, LAAO continued to advocate to INAC to expand its Enhanced Prevention Focused Approach (EPFA) to funding child and family services on Reserve to Newfoundland and Labrador, for the benefit of the members of the Miawpukek First Nation, Mushuau Innu First Nation, and Sheshatshiu Innu First Nation.</li> </ul>

Indicators	Accomplishments
<p><b>Continued...</b></p> <p>Advocated for federal investment and policies that are reflective of the economic and social needs and opportunities for Labrador and Aboriginal people:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2015-16, LAAO continued to advocate to the Federal Government for it to make a decision on NunatuKavut Community Council's asserted land claim, and to expand federal programs and services eligibility to all Aboriginal people in the province.</li> <li>• The Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office has continued to work with the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group (AAWG), which has advocated for federal policies and investment reflective of the needs and opportunities in Aboriginal communities. The AAWG consists of Provincial/Territorial Ministers responsible for Aboriginal Affairs and the Leaders of five National Aboriginal Organizations. The AAWG has strived for Aboriginal economic development, Aboriginal education, ending violence against Aboriginal women and girls, Aboriginal housing, disaster mitigation and emergency management in Aboriginal communities. Since the creation of the AAWG it has sought the Federal Government's participation in the working group's process, due to the Federal Government's constitutional, jurisdictional and fiduciary responsibility for Aboriginal people, At the 2016 National Roundtable on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, the Federal Government, alongside provinces, territories, and the leaders of the five National Aboriginal Organizations, committed to transitioning the AAWG into a Federal/Provincial/Territorial/Indigenous Forum in 2016-2017.</li> </ul>
<p>Consulted and collaborated with Provincial Government departments/entities to advance economic and social development for Labrador and Aboriginal people such as to increase public infrastructure and sustainable major resource developments in Labrador:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LAAO reviewed approximately 250 government documents and materials relevant to Labrador and provided advice and commentary on Labrador and Aboriginal issues.</li> <li>• LAAO communicated with relevant government entities daily regarding Labrador and Aboriginal-specific subjects.</li> <li>• LAAO reviewed submissions proposed to the Interdepartmental Land Use Committee (ILUC) on development within Labrador and Aboriginal communities. ILUC coordinated government's resource development activities and any legislation, regulation, policy, plan, etc. involving the use of Crown or public lands.</li> <li>• LAAO provided assistance to Provincial Government Ministers and officials while in Labrador.</li> </ul>
<p>Provided advice to departments regarding consultations with Aboriginal governments and organizations and residents of Labrador on resource development in Labrador:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Throughout 2015-16, LAAO regularly reviewed and provided Aboriginal consultation advice and Labrador views on all resource development applications, environment assessment registrations, Crown Land applications and quarry permits to ensure Aboriginal and Labrador perspectives are considered.</li> <li>• LAAO continued to provide advice to all relevant department and agencies on Aboriginal land claims.</li> </ul>

# Discussion of results

The measure of Objective 1 was “promoted sustainable development by considering impacts of major resource development on communities in Labrador and on Aboriginal people”. LAAO supported sustainable development in Labrador through collaboration and discussion with Provincial Government departments and agencies and federal counterparts, and through consultation with Aboriginal governments and organizations and Labrador residents, which assisted government in understanding Aboriginal and Labrador priorities and concerns.

## Objective A1.3:

By March 31, 2017, LAAO will have further promoted sustainable development by considering impacts of major resource development on communities in Labrador and on Aboriginal people.

## A1.3 Measure:

Promoted sustainable development by considering impacts of major resource development on communities in Labrador and on Aboriginal people.

## A1.3 Indicators:

- Monitored economic and social development initiatives for Labrador and Aboriginal people via, but not limited to, such forums as Northern Development Ministers Forum, and Expo Labrador;
- Supported committees that address impacts of major projects on Labrador and Aboriginal communities such as Labrador West Regional Task Force;
- Provided input on environmental assessments, particularly integrating any needed Aboriginal consultations into environmental assessments and post-environmental assessment permitting;
- Advocated for federal investment and policies that are reflective of the economic and social needs and opportunities for Labrador and Aboriginal people;
- Consulted and collaborated with Provincial Government departments/entities to advance economic and social development for Labrador and Aboriginal people such as to increase public infrastructure and sustainable major resource developments in Labrador; and
- Provided advice to departments regarding consultations with Aboriginal governments and organizations and residents of Labrador on resource development in Labrador.

# Report on Objective

## Goal B1:

By March 31, 2017, LAAO will have progressed relations with Aboriginal people through participation in the negotiation and implementation of land claim, self-government and other agreements.

## Objective B2.2:

By March 31, 2016, LAAO will have continued to participate in negotiation and implementations of land claims, self-government and other agreements with Aboriginal people.

## B2.2 Measure:

Participation in the negotiation and implementation land claim, self-government and other agreements with Aboriginal people.

Indicators	Accomplishments
<p>Worked towards a final land claims agreement and implementation plan with Innu Nation and the Federal Government and a final self-government agreement and implementation plan with the Miawpukek First Nation and the Federal Government:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final agreement negotiation sessions continued on a monthly basis between the Provincial Government, Federal Government and Innu Nation. The provincial negotiation team liaised with departmental representatives to solicit advice on matters that fall within their departments' mandates, to inform negotiating positions.</li> <li>• Progress has been achieved, as the parties continued to resolve outstanding issues through negotiations, as well as continued to negotiate legal/technical drafting and the Final Agreement Implementation Plan.</li> <li>• Tripartite Final Agreement negotiations between the Miawpukek First Nation, the Government of Canada and the Provincial Government, as well as the development of an Implementation Agreement, are ongoing on a regular basis.</li> </ul>
<p>Strived to achieve devolution agreements with Innu Nation and the Federal Government on Income Support:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Income Support Devolution discussions continued amongst Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada and the Innu. LAAO supported the Department of Advanced Education and Skills throughout devolution discussions and negotiations with the Federal Government and the Innu Round Table, and devolution is expected to occur through stages that will include Final Preparation, Transition and Capacity Refinement as well as long term in-kind support.</li> <li>• The transfer of the delivery of the Income Assistance program to the Innu Round Table Secretariat of Labrador is expected to occur in early April 2016.</li> </ul>
<p>Strived to achieve agreement with Innu Nation, the Miawpukek First Nation and the Federal Government on an Enhanced Prevention Framework:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LAAO continued to encourage the Federal Government to provide funding for the Innu First Nations and the Miawpukek First Nation for child and family prevention services via the federal Enhanced Prevention Focused Approach (EPFA), and worked with the Innu and the Federal Government, through the tripartite Innu Round Table, in order to move towards an agreement for this funding.</li> <li>• In September 2015, a Working Relationship Agreement was signed between the province, the Sheshatshiu Innu First Nation, the Mushuau Innu First Nation and the Innu Round Table Secretariat. The agreement outlines the activities that will be undertaken to improve service coordination and information sharing through a Joint Committee process which has clearly defined specific case planning and coordination functions for Department of Child, Youth and Family Services and Innu officials. The Agreement is explicit in noting that Government of Newfoundland and Labrador will continue to support Innu Nation's request to the Federal Government for Enhanced Prevention Focused Approach (EPFA) funding to develop and deliver prevention services in the two Innu communities. The province wrote the Government of Canada in March 2016 reiterating its support for the Innu Nation's request to the Federal Government for EPFA funding.</li> </ul>

Indicators	Accomplishments
<p>Advocated for the Federal Government to make a decision regarding the land claim of the NunatuKavut Community Council, Inc. and continued to encourage the Federal Government to provide access to federal programs and services to all Aboriginal people in the province to which they are entitled:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Premier Ball’s mandate letter notes that he would “encourage the Federal Government to render a decision on the land claim of the NunatuKavut Community Council.”</li> <li>• Advocacy for the decision on the NunatuKavut Community Council land claim and the expansion of federal programming was executed primarily through oral representations to federal officials.</li> </ul>
<p>Worked towards the renewal of agreements associated with the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement and implementation plan and on a land use plan for the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office is the provincial representative on the Tripartite Implementation Committee with the Federal Government and the Nunatsiavut Government. This committee, which is responsible for overseeing and monitoring implementation of the LILCA met four times in 2015-16 to discuss implementation issues.</li> <li>• Government, represented by LAAO, and the Nunatsiavut Government signed a funding agreement for 2015-16 respecting government’s one third share of the funding for the Dispute Resolution Board which is mandated to deal with certain specific disputes that may arise under the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement.</li> <li>• In May 2015, a tripartite funding agreement for 2015-16 was signed with each of the Torngat Joint Fisheries Board and the Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-management Board by the province, the Nunatsiavut Government, the Federal Government and each of the board chairs. LAAO supported government’s efforts in this regard.</li> <li>• LAAO, the Nunatsiavut Government and the Federal Government met during 2015-16 to discuss renewal of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement Implementation Plan including the budgets for the boards established pursuant to the LILCA. The Implementation Plan which came into effect on the effective date of the LILCA (December 1, 2005) expired on December 1, 2015. The Implementation Plan is essentially a guide to implementation of the LILCA.</li> <li>• LAAO attended meetings with the Nunatsiavut Government and the Federal Government to review the current Nunatsiavut Government Fiscal Financing Agreement which expires on March 31, 2017. The results of this review will inform the negotiations on a new Fiscal Financing Agreement.</li> <li>• LAAO, the Nunatsiavut Government and the Federal Government held discussions on the French translation of technical amendments to the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement (LILCA). As English and French versions of the LILCA are equally authoritative, it is important that the three governments agree on the French version of any amendments. The technical amendments which were approved by government and the Nunatsiavut Government in 2012 are primarily related to the Appendices and the Map Atlas of the LILCA. Once the French version of the amendments is verified by Government and the Nunatsiavut Government, the Federal Government will seek approval of the amendments.</li> </ul>

Indicators	Accomplishments
<p><b>Continued...</b></p> <p>Worked towards the renewal of agreements associated with the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement and implementation plan and on a land use plan for the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In April 2015 LAAO shared with the Nunatsiavut Government for discussion purposes a draft land use plan for the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area (LISA) outside Labrador Inuit Lands. In September 2015 the Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office, Department of Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs and the Department of Natural Resources met with the Nunatsiavut Government to discuss this draft land use plan and the possibility of working together on a joint land use plan for the LISA. It is anticipated further discussions will take place early in 2016-17.</li> <li>• The Subsurface Resource Revenue Sharing Committee (SRRSC) met December 2015 to discuss issues respecting subsurface resource revenue sharing. The SRRSC, which was established pursuant to the LILCA, is comprised of members appointed by Government and the Nunatsiavut Government. LAAO supports the department of Finance on this committee.</li> <li>• Government contributed to the LILCA 2015-16 annual report. LAAO coordinated provincial department's contributions.</li> </ul>
<p>Participated in the Innu Round Table, an Innu-led initiative that includes the Province and the Federal Government and focuses on health and healing in the Innu communities;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Innu Round Table (IRT) is an Innu-led trilateral roundtable established to address community health and healing initiatives for the Innu of Labrador. Mushuau Innu First Nation, Sheshatshiu Innu First Nation, Innu Nation, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and Government of Canada are members of the IRT. The objectives of the IRT are to strengthen the relationship among Canada, Newfoundland and Labrador, and the Innu, and to provide opportunity for co-operative decision making by the parties.</li> <li>• The IRT is supported by the Innu Round Table Secretariat, in addition to sub-committees and short term task forces. LAAO is the provincial lead on the IRT, and is supported on the main table, and the various subcommittees, by the departments of Advanced Education and Skills, Child, Youth and Family Services, Health and Community Services, and Justice and Public Safety.</li> <li>• In 2015-16, LAAO participated in each of the IRT convened meetings in Halifax, St. John's, and Happy Valley-Goose Bay. In 2015-16, the IRT focused on: Income Support Devolution; improvement of CYFS services in Innu communities; strengthen partnerships in regards to justice services; and, renewal of Health Canada funding for Health and Healing Services.</li> <li>• In 2015-16 a Working Relationship Agreement was signed between the province, Sheshatshiu Innu First Nation, Mushuau Innu First Nation and the IRT. The Agreement outlines the activities that will be undertaken to improve service coordination and information sharing through a Joint Committee process which has clearly defined specific case planning and coordination functions for the Department of Child, Youth and Family Services and Innu officials.</li> </ul>
<p>Continued to develop a Land Claims and Self-Government Implementation Policy:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LAAO also continued work on the draft Land Claims and Self-Government Implementation Policy. However, this work is being assessed in light of the new developments such as the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action and National Inquiry Into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIW), second National Roundtable on MMIW and the Federal Government's commitment to endorse of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, all of which may affect this work.</li> </ul>



