



St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board

Activity Plan

Fiscal Years 2020-2023



Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board

Chairperson's Message

Honourable Elvis Loveless
Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture
Petten Building
30 Strawberry Marsh Road
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 an Activity Plan for the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board. This activity plan meets the requirements of the **Transparency and Accountability Act** for a Category 3 entity and covers the period of April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2023.

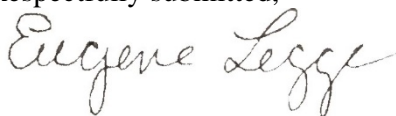
The St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board's mandate is as follows:

- (a) Hear appeals of the decisions of the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority concerning applications to carry out development on land in the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area;
- (b) Recommend that the Minister of the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture uphold, reverse or vary a decision of the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority; and
- (c) Maintains records of minutes, including the attendance and proceedings of the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board at all appeal hearings.

The strategic directions of Government related to the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture (formerly the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources) have been considered in the creation of this activity plan. The Appeal Board has also considered the impacts of the current COVID-19 pandemic on its operations, and continues work with the Secretariat to facilitate the full resumption of its meeting schedule to hear appeals during the planning period.

My signature below is on behalf of the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board and indicative of the Board's accountability for the preparation of the Plan and achievement of its objective.

Respectfully submitted,



Eugene Legge
Appeal Board Member
St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board

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1. Overview

The St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board (the Board) was created to hear appeals of the decisions of the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority (the Authority) regarding development within the St. John's Agricultural Development Area (ADA), and makes recommendations in writing to the Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture (the Minister) on appeals under the **St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area Regulations (the Regulations)**.

There are approximately 12,152 hectares of land within the St. John's Urban Region ADA that fall within seven municipalities on the North East Avalon: St. John's, Conception Bay South, Logy Bay-Middle Cove-Outer Cove, Portugal Cove-St. Phillips, Flat Rock, Torbay and Pouch Cove.

Section 7 of **the Regulations** under the **Lands Act** requires the appointment of an appeal board to hear appeals of the decisions of the Authority. As per the **Regulations**, the Board is appointed by the Minister. The Board must have at least three members to hear an appeal. All members are regionally located within the North East Avalon.

The number and timing of appeals requested dictates the meeting schedule; however, the Board typically meets six times per year. Given the current pandemic situation occurring in 2020-2021 the board has requested a review on the legalities of hearing appeals in person.

In addition to appointed members, the Board receives extensive operational support from the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture (FFA). Employees of FFA perform many day-to-day administrative functions of the Board. Budgetary support for operations is also provided through FFA.

As of April 1, 2020, Board members included:

Position	Name	Region	Term
Chairperson	Peter Morris	Eastern	2017-2020
Member	Edward O'Reilly	Eastern	2019-2022
Member	Eugene Legge	Eastern	2019-2022
Member	Ed Woodrow	Eastern	2019-2022
Secretariat*	Megan Nichols	FFA	
Secretariat*	John Del Rizzo	FFA	

*Secretariat support (non-voting) is provided by FFA

The Board does not generate revenue and expenses are typically remuneration of members and travel expenses related to meetings, which are paid from the FFA budget. Remuneration provided for the Chairperson and Members is provided as per Level 1 of the Standardized Rates for Rates of Remuneration for Boards, Commissions and Agencies.

For further information contact: Mr. John Del Rizzo, Land Management Specialist, Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture (T) 729-6758. This Plan is available in alternate format.

2. Mandate

The Board's mandate is to:

- (a) Hear appeals of the decisions of the Authority concerning applications to carry out development on land in the Agricultural Development Area;
- (b) Recommend that the Minister uphold, reverse or vary a decision of the Authority; and,
- (c) Maintain records of minutes, including the attendance and proceedings of the Board at all appeal hearings.

3. Lines of Business

The entity has not identified Lines of Business, as this would be repetitive of its Mandate.

4. Primary Clients

The primary clients of the Board are individuals, companies or organizations who apply through the municipal councils of the City of St. John's, Town of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's, Town of Pouch Cove, Town of Flatrock, Town of Torbay, Town of Logy Bay-Middle Cove-Outer Cove, and the Town of Conception Bay South to carry out development on land within the ADA, and wish to appeal a decision of the Authority.

5. Vision

Through assessment of appeals of applications for opportunities to carry out development on land in the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area, the Appeal Board contributes to the vision of the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture's vision of sustainable renewable resources that are responsibly developed for the social, cultural, ecological, and economic well-being of the province.

6. Objectives

The Board reviews appeals of decisions made by the Authority. All appeals are given due consideration under the **Regulations**, with the resulting recommendation being made to the Minister.

All applications that are refused development by the Authority are notified of their opportunity to appeal the decision to the Board.

The number and timing of appeals requested will dictate the meeting schedule of the Board and number of appeals heard.

The focus of the Board will remain the same for the entire plan, therefore, the following objective and indicators will be reported on in all three years.

Objective: By March 31, 2021, the Board will have reviewed all appeals of decisions by the Authority and made recommendations regarding the appeal to the Minister.

Indicators:

- Reviewed all appeals as per the **Regulations**;
- Made recommendations to the Minister; and
- Recorded minutes of proceedings.