

Northeast Avalon Regional Plan  
Leadership Committee

Annual Report  
2011-2012

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## Chairperson's Message

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I am pleased to present the 2011-2012 Annual Report for the Northeast Avalon Regional Plan Leadership Committee as per the requirements of the *Transparency and Accountability Act*.

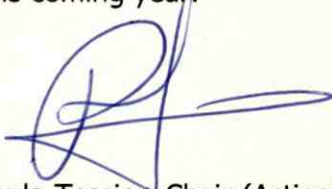
The Northeast Avalon Regional Plan Leadership Committee is a Category 3 government entity appointed by the Minister of Municipal Affairs, in accordance with Section (9) of the *Urban and Rural Planning Act, 2000*.

Members of the Regional Planning Advisory Authority consist of an elected representative from each of the fifteen municipalities and a representative employee from each of the municipalities.

In the preparation of the Annual Report, careful consideration was given to our Activity Plan and our record of accomplishments as well as to the strategic directions of government, as communicated by the Minister of Municipal Affairs. The Leadership Committee feels that it has made a contribution to the Minister's strategic direction: Strengthened Municipal Capacity, through its preliminary development work on a regional land use plan for the Northeast Avalon region of the province.

My signature below indicates that the entire Northeast Avalon Regional Plan Leadership Committee accepts accountability for the preparation of this document and for the results reported.

While the Leadership Committee made progress in the development of a regional land use plan for the Northeast Avalon, it fell short of meeting its objective for 2011-12. The Leadership Committee looks forward to the completing the outstanding items and meeting its objective for this coming year.



Paula Tessier, Chair (Acting)  
Northeast Avalon Regional Plan Leadership Committee

## Committee Overview

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The Department of Municipal Affairs is responsible for the development of regional land use plans in strategic areas of the province of Newfoundland and Labrador. Land use planning in the Northeast Avalon region is currently guided by the St. John's Urban Region Regional Plan, which was approved in 1976. While there have been some amendments to the plan over the years, it has not been subjected to a comprehensive review since coming into effect over 30 years ago. The Minister of Municipal Affairs has decided that a new regional land use plan is required to meet the current and future needs of the rapidly growing Northeast Avalon region. A map of the boundaries of the regional planning area and the 15 municipalities therein is provided in Appendix A.

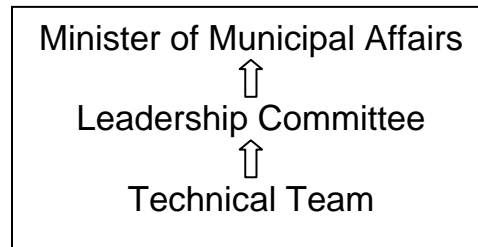
The Minister of Municipal Affairs is the authority for the St. John's Urban Region Regional Planning Area, CNLR 927/96. Under the *Urban and Rural Planning Act, 2000*, the Minister has the prerogative to appoint persons to oversee the development of regional land use plans, including the procedure for consultation with municipalities and other appropriate persons and organizations in the regional planning area. Pursuant to Section (9) of the *Act*, the Minister has appointed the Northeast Avalon Regional Plan Leadership Committee (the Leadership Committee). The Leadership Committee comprises mayors or designates from each municipality whose role is as follows:

- Identify goals and objectives of the regional land use plan
- Report back to each municipality
- Approve and oversee the public consultation process
- Provide municipal feedback
- Recommend approval of the completed regional land use plan to the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

The Minister has also appointed a Technical Team to support the development of a regional plan for the Northeast Avalon. This Team includes a town office representative from each municipality and a senior planner from the Department of Municipal Affairs. Their role is as follows:

- Identify specific issues to be included in the review
- Determine and commission appropriate background studies
- Establish timelines
- Prepare terms of reference, evaluate proposals and award contracts
- Forward progress reports and recommendations to the Leadership Committee
- Oversee all technical aspects of the plan review.

The following diagram illustrates the hierarchy of responsibility and the path of recommendations and approvals with respect to the regional land use plan:



In accordance with Section (9) of the *Urban and Rural Planning Act*, the Minister has the ultimate authority over the Leadership Committee.

A Municipal Affairs representative sits on both the Leadership and the Technical Teams.

## ***Budget and Expenditures***

The Leadership Committee does not have an office or staff, nor does it manage any funds or financial statements. Members of the Leadership Committee do not receive any compensation for their work with the Leadership Committee.

Prior to commencing the project, the Province and the 15 municipalities agreed to share the cost of developing the regional land use plan on a 50 – 50 basis, including the costs of the consulting firm which provides professional support to the Leadership Committee. The municipalities contribute on a per capita basis from the 2001 Census. The City of St. John's administers the funds on behalf of the project partners.

## ***Mandate***

The mandate for the Leadership Committee is as follows:

- to oversee the preparation of a regional land use plan for the Northeast Avalon regional planning area including devising an appropriate public consultation process.

The Leadership Committee derives its mandate from section (9) of the *Urban and Rural Planning Act, 2000*:

9. (1) *Where a regional authority for a regional planning area is the minister,*

- (a) *the preparation of a regional plan for that area shall include a procedure for consultation with the municipalities and other appropriate persons and organizations in the regional planning area; and,*
- (b) *he or she may appoint persons to oversee the consultation procedure and development of the regional plan.*
- (2) *Persons appointed under paragraph (1)(b) shall include representatives from each municipality and other persons and organizations that the minister considers appropriate from the regional planning area.*

To view the *Urban and Rural Planning Act, 2000* in its entirety, please visit:  
<http://assembly.nl.ca/Legislation/sr/statutes/u08.htm>.