## Discussion of results

The measure of Objective 2 was “participation in the negotiation and implementation land claim, self-government and other agreements with Aboriginal people”. LAAO supported the participation in the negotiation and implementation of land claim, self-government and other agreements with Aboriginal people by leading those negotiations, and managing implementation, on behalf of government, with the support of Provincial Government departments and agencies.

### Objective B2.3:

By March 31, 2017, LAAO will have supported negotiations and implementations of land claims, self-government and other agreements with Aboriginal people.

### Measure B2.3:

Participation in the negotiation and implementation land claim, self-government and other agreements with Aboriginal people.

### Indicators:

- Worked towards a final land claims agreement and implementation plan with Innu Nation and the Federal Government and a final self-government agreement and implementation plan with the Miawpukek First Nation and the Federal Government;
- Strived to achieve devolution agreements with Innu Nation and the Federal Government on Income Support;
- Strived to achieve agreement with Innu Nation, the Miawpukek First Nation and the Federal Government on an Enhanced Prevention Framework;
- Advocated for the Federal Government to make a decision regarding the land claim of the NunatuKavut Community Council, Inc. and continued to encourage the Federal Government to provide access to federal programs and services to all Aboriginal people in the province to which they are entitled;
- Worked towards the renewal of agreements associated with the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement and implementation plan and on a land use plan for the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area; and
- Participated in the Innu Round Table, an Innu-led initiative that includes the province and the Federal Government and focuses on health and healing in the Innu communities.

# Issue 2

## Increase awareness of the unique perspectives of residents of Labrador and Aboriginal people

Residents of Labrador and people of Aboriginal descent have unique needs resulting from historic, social, cultural and geographic factors. Government policies, programs and services that do not reflect these needs may not be effectively delivered to residents of Labrador and Aboriginal people. To ensure these needs are reflected in Provincial Government policies, programs and services, it is necessary to communicate the perspectives of Labrador residents and Aboriginal people to government departments/entities and to the general public.

## Report on Objective

### Goal 2:

By March 31, 2017, LAAO will have worked to increase awareness of the unique perspectives of residents of Labrador and Aboriginal people in government policy and programs.

### Objective 2.2:

By March 31, 2016, LAAO will have continued to promote the unique perspectives of residents of Labrador and Aboriginal people in government policy and programs.

### 2.2 Measure:

Promoted the unique perspectives of residents of Labrador and Aboriginal people.





