

St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority

ACTIVITY PLAN

April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2011



Chairperson's Message

June 16, 2008

Honourable Kathy Dunderdale
Minister of Natural Resources
Natural Resources Building
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Dear Minister:

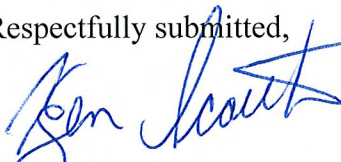
In accordance with the provisions of the *Transparency and Accountability Act* for category 3 public bodies, I am pleased to submit the Performance-Based Activity Plan for the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority. This Plan covers the period April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2011.

The 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 Authority has reviewed all strategic directions from the Minister Responsible for the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency and has prepared this plan to support improved sustainable resource development and usage for the long term benefit of residents of the province and increased forestry, agriculture and agrifoods development and diversification.

My signature below is on behalf of the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority and is indicative of the Authority's accountability for the preparation of this Plan and the achievement of its annual objectives.

Respectfully submitted,



Hazen Scarth
Chairperson

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Overview

Section 3 (3)(4) 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 of Natural Resources. The Authority must have at least five people including a Chairperson and a Secretary. The Authority may include representatives from the Agrifoods Development Branch and the Forestry Branch of the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency, the Department of Municipal Affairs, the Department of Environment and Conservation and a member of the community.

The Authority presently consists of the following members:

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

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

Granville H. Martin – Member, Land Management Specialist, Forestry and Agrifoods Agency, Department of Natural Resources.

Vacant - Manager of Planning Services, Department of Municipal Affairs.

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

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

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

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 as defined by *the Lands Act*. 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.

Core Values and Guiding Principles

The St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority performs its duties within the core values and guiding principles established by the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency:

Integrity - Each individual will be honest, dependable, fair, credible and trustworthy. They will openly acknowledge mistakes, seek to correct them and learn from them.

Respect and Professionalism - Each individual will apply legislation and policies equitably and will serve the Department's client groups to the fullest extent possible.

Collaboration - Each individual will seek the opinions and ideas of others in the application of legislation and policies.

Innovation - Each individual will demonstrate initiative and flexibility in responding to challenges and change.

Safety - Each individual views the personal safety of themselves and co-workers in the highest regard and will promote workplace safety at all times.

Productive – Each individual will maximize their productivity and efficiency in carrying out their duties.

Timely – Each individual will conduct their duties in a timely manner and meet all established deadlines.

Primary Clients

The clients of the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority are members of the general public who apply to develop land in the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area.

Vision

Through assessment of applications for opportunities to develop land in the St. John's Urban Area, the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority contributes to the vision of the Department of Natural Resources, stated as follows:

"The vision of the Department of Natural Resources is a province that realizes the full benefit from the sustainable development of its natural resources."

Mission

The mission statement is the priority focus area of a public body over its planning cycle. It represents the key longer term result that the public body and the responsible minister will work towards to achieve a component of government's strategic directions. The statement also identifies the measures and indicators that will assist a public body and the public in monitoring and evaluating success.

The St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority has determined that an applicable mission statement would be unduly repetitive of its mandate. It has opted to forgo development of a mission statement at this time.

The St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority considered its role in assisting the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency in achieving its mission for the planning period. The Authority has a role in identifying and facilitating opportunities for agricultural and agrifoods resource development and diversification by making recommendations on applications for land development in the St. John's Urban Area in consideration of direction under the regulations to ensure development is consistent with agricultural purposes. As such, aspects of the following general statement from the mission of the Agency related to agriculture and agrifoods sectors apply to the Authority:

"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."

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 as it relates to sustainable agricultural resource management.

The Authority has determined that it has no material impact on achievement of measures and indicators of the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency's mission statement.

The complete mission of the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency is found in its Strategic Plan for the period covering April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2011.

Objectives

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 St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority considered the Strategic Directions of the Minister of Natural Resources to work toward improved sustainable resource development and usage for the long term benefit of residents of the province and increased agriculture and agrifoods development and diversification. See Appendix A for further details. The following area has been identified as the key priority of the Authority for the three year period April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2011. The objective below applies to each year covered by this plan and will be reported on in relevant annual reports.

Issue 1: Land Development in the St. John's Urban Region

Objective: The St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority will have processed applications for land development in the St. John's Urban Region under the applicable *Act and Regulations*.

Measure: Processed applications

Indicators:

- Reviewed all applications
- Updated applications registry to reflect decisions
- Communicated decisions to applicants in a timely manner

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 St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority considered the Strategic Directions of the Minister responsible for the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency in preparation of its April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2011 Activity Plan.

The following excerpt from the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency's Strategic Plan 2008-11 is relevant to the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority in the development of its activity plan. For a full list of the Strategic Directions of the Minister Responsible for the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency, please contact the Agency.

1. Title: Sustainable Forestry, Agriculture and Agrifoods Resource Development

Outcome: Improved sustainable resource development and usage for the long term benefit of residents of the province.

This outcome supports the policy direction of Government and requires systemic intervention by the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority in the following areas:

Strategic Direction Component (Focus Area)	This direction is ...	
	addressed in the entity's Activity Plan	not applicable
Forest sector management		√
Agrifoods sector management	√	
Legislative and regulatory framework		√
Forest sector research and development		√
Agrifoods sector research and development		√

2. Title: Forestry, Agriculture and Agrifoods Development and Diversification

Outcome: Increased Forestry, Agrifoods and Agriculture development and diversification.

This outcome supports the policy direction of Government and requires systemic intervention by the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority in the following areas:

Strategic Direction Component (Focus Area)	This direction is ...	
	addressed in the entity's Activity Plan	not applicable
Access to farm capital		√
Primary agriculture production	√	
Value added and secondary production	√	
Agriculture development and promotion		√
Research and development		√
Agricultural land development	√	
Forest sector competitiveness		√