



St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board

Activity Plan Fiscal Years 2023-26



Chairperson's Message

Honourable Derrick Bragg
Minister of Fisheries Forestry & Agriculture
Petten Building
30 Strawberry Marsh Road
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Dear Minister Bragg:

In accordance with the provisions of the **Transparency and Accountability Act** for category three public bodies, I am pleased to submit the 2023-2026 Activity Plan for the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board (the Board). This activity plan meets the requirements of the Act for and covers the period of April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2026.

The 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 (the Minister) 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 (FFA) have been considered in the creation of this plan. My signature below is on behalf of the Board and indicative of its accountability for the preparation of the plan and achievement of its stated objective.

Respectfully Submitted,



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

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1. Overview

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 Urban Area Agricultural Development Area (ADA), and makes recommendations in writing to 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 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 (the 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. Appointments are made using a merit-based process; however, gender balance is considered during the appointment process and efforts are made to ensure the Board is representative of the population it serves.

The number and timing of appeals requested dictates the meeting schedule; however, the Board typically meets six times per year.

In addition to appointed members, the Board receives extensive operational support from the FFA. Employees of FFA perform many daily administrative functions of the Board. Budgetary support for operations is also provided through FFA.

Currently, the Board is comprised of the following members:

Position	Name	Region	Expiry Date
Member	Eugene Legge	Eastern	8/12/2022 ¹
Member	Edward Woodrow	Eastern	8/12/2022 ¹
Member	Vacant ¹		

¹ FFA is working with the Public Service Commission to address term expirations and the vacancy.

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 Agencies, Boards and Commissions.

For further information, please contact:

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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 ADA;
- (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 it 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. Philips, 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 ADA the Board contributes to FFA's vision of sustainable renewable resources that are responsibly developed for the social, cultural, ecological and economic well-being of the province.

6. Issue

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 the opportunity to appeal the Board's decision. 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.

Issue: Effectively Managed the Appeals Process

Objective: By March 31, 2024, the Board will have reviewed all appeals of decisions made by the Authority and made recommendations regarding each appeal to the Minister.

Indicators:

- Reviewed all appeals as per the Regulations and recorded minutes of proceedings
- Made recommendations to the Minister