

# **Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority**

## Annual Performance Report

April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018





Government of Newfoundland and Labrador  
**Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority**  
DOC/2018/04460

### 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 Byrne:

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 Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority.

The Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority was successful in achieving all indicators of its objective for the reporting period. 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 considered in the preparation of this report. More specifically, the work undertaken will assist 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.

My signature below is on behalf of the Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority and is indicative of the Authority's accountability for the results reported on its activities for 2017-18.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "C. MacDonald".

**Cynthia MacDonald, P.Ag**  
Chairperson

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## Overview:

Section 3 of the **Wooddale Agriculture Development Area Regulations** under the **Lands Act** provides for the appointment of a Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority (the Authority). The Authority reviews applications for development in the Wooddale Agricultural Development Area (Wooddale ADA), located near Bishop's Falls, to ensure that development within the area is planned and carried out in such a way that the full potential of the area's resources is reached.

Members of the Authority are appointed by the Minister of Fisheries and Land Resources. The Authority must have at least five members including a Chairperson and a Secretary. As of March 31, 2018 the Authority had five members from the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources (FLR) representing different areas of interest. One member resigned in February 2018.

The members of the Authority for the 2017-18 year included the following:

Name	Position	Representing
Cynthia MacDonald	Chairperson	Director, Agriculture Business Development, FLR
William Snow	Secretary	Land Management Officer, FLR
Jennifer Eustace	Member	Land Management Specialist, FLR
Bill Rowsell	Member	Industry Development Officer, FLR
Roger Primmer	Member	Regional Lands Manager, Crown Lands, FLR
Jason Pond	Member	Forest Ecosystem Manager, Forest Services, FLR

Mr. Rowsell's position has been vacant since February 2018. The Authority hopes to fill this position in the near future. The Authority receives extensive operational support from the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources. Employees of the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources who are appointed to the Authority perform many day-to-day administrative functions regarding administration of the Regulations, and may consult other staff regarding individual applications where necessary. There are no operating expenses as all members are Government of Newfoundland and Labrador employees.

This report is available in alternate format. For further information contact: William Snow, Land Management Officer, Pynns Brook (T) 709-686-2702

## Mandate:

The Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority was established to consider applications for land development in the Wooddale Agriculture Development Area. 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://www.assembly.nl.ca/Legislation/sr/regulations/rc961080.htm>

### **Highlights and Partnerships:**

The Authority works in partnership with the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources and the farming community to support sustainable development within the Wooddale ADA. This partnership is of utmost importance in the protection of our agricultural land resources and to support agricultural development and food self-sufficiency in the province.

### **Report on Performance:**

The Authority reviews applications for all proposed developments within the boundaries of the Wooddale ADA in accordance to the regulations. Applications are submitted 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 to same. The applicant(s) are notified of the decision of the Authority. In the case of a refusal, the applicant may appeal in writing to the Minister within 30 days after the applicant is notified of the decision by the Authority.

Regulating development in the Wooddale ADA ensures consistency with agricultural purposes. The activities of the Authority support government's commitment in **The Way Forward** to increase food self-sufficiency in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The same objective and indicators outlined in the 2017-20 Activity Plan are used for all three years of the plan.

### **Issue:**

Development in the Wooddale Agricultural Development Area

### **Objective:**

By March 31, 2018, the Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority will have worked to ensure development activities in the Wooddale Agricultural Development Area are compliant with the Act and Regulations, thus supporting ongoing, sustainable agricultural development in the area.

## Indicators:

- Reviewed all applications and rendered decisions;
  - The Authority received one application during the 2017-18 fiscal year. The Authority met once, on June 1, 2017, and one application was reviewed. The application was for farm related developments within the Wooddale ADA. The application was approved.
- Updated applications registry to reflect decisions;
  - The Secretary of the Authority maintained and updated the registry as a means to reflect the decision of the Authority.
- Communicated decisions to applicants in a timely manner;
  - The approval was communicated back to the applicant within a week.
- Monitored development activities for compliance with regulations;
  - Members of the Authority monitor development within the Wooddale ADA while carrying out regular departmental duties.
- Communicated requirements for development in the Wooddale Agricultural Development Area, as per the regulations, to all landowners in the development area.
  - Regulating development within the Wooddale ADA ensures consistency with agricultural purposes. Copies of regulations were forwarded to all landowners.

## Opportunities and Challenges:

All development within the Wooddale ADA requires application to the Authority, including land development on both Crown and private titles. Applications approved by the Authority in the past year and in previous years have resulted in the opportunity for extensive amount of land development and infrastructure related to the horticultural industry. In excess of 200 acres of land development has been undertaken by the various commodity groups in the Wooddale ADA. Examples of infrastructure would include retail outlets for farm products, secondary processing facilities and expansions to greenhouse facilities. The activities of the Authority support government's commitment in **The Way Forward** to increase food self-sufficiency in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and other Provinces and Territories recently entered into a new five-year funding agreement, the Canadian Agricultural Partnership. Farmers within the Wooddale ADA will likely avail of this funding, which will result in continued land and infrastructure development in 2018-19 and for the remaining years of the Canadian Agricultural Partnership. This will again provide an opportunity for the Authority to facilitate the continued growth of the agriculture industry within the Wooddale ADA and help support food self-sufficiency.

### **Financial Statements**

Audited statements are not required as the Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority is budgeted through the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources.