

St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board

Annual Performance Report

April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016



Responsible Person's Message

The Honourable Steve Crocker
Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agrifoods
Petten Building
30 Strawberry Marsh Road
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

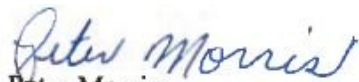
Dear Minister:

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 for the period April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016.

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*.

My signature below is indicative of the Board's accountability for the results reported for 2015-16.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter Morris

Chair

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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 Appeal Board, also known as the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board, was appointed by the Minister Responsible for the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency.

During the 2015-16 reporting year, the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board received extensive operational support from the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency. Employees of the Agency performed many day to day administrative functions with budgetary support for operations provided through the Agency as well.

All four of the members of the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board were appointed in September 2014 for a two year term. Members include Peter Morris, Chairperson; Brian Murphy, Member; Cyril Power, Member; and Ed Woodrow, Member. John Del Rizzo, Land Management Officer and Secretary to the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority provides administrative support to the Board accepting appeals, and maintaining records of decisions. The total expense for the 2015-16 fiscal year of the Authority was \$1,306.11

For further information contact: John Del Rizzo, Land Management Officer, Brookfield Road (T) 729-1107.

Mandate:

The St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal 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 Responsible for the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency 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 under the *Lands Act*.

**Values:**

As outlined in the Appeal Board's 2014-17 Activity Plan, the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board performs its duties within the following core values: integrity, respect and professionalism, collaboration, innovation, safety, productivity, diligence and in a timely manner.

Clients:

The clients of the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board are members of the general public who apply through 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, the Town of Conception Bay South to proceed with development activities in the Agriculture Development Area of the St. John's Urban Region and wish to appeal a decision of the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority.

Vision:

Through assessment of appeals of applications for opportunities to develop land in the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area, the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board contributes to the vision of the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency, "is a province that realizes the full benefit from the sustainable development of its natural resources."

Mission:

The St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board considered its role in supporting government in achieving its goals and objectives for the planning period. The Board has a role in strengthening and sustaining the agriculture resource by making recommendations on appeals for land development in the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area. As such, aspects of the following general statement from the mission of the Agency related to agriculture and agrifoods sectors apply to the Board:

Mission Statement:

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.

Activities

The St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal 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 St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board makes a recommendation to the Minister. The appellants are notified by the Minister of the decision in consideration of the recommendation of the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board.

The activities of the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board support government's commitment to "enhanced utilization, sustainability and public awareness of the forestry, agriculture and agrifoods sectors". The St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board contributes to the goals and objectives of government by helping to protect agriculture and agriculture land in the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area by reviewing appeals of decisions by the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority and thereby ensuring the sustainable development of land resources for the long term benefit of the residents of the province and the responsible, fair and appropriate allocation of land.

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.

Measure:

Reviewed all appeals

Indicators:

- Reviewed appeals and made recommendations to the Minister Responsible for the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency
- Recorded minutes of proceedings

The St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board met one time during the 2015-2016 reporting year and received six appeals. All six of the appeals that were received were regarding residential development. The Appeal Board recommended to the Minister that five of the appeals for residential development be approved and that the remaining one be refused as per the direction of the Authority. The Minister upheld all of the decisions of the Board.

The Appeal Board maintained records of all appeals by way of keeping minutes of the appeal proceedings during the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

The objective, measure and indicators for 2015-16 were described in the Board's 2014-2017 Activity Plan, which can be obtained from Tara Morgan, Manager, Environment and Land Use Services, 709-637-2084. The Activity Plan is also available on the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency website at: www.gov.nl.ca/faa. It was the intent of the Board to report on the same objective, measure and indicators in 2016-2017 as presented in the 2014-2017 Activity Plan.

Financial Statement

The St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board does not have a stand-alone budget and as a result, audited statements are not required. Committee Member expenses are funded through the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency. The total expense for the 2015-16 fiscal year was \$1,306.11.

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 vision and mission of the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency.