


St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority

Activity Plan

Fiscal Years 2014-2017




**Newfoundland
Labrador**

Chairperson's Message

Honourable Derrick Dalley
Minister of Natural Resources and
Minister Responsible for the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency
Natural Resources Building
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL
A1B 4J6

Dear Minister:

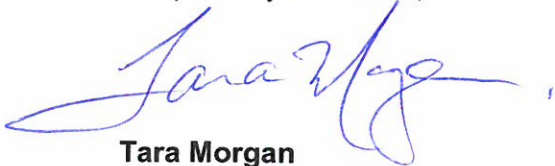
In accordance with the provisions of the *Transparency and Accountability Act* for category 3 public bodies, I am pleased to submit the Performance-Based Activity Plan for the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority. This Plan covers the period April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2017.

The 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 has reviewed the strategic direction of the Provincial Government in the area of forestry, agriculture and agrifoods development, as communicated by the Minister of Natural Resources. As such, this plan has been prepared to support the direction of enhanced utilization, sustainability and public awareness of the forestry, agriculture and agrifoods sectors.

My signature below is on behalf of the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority and is indicative of the Authority's accountability for the preparation of this Plan and the achievement of its annual objective.

Respectfully submitted,



Tara Morgan
Chairperson

Table of Contents

1. Overview	1
2. Mandate	2
3. Core Values and Guiding Principles	2
4. Primary Clients	3
5. Vision	3
6. Mission	4
7. Objective	5
8. Appendix A: Strategic Directions	6
9. Appendix B: Map of the St. John's Urban Region ADA	7

1. Overview

Section 3 (3) and (4) 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 of Natural Resources. The Authority must have at least five people including a Chairperson and a Secretary. The Authority may include representatives from the Agrifoods Development Branch and the Forestry Branch of the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency, 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:

Tara Morgan - Chairperson, Manager, Environment and Land Use Services, Forestry and Agrifoods Agency, Department of Natural Resources.

John DelRizzo - Secretary, Land Management Officer, Land Resource Stewardship Division, Forestry and Agrifoods Agency, Department of Natural Resources.

Raymond Tucker – Member, Land Management Specialist, Forestry and Agrifoods Agency, Department of Natural Resources.

Kimberly Blanchard – Senior Planner, Department of Municipal Affairs.

Robert Locke – Manager of Operations and Environmental Protection, Service NL.

Gerry Wicks - Agricultural Representative, Forestry and Agrifoods Agency, Department of Natural Resources.

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

2. 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 (see Appendix B) as defined by the *Lands Act* and the *St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area Regulations*. 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.

For more detail on the regulations, please refer to the House of Assembly web site at: <http://assembly.nl.ca/Legislation/sr/regulations/rc961079.htm>.

3. Core Values and Guiding Principles

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.

4. Primary Clients

The clients of the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority are individuals 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 in the Agricultural Development Area of the St. John's Urban Region.

5. Vision

Through assessment of applications for development activities 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, stated as follows:

"The vision of the Department of Natural Resources is a province that realizes the full benefit from the sustainable development of its natural resources."

6. Mission

Planning guidelines associated with the Transparency and Accountability Act encourage small public bodies like the Authority, to consider the development of mission statements. The mission statement is the priority focus area of a public body over two planning cycles (six years). The statement identifies the measures and indicators that will assist a public body and the public in monitoring and evaluating success at the end of the six year period. The planning guidelines provide the flexibility, however, for small public bodies to determine for themselves whether the development of mission statements adds value to planning efforts.

During the development of its 2014-17 Activity Plan, the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority determined that an applicable mission statement would be unduly repetitive of its mandate and, therefore, opted to forgo development of a mission statement at that time.

Instead, 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 decisions 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."

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, 2014 to March 31, 2017 on the Departments website at www.gov.nl.ca/nr.

7. Objective

The St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority reviews applications for all proposed developments within the boundaries of the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area (See Appendix B) in accordance to the regulations. Applications are submitted to the local municipality and forwarded to the Authority on the appropriate forms. Applications are reviewed by the Authority provided there is a quorum of three members. All applications are given due consideration under the regulations and are either approved or refused according to the level of agricultural impact. The applicant(s) are notified by the municipality of the decision of the Authority. In the case of a refusal by the Authority, the applicant may appeal in writing to the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board within thirty (30) days after the applicant is notified by the municipality of the decision by the Authority.

The St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority considered the Strategic Directions of the Provincial Government regarding the forestry, agriculture and agrifood development and as such, support the direction of enhanced utilization, sustainability and public awareness of the forestry, agriculture and agrifoods sectors.

The following area has been identified as the key priority of the Authority for the three year period April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2017. The objective below applies to each year covered by this plan and will be reported on in relevant annual reports.

Issue: Land Development in the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area

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 *Act* 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
- Developed communication tools to inform landowners and service providers within the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area of the Authority's activities and requirements for development within the Area.

8. Appendix A: Strategic Directions

Strategic directions are the articulation of desired physical, social or economic outcomes and normally require action by more than one government entity. These directions are generally communicated by government through platform documents, Throne and Budget Speeches, policy documents and other communiqués. 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 St. John's Urban Region Land Development Advisory Authority needs to consider Strategic Direction as communicated to the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency by the Minister of Natural Resources. For the 2014-17 planning period, this direction is outlined in the table below.

Title	Natural Resource Development (Forestry, Agriculture and Agrifoods)
Outcome Statement	Enhanced utilization, sustainability and public awareness of the forestry, agriculture and agrifoods sectors.
Focus Areas	Industry Development Research and development Awareness and Education Resource Sustainability

The priority and activities outlined in the St. John's Urban Region Land Development Advisory Authority's 2014-17 Activity Plan are supportive of this Strategic Direction. The table below clearly identifies which of the strategic direction focus areas are addressed in the activity plan and which, if any, do not apply to the Authority."

Strategic Direction Component (Focus Area)	This direction is ...	
	addressed in the entity's Activity Plan	not applicable
Industry Development	X	
Research and Development		X
Awareness and Education	X	
Resource Sustainability	X	

9. Appendix B: Map of the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area

St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area

 Agriculture Development Area Boundary

Department of Natural Resources
Land Resource Stewardship Division
Soils and Mapping Services,
April 2014

