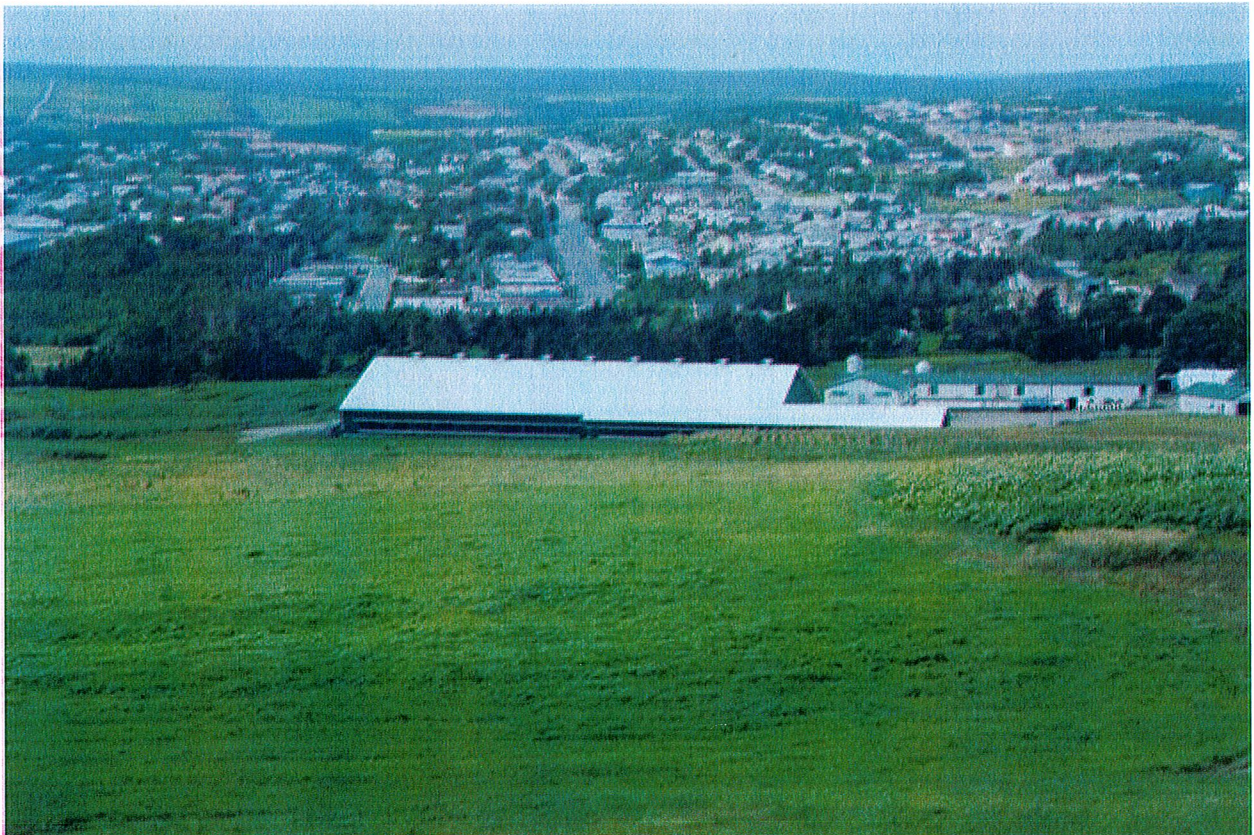


St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board

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 a Performance-Based Activity Plan for the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board. This Plan covers the period April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2011.

The Board has a mandate to ensure that appeals concerning decisions of the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority conform with the provisions of the *St. John's Urban Region Agricultural Development Area Regulations* under *the Lands Act*.

The Board has reviewed all strategic directions from the Minister of Natural Resources 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 Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board and indicative of the Board's accountability for the preparation of the Plan and achievement of its annual objectives.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Jean Roberts
Chairperson

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Overview

Section 7 of the St. John's Urban Region Agricultural Development Area Regulations under the Lands Act provides for the appointment of an appeal board to review 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, is to be appointed by the Minister. The Board must have at least three people.

The Appeal Board membership includes: Ms. Mary Jean Roberts, Chairperson, Ms. Mary Bishop, Member and Mr. Peter Morris, Member.

The St. John's Urban Region Appeal Board 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 Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board was established to hear appeals of the decisions of the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority concerning applications for land development in the Agricultural Development Area of the St. John's Urban Region as defined by *the Lands Act*. The Board may recommend that the Minister of Natural Resources uphold, reverse or vary a decision of the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority and record in a minute book the attendance and proceedings of the board at all appeal hearings.

Core Values and Guiding Principles

The St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board 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 Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board are members of the general public who apply through the municipal councils of the City of St. John's, Town of Portugal Cove-St. Philips, Town of Pouch Cove, Town of Flatrock, Town of Torbay, Town of Logy Bay-Middle Cove-Outer Cove, and the Town of Conception Bay South to develop land in the Agricultural 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 Area, the St. John's Urban Region Appeal Board 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 Urban Region Appeal Board 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 Urban Region Appeal Board considered its role in assisting the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency in achieving its mission for the planning period. The Board 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. As such, aspects of the following general statement from the mission of the Agency related to agriculture and agrifoods sectors apply to the Board:

“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.”

The purpose of the St. John's Urban Region Appeal Board is to review appeals of decisions of the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority, which is responsible for the review of development applications within the St. John's Agriculture Development Area, where agriculture and agriculture land are protected. It is clear that the St. John's Appeal Board is supportive of the mission of the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency in respect to sustainable development of the province's agrifoods resource.

The Board 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 Urban Region Appeal Board reviews appeals of decisions made by the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority. All Appeals are give due consideration under the regulations. The Board makes a recommendation to the Minister.

The St. John's Urban Region Appeal Board 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 Board 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

Objectives: The St. John's Urban Region Appeal Board will have reviewed all applications to appeal the decisions of the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority under the applicable *Act and Regulations*.

Measure: Reviewed all applications

Indicators:

- Number of appeals received
- Recorded minutes of proceedings
- Recommendations made to the Minister of Natural Resources

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 Urban Region Appeal Board 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 Urban Region Appeal Board 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 Urban Region Appeal Board 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 Urban Region Appeal Board 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		√