

St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board

Annual Performance Report

April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017



Chairperson's Message

The Honourable Gerry Byrne
Department of Fisheries and Land Resources
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 the Annual Performance Report for the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board (the Board) for the period April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017.

The St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board has a mandate to hear appeals of the decisions of the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority. Through the appeals process, the Board ensures 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**. Progress towards the achievement of the commitments of Government related to the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources, including those outlined in **The Way Forward**, have been described in this report. More specifically, the work undertaken will support Government in reaching the target to increase Newfoundland and Labrador's food self-sufficiency from its current 10 per cent to at least 20 per cent by 2022.

As the Chair, and on behalf of the entire Board, I accept accountability for the preparation of this plan and the achievement of its objectives. My signature below is indicative of the Board's accountability for the results reported for 2016-17.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter Morris

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Overview

Section 7 of the **St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area Regulations** under the **Lands Act** provides for the appointment of an appeal board to review appeals of decisions of the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority. The Board, also known as the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board, was appointed by the Minister of Fisheries and Land Resources.

During the 2016-17 reporting year, the Board received operational support from the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources (the Department). Employees of the department performed many day-to-day administrative functions with budgetary support for operations provided through the department as well.

The membership of the Board for 2016-17 consisted of the following members:

Name	Region	Appointment Term
Peter Morris, Chair	Avalon	2 years
Brian Murphy	Avalon	2 years
Cyril Power	Avalon	2 years
Ed Woodrow	Avalon	2 years

All four of the members of the Board expired at the end of September 2016. The vacant positions were posted on the Agencies, Boards and Commissions website December 8, 2016. The Land Management Specialist and Land Management Officer of the Land Management Division provided support to the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority and acted as the board secretary during the 2016-17 fiscal year accepting appeals and maintaining records of decisions. All expenses regarding the administration of the Board are funded through the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources with expenses of the Board for the 2016-17 fiscal year totaling \$1,497.56.

For further information contact: Land Management Officer, Brookfield Road (T) 709-729-6647.

Mandate:

The Board was established to 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 as defined by the **Lands Act** and specifically the **St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area Regulations**. The Board may recommend that the Minister of the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources (the Minister) uphold, reverse or vary a decision of the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority, and maintains records of minutes, including the attendance and proceedings of the Board at all appeal hearings. For further details, please refer to the **St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area Order** and/or the **St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area Regulations**, both of which fall under the **Lands Act**.



Activities

The Board reviews appeals of decisions made by the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority. All appeals are given due consideration under the regulations. The Board makes a recommendation to the Minister. The appellants are notified by the Minister of his final decision in consideration of the recommendations of the Board.

The activities of the Board support Government's commitment to the agricultural mandate of the department. The Board contributes to the mandate and objectives of the department by helping protect agriculture and agriculture land in the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area. This is done through the review of appeals of decisions by the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority to ensure the long-term sustainable development of land resources for the benefit of the residents.

Objective:

The St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board will have reviewed all appeals of decisions of the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority under the applicable Act and Regulations.

Indicators:

- Reviewed appeals and made recommendations to the Minister of Natural Resources
- Recorded minutes of proceedings.

The Board met twice during the 2016-17 reporting year and received five appeals. All five of the appeals that were received were regarding commercial subdivisions or residential development with recommendations of the Board being forwarded to the Minister for final decision.

The Board maintained records of all appeals by way of keeping minutes of the appeal proceedings during the 2016-17 fiscal year.

The objective and indicators for 2016-17 were described in the Board's 2014-17 Activity Plan, which can be obtained from the Land Management Division, 709-637-2081. The Activity Plan is also available on the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources website at: www.gov.nl.ca/faa.

Financial Statement

The Board does not have a stand-alone budget and as a result, audited statements are not required. Remuneration expenses associated with committee members are funded through the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources. The total expense for the 2016-17 fiscal year was \$1,497.56, this amount is comparable to expenses from past years.

Conclusion

The St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board is committed to fulfilling its mandate and will continue to do its part to further the commitments of Department of Fisheries and Land Resources.