

St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority

Annual Performance Report

April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009



Chairperson's Message

September 17, 2009

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 Annual Performance Report for the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority Based on its Activity Plan for the period April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009. The St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority was successful in fulfilling its objective for the fiscal year as identified through its Activity Plan.

The St. John's Land Development Advisory 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 was also successful in furthering the strategic directions of the Minister of Natural Resources to improve sustainable resource development through the protection of the land base.

My signature below is on behalf of the Authority and indicative of the Authority's accountability for the preparation of this Report and for the results reported on its activities for 2008-2009.

Respectfully submitted,



Hazen Scarth
Chairperson

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Overview

Section 3 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. The Authority must have at least five people including a Chairperson and a Secretary. The Authority may include representatives from the Agrifoods Development Branch, the Forestry Branch, 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, Department of Natural Resources; Raymond Tucker, Department of Natural Resources; Granville H. Martin, Department of Natural Resources; Vacant, Department of Municipal Affairs; Kevin King, Department of Government Services; and Gerry Wicks, 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 issues permits or notices of approval, refuse applications, cancel permits and exercise other powers necessary to assess land development applications under the regulations.

Values:

The Land Development Advisory Authority performs its duties within the following core values: integrity, respect and professionalism, timelines, collaboration, safety and productivity.

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 as stated in the Department's 2008-11 Strategic Plan as follows:

“The vision of the Department of Natural Resources is a Province that realizes the full benefit from the sustainable development of its 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.”

Highlights and Accomplishments:

In 2008/09 the Land Development Advisory Authority met on nine occasions to review applications for agricultural and non-agricultural development within the boundaries of the St. John’s Urban Region, Agriculture Development Area. The applications were reviewed by a quorum of the Authority.

Activities

The activities of the St. John’s Land Development Advisory Authority are consistent with the strategic direction of the Minister of Natural Resources to sustain agriculture and agrifoods development. The St. John’s Land Development Advisory Authority contributes to these strategic directions by protecting agricultural land and farm activities in the St. John’s Agriculture Development Area by reviewing applications for land development in that area.

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

The St. John’s Land Development Advisory Authority processed 30 applications in 2008-2009: five applications were farm related; sixteen applications were for residential construction; and the remaining applications were for a range of other purposes (quarry development, shed construction, food processing, road construction and land severance). Of the 30 applications, received and processed, 20 were approved, nine were rejected and one was referred to the Agrifoods Branch. Three decisions of the Authority were appealed.

The Secretary of the Land Development Advisory Authority maintained and updated a registry of all applications, including decisions. The Secretary has forwarded the decisions of the Authority to the applicable Municipality which is responsible for informing applicants of its decision including an explanation of the Authority's decision pursuant to the Regulations. Applications were processed in a timely fashion.

The objectives, measures and indicators are derived from the 2008-2011 Activity Plan of the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority which is available from Mr. Raymond Tucker (729-6599), Secretary, of the Authority.

Financial Information

Audited statements are not required as the Land Development Advisory Authority is budgeted through the Department of Natural Resources. There are no per diems, travel or other costs associated with the administration of the Land Development Advisory Authority

Conclusions

The St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority is committed to fulfilling its mandate and will continue to do its part to further the vision and mission of the Department of Natural Resources, Forestry and Agrifoods Agency.