



Digital Government and Service NL

Public Safety Appeal Board

Annual Activity Report
2020-21

For More information:

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REFERENCE PERIOD

This report covers the period April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021, the fiscal year of the Public Safety Appeal Board.

Contents

Responsible Person's Message	1
Overview	2
Mandate	2
Vision	2
Highlights and Partnerships	2
Revenues and Expenditures	2
Report on Performance	2
Opportunities and Challenges Ahead	3
Financial Statements	3

Responsible Person's Message

As member representing the Public Safety Appeal Board, I am pleased to submit the Annual Activity Report for 2020-21. This report is prepared in compliance with the **Transparency and Accountability Act**, which categorizes the Board as a Category three government entity and requires the Board to submit an annual report. The Board is accountable for the preparation of this report and for the results reported.

There were no appeals received during this period. Thus, there are no corrective actions to report for this fiscal year.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Dugal". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and "D".

Alexander Dugal
Board Member

Overview

The Public Safety Appeal Board is established under subsection 25(1) of the **Public Safety Act** (the “Act”) to hear appeals from persons who may be aggrieved by a decision of one of the Chief Inspectors related to the operations of various technical safety systems (e.g. electrical; boilers/pressure vessels; elevating devices). The Board, after hearing an appeal, may confirm, revoke or vary the notice, order, decision or action of the Chief Inspector. The Board is comprised of five members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, upon recommendation by the Minister, and meets only when an appeal has been filed pursuant to section 26 of the Act. Board members for 2020-21 were:

- Chairperson (vacant)
- Alex Dugal
- Jennifer Murray
- Eileen O’Brien
- Hayward Pike

Efforts are underway to recruit for the position of Board Chairperson, and to reappoint / appoint new members to the Board as needed.

Mandate

The Board is an independent, quasi-judicial body which has the function of hearing and adjudicating an appeal. It meets when it has received an appeal pursuant to section 26 of the **Public Safety Act** and is empowered to uphold, revise and/or revoke an order or action by the Chief Inspector. Decisions by the Board are based on review of the written and oral submissions and documents. The Board’s decisions may be appealed to the courts. The Board’s lines of business are captured within its legislated mandate.

Vision

The board works to ensure the fair and equitable application of its mandate as outlined in the legislation.

Highlights and Partnerships

Generally speaking, the board’s client is the Minister of DGSNL, to whom the board provides advice. The board’s actions and recommendations may benefit the general public, particularly those with questions or concerns regarding the safety of public spaces. The Board engages with various groups as deemed pertinent.

Revenues and Expenditures

In fiscal year 2020-21, the Public Safety Appeal Board had no revenues or expenditures. The board is funded through the operating budget of Digital Government and Service NL.

Report on Performance

Report on 2020-21 Objective

Objective: By March 31, 2021, 2022, and 2023, the Public Safety Appeal Board will have processed all appeals it has received in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

Indicators:

- Appeal received from the Department within 15 days of application.
- Appellant given at least 10 days' notice regarding hearing of appeal.
- Appeals commenced not more than 90 days after notice in writing has been received by the chairperson under subsection 26(2).
- Appeal decisions rendered within 180 days after notice in writing has been received by the Chairperson under subsection 26(2).

The Public Safety Appeal Board meets only when an appeal has been filed pursuant to section 26 of the Act. No appeals were filed in fiscal year 2020-21.

Opportunities and Challenges Ahead

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented challenges to the board in scheduling regular meetings. The pandemic also may have delayed technical safety system work (e.g., electrical; boilers/pressure vessels; elevating devices) and any related appeals to the Board.

The Board will have the opportunity to do a quarterly check-in with members to gather lessons learned and industry best practices, and disseminate these to other members.

Financial Statements

The Public Safety Appeal Board is not required to submit audited financial statements.