

St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority

Annual Performance Report

April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008



Chairperson's Message

September 11, 2008

Honourable Kathy Dunderdale
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. This Report covers the period April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008.

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 St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority was successful in fulfilling its goal for the fiscal year as identified through its Activity Plan. 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 2007-2008.

Respectfully submitted,



Hazen Searth
Chairperson

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Overview

Section 3 of the St. John's 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 Branch, the Department of Municipal Affairs, the Department of Environment and Conservation and a member of the community.

Board Representation:

The Authority presently consists of the following members:

Hazen Scarth – Chairperson, Manager of Environment & Land Use Services, Forestry & Agrifoods Agency, Department of Natural Resources.

Granville Martin – Member, Land Management Specialist, Land Resource Stewardship Division, Forestry & Agrifoods Agency, Department of Natural Resources.

Raymond Tucker – Secretary, Development Control Officer, Land Resource Stewardship Division, Forestry & Agrifoods Agency, Department of Natural Resources.

Blaine Yatabe - Manager of Planning Services, Department of Municipal Affairs.

Kevin King – Manager of Operations, Department of Government Services.

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

Budget:

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

Contact Information:

Contact: Mr. Raymond Tucker, Development Control Officer, Brookfield Road, St. John's, Telephone: 729-6599.

Mandate:

The St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority was established to consider applications for land development in the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area Regulations as defined by the *Lands Act*. The Authority may approve and issues permits or notices of approval, refuse applications, cancel permits and exercise other powers necessary to assess land development applications under the regulations.

Vision:

Through assessment of applications to develop land in a manner consistent with agricultural purposes in the St. John's Urban Region Development Area, the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority contributes to the vision of the Department of Natural Resources, Forestry and Agrifoods Agency, stated as follows:

"The vision of the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency is of a province that is realizing the full benefit from its forestry and agrifoods resources in a sustainable manner."

Mission:

Whereas the purpose of the St. John's 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 for the reporting period as it relates to sustainable resource management. The following is an excerpt from the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency Strategic Plan for 2006 to 2008:

"By March 31, 2011, the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency will have: implemented programs necessary to sustain the province's forest ecosystems; identified and facilitated further opportunities for sustainable agriculture and agrifoods resource development; and optimized the benefits received from these resources."

Through development of its Strategic Plan for 2008 to 2011, the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency amended aspects of its mission statement. A discussion of how the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority contributes to the Agency's revised mission is contained in the Authority's Activity Plan for 2008 to 2011. A complete statement of the Agency's mission is contained in its Strategic Plan.

Outcomes of Activities

The St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority reviews applications for all proposed developments within the boundaries of the St. John's Urban Region 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 including the Chairperson and Secretary. All applications are given due consideration under the regulations and are either approved or refused according 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, the applicant may appeal in writing to the Minister within thirty (30) days after the applicant is notified of the decision by the Authority.

The Activities of the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority are consistent with the Strategic Direction of the Minister of Natural Resources to sustain agriculture and agrifoods development.

Goal: By March 31, 2008, the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority will have carried out its functions under the applicable *Act* and Regulations.

Measure: Carried out its functions

Indicators:

- All applications reviewed
- Applications registry updated to reflect decisions
- Decisions communicated to applicants

The St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority processed all 21 applications in 2007-2008: nine applications were farm related; four applications were for residential construction; and the remaining applications were for a range of other purposes (quarry development, shed construction, food processing, road construction and land severance). Of the 21 applications, 11 were approved, 7 were rejected and 3 were withdrawn. Five decisions of the Authority were appealed.

The Secretary of the Land Development Advisory Authority has 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.

Opportunities and Challenges

The review of the boundaries of the St. John's Agriculture Development Area was completed in 2008. If changes are made to the boundaries, it is apparent there may be an impact on the number of applications received by the Authority.

Conclusions

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.