Indicators	Accomplishments
<p>Conducted an evaluation of the Labrador Transportation Grooming Subsidy Program which addresses the unique needs of residents living in Labrador's isolated communities:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LAAO worked with the Economic and Statistics branch of the Department of Finance to develop, conduct and analyze data from a trail user survey. The analysis of the data was completed in August 2015; and other work was done of the program such as trail inspector updates, assessment of a snowmobile drag pilot project, and meetings with a consultant who advised on evaluating the program. The information and results on the evaluation have been compiled and this compilation is currently being assessed and reviewed by LAAO. The completion of the evaluation has been delayed by other pressing priorities.</li> </ul>
<p>Provided advice to departments/entities regarding unique perspectives of residents of Labrador and Aboriginal people:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2015-16, LAAO worked with the Black Tickle Local Service District to ensure the continued retail supply of diesel/fuel in the community. Government entered into a service agreement with Woodward's Oil to supply fuel up to August 31, 2016. LAAO facilitated the service agreement.</li> <li>• LAAO represented the Department of Environment and Conservation as a non-voting observer at meetings of the Torngat Mountains Cooperative Management Board.</li> <li>• LAAO participated on the provincial negotiating team for the federal-provincial land transfer agreement for the proposed National Park in the Mealy Mountains via teleconference in May 2015 and July 2015. LAAO provided assistance and advice on documents from a Labrador and Aboriginal perspective.</li> <li>• LAAO chaired an interdepartmental committee promoting proactive dialogue between officials of the Department of Transportation and Works, Department of Business, Tourism, Culture and Rural Development in addressing any Labrador transportation and tourism issues of common concern. LAAO was responsible for coordination of the meetings, preparing minutes and following up on action items. In May and June 2015, LAAO coordinated meetings with committee representatives and Destination Labrador regarding Wi-Fi access on the Trans Labrador Highway.</li> <li>• LAAO continued to participate on an Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee (AEAC). The AEAC is a committee established to examine/develop Aboriginal curriculum in the K-12 education system that includes members from the Nunatsiavut Government, Innu Nation, NunatuKavut Community Council, Inc., Miawpukek First Nation, Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation Band, and the Department of Early Education and Child Development.</li> <li>• LAAO led Government's efforts to review and assess the 94 Calls to Action issued in 2015 by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, most particularly those Calls to Action specifically directed at provinces and territories.</li> <li>• LAAO continued to provide advice to the Department of Environment and Conservation on the George River Caribou Herd with respect to consultation requirements, engagement opportunities and government material.</li> </ul>

Indicators	Accomplishments
<p><b>Continued...</b></p> <p>Provided advice to departments/entities regarding unique perspectives of residents of Labrador and Aboriginal people:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LAAO continued to work with other Provincial Government departments and agencies to ensure Labrador and Aboriginal perspectives were considered when developing policy, program and initiatives throughout government. This was accomplished through interdepartmental communication and consultation, attending committee meetings, providing input into interdepartmental working groups, providing Aboriginal consultation advice, reviewing resource development applications and environmental assessment processes, and utilizing an Aboriginal and Labrador lens when reviewing government materials.</li> <li>• Throughout 2015-16, LAAO actively participated in a number of cross-departmental initiatives; providing advice from a Labrador and Aboriginal perspective, when required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Aboriginal Affairs Working Group;</li> <li>– Interdepartmental Committee on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities;</li> <li>– Interdepartmental Committee Working Group on Aging and Seniors;</li> <li>– Health Services Integration Fund;</li> <li>– Early Childhood Learning Strategy;</li> <li>– Violence Prevention Initiative;</li> <li>– Adult Protection Act Steering and Evaluation Committees;</li> <li>– Innu Round Table;</li> <li>– Committee on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities;</li> <li>– Early Childhood Learning Strategy;</li> <li>– Healthy Aging Strategy;</li> <li>– Poverty Reduction Strategy;</li> <li>– Interdepartmental Land Use Committee;</li> <li>– Premier’s Advisory Council on Crime and Community Safety;</li> <li>– Geographical Naming Board;</li> <li>– Food Security Interdepartmental Working Group;</li> <li>– Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Committee on Oceans Management;</li> <li>– Greening Government Initiative; and</li> <li>– Arctic Opportunities.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Indicators	Accomplishments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promoted or presented at annual forums such as, but not limited to: Combined Councils of Labrador, Northern Development Ministers Forum, and the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In June 2015, LAAO attended the forty-third annual general meeting of the Combined Councils of Labrador (CCL) that was held in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. Topics that were presented at the meeting included fire and emergency services, climate change and housing. LAAO continued to communicate with the CCL via telephone and email throughout the year and met in-person with the Board on two occasions. LAAO provided assistance when required to the CCL Executive Director and Board.</li> <li>LAAO represented the province on the Northern Development Ministers Forum and is a member of the NDMF Senior Officials Working Group. At the 2015 NDMF that was held in Whitehorse, Yukon from June 24-25, 2015, LAAO chaired a priority project “Managing Change” that examined how communities adapted to changes associated with large-scale natural resource projects and coordinated the panel discussion on the project.</li> <li>The annual Aboriginal Affairs Working Group (AAWG) meeting was held on May 12, 2015, for provincial and territorial ministers responsible for Aboriginal Affairs and leaders of the five National Aboriginal Organizations. At the 2015 Meeting, Ministers and leaders approved a Report to Premiers and Leaders regarding the AAWG’s work on five priority areas: Aboriginal Education, Aboriginal Economic Development, Ending Violence Against Aboriginal Women and Girls, Disaster Mitigation and Emergency Management Services in Aboriginal Communities and Aboriginal Housing. The report contained 18 recommendations which were subsequently presented to and endorsed by Premiers and National Aboriginal Organizations leaders. The meeting of Premiers and National Aboriginal Organization leaders was held in Happy Valley-Goose Bay on July 15, 2015. LAAO represented Government on the AAWG and developed briefing materials for the Minister for the 2015 Meeting.</li> <li>Further to direction from Premiers emanating from their August 2014 meetings in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador’s Minister of Child, Youth and Family Services, supported by the Minister of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs, worked with provincial and territorial Ministers to develop a report to Premiers on Aboriginal Children in Care. This report was presented to Premiers at their July 2015 meeting in Happy Valley-Goose Bay.</li> <li>LAAO supported Newfoundland and Labrador’s participation in the Second National Roundtable on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, held in Winnipeg in February, 2016. Newfoundland and Labrador was represented by the Minister of Justice and Public Safety, who was supported by LAAO and JPS officials.</li> </ul>

