



Gander-New-Wes-Valley
Regional Council
of the
Rural Secretariat
Executive Council



*Activity Plan
2008-11*

Message from the Chair

As Chair of the Gander – New-Wes-Valley Regional Council of the Rural Secretariat and in accordance with the provincial government's commitment to accountability, I hereby submit the 2008 -11 Activity Plan of the Council on behalf of its members. My signature below is on behalf of the entire Council and is indicative of our accountability for the preparation of this plan and for the achievement of the goals and objectives contained in the plan, pursuant to section 7(4) of the Transparency and Accountability Act.

Since October 2005, members of the Gander - New-Wes-Valley Regional Council have been actively engaged in an intensive examination and exploration of the future sustainability and economic diversification of this region.

As the Council works through the complex tasks inherent in our mandate, each of us has had a unique opportunity to attain a new level of understanding of the challenges and opportunities that pertain to the economic, social, cultural and environmental aspects of our region. We have also acquired a common understanding of the critical issues we believe must be addressed if we are to realize our goals.

Over the next few years, we will focus our energies on advancing regional priorities and will extend our engagement with individuals, residents, organizations and businesses throughout the region. We will also establish dialogue with other Regional Councils addressing similar issues and define for the provincial government those measures and strategies we believe essential to a vibrant future for the region.

Sincerely,



Edythe Goodridge, Chair

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1.0 Regional Council Overview

The Gander - New-Wes-Valley Regional Council is comprised of ten members: four female and six male, with a variety of backgrounds that include business, municipal representation, education, culture, social, environmental, tourism, and economic development. These members represent both larger and smaller communities throughout the region:

Name	Community
Edythe Goodridge, Chair	Salvage
Gail Hoyles, Provincial Representative	Gander
Derm Flynn, Alternate Provincial Representative	Appleton
Victor Cassell	Cottlesville
Ross Trimm	Clarkes Head
Douglas Churchill	Glovertown South
Nadine Decker	Joe Batt's Arm
Wander Loder	Pike's Arm
David Regular	Summerford
Jim Snow	Lewisporte

*For an up-to-date listing of Regional Council members visit <http://www.exec.gov.nl.ca/rural/regionalmem.asp>

The Council does not have a budget allocation. Meetings of the Council and associated costs are funded through the Rural Secretariat which also funds a staff position within the region. The staff person for the Gander - New-Wes-Valley region is Tanya Noble. Tanya works out of New-Wes-Valley. Among other duties, she acts as an information resource for the Council and is responsible for the facilitation of the work of its members.

2.0 Mandate

The mandate of the Regional Councils is as follows:

To develop a common, evidence-based understanding of the social, economic, environmental and cultural realities of a region.

To review key regional, economic and social measures (e.g. education levels, demographic trends, health status, income levels, EI usage, economic diversity) and to reach agreement on the priorities for change over the next five years.

To identify policies and programs which either advance, negatively impact or need to be developed to encourage the necessary change over the five-year period.

To advance regional cooperation through the sharing of information on and discussion about economic and social measures, and to encourage regional partners to take action on and be accountable for those areas within their mandates.

To nominate an individual to represent the region on the Provincial Council of the Rural Secretariat.

3.0 Values

The core values identified below best describe the character of the Rural Secretariat and the action statements which guide its behaviour. These values are paramount to the mandate and activities of the Gander - New-Wes-Valley Regional Council are as follows:

Core Values

Collaboration
Creativity
Empowerment
Inclusion
Learning Culture
Transparency
Trust

Collaboration	to commit to working together effectively
Creativity	to seek and support new ideas and approaches
Empowerment	to assume responsibility for participating in discussions, making informed decisions and taking personal responsibility for their contributions
Inclusion	to acknowledge others' views and perspectives and exercise the right and opportunity to express their own
Recognition	to recognize and value the skills that each bring
Transparency	to share open and objective advice based on sound information and principles
Trust	to be open and supportive when partnering and to follow through on requests and commitments

4.0 Primary Clients

The primary clients of the Gander – New-Wes-Valley Regional Council include the eight other Regional Councils, the Provincial Council of the Rural Secretariat, and the provincial government of Newfoundland and Labrador.

The Gander – New-Wes-Valley Regional Council also engages with officials of departments and agencies of the provincial government, as well as, individuals, groups and organizations within the region during the course of its investigation and identification of issues pertinent to its mandate.

5.0 Vision

The vision of the Rural Secretariat is of sustainable regions with healthy, educated, prosperous people living in safe, inclusive communities.

The work of the Gander – New-Wes-Valley Regional Council supports the vision of the Rural Secretariat. Through its work, the Council is identifying priorities which will contribute to regional sustainability. The Council is taking an inclusive approach that considers the economic, social, cultural and environmental aspects of sustainability.

