



Newfoundland
Labrador

Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs

Annual Report
2008-09

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Message from the Ministers

In accordance with the *Transparency and Accountability Act*, we are pleased to present the Annual Report for the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs, for the fiscal year 2008/09.

The mandate of the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs is to:

- (a) negotiate and ensure the effective implementation of land claims, self-government and other Agreements related to the (i) development of Labrador and (ii) Aboriginal groups/governments;
- (b) co-ordinate and develop policies and programs relating to (i) Aboriginal issues in the province and (ii) significant issues of government interest in Labrador;
- (c) advance social and economic development in Labrador;
- (d) manage intergovernmental relations respecting Labrador and Aboriginal issues;
- (e) monitor and evaluate government programs and services in Labrador;
- (f) provide public information and education in matters related to land claims; and,
- (g) administer Labrador-specific programs as delegated by the Provincial Government.

Hard work, dedication and teamwork within the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs have enabled us to meet the goals and objectives outlined in this report. With energy, enthusiasm, and diligence, we will continue to work together to achieve the goals of the Department. As the Ministers responsible, we are proud of the accomplishments of this Department and anticipate further success as we look forward to 2009/10.

This report addresses the Department's activities and outcomes from April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009. The report was prepared under our direction, and we are accountable for the actual results reported.



JOHN HICKEY, M.H.A.
Lake Melville District
Minister of Labrador Affairs



PATTY POTTLE, M.H.A.
Torngat Mountains District
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs



Introduction

In fulfilling its commitment to being accountable to the citizens of Newfoundland and Labrador, the provincial government introduced the *Transparency and Accountability Act* (the *Act*). This *Act* provides the legislative framework for strengthening accountability of government entities through multi-year performance-based plans and annual performance reports that are presented in the House of Assembly. The Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs is considered a Category 2 Public Entity within the context of the *Act*. In accordance with the *Act*, the Department's Business Plan outlines the priorities for the 2008/11 fiscal years. This annual report identifies the Department's progress during 2008/09 in achieving the objectives set out in the Business Plan.

Departmental Overview

Vision

The vision of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs is the resolution of questions surrounding Aboriginal rights and titles in the province, a cooperative and productive relationship with Labrador and Aboriginal communities, and the achievement of social and economic well-being for Labrador and for Aboriginal peoples.

Mission

The mission statement identifies the priority focus area of the Ministers for one more planning cycle. It represents the key longer-term results that the Ministers and the Department will be working towards as they move forward on the strategic directions of Government.

The Province recognizes the barriers and challenges faced by Aboriginal people, as well as the importance of developing and maintaining the social and economic factors (e.g. health, housing and education) that support balanced growth and promote healthy and skilled individuals and communities with the capacity to create wealth and participate fully in the economy.

The resolution of issues related to Aboriginal rights and title is fundamental to the progressive development of Aboriginal peoples and to the province as a whole.

Labrador's future will be marked by significant change in its social landscape and strong opportunity for economic growth. With changes in governance in Labrador's Aboriginal communities, and the expansion of infrastructure and resource based developments, attention needs to be focused on social and economic development in Labrador to ensure advancement.

Mission Statement:

By 2011, the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs will have advocated for the progression of the social and economic development of Labrador and, with the continuing concurrence and participation of the federal government and/or relevant Aboriginal group(s), will have progressed in the negotiation and implementation of agreements with Aboriginal groups/governments throughout the province.

In September 2008, the Province and the Innu Nation reached an historic agreement, known as the Tshash Petapen Agreement (jash pey-taah-ben), which translates as the New Dawn Agreement. The Agreement resolves key issues relating to matters between the Province and Innu Nation surrounding the Innu Rights Agreement, the Lower Churchill Impacts and Benefits Agreement (IBA) and Innu redress for the Upper Churchill hydroelectric development. The Tshash Petapen Agreement will be subject to ratification by the Innu people and will form the foundation for an Agreement-in-Principle.

Progress has been made towards reaching a self-government agreement with the Miawpukek First Nation at Conne River. Financial agreements have also been negotiated to implement the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement.

The Department has worked diligently advocating for the progression of the economic and social development of Labrador. This is evident in the creation of the Northern Strategic Plan (NSP) which outlines Government's priorities for Labrador. Government has fulfilled its commitment to consult with Labradorians regarding decisions impacting Labrador. This has been demonstrated through the commitments made in the NSP and the ongoing consultations within Labrador.

Since the launch in April 2007, Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs officials have traveled to all regions of Labrador to hold public sessions and targeted private sessions with stakeholders to increase awareness about the benefits of the NSP. To ensure the commitments of the NSP are implemented effectively and efficiently, the Department works collaboratively with other provincial government departments on a regular basis.

The Department provides input into all policy initiatives that impact Labrador. This is important to ensure that the Labrador perspective is considered before any policy is finalized. The Department also provides advice and assistance to other departments and agencies to ensure that provincial government policy and programs are sensitive to the needs and perspectives of Aboriginal peoples, where the federal government has not assumed responsibility for programs and services.

Lines of Business

The Department undertakes its mandate through the following lines of business:

- ***Policy and Planning***

The Department is responsible for the development, implementation and administration of provincial policies and associated agreements respecting Labrador and Aboriginal issues.

The Department, in collaboration with other provincial public entities, negotiates and/or implements agreements with the federal government and/or Aboriginal groups/ governments; liaises with other jurisdictions and national Aboriginal organizations; and manages intergovernmental relations with respect to Aboriginal issues.

- ***Land Claims, Self-Government and Other Agreements***

The Department is responsible for tripartite negotiations among the Province, Canada and Aboriginal groups/governments towards land claims, self-government and other agreements. The Department is responsible for ensuring the implementation and management of these agreements.

- ***Program Administration and Coordination***

The Department is responsible for the administration of the following:

- Air Foodlift Subsidy,
- Labrador Transportation Grooming Subsidy,
- Suicide and Detrimental Lifestyles Grant Program,
- Williams Harbour Scheduled Air Service Subsidy and
- Combined Councils of Labrador funding.

