

Agricultural Land Consolidation Review Committee

Activity Plan

Fiscal Years 2014-2017



Chairperson's Message

Honourable Derrick Dalley
Minister of Natural Resources and the
Minister Responsible for the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency
Natural Resources Building
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL
A1B 4J6

Dear Minister:

In accordance with the provisions of the *Transparency and Accountability Act* for category 3 public bodies, I am pleased to submit the Performance-Based Activity Plan for the Agricultural Land Consolidation Review Committee. This Activity Plan covers the period April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2017.

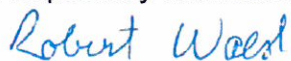
The Agricultural Land Consolidation Review Committee has a mandate to:

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

The Committee has reviewed the Strategic Direction of the Provincial Government in the area of forestry, agriculture and agrifoods, as communicated by the Minister of Natural Resources. As such, this plan has been prepared in support of a direction toward enhanced utilization, sustainability and public awareness of the forestry, agriculture and agrifood sectors.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Walsh
Chairperson

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1. Overview

There are significant growth opportunities in the agriculture sector in Newfoundland and Labrador. Less than 3% of beef and 15% of root crops consumed by Newfoundlanders and Labradorians are produced here. Furthermore, the dairy industry continues to work towards self sufficiency in forages and assessing opportunities to grow grains, which requires an expanded agricultural landbase.

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

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

The Agricultural Land Consolidation Review Committee is made up of several members from related government departments. Currently, it has one member from the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency (FAA), Department of Natural Resources; and a chairperson from the public at large, both appointed by the Minister. In addition, the Committee obtains technical representation from the Department of Environment and Conservation, Forestry and Agrifoods Agency and private legal representation. The two currently appointed members are: Richard Carey (FAA); and Robert Walsh (Chairperson). Raymond Tucker and Deanne McCarthy (FAA) act as the Committee's secretary, researcher/assessor who maintains the files and Andrew Pike (Department of Environment and Conservation) is the Committee's Technical Liaison to the Lands Branch. Mr. Thomas Fraize, QC, is the Committee's solicitor with responsibilities for negotiations and legal process.

The Agricultural Land Consolidation Review Committee receives operational support from the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency. Employees of the Agency perform many day to day administrative functions. The Agricultural Land Consolidation Program is currently funded by the Agency through the Land Development Capital Budget which has a \$2.3 million annual budget, of which \$1.65 million is for the purchase of land, \$500,000 is for the development and maintenance of access roads and electrical services and \$150,000 is for legal and environmental costs associated with the delivery of the Program.

2. Mandate

The Agricultural Land Consolidation Review Committee has a mandate to:

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

3. Core Values and Guiding Principles

The Agricultural Land Consolidation Review Committee performs its duties within the following core values:

Integrity - Each individual will be honest, dependable, fair, credible and trustworthy. They will openly acknowledge mistakes, seek to correct them and learn from them.

Respect and Professionalism - Each individual will apply program guidelines and policies equitably to stakeholders. They will serve our client groups to the fullest extent possible.

Timeliness - Each individual will meet specified deadlines in accordance with priorities and follow through on their commitments.

Collaboration - Each individual will seek the opinions and ideas of others in the application of supporting legislation and policies.

Innovation - Each individual will demonstrate initiative and flexibility in responding to challenges and change.

4. Primary Clients

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

5. Vision

Through assessment of applications, and return of private land to the Crown through the Land Consolidation Program, the Land Consolidation Review Committee contributes to the vision of the Department of Natural Resources, stated as follows:

“The vision of the Department of Natural Resources is a province that realizes the full benefit from the sustainable development of its natural resources.”

6. Mission

The mission statement is the priority focus area of a public body over its planning cycle. It represents the key longer term result that the public body and the responsible minister will work towards to achieve a component of government's strategic direction. The statement also identifies the measures and indicators that will assist a public body and the public in monitoring and evaluating success.

