

Office of Labrador Affairs

# ACTIVITY PLAN

2017-20







## Leading the Way Forward

As Minister of Labrador Affairs, I am pleased to present our activity plan for fiscal years 2017-18 to 2019-2020. It provides an overview of the entity and indicates key goals and objectives to be accomplished during this period.

As stated in The Way Forward, our vision is that together we will achieve a strong, diversified province with a high standard of living. The determination and drive of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians will be supported by responsive, innovative and efficient programs and services.

In consideration of Government's strategic directions to support the socio-economic development of Labrador, as well as strengthen relationships with Labrador stakeholders, organizations and government departments, key priorities of the Minister's mandate have been identified for the next three years. Outcomes of these directions include program administration, advocacy, partnership, collaboration and engagement.

As the Premier and Minister of Labrador Affairs, I am accountable for the preparation of this plan and for the achievements of the goals and objectives pertaining to this Office.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dwight Ball".

Honourable Dwight Ball  
Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador

## Departmental Overview

On February 22, 2017, the former Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office was restructured to form the new Office of Labrador Affairs (OLA) with the Aboriginal Affairs branch merged with Intergovernmental Affairs to create the Intergovernmental and Indigenous Affairs Secretariat.

The Office focuses on advocating for the social and economic development of Labrador while providing advice on government policies, planning and programs that impact Labrador.

The Office strives to develop a focused approach to Government's service delivery in Labrador, and demonstrates Government's commitment to support Labrador issues through the administration of Labrador specific programs for which the OLA is responsible. Examples of such programs are:

- the Labrador Transportation Grooming Subsidy;
- the Labrador Aboriginal Nutritional and Artistic Assistance Program; and
- annual funding support for the Combined Councils of Labrador.

The OLA collaborates with Provincial Government departments/entities, federal and municipal governments, industry organizations and social enterprises to advance the economic and social development of Labrador. The Office also takes prominent roles on Labrador focused committees such as the Labrador West Regional Task Force, which is a committee consisting of provincial, federal and municipal stakeholders and representatives from various mining companies operating in Labrador West to discuss impacts on the region.

The Office liaises with other northern ministries and assists in the management of intergovernmental relations on Labrador/northern issues, such as the Northern Development Ministers Forum.

Additional information on the mandate and lines of business of the Office can be located on the governmental website at <http://www.exec.gov.nl.ca/exec/ola>.

## Staff and Budget

|                            | 2017-18 Estimates | Staff Complement |
|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Office of Labrador Affairs | 2,185,700         | 12               |

The OLA has offices in Happy Valley-Goose Bay and Wabush. There are ten employees; nine employees (four male, five female) in the Happy Valley-Goose Bay office and one employee (female) in Wabush. A seasonal position is employed from December to May annually, and is located in North West River. The Deputy Minister for the Office of Labrador Affairs is located in St. John's.

The Communications Manager also supports the Intergovernmental and Indigenous Affairs Secretariat.

## Issue One: Socio-Economic Development of Labrador

The mandate for the Office of Labrador Affairs is to ensure provincial policies, programs and planning must appropriately adapt to the unique issues and opportunities that exist in Labrador.

Major resource developments in Labrador contribute to the economic progress of Labrador, and the province as a whole. As these developments are pursued, the OLA works across departments/entities to ensure they reflect the social, cultural, geographic and economic needs of the region.

Advocacy, open communication and support are required to ensure that matters of importance to Labrador are addressed, with the OLA taking leadership in these areas.

Through Government's strategic planning, the OLA will help ensure the Province is prepared for existing and future demands.

### **GOAL:**

By March 31, 2020, the Office of Labrador Affairs will have supported the socio-economic development of Labrador through implementation, collaboration, communication and input from a Labrador perspective.

### **Indicators:**

- Administered Labrador-specific programs to address the needs of Labradorians and ensure effective program delivery;
- Provided advice on all relevant government policies, programs and planning impacting Labrador;
- Implemented tools to support the social and economic development in Labrador; and,
- Participated on boards/committees and in consultations/meetings to provide input from a Labrador perspective.