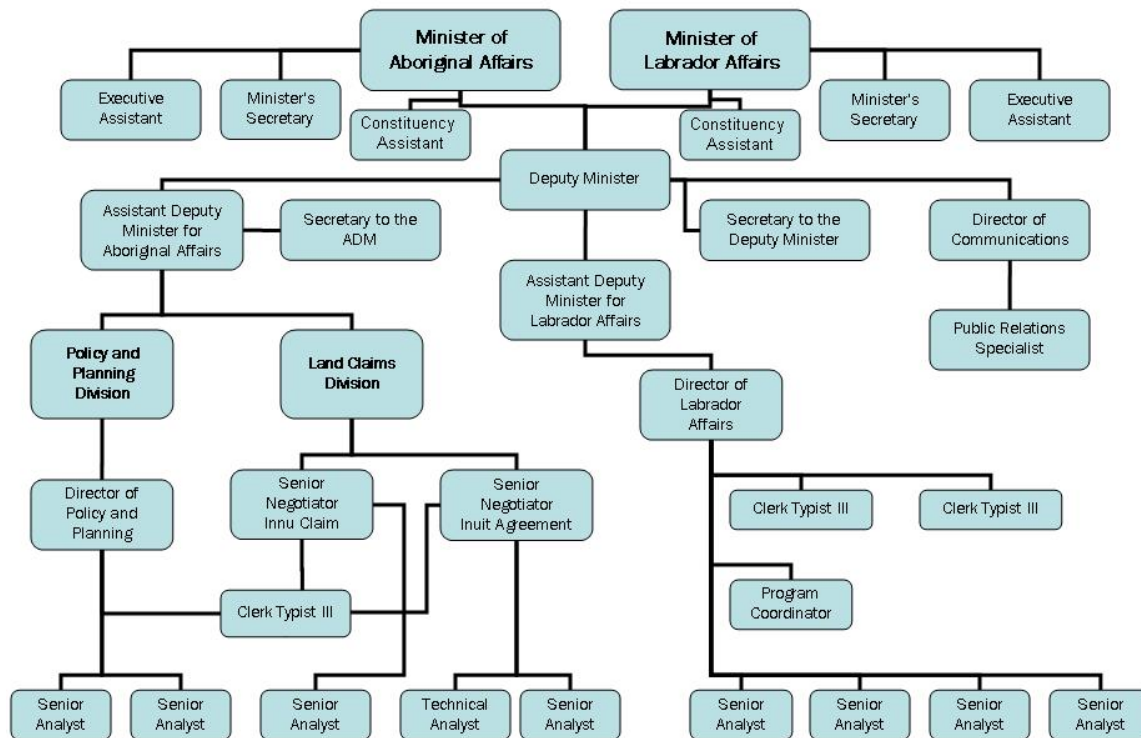
Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs assists and coordinates other interdepartmental and regional initiatives. The Department liaises with other northern ministries and assists in the management of intergovernmental relations on Labrador/northern issues.



Organizational Structure and Location

The Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs has two branches each with its own Minister: Labrador Affairs in Happy Valley-Goose Bay and Aboriginal Affairs in St. John's. Labrador Affairs focuses on economic and social development initiatives that impact the whole of Labrador, while Aboriginal Affairs focuses on policy and planning related to Aboriginal land claims and self-government policies and negotiations.

Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs



The Department has a total of 32 employees (11 male and 21 female) with 15 based out of the Labrador Affairs Branch and 17 based out of the Aboriginal Affairs Branch.

The Department leads Aboriginal land claims and self-government negotiations for the Province, administers designated Labrador-specific programming, and provides analysis and policy advice to other departments on Aboriginal matters and key issues impacting Labrador residents.

Financial Statistics

The Department had a gross annual expenditure of \$4,576,937 for the year ended March 31, 2009. Revenue allocated to the Department was through Budgetary Allocation.

Shared Commitments

Shared commitments represent those goals and objectives that could not be met without the participation and actions of partners. In much of the work of the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs, collaboration is integral to ensure effective achievement of the objectives identified in the Business Plan. On a daily basis, the Department plays a lead role in coordinating between provincial departments and agencies, the federal government and other associated groups on issues pertaining to Labrador and the Aboriginal people of the province.

The federal government has constitutional jurisdiction and a fiduciary responsibility for Aboriginal people, and offers a variety of funding programs for people of Aboriginal descent. The programs and services provided by the Province to Aboriginal peoples are typically delivered by other departments or by agencies, boards or commissions.

With the exception of the Department's specific programs, the same is true for provincial programs, services and jurisdictions in which Labradorians have an interest. Virtually all the Department's activities, including those for which it is the designated lead such as land claims negotiations and implementation, and the NSP, involve close collaboration with one or more provincial public entities. Many also involve Aboriginal groups/governments and the federal government. The Department works closely with other government departments and agencies to promote positive communications with Labrador partners. Examples are referenced further in this section as per the strategic directions outlined in its Business Plan.

These collaborative efforts supported the Department's strategic direction to advance the well-being of Aboriginal communities. Also, by working closely with other provincial departments and agencies, the Department contributed to the strategic direction to ensure the perspective of Aboriginal people was reflected in provincial social policy and programs. The Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs also worked with other departments that lead major economic developments in Labrador to ensure that Aboriginal land claims and treaty rights were respected. This supported the departmental strategic direction to ensure authorized developments in areas subject to Aboriginal land claims and treaties appropriately reflected Aboriginal interests.

In light of these realities, the Department plays a role more akin to a central agency, as a coordinating and advisory body rather than a delivery agent.

Some of our shared commitments include:

Northern Strategic Plan

The Northern Strategic Plan (NSP) was launched on April 20, 2007, in Happy Valley-Goose Bay by Premier Williams and the Minister of Labrador Affairs. The Plan initially included 145 actions divided among eight underlying themes including Transportation; Natural Resources and Environment; Tourism and Cultural Development; Education and Employment; Health; Access to Programming and Services; Aboriginal Partnerships; and Working Together.

The NSP is in its second year, with a total of 174 commitments, an increase of 29 commitments in 2008/09.

The investment of over \$300 million in Labrador also increased to support the goals and objectives in the NSP. On March 26, 2009, Government released an update of the NSP indicating further investment to a total of \$430 million and a growth in commitments to 187.

While the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs is responsible for ensuring that the NSP is implemented in an effective and timely manner, it works collaboratively with line departments to monitor the progress of each action that support our goals and objective of the plan.

Labrador Training Initiatives Committee

The Labrador Training Initiatives Committee is a provincial interdepartmental steering committee, chaired by the Department. The role of the Labrador Training Initiatives Committee is to facilitate continued training and development opportunities within the public service sector in the Labrador region. It also works to identify common training needs across departments and maximize training dollars by pooling resources.

Labour Market Development Agreement

Under the Labour Market Development Agreement, the Government of Canada and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador work together to design and tailor labour market employment programs to meet the specific needs of communities, employers, and the unemployed in Newfoundland and Labrador to complement provincial programming in this domain. Four regional committees have been established to manage regionally allocated budgets and to make decisions on all project applications. Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs participates in the Labrador Labour Market Development Agreement Management Committee.

On September 5, 2008, Government announced the devolution of the Agreement from the Government of Canada to the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. The devolution process will not be finalized until fall 2009. Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs continues to serve on the regional Management Committee.

Performance Space for Eastern Labrador

The Department continues to coordinate and facilitate the stakeholder partnership of the Eastern Labrador Arts Alliance, the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay and the Labrador School Board. Other provincial government departments including: Education; Tourism; Culture and Recreation; Transportation and Works; and Municipal Affairs work with the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs to support the progress of the facility to ensure the opening and operation of a performance space in Happy Valley – Goose Bay.

The Province has committed approximately \$4 million for the construction of the facility. The facility demonstrates Government's continued commitment to provide a venue for the arts and other events.

Northern Development Ministers' Forum

The Northern Development Ministers' Forum (NDMF) was established to raise the profile of Northern regions throughout Canada through annual Northern Ministers' meetings. The Department has been involved with the NDMF since 2000, when it was hosted by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador in Happy Valley-Goose Bay.

The Minister of Labrador Affairs led a delegation to the 2008 NDMF, hosted by Yellowknife, North West Territories. The theme of the Yellowknife Forum was "Developing the Tourism Potential of Canada's North" and the agenda featured speakers that focused on tourism trends in the north, sustainable community-based tourism development, and ingredients required for a successful northern tourism industry.

The 2008 NDMF highlighted the following priority projects:

1. Tourism Potential in Canada's North
2. Maximizing Economic and Social Impacts from Major Projects in the North
3. Focus North Website
4. Knowledge North Project
5. Northern Innovation
6. Climate Change
7. Future of the NDMF

Violence Prevention Labrador

Violence Prevention Labrador (VPL) is the Regional Coordinating Committee for the Labrador Region under the umbrella of the Violence Prevention Initiative. Labrador is a unique region, with four distinct ethnic groups and a vast geography. With this in mind, VPL works hard to carry out its objectives and pull together key partners throughout the Labrador Region.

Objectives of the VPL include:

- Establish a communication network among organizations that provides advocacy, service and education on issues of violence.
- Involve individuals, organizations and communities throughout all regions of Labrador.
- Gather and share information through networking and understand what communities are doing or have done to overcome the problem of violence.
- Identify and rectify gaps in services within VPL and Labrador communities.
- Identify resources within the organization and in communities to improve the response to the problem of violence.
- Encourage public awareness of the problem of violence.

Some of the accomplishments from the 2008/09 year of the VPL include:

- Completion of a new website hosting information for victims of violence, resources for service providers, and Labrador specific crisis and resource contact information.
- Delivery of educational and awareness activities throughout the region including the Silent Witness Campaign, newsletter to all Labrador households, media pieces and partnered with service providers for training and educational opportunities for both residents and service providers. Coordinated activities for Violence Prevention Month.

- Hosted and coordinated a "Train the Trainer" program for the Violence Awareness and Action Training, which trained eight facilitators. Hosted nine sessions throughout the region and coordinates the Program regionally.
- VPL has a representative on the Community Advisory Committee with the Violence Prevention Initiative (VPI) to bring a regional voice to government regarding violence related issues.
- Works closely with the provincial VPI on provincial awareness campaigns.

Labrador Regional Economic Development Boards

The Department has established working relationships with the staff of the regional economic development boards in Labrador. Senior Analysts within Labrador Affairs have been designated to work with respective Labrador Boards to promote communication on regional economic development issues.

Destination Labrador

The Department holds an ex-officio position on Destination Labrador's Advisory Board. Destination Labrador, an organization that receives public funds, is designed to improve market readiness of tourism products and product development initiatives in Labrador. Destination Labrador is working with its partners to develop a dedicated Labrador marketing program.

5 Wing Goose Bay

In cooperation with other departments and municipal governments, the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs supports efforts to sustain and diversify operations at 5 Wing Goose Bay.

The Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs is a member of the Goose Bay Airport Development Committee, which is comprised of stakeholders interested in the longevity of future aerospace developments, and other potential opportunities at 5 Wing Goose Bay.

The Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs represents the Province as an ex-officio member of the board for the Institute for Environmental Monitoring and Research. The Institute conducts and provides incisive, comprehensive, scientific research in Labrador and northeastern Quebec ecosystems affected by the low-level flying program. The Institute offers scientifically supported recommendations to the Ministers of Environment and National Defense on policy issues relating to the impacts of low-level flying.



Highlights and Accomplishments

In addition to the Department's accomplishments on its strategic issues the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs has worked on a number of other initiatives to effectively carry out its mandate.

Labrador Transportation Grooming Subsidy

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador continues to provide a grooming subsidy to coastal regions of Labrador. This subsidy supports the departmental strategic direction to improve economic and social development in Labrador. As a result of the NSP, the Province, through the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs, subsidizes a total annual amount of \$390,000. This subsidy is provided to the Inuit Community Governments of Hopedale, Postville, Makkovik and Rigolet. The Subsidy was also provided to the Eagle River Development Association, the Labrador White Bear Development Association, the Battle Harbour Regional Development Association and the Town of Northwest River. The purpose of the subsidy is to provide support to regions along the north and south coasts of Labrador for maintenance of winter trails systems. The funds allow continued access for communities that do not have year round road connections to other areas of Labrador. In 2008/09 the Government provided an additional \$200,000 for trail enhancements. During the 2008 reporting period, grooming operations on the north and south coasts of Labrador were overseen by the Department in collaboration with community councils and development associations, where relevant.

Air Foodlift Subsidy (AFS)

The Air Foodlift Subsidy program (AFS) was established by the Province in 1997 to offset shipping costs of nutritious, perishable items such as fruit, vegetables and dairy products to Labrador's coastal communities during the winter months. This program is administered by the Department. Similar to the Labrador Transportation Grooming Subsidy, the subsidy supports the Department's strategic direction to improve economic and social development in Labrador. All options for a long-term solution to the high cost of transporting fresh food for coastal Labradorians continue to be explored.

Many enhancements were made to the AFS throughout 2008/09. With support from Government's Poverty Reduction Strategy Budget in 2008, the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs expanded the AFS throughout the summer for retailers in specific communities. This allowed retailers to fly in soft fruits and vegetables, as well as dairy and bread products during the marine service season. Another enhancement was a full air freight subsidy on fresh milk year round for specific communities. The Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs, in collaboration with Newfoundland and Labrador Statistics Agency, has increased the air freight rate subsidy to 80% coverage to ensure equitable rates for all retailers in the regular AFS program. The Newfoundland and Labrador Statistics Agency assisted by creating a new formula that provided consistent coverage of 80%. The Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs conducted retailer visits for random price checks throughout the year. The Department is also assisting Health and Community Services in conducting a food survey in each community in Labrador to better assess the cost of groceries in these communities.

Combined Councils of Labrador

The Combined Councils of Labrador, established in 1972, provides an opportunity for municipal leaders throughout Labrador to gather and discuss issues of mutual concern and to engage Government in meaningful deliberations.

The Province increased the core funding for the Combined Councils of Labrador from \$100,000 to \$120,000 in 2008/09; evidence of its on-going support of the organization.

In March 2009, the Combined Councils held its 37th Annual General Meeting in the community of North West River. Assistance for the Annual General Meeting was provided by the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs through ongoing communications with government departments.

The Department continues to work closely with the Combined Councils of Labrador on major issues in Labrador. This involvement supports the departmental strategic direction to reflect Labrador interests in provincial policy. For example, the Department coordinates and facilitates discussion between the Province and the Combined Councils of Labrador on issues related to Labrador.

Labrador Regional Senior Management Council

The Labrador Regional Senior Management Council was established in June of 1998 as a means of facilitating more effective delivery of government services in Labrador. It provides a forum within Government to explore ways to improve delivery of service and communicates an integrated and coordinated message respecting Labrador issues while being cognizant of regional sensitivities.

The Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs serves as a point of contact, as well as acts in a coordinating and facilitative role in helping to resolve issues as they relate to the region. The Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs continues to chair the Council and works to bring a connection from central government into the region.

Provincial - Nunatsiavut Government Relations

Since December 1, 2005, when the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement came into effect, provincial departments and agencies have worked actively with Nunatsiavut Government (NG) elected representatives and officials. The Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs has made significant progress in establishing mechanisms by which provincial departments and agencies are advised of obligations under the Agreement. The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador continues to work closely with NG on the implementation of the Agreement and consults NG on all major government initiatives related to the Labrador Inuit.

Innu Healing Initiatives

The Department continues to work cooperatively with the Innu Nation, the Mushuau Innu, Sheshatshiu Innu Bands and the federal government on the Innu Healing Strategy. The unprecedented Healing Table provides a forum for discussions and resolution of community challenges and acts as a mechanism for the devolution of programs and services to Band control. The Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs continued to work with the Innu

Nation and member Bands on the devolution of education, Child, Youth and Family Services (CYFS), and income support programming to the Innu. These programs and services are currently delivered by the Province on behalf of the federal government.

Miawpukek First Nation Self-government Negotiations

The Province, federal government and Miawpukek First Nation are currently negotiating an Agreement-in-Principle on Miawpukek First Nation self-government. The negotiations are progressing well. The Miawpukek First Nation is consulting with members on and off-reserve on its self-government proposal. When completed, the Agreement will provide the Miawpukek First Nation with the jurisdiction to effectively regulate and manage the programs and services it delivers to its members.

Aboriginal Women's Issues

Pursuant to the first annual National Aboriginal Women's Summit in 2007, the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs coordinated the creation of a working group to review and analyze the recommendations from the National Aboriginal Women's Summits held in 2007 and 2008.

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador provided funding to assist this working group, comprised of provincial senior executive officials and representatives of Aboriginal women, as they examine ways to implement the Summit's recommendations. Three meetings of the working group took place during 2008/09. The meetings and review will continue in 2009/10.

The Department recruited and hired a Policy Analyst to assist in the analysis and implementation of these recommendations.

Suicide and Detrimental Lifestyles Grants Program

The Suicide and Detrimental Lifestyles Grants Program provides funding to organizations to develop innovative programs that are targeted at improving the health, circumstances and well being of Aboriginal youth throughout the province. The program provides a means whereby culturally appropriate approaches are used to address issues such as drug and alcohol abuse, delinquency and other detrimental lifestyles.





Report on Performance

In preparation of the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Business Plan for 2008/09 to 2010/11, the Minister of Labrador Affairs and the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs identified key strategic issues applicable to their portfolios. These key strategic issues took into consideration Government's strategic directions and the mandate and financial resources of the Department. The following areas were identified as the key priorities of the Ministers.

Issue 1 Northern Strategic Plan

In the March 2005 Speech from the Throne, Government mandated the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs to develop the NSP to address social and economic development in Labrador. The NSP was launched on April 20, 2007, with Government's commitment to follow through on the implementation of the initiatives outlined in the Plan. The Department continues to work with line departments to support the realization of the commitments and continues to inform the public of the progress achieved throughout the implementation of the NSP. Detailed information on the commitments outlined in the NSP can be found at Government's web site: www.gov.nl.ca by clicking the link entitled: Northern Strategic Plan for Labrador.

It should be noted that this issue is directly linked to the Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Business Plan's strategic direction on enhanced economic and social development in Labrador. Many of the commitments outlined in the NSP support economic and social development. The NSP themes include: Transportation; Education and Employment; Health; Tourism and Culture; Natural Resources and Environment; Access to Programming and Services; Aboriginal Partnerships and Working Together, all of which support the strategic direction.

Goal: By 2011, the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs will have led the implementation of the Northern Strategic Plan.

Measures	Led implementation of the NSP
Indicator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress of NSP implementation is monitored • Public and House of Assembly are provided information on the progress of the implementation of the NSP • Annual budgets reflect NSP commitments • Departments are supported in fulfilling their NSP obligations • Future NSP initiatives are evaluated and presented for Government's consideration

2008/09

Objective: By 2009, the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs will have continued to lead the implementation of the NSP, including building and maintaining an accountability framework.

Measures	Continued to lead the implementation of the NSP
Indicator	Progress of the NSP implementation is monitored
Accomplishments	<p>A monitoring framework has been developed and implemented to monitor the progression of the NSP. The Department works closely with designates from all government departments and agencies to ensure commitments within the framework are updated regularly.</p> <p>The monitoring process provides the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs updated progress on the NSP, by regularly engaging with department representatives to keep updated and accurate account of all commitments, and by regularly inserting NSP progress into the monitoring framework</p> <p>An increase of 29 new commitments in 2008/09. This was an increase from 145 initial commitments in 2007/08 to 174 in 2008/09. Approximately \$7 million was announced for 29 new NSP commitments for 2008/09</p> <p>Government's release of March 26, 2009 provided an update on the NSP</p>

	<p>with new totals of 187 commitments and \$430 million in spending</p> <p>Continuing to further NSP goals and objectives by working closely with government departments/agency NSP designates on existing and new commitments</p>
Indicator	Prioritization model for future initiatives is developed
Accomplishments	<p>In the fall of September 2008 a prioritization model was developed to guide any new initiatives that would support the NSP goals and objectives</p> <p>A NSP planning session was organized and delivered in St. John's, NL, in September 2008 with department/agency designates to continue working towards goals and objectives of the NSP</p> <p>Continue to work closely with the Department of Finance to ensure accurate financial records are kept</p> <p>Executive meetings were held in October 2008 to prepare for the budget process and discuss the NSP and future priorities</p>
Indicator	2008/09 commitments are incorporated into the NSP framework
Accomplishments	<p>All 29 new NSP commitments for 2008/09 have been incorporated into the NSP framework</p> <p>The commitments from March 2009 announcement are currently being incorporated into the framework in consultation with NSP designates. These new commitments are reflective of 2009/10 budget</p>
Indicator	Departments are supported in fulfilling their NSP obligations
Accomplishments	<p>Senior Analysts communicate with department/agency designates on an on-going basis to ensure accurate updated information is maintained in the NSP</p> <p>Fall September 2008, all departments/agencies that had commitments in the NSP gathered in St. John's, NL, for a NSP planning session</p> <p>Every department in government/agencies that have committed progress towards the NSP is contacted on a regular basis to give updates on their specific commitments</p> <p>Reporting on the progress of NSP commitments required Deputy Ministers to sign off on reported commitments by respective department or agency</p>

Indicator	Public information sessions are held to inform on the progress of the NSP
Accomplishments	<p>There were no formalized public sessions held in 2008 to inform the public on progress of the NSP. This was changed to accommodate the bi-annual report that will be coming out in the fall of 2009. Public sessions will occur during the fall of 2009 with the release of the bi-annual report</p> <p>Two NSP presentations were delivered in October 2008 and November 2008</p> <p>In November 2008, a power point presentation was delivered at the Newfoundland and Labrador Regional Economic Development Association AGM</p> <p>A session was delivered at the Combined Council of Labrador's AGM in February 2009 which included an overview of the Department's mandate, and role of Labrador Affairs and the NSP</p>
Indicator	Annual progress report is presented to the House of Assembly
Accomplishments	Updates on the NSP were provided to the House of Assembly on April 29, 2008, and March 26, 2009
Indicator	New initiatives for the NSP are identified and evaluated
Accomplishments	<p>NSP Initiatives and commitments are evaluated regularly through NSP planning sessions and executive meetings held in the fall of 2008. The purpose of the sessions/meetings was to review commitments identified in the monitoring framework and to explore options to support NSP goals and objectives in the coming year</p> <p>29 new initiatives announced for 2008/09</p> <p>In the fall of 2009 a progress report will provide detailed analysis on the first 2 years of the NSP</p>
Indicator	Formal written report on NSP progress is released
Accomplishments	Through the NSP, a public commitment was made to report on the first two years of the plan. Since this reporting period does not end until March 31, 2009, the midterm report will not be released until fall 2009.

Discussion of Results:

The Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs continues to lead the NSP. To date, the Department has been successful in establishing mechanisms by which to monitor the NSP.

2009/10

Objective: By 2010, the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs will have continued to lead the implementation of the NSP by monitoring the approved 2009/10 initiatives.

Measure: Continue to lead implementation of the NSP

Indicators:

- Progress of the NSP implementation is monitored
- Public and House of Assembly are provided information on progress of the implementation of the NSP
- Annual budgets reflect NSP commitments
- Departments are supported in fulfilling their NSP obligations
- New initiatives for the NSP are added, identified and evaluated

Issue 2 Public Awareness

A significant challenge continues in communicating to the public both the mandate and the ongoing accomplishments of the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs and actions of other government departments that benefit Labradorians and Aboriginal peoples. Nearly all of the activities of this Department, including land claim negotiations and implementation of the NSP for Labrador, require collaboration with other provincial public bodies, Aboriginal groups, and the Government of Canada. The Department is committed to acknowledging the need to strengthen communications between the Department and stakeholders in Labrador and within the Aboriginal community throughout the province.

This issue is directly linked to the Department's strategic directions as outlined in its Business Plan. Progress on public awareness will support activities such as 1) consultations with Aboriginal peoples with respect to Aboriginal interests on social policy and 2) encouraging communications and partnerships to facilitate enhanced economic and social development throughout Labrador.

Goal: By 2011, the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs will have better informed the province of Government's contributions to Labrador and the Aboriginal community.

Measure	Better informed province
Indicator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased consultations with the public on Labrador and Aboriginal initiatives • Data collection methods are enhanced to assist the Department in better informing the public • Increased public communication activities • Public informed of progress on Labrador and Aboriginal initiatives • Processes are enhanced to effectively communicate the programs and services of the Department • Departments are supported to enable Labrador and Aboriginal interests to be accurately reflected in all government media communications

2008/09

Objective: By 2009, the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs will have identified and initiated strategies to better inform the public on the role and mandate of the Department.

Measure	Better informed province
Indicator	Stakeholders are consulted regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Labrador Transportation Grooming Subsidy ➤ Air Foodlift Subsidy ➤ Land Use in the Innu Claim Area
Accomplishments	<p>Air Foodlift Subsidy consultations took place between June 2008-September 2008, with Nutritionists from Health and Community Services to revise the eligible food list for the Air Foodlift Subsidy program</p> <p>The Department consulted with NL Statistics Agency to revise/increase the subsidy freight rates for all retailers that participate in the AFS program</p> <p>During 2008, random retailer visits took place, to consult with managers regarding the AFS program which resulted in the development of an information householder to inform consumers of the</p>

	<p>AFS (to be released fall of 2009)</p> <p>Consultations took place with stakeholders regarding the Labrador Transportation Grooming Subsidy in Happy Valley-Goose Bay prior to season opening. Planning sessions were held with communities, Trail Inspector and Program Coordinator in January 2009</p> <p>Provided departments, agencies and the public with information on claims and treaties</p> <p>Land selection maps were released to the public on September 26, 2008. The Department subsequently met, upon request, with land users in the Innu land selection areas</p>
Indicator	Public information sessions are delivered to provide updates on the NSP
Accomplishments	<p>Session was held at the Combined Council of Labrador's AGM in March 2009. Included an overview of the Department's mandate and role of Labrador Affairs and the NSP</p> <p>Attended South Eastern Aurora Development Corporation meetings in Cartwright and provided an update on the Department of Labrador Affairs and NSP</p> <p>In November 2008, a presentation was delivered at the Newfoundland and Labrador Regional Economic Development Association AGM</p> <p>There were no formalized public sessions held in 2008 to inform the public on progress of the NSP. This was changed to accommodate the bi-annual report that will be coming out in the fall of 2009. Public sessions will occur during the fall of 2009 with the release of the bi-annual report</p>
Indicator	Determine information needs and sources for database development
Accomplishments	<p>Information Management review was conducted for Department</p> <p>The Planning Service Delivery Committee meets regularly to identify software applications for more efficient information management</p>
Indicator	Website is updated
Accomplishments	<p>The working committee was formed in January 2009 and consists of representatives with the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs and OCIO. The committee meets on a regular basis. Work is underway to redevelop the new website for anticipated release in the next fiscal year.</p> <p>Updates on the existing website have been made; including the addition of news releases and changes to program delivery</p>
Indicator	Increased number of press releases

Accomplishments	Press releases increased from 71 in 07/08 to 83 in 08/09
Indicator	Public is provided information on the results of the National Aboriginal Women's Summit
Accomplishment	The Department hired a Policy Analyst to work on the recommendations of the National Aboriginal Women's Summit. Review of the recommendations continues. The Department continued to participate in working group meetings with Newfoundland and Labrador Aboriginal Women to further the recommendations of the National Aboriginal Women's Summit. The recommendations of the Summit were posted on the Department's website and the Minister wrote all Aboriginal leaders in the Province and heads of Aboriginal women's groups providing copies of the Summit Report and inviting their participation in the review.
Indicator	Identified and availed of opportunities to better communicate the work of the Department
Accomplishments	<p>Committed to two trips per year to all communities in Labrador regarding the Air Foodlift Subsidy. Completed 2008/09</p> <p>Attended Expo Labrador. Minister of Labrador Affairs keynote speaker on leading economic development conference</p> <p>Drafted Labrador Accomplishments brochure (winter 2009)</p> <p>Organized annual face to face planning sessions for Labrador Transportation Grooming Subsidy</p> <p>The Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs participated in and attended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combined Council of Labrador AGM • Central Labrador Economic Development Board AGM • Eagle River Development Association AGM in Cartwright (October 2008) • Labrador West Community Advisory Panel meetings • Northern Lights Conference in January 2009 <p>NSP presentation to the Department of Transportation and Works in January 2008</p>
Indicator	Role and work of Department communicated to other government departments and agencies
Accomplishments	The Department continues to work on numerous interdepartmental working groups to ensure Labrador and Aboriginal perspectives are included in any policy direction or action being developed.

	<p>Continue to communicate with designates on NSP</p> <p>Labrador Affairs chairs the Labrador Regional Council, which meets quarterly.</p>
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Discussion of Results:

Excellent progress has been made towards an approach to increase public awareness not only within the Department but with the people of Labrador.

2009/10

Objective: By 2010, the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs will have implemented strategies to better inform the province of Government's contributions to Labrador and the Aboriginal community, including development of a database on Labrador and Aboriginal issues.

Measure: Better Informed Province

Indicator(s):

- Continue to implement recommendations of the National Aboriginal Women's Summit and prepare a report on the work of the Senior Advisory Committee and Government's ongoing response to the needs of Aboriginal women and their families
- Mandate of the Department communicated to other government departments through direct feedback on policy development and departmental initiatives
- Increased consultations and communications with public on Labrador and Aboriginal initiatives
- Provide public information on the Agreement-in-Principle when finalized with the Labrador Innu
- To create mechanisms to track information on Labrador and Aboriginal issues.
- Stakeholders are consulted regarding:
 - Labrador Transportation Grooming Subsidy
 - Air Foodlift Subsidy

Issue 3 Labrador and Aboriginal Interests Reflected in Government Policy and Programs

Residents of Labrador and Aboriginal peoples throughout the province have unique social and economic needs resulting from historic, social, cultural and geographic factors. The Department continues to play a key role in ensuring that information and advice regarding these factors inform provincial government policy. In particular, the Department addresses Aboriginal women's interests. The Department also works with the federal government and Aboriginal groups to ensure they benefit from federal programs and services. The Department is the lead

with the Labrador Regional Senior Management Council and continues to provide updates on the Department's mandate and role and how its interests are reflected in Government policy and programs.

The Department's Business Plan identifies the importance of reflecting Labrador and Aboriginal interests in government policy. The Plan's strategic directions outlined under Labrador Interests and Aboriginal Interests in Social Policy complement the 2008/09 objective through the accomplishments as presented.

Goal: By 2011, the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs will have provided input to support the consideration of Labrador and Aboriginal interests in government policy and programs.

Measure:	Provided input
Indicators:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocated for the Labrador and Aboriginal perspectives in the development of government policy and programs • Government consultations are supported to enable Labrador and Aboriginal perspectives to be considered • Government policy and programs are evaluated to determine potential impacts on Labrador and the Aboriginal community • Aboriginal interests respected regarding resource development in Labrador

2008/09

Objective: By 2009, the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs will have provided input to support the consideration of Labrador and Aboriginal interests in government policy and programs, in particular those associated with major developments in Labrador.

Measure	Provided input
Indicator	Advocated for the Labrador and Aboriginal perspectives in the development of government policy and programs
Accomplishments	<p>The Department continues to work with other departments and agencies to ensure Aboriginal and Labrador perspectives are included when developing policy and programs. Aboriginal Affairs officials participate in a number of working groups to accomplish this goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Skills Task Force Interdepartmental Working Committee

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Healthy Aging Interdepartmental Working Committee ➤ Poverty Reduction Working Group ➤ Working Group for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities ➤ Violence Prevention Initiative ➤ Provincial Coastal & Ocean Management Committee ➤ Youth Retention and Attraction Strategy ➤ Interdepartmental Land Use Committee ➤ Turner Report Committee <p>Labrador Affairs representatives sit on a number of working committees such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Multiculturalism Working Group ➤ All Hazards Human Resources Working Group ➤ Labrador Regional Senior Management Council ➤ Planning Service Delivery Committee – Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs and OCIO ➤ Nutritionist meetings – Nutritionists with Health and Community Services ➤ Business Continuity Committee – intergovernmental initiative to develop a Business Continuity Plan for the Department ➤ Newfoundland and Labrador Statistics Agency on rate structure for the AFS program ➤ Health and Community Services on Food Pricing Survey for Labrador and AFS eligibility list ➤ NG’s Department of Health and Social Development officials on AFS eligible food list August 2008 <p>Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs continues to review policy documents from a Labrador and Aboriginal lens</p>
Indicator	Government consultations are supported to enable Labrador and Aboriginal perspectives to be considered in program/policy development and delivery
Accomplishments	<p>Development and sharing of departmental papers, attending committee meetings and providing input into interdepartmental working groups allowed the Department to advocate the perspectives of both Labrador and of Aboriginal peoples</p> <p>Some consultations the Labrador Affairs branch supported were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Happy Valley – Goose Bay Homelessness Committee – stakeholders in the community and the Labrador Friendship Centre ➤ Poverty Reduction Strategy Roundtable October 2008 ➤ Pre Budget consultations during the fall of 2008 in Labrador West and Central Labrador

Indicator	Government policy and programs are evaluated to determine potential impacts on Labrador and the Aboriginal community
Accomplishments	<p>The Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs reviews all policy and program related documents. Documents are reviewed and evaluated to identify any potential impacts on Labrador and Aboriginal communities</p> <p>Continue to provide input into interdepartmental initiatives</p>
Indicator	Expanded grant program to address Aboriginal adolescent suicide
Accomplishments	Budget 2008 provided \$100,000 for the Suicide and Detrimental Lifestyles Grant Program. This was a budget increase of \$30,000 over the previous year's budget. In 2008/09, the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs provided approximately \$100,000 to eight (8) Aboriginal organizations for grants approved under the Suicide and Detrimental Lifestyles Program as compared to \$26,000 in 2007/08. Funding was used to conduct suicide intervention training; hold forums to address suicide prevention, addictions, other challenges as well as family wellness; deliver an Anti-Bullying campaign; and, to develop a plan to better understand suicide in Aboriginal communities
Indicator	Supported initiatives to address violence affecting Aboriginal women, and facilitated Aboriginal women's input on public policy, programs and legislation
Accomplishments	<p>Department participates in the Violence Prevention Initiative, a multi-departmental government-community partnership, to ensure that the issues/perspectives of Aboriginal women are represented. This included participating in the Violence Prevention Labrador working group that focuses on encouraging public awareness of the problem of violence, involving organizations and communities throughout all regions of Labrador, and identifying resources to improve the response to violence</p> <p>Facilitated the contribution of funding from the Violence Prevention Initiative to the Rigolet Partnership Against Family Violence towards the establishment of a women's shelter in Rigolet</p> <p>Pursuant to the National Aboriginal Women's Summit (NAWS) in 2007, government formed a senior advisory committee that includes Aboriginal women to review the recommendations of the Summit. An Analyst was hired by the Department to work with this committee and in turn prepare policy advice to government on major social policy initiatives</p>
Indicator	Mechanisms established to address National Aboriginal Women's Summit recommendations
	To address the recommendations of the NAWS, mechanisms were put in place by the Department. These mechanisms included creating a working group and the hiring of a Policy Analyst to facilitate the

Accomplishment	<p>processes. The working group was created to review and analyze the recommendations of the NAWS held in 2007 and 2008. The working group is comprised of officials from the Department and the Women's Policy Office, and women nominated by Aboriginal organizations and governments. Three meetings of the working group took place during 2008/09, and the meetings and review will continue in 2009/10</p> <p>A Policy Analyst was hired to work with this working group and to act as a liaison between departments and Aboriginal groups with respect to the recommendations from the Summits</p>
Indicator	Facilitated consultations with Aboriginal groups/governments regarding major resource development and infrastructure initiatives in Labrador
Accomplishments	Through the Interdepartmental Land Use Committee and /or Environmental Assessment processes, the Department provides advice to other departments to ensure that appropriate consultations occurred with the Aboriginal groups/governments within the Province
Indicator	Advocated for the federal government to make a decision on the Labrador Métis Nation land claim
Accomplishments	The Minister of Aboriginal Affairs wrote the Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, advocating for a timely resolution on the Labrador Métis Nation (LMN) claim
Indicator	Advocated for the federal government to provide Aboriginal programs and services to all eligible Aboriginal peoples in the Province
Accomplishments	<p>Departmental officials met with federal officials to discuss the provision of federal Aboriginal programs and services in the province. The Minister of Aboriginal Affairs has also raised these issues, both in person and through written correspondence, to the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, and Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians. Provincial officials provided information to the LMN on federal funding provided in Newfoundland and Labrador to non-status Aboriginal peoples and offered to assist the LMN in preparing any submission to the federal government.</p> <p>Department continues to support the Federation of Newfoundland Indians (FNI) during the enrollment of its members and the creation of its landless band</p>
Indicator	Supported Government's efforts to increase public infrastructure and industrial developments in Labrador
Accomplishments	<p>Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs facilitated and coordinated the working group for the Performance Space in Happy Valley-Goose Bay</p> <p>The Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs provides input on the review of the Environmental Impact Statement on the Lower Churchill Generation Project</p>

	The Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs continued to support the Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation for a needs assessment regarding recreational infrastructure for central Labrador
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Discussion of Results:

The Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs has worked diligently to improve and develop better communication between the Aboriginal peoples of the Province and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. The Department communicates with the Aboriginal groups / communities in the Province to discuss and listen to perspectives on issues facing their communities, as well as consults on major developments occurring in their regions.

2009/10

Objective: By 2010, the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs will have provided input to support the consideration of Labrador and Aboriginal interests in government policy and programs, including mechanisms to support Government's major policy initiatives.

Measure: Provided Input

Indicators:

- Provide mechanisms that support the interests of Aboriginal people and communities through government policy initiatives
- Support initiatives aimed at addressing Aboriginal suicide and detrimental lifestyles within the Province
- Work with the Women's Policy Office to provide support mechanisms in the prevention of violence against Aboriginal women
- Government consultations are supported to enable Labrador and Aboriginal perspectives to be considered
- Government policy and programs are evaluated to determine potential impacts on Labrador and Aboriginal community
- Develop a template for departments to assess Aboriginal consideration when drafting policy documents.

Issue 4 Effective Relations with Aboriginal Peoples

Aboriginal peoples in the Province have aspirations influenced by their history, culture, and social and economic circumstances. The Department plays a lead role in negotiating land claims agreements which settle Aboriginal rights and title, as well as agreements to enable Aboriginal self-government. By negotiating and implementing such agreements, Aboriginal peoples attain

increased self-determination and self-reliance which benefits Aboriginal peoples and the Province as a whole.

Goal: By 2011, the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs will have made all reasonable efforts to negotiate and implement agreements with Aboriginal peoples.

Measure	Made all reasonable efforts to negotiate land claims and self-government agreements
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participated in negotiation sessions • Provided proposals and counter proposals • Consulted with government departments • Strived to achieve Agreement-in-Principle with the Innu Nation • Prepared for self-government agreements • Met province's obligations under the Inuit Land Claims Agreement • Negotiated funding agreements • Participated in Nunatsiavut Government-federal-provincial meetings

2008/09

Objective: By 2009, the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs will have furthered negotiation of the Innu land claim, and negotiated agreements to facilitate implementation of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement.

Measure	Made all reasonable efforts to negotiate land claims and self-government agreements
Indicator	Participated in land claims agreement negotiation sessions with the Innu Nation
Accomplishments	Negotiators participated in accelerated land claims negotiations following the signing of the New Dawn Agreement with the objective of achieving an Agreement-in-Principle. Participated in trilateral and bilateral negotiation of chapters of the Agreement-in-Principle. Provided proposals and counter proposals to achieve agreement on issues
Indicator	Processes in place to prepare the Department for negotiations regarding land selection for the Innu land claims agreement
Accomplishments	The New Dawn Agreement included a tentative agreement on land quantum and the general location of various categories of settlement

	lands. This information was published on the Government website and copies were provided upon request. The precise location and boundaries of those lands is the subject of ongoing tripartite negotiations. The Department continued to consult with other government departments to develop proposals and counter proposals
Indicator	Participated in self-governance negotiation sessions with the Miawpukek First Nation
Accomplishments	The Department continues to participate with the Miawpukek First Nation (MFN) and the Federal Government to negotiate a self government agreement with the MFN
Indicator	Participated in Federation of Newfoundland Indians Landless Band negotiations
Accomplishments	While the Department participated in the initial negotiations the matters under consideration were between the federal government and the Federation of Newfoundland Indians (FNI). They are now complete. The Department continues to support other government departments and agencies as individuals request data on ancestry and birth records. The Department worked with the Department of Government Services and the FNI to provide easier and timelier access to information available at the Vital Statistics Branch
Indicator	The Department continues to work with the Innu Nation on the transfer of Innu schools from the Government of Canada to the Innu
Accomplishments	The Department continued to take steps to devolve programs and services delivers by the Province to the Innu on behalf of the Federal Government as an initial step in the Innu self-government process
Indicator	Advised departments on Inuit Land Claims Agreement obligations
Accomplishments	Provided advice and assistance to departments and agencies on the provincial government's obligations under the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement (LILCA). Policy documents were reviewed to advise departments and agencies on their obligations under the LILCA. Departments were advised of current and upcoming obligations as required under the Agreement
Indicator	Facilitated communications on Inuit Land Claims Agreement and Provincial-Nunatsiavut Government relations
Accomplishments	In consultation with departments and agencies, Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs prepared and coordinated the provincial input in the LILCA Annual Report, which is an intergovernmental responsibility of the federal, provincial and NG. The LILCA Annual Report details progress made in the implementation of the LILCA
Indicator	Negotiated funding agreements
Accomplishments	Negotiated tripartite funding agreements for the Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-Management Board and the Torngat Joint Fisheries Board
Indicator	Established prioritization framework for implementation

Accomplishments	The Department is prepared to facilitate negotiations with the NG on the devolution of Provincial programs and services when the NG indicate that it is ready and has the capacity to assume the responsibility for those programs and services. The NG has not indicated that it is ready to assume these responsibilities; therefore, the Province and the NG have not established a prioritization framework.
Indicator	Participated in federal-provincial-Nunatsiavut Government Implementation Committee meetings for the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement
Accomplishments	There were three tripartite Implementation Committee meetings for the LILCA in 2008/09
Indicator	Held discussions with the Nunatsiavut Government regarding a memorial monument at Hebron
Accomplishments	Discussions were held with NG and the Hebron Relocation Committee to commence cooperation on the planning for the establishment of a monument at Hebron to commemorate the 1959 relocation of all the residents of Hebron. The Province is working with NG to coordinate the establishment and unveiling of the proposed memorial during the summer of 2009

Discussion of Results: The Department was progressive in providing advice to Government with respect to the concerns and aspirations of Labradorians and Aboriginal peoples through the review of government documents, actively participating on interdepartmental working group committees and by providing support on major policy initiatives.

2009/10

Objective: By 2010, the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs will have taken steps towards achieving milestones in the Innu land claim, and supported provincial departments and agencies in refining mechanism to implement the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement.

Note to reader: It is in the nature of Tripartite negotiations that it may be difficult to establish and meet specific milestones. Further, land claims negotiations are confidential; accordingly, it is not possible to report in detail on specific aspects of those negotiations. Moreover, while there may be agreement amongst the Parties on particular aspects of an Agreement, none of this is final until agreement is reached on all aspects of the proposed Agreement.

Measures:

- Made all reasonable efforts to negotiate land claims and self-government agreements
- Made all reasonable efforts to implement land claims and self-government agreements

Indicators:

- Provide advice to departments and agencies on LILCA obligations.
- Facilitate communications respecting LILCA between the provincial and NG
- Participate in discussions with the federal government and NG on the renewal of the fiscal financing agreement under the LILCA and negotiate funding agreements for the continuing operations of boards and committees under the LILCA.
- Work with NG to establish a memorial monument at Hebron and arrange an appropriate dedication ceremony.
- Continue discussions with NG regarding a memorial monument at Hebron.
- In consultation with other Departments, continue to participate in Land Claims negotiation sessions to make progress towards an Agreement-in-Principle with the Innu Nation.
- Participate in negotiation of self government agreements with the MFN and the Innu Nation.



The Year Ahead

The Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs is cognizant of all potential challenges that may hamper achievement of its goals while considering any opportunity to improve the efficiency and functionality of the Department.

As the lead on the NSP, the Department will continue to work hard to monitor and implement the commitments made in the Plan. In 2009/10, the Department will continue to work with all government partners to support realization of the commitments and will inform the public of the progress achieved throughout the implementation of the NSP. The challenge is coordinating and sustaining communication with the large number of government departments that are involved with the Plan. A further challenge will be identifying new initiatives to further strengthen the goals of the NSP. However, it is also an opportunity to follow through with the commitments and get the message out to Labradorians that Government is working to fulfill its promises.

Other opportunities for Labrador include major natural resource developments such as the Lower Churchill power project, continued mineral exploration and the completion of Phase III of the Trans Labrador Highway. A labour market supply for these projects will be a challenge for the entire province but will be compounded in Labrador.

The Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs will continue to work cooperatively with Aboriginal groups within the Province to ensure that the perspectives of Aboriginal people are included and recognized in the development of policy and initiatives. This will be accomplished by providing advice to other departments and stakeholders related to Aboriginal issues.

Resource developments within the province must respect Aboriginal treaty rights under a land claims agreement, or involve government commitments to Aboriginal consultation. The Department will be actively engaged in advising other departments and private sector stakeholders on Aboriginal issues.

There remains a significant challenge to communicate in the public domain both the mandate and the ongoing accomplishments of the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs and actions of other government departments that benefit Labradorians and Aboriginal peoples. Nearly all of the activities of the Department, including land claim negotiations and implementation of the NSP, require collaboration with other provincial public bodies, as well as Aboriginal groups, governments and the Government of Canada. There is an acknowledged need to continue to strengthen communications between the Department and stakeholders in Labrador and within the Aboriginal community throughout the province. The past year's new communication initiatives plus planned activities for the coming year 2009/10 will help maintain and carry forth support for communication efforts.

The Department is committed to the continued implementation of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement, including preparations for the transfer of provincial programs and services to NG. As well, the Department is committed to achieving an Agreement-in-Principle with the Innu

Nation on the Labrador Innu Land Claim and negotiating a self-government agreement with the Miawpukek First Nation.

While land claims and self-government agreements are the primary means by which Aboriginal peoples in this province will be equipped with the tools to ensure their economic, social, political and cultural development, not all Aboriginal people will be the beneficiaries of land claims or self-government agreements.

Accordingly, Government is also committed to ensuring that Aboriginal people benefit from provincial programs and services to the same extent as other residents of the province, especially where the federal government has not assumed responsibility for those programs and services. It is also committed to working with the federal government and Aboriginal governments/groups to ensure that the Aboriginal peoples of Newfoundland and Labrador enjoyed a standard of living that is equivalent to that of all other residents of the province.

Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs is prepared to work cooperatively with the federal government and Aboriginal groups to support initiatives to improve the social and economic conditions for Aboriginal peoples in the province. The Department is prepared to assist Aboriginal groups to maximize access to federal Aboriginal specific programs and services. The Department is interested in developing strong relationships with Aboriginal groups in the province and ensuring that Aboriginal peoples participate in, and benefit from, the development of resources.

Completion of Phase III of the Trans Labrador Highway in the fall of 2009 will have a significant impact on Labrador. With a road between Cartwright and Happy Valley-Goose Bay, programs and services provided to the people of Labrador will change. Marine services for coastal Labrador will require reconfiguration with continued service to north coast communities, Black Tickle, Norman Bay and Williams Harbour. The opening of Phase III will complete the "circle route" from the island of Newfoundland to Labrador and into Quebec creating numerous opportunities for development.

There have been many achievements over the past year including: a new school in Sheshatshiu scheduled to open in the fall of 2009, continued work on the Long Term Health Care Facility in Happy Valley-Goose Bay and enhancements to the Pinware River Park with seven new campsites operational since summer 2008.

The Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs is committed to moving forward and will continue to lead Labrador towards a future of extended possibilities. For example, 2009 will continue to see infrastructure development including: a new school in L'anse au Loup, K-12 school in Port Hope Simpson, sanitary sewer upgrading, hard surfacing portions of the Trans Labrador Highway, new Health Care Facility in Labrador City, new College of the North Atlantic campus in western Labrador and the realignment of Route 510 at Pinware River. This, together with the Northern Strategic Plan, will continue to make Labrador a place of unlimited possibility.

Ultimately, the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs strives to progress the well being of all Labrador and Aboriginal communities, and remains optimistic about the opportunities that lay ahead.

Financial Statements

For the Year ending 31 March 2009 (unaudited)

	Actual (\$)	Estimates	
		Amended (\$)	Original (\$)
Ministers' Office			
Salaries	473,562	473,800	446,300
Employee Benefits	457	500	-
Transportation and Communications	123,327	132,000	120,000
Supplies	9,661	10,000	6,000
Purchased Services	4,547	6,500	10,000
Total Minister's Offices	611,554	622,800	582,300
Executive Support			
Salaries	525,489	613,500	569,900
Employee Benefits	3,653	4,100	500
Transportation and Communications	122,628	122,900	115,000
Supplies	3,324	4,500	2,500
Professional Services	-	13,800	15,000
Purchased Services	10,915	13,500	10,000
Property, Furnishings and Equipment	62,011	62,200	3,000
Total Executive Support	728,020	834,500	715,900
Aboriginal Affairs			
Salaries	567,970	688,500	720,900
Employee Benefits	995	1,100	1,000
Transportation and Communications	151,177	155,000	135,000
Supplies	16,458	18,100	10,400
Professional Services	4,623	71,000	85,000
Purchased Services	15,610	29,500	60,900
Grants and Subsidies	150,645	634,000	634,000
	907,478	1,597,200	1,647,200
Revenue – Provincial	(940)	-	-
Total Aboriginal Affairs	906,538	1,597,200	1,647,200
Labrador Affairs			
Salaries	463,750	472,600	428,600
Employee Benefits	3,457	4,600	3,500
Transportation and Communications	106,792	113,600	101,000
Supplies	19,268	21,100	5,000
Professional Services	14,206	15,000	15,000
Purchased Services	146,522	169,800	170,000
Property, Furnishings and Equipment	17,343	21,000	10,000
Grants and Subsidies	1,559,987	1,758,000	1,758,000
	2,331,325	2,575,700	2,491,100
Revenue Provincial	(500)	-	-
Total Labrador Affairs	2,330,825	2,575,700	2,491,100
Total Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs	3,237,363	4,172,900	4,138,300
Total Department	4,576,937	5,630,200	5,436,500

*Report on the Program Expenditure and Revenue of the Consolidated Revenue Fund - year ended 31 March 2009.

**Audited financial statements are a requirement at the government level and are made public through the Public Accounts process; however LAA is not required to provide a separate audited financial statement.