6.0 Mission

The mission statement identifies the priority focus area of the Regional Councils. It represents the longer-term goals which the Councils will work towards as they move forward on the strategic directions of Government. The statement also identifies the measure and indicators that will assist both the Councils and the public in monitoring and evaluating the degree to which these goals are attained.

The mission statement of the Gander – New-Wes-Valley Regional Council of the Rural Secretariat is as follows:

By 2011, the Council will have participated in an ongoing community engagement process that will demonstrate the value of two-way communication between the provincial government and citizens.

Measure Participated in an ongoing community engagement process

Indicators

- a long-term vision of sustainability for the region will have been submitted to the provincial government and shared with citizens
- enhanced regional input will have been provided into policy development and decision-making processes of the provincial government
- opportunities and mechanisms will have been provided to enhance two-way communication between the provincial government and citizens
- community engagement sessions will have been conducted at the regional level
- citizens and stakeholders will have been informed about the economic, social, cultural and environmental aspects of regional sustainability

Our mission statement as defined above is intended as a guide for our work for the next three years. However, it is our hope that it will serve as a blueprint for the next 15-20 years so as to attain a vibrant future for the region.

Over the next three fiscal years, the Council will take initial steps to advance regional sustainability. Priorities will be developed and communicated within the region and to appropriate provincial government departments. We will explore ways for regional partners and government departments to work together to advance these priorities. Over time, these priorities may shift as we accomplish our goals and come to a new understanding of the changes that are taking place within the region.

7.0 Issues/Context

In consideration of the Rural Secretariat's strategic directions, mandate and financial resources, the following issues have been identified as priorities for the next three years. The goals identified for each issue outline expected results at the end of the three year period and the objectives outline the annual focus. The identified measures and indicators will be used to monitor progress. Gender-based differences will be considered where applicable.

To facilitate our work and honour the mandate of the Gander – New-Wes-Valley Regional Council, we have identified a number of key elements we believe essential to attaining regional sustainability. These elements have been communicated to the provincial government and are currently available to citizens of the region through the Rural Secretariat website.

It is our hope that these key elements will inform the policies, programs, and strategies of the provincial government. In an effort to expand on this work and to involve citizens in the process, Council will build on the community engagement of previous years.

7.1 Advancement of Key Elements for Regional Sustainability

Members of the Council believe it is time to consider a new conceptual framework which will focus on the critical aspects of long-term regional sustainability, with an initial emphasis on the issues of governance and rural education delivery.

Goal:

By 2011, the Gander – New-Wes-Valley Regional Council will have initiated a process to communicate regional perspectives on the issues and opportunities impacting the region's sustainability and advised the provincial government in the development and implementation of public policy.

Measure:

Initiated a process to communicate regional perspectives on issues and opportunities impacting the region's sustainability to the provincial government

Indicators:

- Process established where regional perspectives can inform the development and implementation of public policy
- Increased communications with the Provincial Council of the Rural Secretariat, provincial government departments and agencies on identified issues or opportunities
- Confirmation received that informed regional perspectives have been agreed upon by Council members and communicated to the provincial government

Objective 1:

By March 31, 2009, Gander – New-Wes-Valley Regional Council will have developed a perspective on the issues of governance and rural education delivery as it relates to regional sustainability with the intent to inform the development of public policy.

Measure:

Communication to the provincial government of an informed regional perspective on the issues of governance and rural education delivery.

Indicators:

- Research and data collected and reviewed
- Council identified and engaged citizens
- Consensus developed on advice to the provincial government
- Advice submitted to the provincial government

Objective 2:

By March 31, 2010, Gander – New-Wes-Valley Regional Council will have identified additional issues or opportunities as they relate to regional sustainability and will have developed a regional perspective with the intent to inform the development of public policy.

Objective 3:

By March 31, 2011, Gander – New-Wes-Valley Regional Council will have provided input and advice to the provincial government on additional issues or opportunities as they relate to regional sustainability.

7.2 The Process of Community Engagement

To date the Gander – New-Wes-Valley Regional Council has developed a vision document which identifies the opportunities and actions required to achieve long-term outcomes in the

region. In an effort to expand on this work and to inform and involve citizens within the region, Council will build upon the engagement process of previous years.

Goal:

By March 31, 2011 the Gander – New-Wes-Valley Regional Council will have expanded its communication (engagement) process and refined its long-term vision for sustainable development of the region.

Measure:

Community engagement process expanded and vision refined to reflect what Council has learned.

Indicators:

- Process established to engage citizens in the identification of regional priorities
- Increased citizen engagement in the vision process
- Increased dialogue on the future of the region
- Long-term regional vision refined

Objective 1:

By March 31, 2009 Gander – New-Wes-Valley Regional Council will have identified and engaged with citizens regarding the vision document.

Measure:

Vision document is communicated to citizens throughout the region for feedback

Indicators:

- Identified and engaged with individuals and groups on the vision document
- Feedback received from the engagement sessions informed the vision document and priorities
- Improved communications with community

Objective 2:

By March 31, 2010 Gander- New-Wes-Valley Regional Council will have refined its long-term vision for regional sustainability.

Objective 3:

By March 31, 2011 Gander – New-Wes-Valley Regional Council will have communicated a revised long-term vision document for regional sustainability.

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 directions related to the Rural Secretariat are as follows:

1. Title: Regional Partnership Development

Outcome Statement: Stronger and more dynamic regions.

Clarifying Statement: This outcome requires systemic intervention by the Regional Council in the areas of:

- Partnership Development
 - Within regions
 - Between the provincial government and regions
- Forum for informed discussion and priority identification that links economic, social, cultural and environmental aspects of regional sustainability.

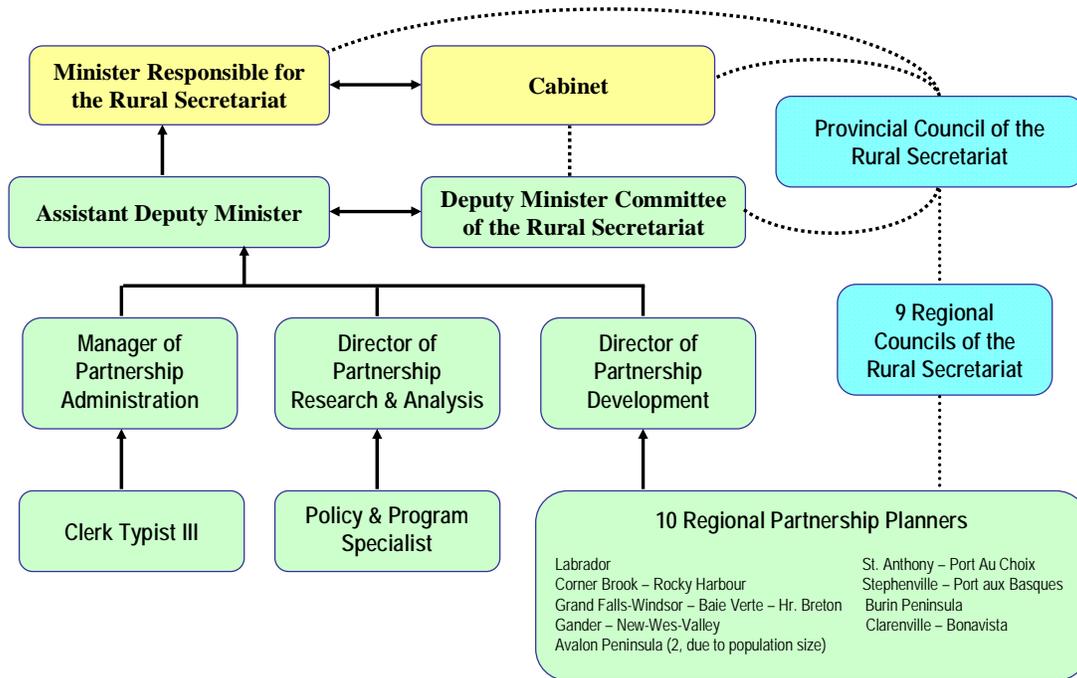
Components of Strategic Direction	Included in activity plan
a. Partnership Development within regions, between the provincial government and regions	
b. Forum for informed discussion and priority identification that links economic, social, cultural and environmental aspects of regional sustainability	

2. **Title: Assessment of Policy on Regional Sustainability**
Outcome Statement: Improved provincial government understanding of and response to significant and long-term regional issues.
Clarifying Statement: This outcome requires systemic intervention by the Regional Council in the areas of:
- Regional perspectives which can inform the development and implementation of public policy.

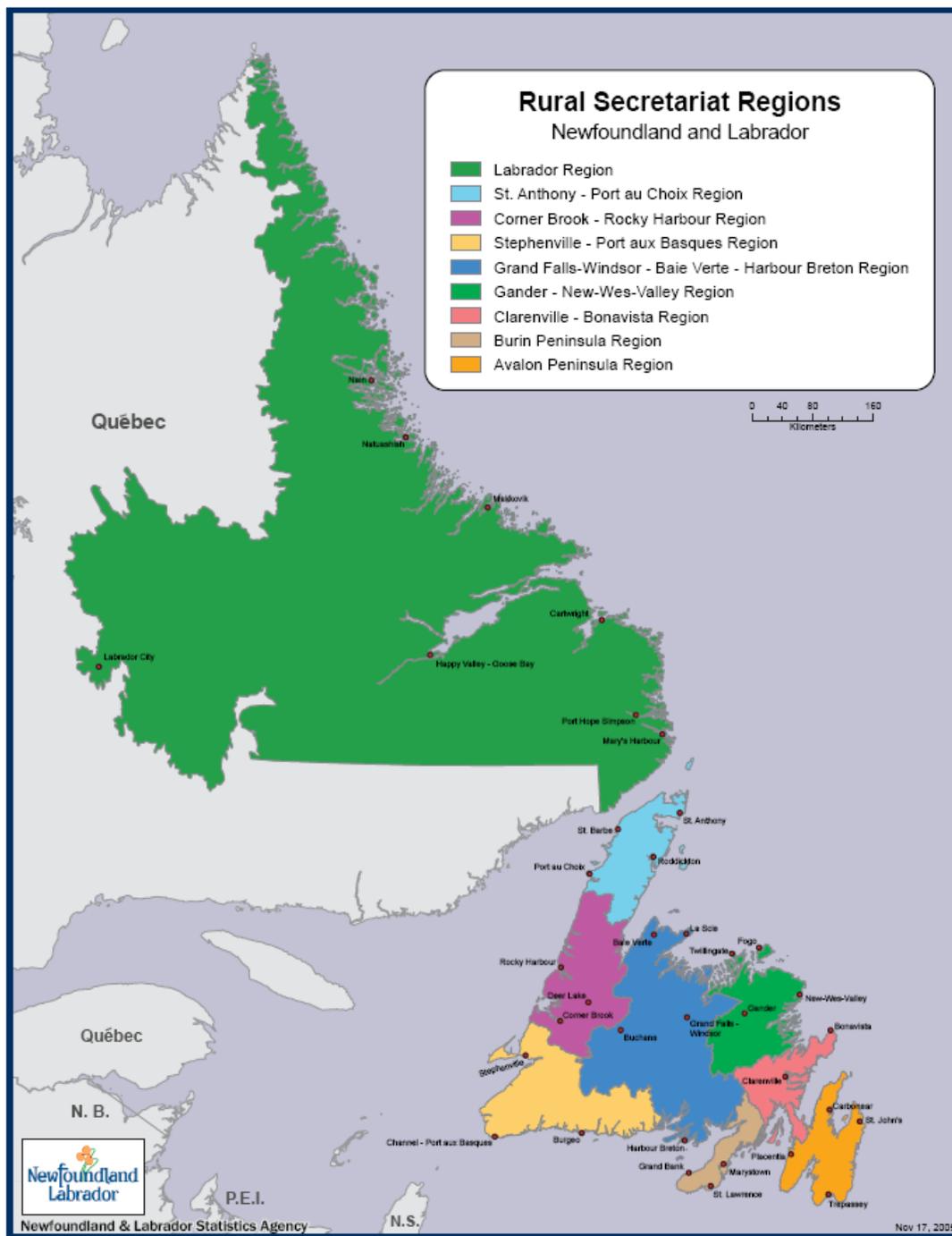
Components of Strategic Direction	Included in activity plan
Regional perspectives which can inform the development and implementation of public policy.	

Appendix B

Rural Secretariat Structure



Appendix C



Appendix D

Mandate of the Rural Secretariat

The Rural Secretariat's mandate is to:

- Promote the well-being of all regions of Newfoundland and Labrador through a comprehensive and coordinated approach to economic, social, cultural and environmental aspects of regional development.
- Act as the focal point for government to work with local and regional partners to build strong and dynamic regions and communities.
- Ensure that regional concerns are considered throughout the provincial government and promoted at the federal level.
- Carry out research and analysis of economic and social issues affecting all regions of Newfoundland and Labrador.
- Help communities and regions identify and take advantage of growth opportunities.

Provincial Council of the Rural Secretariat

The Provincial Council Mandate is to:

- Develop a common, evidence-based understanding of the social, economic, environmental and cultural realities facing the province.
- Review key provincial economic and social measures (e.g. education levels, demographic trends, health status, income levels, EI usage, economic diversity) and to reach agreement on the priorities for change over the next five years.
- Identify and advise government on policies and programs which either advance, negatively impact or need to be developed to encourage the necessary change.
- Advance cooperation through the sharing of information on and discussion about economic and social measures, and to encourage government and community partners to take action on and be accountable for those areas within their mandates.
- Meet twice annually with the provincial Cabinet and deputy ministers to advance regional development priorities.
- Serve as an external sounding board for government for the development of strategies, policies, programs and budget issues that will affect provincial and regional sustainability.

PHOTO CREDITS:



Morton's Harbour
Photo Compliments of Mary Snow



Burnside
Photo Compliments of Ed Vincent



St. Brendans
Photo Compliments of Transportation & Works



Tilting, Fogo Island
Photo Compliments of Transportation & Works



Deep Bay, Fogo Island
Photo Compliments of Mark Young



Change Islands
Photo Compliments of Lynn Pardy



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