

St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board

Annual Performance Report

April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018



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:

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 Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board (the Appeal Board) for the period April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018.

The Appeal Board has a mandate to hear appeals of the decisions of the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority. Through the appeals process, the Appeal Board ensures 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 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 support Government 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.

As the Chair, and on behalf of the entire Appeal Board, I accept accountability for the preparation of this report and the achievement of its objective. My signature below is indicative of the Appeal Board's accountability for the results reported for 2017-18.

Respectfully submitted,

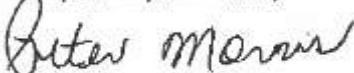

Peter Morris
Chairperson

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Overview

Section 7 of the [St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area Regulations](#) (the Regulations) under the [Lands Act](#) (the Act) provides for the appointment of an Appeal Board to review appeals of decisions of the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority (the Authority). The St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board (the Appeal Board), was appointed by the Minister of Fisheries and Land Resources (the Minister).

During the 2017-18 reporting year, the Appeal Board received operational support from the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources (FLR). Employees of FLR performed many day-to-day administrative functions with budgetary support for operations provided through the department as well.

The members of the Appeal Board as of March 31, 2018, were as follows:

Name	Region	Appointment Term
Peter Morris, Chair	Avalon	2 years
Eugene Legge	Avalon	2 years
Ed O'Reilly	Avalon	2 years
Ed Woodrow	Avalon	2 years

The Land Management Specialist and Land Management Officer of the Land Management Division provided support to the Authority and acted as the Appeal Board secretary during the 2017-18 fiscal year accepting appeals and maintaining records of decisions. All expenses regarding the administration of the Appeal Board are funded through FLR with expenses of the Appeal Board for the 2017-18 fiscal year totaling \$1,968.48.

This report is available in Alternate Formats. For further information contact: Land Management Officer, Brookfield Road (T) 709-729-6647.

Mandate

The Appeal Board was established to hear appeals of the decisions of the Authority concerning applications to carry out development on land in the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area as defined by the Act and specifically the Regulations. The Appeal Board may recommend that the Minister uphold, reverse or vary a decision of the Authority, and maintains records of minutes, including the attendance and proceedings of the Appeal Board at all appeal hearings. For further details, please refer to the [St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area Order](#) and/or the Regulations, both of which fall under the Act (<https://www.assembly.nl.ca/Legislation/sr/statutes/l3691.htm>).

Highlights and Partnerships

The Appeal Board is committed to hearing appeals of the decisions of the Authority, maintaining records of minutes at all meetings and will continue to do its part to further the commitments of FLR.

The Appeal Board does not have partnerships as they are an independent board that evaluates the decisions made by the Authority from an impartial viewpoint.



Report on Performance

The Appeal Board reviews appeals of decisions made by the Authority. All appeals are given due consideration under the Regulations. The Appeal Board makes recommendations to the Minister. The appellants are notified by the Minister of his final decision in consideration of the recommendations of the Appeal Board.

The activities of the Appeal Board support Government's commitment to the agricultural mandate of the department. The Appeal Board contributes to the mandate and objectives of FLR by helping protect agriculture and agriculture land in the St. John's ADA. This is done through the review of appeals of decisions by the Authority to ensure the long-term sustainable development of agriculture land resources for the benefit of the residents.

As the focus of the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board will remain the same for the entire plan, the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board will report on the same objective and indicators in all three years.

Objective:

By March 31, 2018, the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board will have reviewed all appeals of decisions of the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority under the applicable Act and Regulations, and make recommendations regarding the appeal to the Minister of FLR.

Indicators:

1. Reviewed all appeals as per the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Regulations.

The Appeal Board met five times during the 2017-18 reporting year and received five appeals. All five of the appeals that were received were regarding commercial subdivisions or residential development.

2. Made recommendations to the Minister of FLR.

For the 2017-18 fiscal year the Appeal Board recommended rejecting four of the five decisions being appealed that were made by the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority. Recommendations of the Appeal Board were forwarded to the Minister for final decision.

3. Recorded minutes of proceedings.

The Appeal Board maintained records of all appeals by way of keeping minutes of the appeal proceedings during the 2017-18 fiscal year.

The objective and indicators for 2017-18 were described in the Appeal Board's 2017-20 Activity Plan, which can be obtained from the Land Management Division, 709-637-2081. The Activity Plan is also available on the FLR website at:

http://www.faa.gov.nl.ca/publications/pdf/SJURAAB_2017-20_Plan.pdf

Opportunities and Challenges

The St. John's region continues to experience vast amount of growth in population and industrial services. This growth often puts a strain on agriculturally zoned areas in several communities.

Similarly, the agriculture industry has witnessed substantial growth, which is a great opportunity, in large part due to the Province's commitment to increase food self-sufficiency and new entrants looking to be a part of the agriculture industry.

Financial Statement

The Appeal Board does not have a stand-alone budget and as a result, audited statements are not required. Remuneration expenses associated with committee members are funded through the FLR. The total expense for the 2017-18 fiscal year was \$1,968.48, this amount is comparable to expenses from past years.

Chairperson Remuneration	\$ 665.00
Chairperson Reimbursement of Travel Expenses	\$ 47.00
Members Remuneration	\$ 1,120.00
Members Reimbursement for Travel Expenses	\$ 136.48
Total	\$ 1,968.48