Indicators	Accomplishments
Supported community/ Provincial Government committees:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LAAO continued to co-chair the Labrador West Regional Taskforce. Meetings were held quarterly and consisted of representation from provincial, federal and municipal government officials and local mining stakeholders. LAAO assisted with logistics in meeting locations and requesting presenter and guest speakers to attend the meetings, as well as, coordinated minutes of the meetings and followed-up on action items.</li> <li>• LAAO participated and provided feedback in the Homelessness Partnering Strategy aimed to prevent and reduce homelessness across Canada. The strategy developed partnerships that contribute to a sustainable and comprehensive continuum of supports to help those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness move towards self-sufficiency. The meetings occurred monthly.</li> <li>• LAAO assisted with the coordination and logistics of the Annual Premiers Meeting with National Aboriginal Organizations that took place in Happy Valley-Goose Bay in July 2015. Approximately 75 delegates were in Happy Valley-Goose Bay and events included a welcome dinner and reception, a musical showcase of Labrador, and a private tour of the Muskrat Falls Project for the Premiers.</li> <li>• LAAO participated in the annual general meeting for Violence Prevention Labrador in Happy Valley-Goose Bay in 2015. Violence Prevention Labrador is the regional coordinating committee for the Violence Prevention Initiative program for the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. LAAO provided advice and assistance from a Labrador and Aboriginal perspective during the meeting.</li> <li>• LAAO continued to participate as a member on the Food First NL, formerly the Food Security Network Newfoundland and Labrador, Advisory committee. Food First-NL are working with communities in Nunatsiavut to examine food security issues and implement a food assessment tool to look at new initiatives such as gardening, composting and community freezers. Throughout 2015-16, LAAO participated in advisory meetings, as well as met with the Executive Director of Food First NL to discuss Labrador's issues and potential opportunities in the future. LAAO also participated in a review of the Food First NL Advisory Committee and provided feedback on the overall committee and future direction in terms of meeting schedule and distributing committee material.</li> <li>• LAAO attended the Labrador Friendship Centre's Annual General Meeting. The AGM provided the opportunity for LAAO to learn more about the Friendship Centre's operations and activities.</li> <li>• LAAO assisted the Cain's Quest Snowmobile Endurance Race with permission to access the government operated snowmobile trails on certain route sections.</li> </ul>



## Discussion of results

The measure of Objective 1 was “promoted the unique perspectives of residents of Labrador and Aboriginal people.” LAAO provided input to ensure Labrador and Aboriginal interests were considered in Provincial Government policy and programs through the provision of Labrador and Aboriginal perspectives into policy development, participated in interdepartmental working groups, supported Provincial Government consultations and administered Labrador and Aboriginal-specific programs/subsidies.

