

St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority

Annual Performance Report

April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012



Chairperson's Message

Honourable Jerome Kennedy
Minister of Natural Resources
Natural Resources Building
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 the Annual Performance Report for the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority for the period April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012. The St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority was successful in fulfilling its objective for the fiscal year as identified through its Activity Plan.

The St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority has a mandate to ensure that plans for development within the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area conform with the provisions of the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area Regulations under the *Lands Act*. The Authority was also successful in furthering the Strategic Directions of the Minister of the Department of Natural Resources to ensure the sustainability of the agriculture and agrifoods industry.

My signature below is on behalf of the Authority and indicative of the Authority's accountability for the preparation of this Report and for the results reported on its activities for 2011-12.

Respectfully submitted,



Hazen Scarth
Chairperson

Table of Contents

Overview	1
Mandate.....	2
Values	2
Clients	2
Vision.....	3
Mission.....	3
Highlights and Accomplishments.....	4
Activities.....	4
Financial Information	5
Conclusion	5

Overview

Section 3 of the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area Regulations under the *Lands Act* provides for the appointment of a St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority. The Authority is to be appointed by the Minister. The Authority must have at least five people including a Chairperson and a Secretary. The Authority may include representatives from the Agrifoods Development Branch, the Forestry Services Branch, the Department of Government Services, the Department of Municipal Affairs, the Department of Environment and Conservation and a member of the community.

The Authority presently consists of the following members: Hazen Scarth, Forestry and Agrifoods Agency; Raymond Tucker, Forestry and Agrifoods Agency; Granville H. Martin, Forestry and Agrifoods Agency; Kevin King, Department of Government Services; Kimberly Blanchard, Department of Municipal Affairs; and Gerry Wicks, Forestry and Agrifoods Agency.

The St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority receives extensive operational support from the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency. Employees of the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency perform many day to day administrative functions. Budgetary support for operations is provided through the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency as well.

Mandate:

The St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority was established to consider applications for development activities in the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area as defined by the *Lands Act*. This area includes: City of St. John's, Logy Bay-Middle Cove-Outer Cove, Torbay, Flatrock, Pouch Cove, Portugal Cove-St. Philips and Conception Bay South. The Authority may approve and issue permits or notices of approval, refuse applications, cancel permits and exercise other powers necessary to assess land development applications under the regulations.

Values:

As outlined in the Authority's 2011-14 Activity Plan, the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority performs its duties within the following core values and guiding principles, most of which have been established by the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency:

Integrity – Each individual will be honest, dependable, fair, credible and trustworthy. They will openly acknowledge mistakes, seek to correct them and learn from them.

Respect and Professionalism – Each individual will apply legislation and policies equitably and will serve the Authority's client groups to the fullest extent possible.

Collaboration – Each individual will seek the opinions and ideas of others in the application of legislation and policies.

Innovation – Each individual will demonstrate initiative and flexibility in responding to challenges and change.

Safety – Each individual views the personal safety of themselves and co-workers in the highest regard and will promote workplace safety at all times.

Productive – Each individual will maximize their productivity and efficiency in carrying out their duties.

Timely – Each individual will conduct their duties in a timely manner and meet all established deadlines.

Diligence – Each individual will be careful and persistent in the application or effort made in respect to the regulations and policies.

Clients:

The clients of the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority are individuals or organizations who apply through municipal councils to develop land in the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area.

Vision:

Through assessment of applications for development opportunities on land in the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area, the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority contributes to the vision of the Department of Natural Resources as stated in the Department's 2011-2012 Strategic Plan as follows:

“The vision of the Department of Natural Resources is a Province that realizes the full benefit from the sustainable development of its resources.”

Mission:

The mission statement is the priority focus area of a public body over its planning cycles. The statement identifies the measures and indicators that will assist a public body and the public in monitoring and evaluating success.

The St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority has determined that an applicable mission statement would be unduly repetitive of its mandate. It has opted to forgo development of a mission statement at this time.

The St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority considered its role in assisting the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency in achieving its mission for the planning period. The Authority has a role in strengthening and sustaining the agriculture resource by making recommendations on applications for development in the St. John's Urban Region Agricultural Development Area in consideration of direction under the regulations to ensure development is consistent with agricultural purposes. As such, aspects of the following general statement from the mission of the Agency related to agriculture and agrifoods sectors apply to the Authority.

“By March 31, 2017, the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency will have supported programs and services to strengthen and sustain forestry, agriculture and agrifoods industry development in an innovative and economically beneficial manner.”

Whereas the purpose of the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area is to protect agriculture land, the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority's review of development applications is consistent with the mission of the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency as it relates to sustainable resource management.

The Authority has determined that it has no material impact on achievement of measures and indicators of the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency's mission statement.

The complete mission of the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency is found in its Strategic Plan for the period covering April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2014.

Highlights and Accomplishments

In 2011-12, the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority met on eight occasions to review applications for agricultural and non-agricultural development within the boundaries of the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area. The applications were reviewed by a quorum of the Authority.

Activities

The activities of the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority are consistent with the strategic direction of the Minister of the Department of Natural Resources to ensure future primary agriculture and agrifoods development through land development and agrifoods land resource management. The St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority contributes to these strategic directions by protecting agricultural land and farm activities in the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area by reviewing applications for development activities in that area.

The objective measures and indicators are derived from the 2011-2014 Activity Plan of the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority. The 2011-2014 Activity Plan is available on the Department of Natural Resources' website at: www.gov.nl.ca/nr or from Hazen Scarth, Chairperson of the Authority (729-6758).

Objective: The St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority will have worked to ensure development activities in the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area are compliant with the Acts and Regulations, thus supporting ongoing, sustainable agricultural development in the area.

Measure: Development activities are compliant with the Act and Regulations.

Indicators:

- Reviewed all applications and rendered decisions
- Updated applications registry to reflect decisions
- Communicated decisions to municipalities in a timely manner
- Monitored development activities for compliance with regulations through site visits

The St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority processed 36 applications for 2011-12: 10 applications were farm related; 10 applications were for residential construction; 2 commercial; 5 land severances; 3 land transfers; 2 for sod removal and 4 were for the construction of sheds/garages. Out of the 36 applications received and processed, 23 were approved, 10 were refused, 2 were outside the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area and 1 was deferred. Six decisions of the Authority were appealed to the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board. The 2011-12 annual report of the Appeal Board is available on the Department of Natural Resource's website at www.gov.nl.ca/nr.

The Secretary of the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority maintained and updated a registry of all applications, including decisions. The Secretary has forwarded the decisions of the Authority to the applicable Municipality which is responsible for informing applicants of its decision including an explanation of the Authority's decision pursuant to the Regulations. Applications were processed in a timely fashion.

Financial Information

Audited statements are not required as the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority is budgeted through the Department of Natural Resources. There are no per diems, travel or other costs associated with the administration of the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority

Conclusion

The St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority is committed to fulfilling its mandate and will continue to do its part to further the vision and mission of the Department of Natural Resources, Forestry and Agrifoods Agency.

The 2012-13 Annual Report will be based on the same objectives, measures and indicators.