To prepare the mission of the Agricultural Land Consolidation Review Committee, the Committee considered that the province has many opportunities for the expansion of agricultural and agrifoods production. The consolidation of agricultural land will help achieve adequate economies of scale in operation needed to sustain current operations and make agricultural production more feasible for new entrants. Concurrently, the acquisition of granted land and subsequent allocation as Agricultural Crown Land Leases, ensures the landbase will be protected from conflicting developments. Thereby, the Committee contributes to the strategic direction of the Provincial Government in the area of forestry, agriculture and agrifoods by helping to sustain the agriculture and agrifoods sectors through the purchase of agricultural properties for allocation to the Province's farmers.

Mission: By March 31, 2017, the Agricultural Land Consolidation Review Committee will have contributed to the preservation and expansion of land for agricultural purposes.

Measure: Contributed to the preservation and expansion of agricultural land

Indicators:

- Properties purchased and made available for allocation as Agricultural Crown Land Leases
- Supported provincial agricultural zoning policies

7. Objectives

The Agricultural Land Consolidation Review Committee facilitates purchases of land by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador for lease to farmers based on guidelines for the Agricultural Land Consolidation Program. The process involves a periodic public notice to submit an application for agriculture land purchase. Applications are reviewed by the Committee to determine whether the land is suitable for agricultural purposes and is free of zoning issues. Applicants wishing to sell suitable land are invited to commence negotiations for a purchase and sale agreement. A number of third parties are involved in the process, such as land appraisers, land surveyors and lawyers. An environmental assessment may be required.

The Agricultural Land Consolidation Review Committee considered the Strategic Direction of the Provincial Government in the area of forestry, agriculture and agrifoods as communicated by the Minister of Natural Resources to help sustain the agriculture and agrifoods sectors through the purchase of agricultural properties for allocation to the Province's farmers. See Appendix A for further details. The following area has been identified as the key priority of the Committee for the three year period April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2017. The objective below applies to each year covered by this plan and will be reported on in relevant annual reports.

Issue: Agricultural Land Consolidation

Objective: The Agricultural Land Consolidation Review Committee will have administered the Agricultural Land Consolidation Program in an effort to preserve and / or increase the province's agricultural landbase.

Measure: Administered program

Indicators:

- Completed communication activities regarding the Agricultural Land Consolidation Program
- Assessed applications and prioritized purchase opportunities
- Carried out negotiations for land purchase(s)

8. Appendix A: Strategic Directions

Strategic directions of the Provincial Government are the articulation of desired physical, social or economic outcomes and normally require action by more than one government entity. These directions are generally communicated by government through platform documents, Throne and 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. This action will facilitate the integration of planning practices across government and will ensure that all entities are moving forward on key commitments.

The Agricultural Land Consolidation Review Committee considered the Strategic Direction as communicated to the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency by the Minister of Natural Resources. For the 2014-17 planning period, this direction is outlined in the table below.

Title	Natural Resource Development (Forestry, Agriculture and Agrifoods)
Outcome Statement	Enhanced utilization, sustainability and public awareness of the forestry, agriculture and agrifoods sectors.
Focus Areas	Industry Development Research and development Awareness and Education Resource Sustainability


The priority and activities outlined in the Agricultural Land Consolidation Review Committee's 2014-17 Activity Plan are supportive of this Strategic Direction. The table below clearly identifies which of the strategic direction focus areas are addressed in the activity plan and which, if any, do not apply to the Committee.

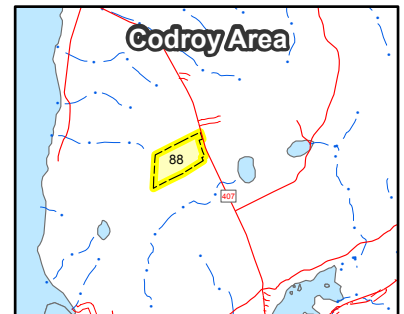
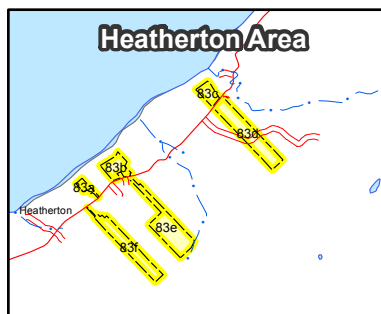
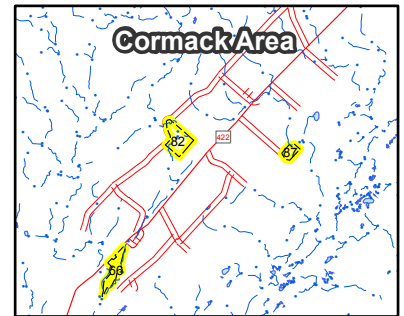
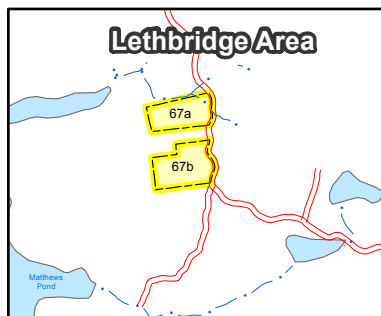
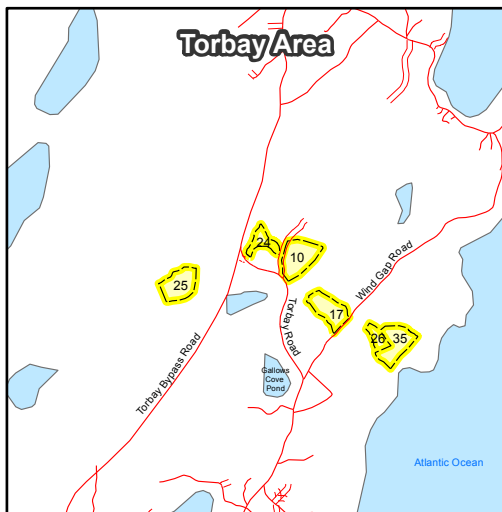
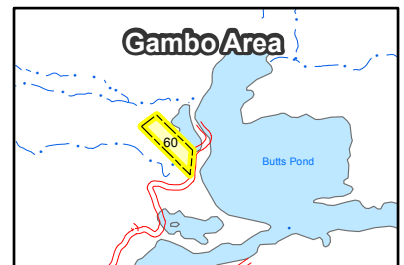
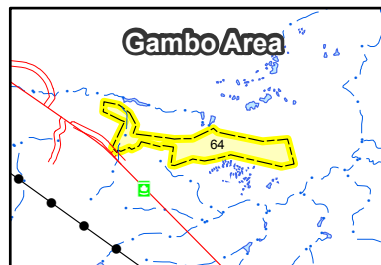
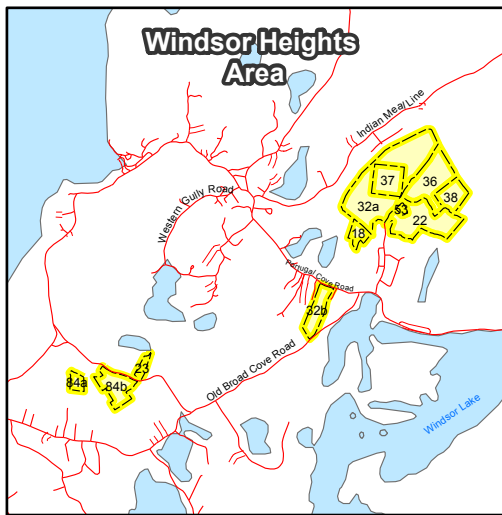
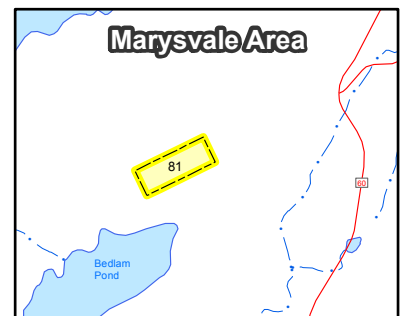
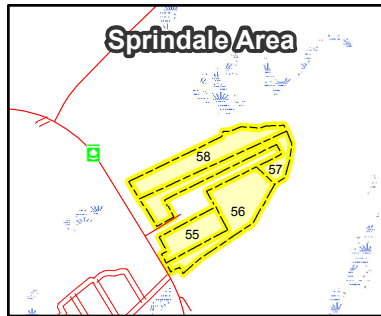
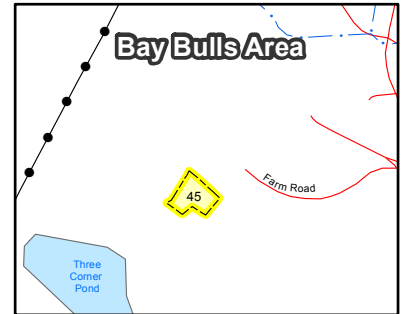
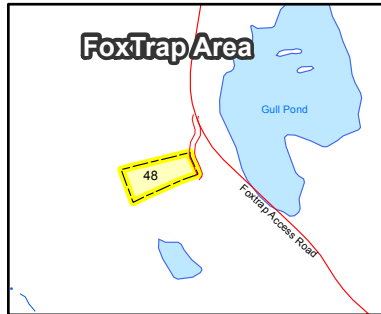
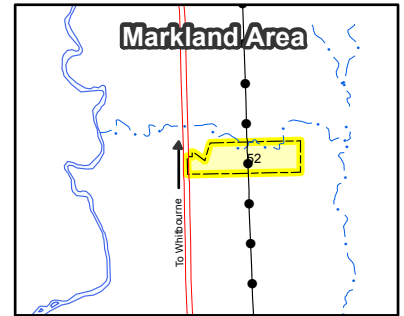
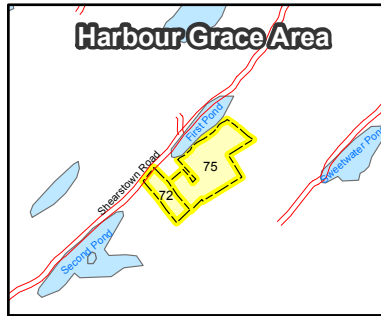
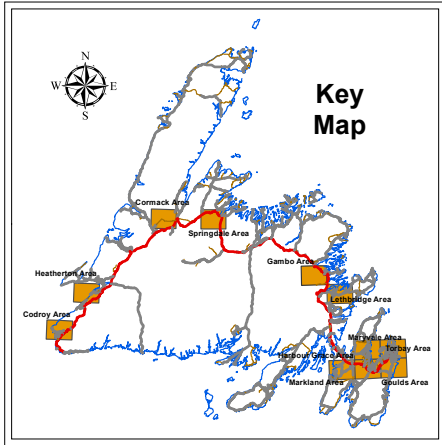
Strategic Direction Component (Focus Area)	This direction is ...	
	addressed in the entity's Activity Plan	not applicable
Industry Development	X	
Research and Development		X
Awareness and Education	X	
Resource Sustainability	X	

9. Appendix B: Maps of Purchased Land Consolidation Properties

Purchased Land Consolidation Lots Newfoundland


Department of Natural Resources
Land Resource Stewardship Division
Soils and Mapping Services,
April 2014

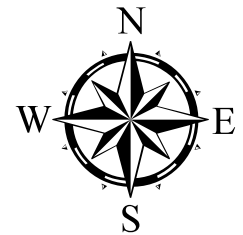
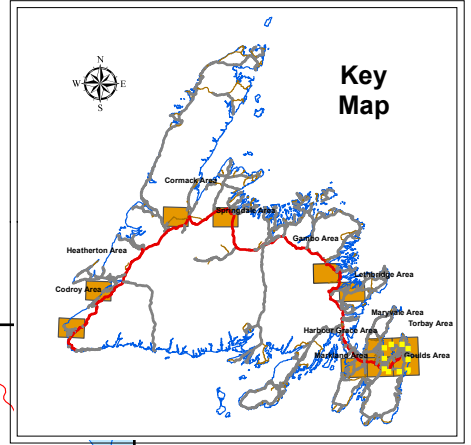
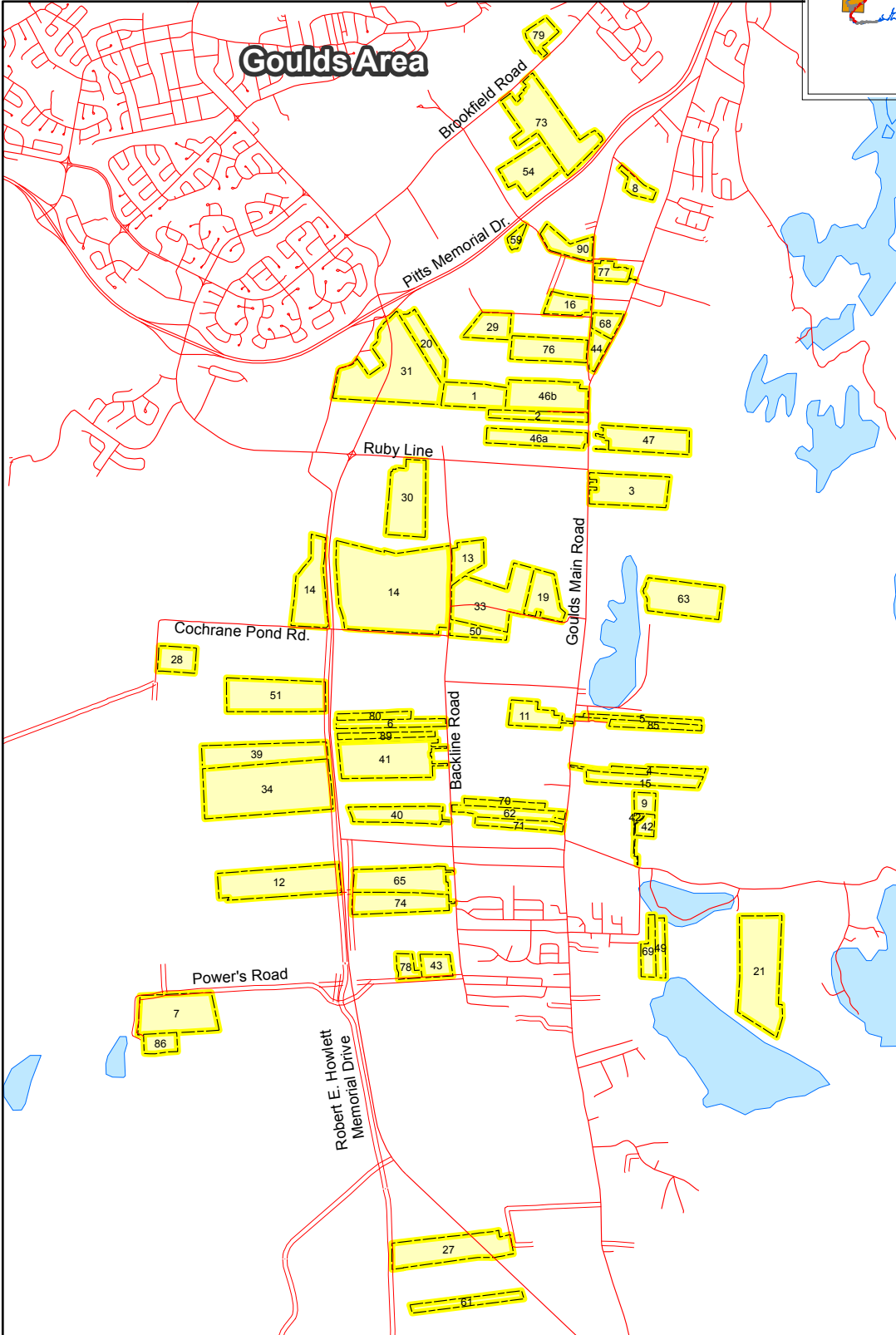
 Land Consolidation Lot Boundary



Purchased Land Consolidation Lots Newfoundland

Department of Natural Resources
Land Resource Stewardship Division
Soils and Mapping Services,
April 2014

 Land Consolidation Lot Boundary



Scale: 1:50,000