### Objective 2.3:

By March 31, 2017, LAAO will have further promoted the unique perspectives of residents of Labrador and Aboriginal people in government policy and programs.

### 2.3 Measure:

Promoted the unique perspectives of residents of Labrador and Aboriginal people.

### Indicators:

- Conducted an evaluation of the Labrador Transportation Grooming Subsidy Program which addresses the unique needs of residents living in Labrador’s isolated communities;
- Provided advice to departments/entities regarding unique perspectives of residents of Labrador and Aboriginal people;
- Promoted or presented at annual forums such as: Combined Councils of Labrador, Northern Development Ministers Forum, and the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group; and
- Supported community/Provincial Government committees such as the Labrador West Regional Taskforce.

# Issue 3

## **Support departments and agencies in the discharge of any duty to consult Aboriginal governments and organizations that may arise.**

The Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office works with provincial departments and agencies to ensure that the *Aboriginal Consultation Policy on Land and Resource Development Decisions* is implemented. This policy aims to foster and improve effective working relationships among Aboriginal governments and organizations, project proponents and the province. The Provincial Government's Aboriginal consultation processes are intended to produce increased communication, stronger relationships and easier resolution of issues among project proponents, Aboriginal governments and organizations and the province.

## Report on Objective

### **Goal 3:**

By March 31, 2017, LAAO will have implemented actions related to the development and application of Aboriginal consultation guidelines and processes to assist departments and agencies in the discharge of any duty to consult Aboriginal governments and organizations that may arise.

### **3.2 Objective:**

By March 31, 2016, LAAO will have continued to developed guidelines and processes to assist departments and agencies in the discharge of any duty to consult Aboriginal governments and organizations that may arise.

### **3.2 Measure:**

Supported the development of guidelines and processes.

Indicators	Accomplishments
Supported the completion of project specific and model Aboriginal consultation guidelines:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LAAO developed, implemented and administered project-specific Aboriginal consultation guidelines for all relevant projects. These Aboriginal consultation guidelines are designed to assist provincial regulatory departments and agencies discharge any duty to consult that the province may owe to Aboriginal organizations before issuing regulatory approvals</li> <li>• In 2015-16 project specific Aboriginal consultation guidelines were developed for a number of projects including the Luce Lake dewatering and the Wabush 3 projects.</li> <li>• LAAO continues to develop Aboriginal consultation guidelines.</li> </ul>
Provided advice to departments regarding consultation obligations with Aboriginal governments and organizations:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Aboriginal Consultation Policy, which was developed through consultation with Aboriginal governments and organizations, natural resource proponents, the public and relevant government agencies remains a foundational document and source of direction and advice to departments.</li> <li>• Consistent with the Policy, LAAO, in consultation with Government departments, developed individual Aboriginal consultation guidelines for major development projects to ensure that any Duty to Consult owed to Aboriginal governments and organizations is discharged.</li> <li>• LAAO continued to ensure the consideration of Aboriginal issues and concerns during the development of provincial policy, programs and services. LAAO provided advice to departments and agencies regarding when consultation with Aboriginal Governments and Organizations is required or recommended.</li> <li>• In 2015-2016, LAAO reviewed all resource development applications and environmental assessment processes to ensure Aboriginal perspectives are considered and that Aboriginal organizations and governments were consulted appropriately. LAAO provided advice and support to departments on mineral exploration referrals and applications and Crown Land applications in Labrador.</li> <li>• LAAO continued to provide advice on Aboriginal land claims to numerous departments and agencies including the Departments of Natural Resources, Transportation and Works, Environment and Conservation, and Service NL during its review of regulatory applications in 2015-2016.</li> </ul>
Supported implementation of the policy and guidelines:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LAAO, on behalf of the province, continued to ensure the policy was implemented when required.</li> <li>• To ensure the policy and guidelines are implemented appropriately all resource development applications and environmental assessments are reviewed by LAAO. Such review ensures Aboriginal perspectives are considered and that Aboriginal governments and organizations are consulted appropriately.</li> </ul>