### **Objective 1:**

By March 31, 2018, the Office of Labrador Affairs will have supported the socio-economic development of Labrador through implementation, collaboration, communication and input from a Labrador perspective.

### **Indicators:**

- Finalized the evaluation of the Labrador Transportation Grooming Subsidy;
- Renewed contracts for the Labrador Aboriginal Nutritional and Artistic Assistance Program;
- Considered tools to support the social and economic development in Labrador; and,
- Participated on boards/committees and in consultations/meetings to provide input from a Labrador perspective.

### **Objective 2:**

By March 31, 2019, the Office of Labrador Affairs will continue to support the socio-economic development of Labrador through implementation, collaboration, communication and providing information from a Labrador perspective.

### **Objective 3:**

By March 31, 2020, the Office of Labrador Affairs will continue to support the socio-economic development of Labrador through implementation, collaboration, communication and providing information from a Labrador perspective.

## **Issue Two: Labrador Relationships**

Through open communication and consultations with stakeholders, residents, and community advocates, the Office can better understand and represent the concerns of Labradorians.

In addition to the open dialogue and communication with Labrador's residents, the Office of Labrador Affairs communicates and collaborates with other provincial departments and agencies to ensure that information and advice is reviewed with a Labrador perspective.

Through information gathering and knowledge, the Office's mission to advocate for the appropriate consideration and integration of Labrador's needs into provincial policies, planning and programs may be achieved.

### **GOAL:**

By March 31, 2020, the Office of Labrador Affairs will have increased collaboration with Labrador stakeholders through communication, consultation and input from a Labrador perspective.



### **Indicators:**

- Provided input on Labrador perspectives in the development of government policy, planning and programs;
- Communicated and monitored provincial government initiatives related to Labrador; and,
- Participated on boards and committees and in consultations and meetings to provide input on a Labrador perspective.

### **Objective 1:**

By March 31, 2018, the Office of Labrador Affairs will have increased collaboration with Labrador stakeholders through communication, consultation and input from a Labrador perspective.

### **Indicators:**

- Developed a stakeholder engagement plan;
- Conducted meetings with service providers of the Labrador Transportation Grooming Subsidy program;
- Assisted with the coordination of meetings between the Combined Councils of Labrador and provincial government departments; and,
- Participated in Labrador-related conferences and events such as Expo Labrador, Mine X and Cain's Quest.

### **Objective 2:**

By March 31, 2019, the Office of Labrador Affairs will continue to support Labrador relations through communication, consultation and input from a Labrador perspective.

### **Objective 3:**

By March 31, 2020, the Office of Labrador Affairs will continue support Labrador relations through communication, consultation and input from a Labrador perspective.

## Annex A: Strategic Directions

Strategic Directions are the articulation of desired physical, social and economic outcomes and normally require action by more than one government entity. These directions are generally communicated by government through “The Way Forward: Shaping Our Future” document, platform documents, Throne and Budget Speeches, policy documents, and other communique. 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 strategic directions that are relevant to the Office of Labrador Affairs are provided below. Each direction is comprised of a number of components or focus areas. These focus areas will be addressed through the various planning processes of OLA.

Title: Socio-economic development

Outcome: Enhance the social and economic development for Labrador

This outcome supports the Office of Labrador Affairs’ vision of a strong, sustainable and vibrant Labrador, where all people have the opportunity to prosper and contribute to their communities, regions and the province. This will require focus in the following areas:

- Program administration
- Stewardship and advocacy
- Partnerships and collaboration
- Provincial Government policy and program delivery responsive to Labrador interests

Title: Labrador relationships

Outcome: Strengthen relationships between Labrador, government and organizations

This outcome supports the Office of Labrador Affairs vision of a strong, sustainable and vibrant Labrador, where all people have the opportunity to prosper and contribute to their communities, regions and the province. This will require focus in the following areas:

- Engagement and collaboration
- Coordination
- Provincial Government policies, programs and services reflecting Labrador interests