## ***Primary Clients***

The Leadership Committee identifies its primary clients as those individuals, groups, or organizations who are the principal users and/or beneficiaries of the regional land use plan for the Northeast Avalon, and include the following:

- Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
- Official representatives of each of the municipalities
- Citizens, stakeholders and community organizations with an interest in and concern with land use and regional land use planning.

## Vision

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As part of the process for the development of a regional land use plan, the Leadership Committee is charged with developing a vision statement following consultation with the public.

It is anticipated that this vision statement will be finalized in 2012, at which time the Leadership Committee will adopt this as its vision. In the interim, the Leadership Committee will adopt the vision of the Department of Municipal Affairs: ***communities with viable, sustainable municipal services led by strong local governments.***

## Mission

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Given that the Leadership Committee will complete its mandate within three years and the mission for a government entity is for six years, the Leadership Committee determined that it will not develop a mission at this time. However, the Leadership Committee has determined that it can contribute to the mission of the Department of Municipal Affairs by completing a regional land use plan to be recommended to the Minister. Below is the Department of Municipal Affairs' mission:

By March 31, 2017, the Department of Municipal Affairs will have *strengthened infrastructure investments and supports to local governments.*

The Leadership Committee will contribute to *strengthening supports to local governments* by recommending to the Minister a regional land use plan which will guide growth and development in the Northeast Avalon.

## Issues

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### **Issue: Regional Land Use Plan**

The Northeast Avalon has experienced increased growth and development in recent years and significant growth is expected to continue for the foreseeable future. Land use planning in the Northeast Avalon region is currently guided by the St. John's Urban Region Regional Plan, which was approved in 1976. While the components of this plan have proved valuable in past, the plan is no longer meeting the current and future needs of municipalities and the citizens of the region. A new regional land use plan is required which will address:

- Settlement and development needs
- Infrastructure needs
- Transportation
- Economic projections
- Natural environment considerations
- Hazards or limitations to development
- Provision for use of alternative energy sources
- Parks, recreation, and trails
- Aggregate resources
- Future development opportunities.

In order to facilitate development of the regional land use plan, the Minister of Municipal Affairs established the Northeast Avalon Regional Plan Leadership Committee. Current members of the Leadership Committee were appointed in 2009 and 2010, with a mandate to complete a regional land use plan to be recommended to the Minister for approval. In developing the land use plan, the Leadership Committee will consult with participating municipalities, as well as Government representatives and other individuals and organizations that have an interest in land use in the region. The Leadership Committee will also provide oversight to the consultant hired to undertake various components of the development of a land use plan.

Development of a regional land use plan for Northeast Avalon supports one of the strategic directions of the Department of Municipal Affairs: *Local Government Sustainability*. Specifically, the work of the Leadership Committee will contribute to the outcome of *Strengthened Local Government. Community Cooperation* is a component of this strategic direction, as articulated in the Department of Municipal Affairs Strategic Plan for 2011-14. The Leadership Committee will facilitate community cooperation by engaging municipal stakeholders in the development of a regional land use plan that will benefit local governments, the Provincial Government and residents of the region into the future.

**Goal:** By March 31, 2014, the Leadership Committee will have recommended approval of the completed regional land use plan to the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

**Measure:** **Recommended approval of the completed regional land use plan**

**Indicators:**

- Number of meetings of the Leadership Committee
- Completed Issues and Analysis Report
- Consulted with representatives of local governments and the Provincial Government
- Consulted with stakeholder groups and citizens
- Held public meetings
- Provided direction to the consultant in the preparation of a regional land use plan
- Completed a regional land use plan to be recommended for approval to the



Minister of Municipal Affairs.

**2011-12 Objective:** By March 31, 2012, the Leadership Committee will have consulted the public in the development of a vision statement and guiding principles for a regional land use plan.

**Measure:** Consulted the public

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Accomplishments</b>
Prepared Issues and Analyze Report	The City of St. John's contracted a consultant to prepare an issues and analysis report on behalf of the Leadership Committee. An initial draft of the report was completed and presented to the Leadership Committee. Based on the findings of the report as presented, the Committee was unable to agree on a position with respect to a vision statement; therefore, the Committee did not complete an issues and analysis report within the reporting period.
Publicized Issues and Analysis Report	The Leadership Committee did not complete the report during 2011-12. The report was not publicized as a result.
Held public meetings	The Issues and Analysis Report was not finalized and, as a result, public meetings were not conducted.
Consulted with stakeholders and community organizations	The Issues and Analysis Report was not finalized and, as a result consultation with stakeholder and community organizations was not conducted.

**2012-13 Objective:** By March 31, 2013, the Leadership Committee will have prepared scenarios for a regional land use plan.

**Measure:** Prepared scenarios for regional land use plan

**Indicators:**

- Prepared Issues and Analysis Report
- Publicized Issues and Analysis Report
- Held public meetings
- Consulted with stakeholders and community organizations
- Developed scenarios for regional land use plan

**2013-14 Objective:** By March 31, 2014, the Leadership Committee will have submitted a completed regional land use plan to the Minister of Municipal Affairs for approval.

## Opportunities and Challenges Ahead

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The Opportunity for the Leadership Committee is to make a positive contribution to the Government's strategic direction of strengthened local government, community cooperation, through the development of a regional plan.

The Challenge for the Leadership Committee is to identify and agree on the key issues they face in the future development of the communities within the region.

# Appendix A: Boundary Map