## Discussion of results

The measure of the objective was “supported the development of guidelines and processes”. LAAO continued to support departments and stakeholders in the process of Aboriginal consultation. LAAO developed Aboriginal consultation guidelines. LAAO also supported Aboriginal governments and organizations through collaborative dialogue and open discussions.

### Objective 3.3:

By March 31, 2017, LAAO will have further developed guidelines and processes to assist departments and agencies in the discharge of any duty to consult Aboriginal governments and organizations that may arise.

### 3.3 Measure:

Supported the development of guidelines and processes.

### Indicators:

- Supported the completion of project specific Aboriginal consultation guidelines;
- Provided advice to departments regarding consultation obligations with Aboriginal governments and organizations; and
- Supported implementation of the policy and guidelines.



# The Year Ahead - Opportunities and Challenges

Labrador, with its reliance on natural resources, continues to see both challenges and opportunities from an economic perspective. Lower iron ore prices have impacted the Labrador West mining industry with closures and delays in mining developments; while Vale Newfoundland & Labrador Limited is progressing with its underground mineral development at Voisey's Bay.

The Muskrat Falls Project continues to be developed in Central Labrador creating employment and procurement opportunities; while some Labrador stakeholders continue to express environmental concerns related to the project.

Changes to quotas within the provincial fishery will also impact the industry across coastal Labrador.

Demographic changes in Labrador have seen decreasing and aging populations in some communities.

There are multiple significant initiatives on the national level that are likely to require government attention in the coming year, most notably the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada and its 94 Calls to Action, and a National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs will continue to work with Labrador and Aboriginal stakeholders to address these challenges and opportunities from a government policy perspective and, where relevant, facilitate and coordinate continued dialogue on Labrador and Aboriginal specific areas of interest.



# Financial Statements

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 2016.

Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office	Actual (\$)	Estimates	
		Amended (\$)	Original (\$)
<b>Executive Support</b>			
Salaries	853,368	853,400	768,700
Employee Benefits	4,235	6,000	6,000
Transportation and Communications	59,575	130,000	130,000
Supplies	826	6,000	6,000
Purchased Services	1,758	6,000	6,000
Property, Furnishings and Equipment	495	1,100	1,100
<b>Total: Executive Support</b>	<b>920,257</b>	<b>1,002,500</b>	<b>917,800</b>
<b>Labrador Affairs</b>			
Salaries	601,285	601,800	606,100
Employee Benefits	2,815	3,500	3,500
Transportation and Communications	36,292	99,000	99,000
Supplies	6,264	9,300	9,300
Professional Services	-	3,000	3,000
Purchased Services	174,103	192,600	192,600
Property, Furnishings and Equipment	-	1,000	1,000
Grants and Subsidies	663,086	689,800	556,500
<b>Total Labrador Affairs</b>	<b>1,483,845</b>	<b>1,600,000</b>	<b>1,471,000</b>
<b>Aboriginal Affairs</b>			
Salaries	779,495	780,100	853,500
Transportation and Communications	74,069	79,000	79,000
Supplies	4,065	11,100	11,300
Professional Services	-	57,500	107,500
Purchased Services	9,032	11,200	11,000
Grants and Subsidies	376,107	401,000	402,300
Revenue – Provincial	(7,055)	-	-
Total Aboriginal Affairs	1,235,713	1,339,900	1,464,600
<b>Total: Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office</b>	<b>3,639,815</b>	<b>3,942,400</b>	<b>3,853,400</b>
Report on the Program Expenditure and Revenue of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the year ended March 31, 2016			





**Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs**