



Department of Environment and Conservation

# ***Annual Report 2005-06***

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On the Cover:  
From top to bottom -  
• Main River  
• Little Burnt Bay  
• Terra Nova River

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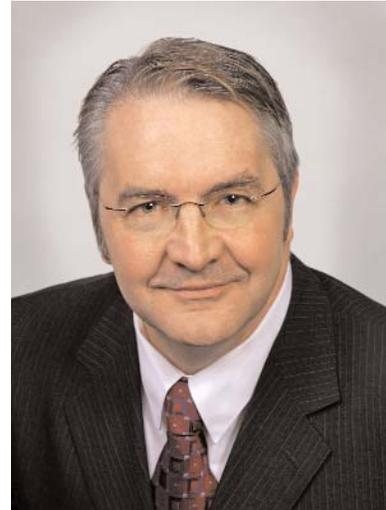


# Message from the Minister

In accordance with government's commitment to accountability, I hereby submit the 2005-06 annual performance report for the Department of Environment and Conservation. This report was prepared under my direction and addresses the Department's activities and outcomes from April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006.

I am pleased to submit my first report as Minister of Environment and Conservation. It has been a busy year and I would like to take the opportunity to highlight some of our achievements. Our Water Resources Management Division continues to develop innovative technology for water quality monitoring and reporting. The Division was honoured this year with the prestigious ESRI Canada Award of Excellence for its work in geographical information technology. New air monitoring equipment has been installed around the Province. The Department released a *Climate Change Action Plan* in July 2005 and is now in the process of implementing the *Plan*. In 2005, the Department made changes to the Sunday hunting laws which reflect a fair and equitable compromise between all stakeholders. This year saw another Canadian Heritage River declared at the Bay du Nord River. The Sustainable Development initiative, for which my Department is lead, is well underway and we look forward legislation in the coming year.

The coming year will no doubt be busy as well, but I look forward to the challenges and anticipate many successes.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clyde Jackman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hon. Clyde Jackman  
MINISTER



# Departmental Overview

The Department of Environment and Conservation was created in February 2004. It is responsible for the protection and enhancement of the environment, management of the Province's wildlife, inland fish, water, parks, and Crown land resources.

## Branches

The Department of Environment and Conservation consists of three Branches: Environment, Lands and Natural Heritage. These are further subdivided into divisions and sections. The Department also has a Policy and Planning Division, a Communications Unit and a Sustainable Development and Strategic Science Division as well as the Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Science, housed at Memorial University (Sir Wilfred Grenfell College).

## Staff and Regions

The Department of Environment and Conservation's main offices are located at Confederation Building in St. John's and at Deer Lake and Corner Brook. The Department has satellite offices in other locations in St. John's, Grand Falls-Windsor, Clarenville, Gander, and Goose Bay. The Department is also responsible for Salmonier Nature Park and numerous provincial parks and wilderness and ecological reserves around the Province: 31 provincial camping parks, natural scenic attractions and park reserves and the Newfoundland T'Railway; 18 wilderness and ecological reserves; and five wildlife reserves and special management areas. The Department has a staff complement of 340 employees, of which 248 are male and 92 are female.

## Legislative Authority

The Department of Environment and Conservation's mandate is informed by the Acts listed below and their associated regulations.

- *Environmental Protection Act*
- *Water Resources Act*
- *Wild Life Act*
- *Provincial Parks Act*
- *Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Act*
- *Endangered Species Act*
- *Lands Act*
- *The Land Surveyors Act*
- *Geographical Names Board Act*
- *National Parks Lands Act*

## Mandate

Since the Department of Environment and Conservation was created by combining existing branches or divisions, the mandate of the Department is derived from various sources:

- The Department of Environment Notice, 2003 under the *Executive Council Act* on matters related to the protection, enhancement and conservation of the quality of the natural environment, including water, air and soil quality; and the conservation, development, control, improvement and property utilization of the water resources of the Province.
- The Department of Government Services and Lands Notice, 2003 under the *Executive Council Act* on matters related to provincial lands.



Barachois Pond Provincial Park

- The Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation Notice, 2003 under the *Executive Council Act* on matters related to the management, preservation, control, protection and development of provincial parks as defined in the *Parks Act*; provincial interests in all national parks established in the Province by the Government of Canada; and wilderness and ecological reserves as defined in the *Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Act*.
- The Department of Forest Resources and Agrifoods Notice, 2003 under the *Executive Council Act* on matters related to the management, preservation, protection and development of wildlife and inland fisheries. This is a shared responsibility with the Department of Natural Resources.
- The *Wild Life Act* on matters related to wildlife reserves and the Salmonier Nature Park.

# Lines of Business

## Land Resources

The Department of Environment and Conservation is responsible for the administration and management of the Province's land resources. In particular the Department:

- maintains a map and air photo library service;
- maintains the Provincial Crown Lands Registry;
- investigates adverse land claims;
- reviews and inspects legal surveys;
- prepares legal documents of title for all dispositions of Crown Land;
- produces and distributes topographic base maps for provincial departments and agencies;
- provides the geodetic reference system for legal and engineering surveys and topographic mapping;
- provides new aerial photography; a repository/archive of provincial aerial photography; and scanning/printing services;
- facilitates the official naming of geographical features and place names and maintains the joint federal/provincial database;
- provides the central data-store and on-line base layers for GIS applications;
- provides standards and consultation services in geomatics;
- facilitates federal/provincial collaboration in geomatics (Building the Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure (CGDI) under the Canadian Geomatics Accord);
- produces Crown title maps;
- develops land use management plans;
- maintains the Land Use Atlas;
- enforces lands legislation and addresses

incidents of unauthorized occupation of Crown land;

- coordinates within Government the inter-departmental review of Crown land development (ILUC);
- develops land use policy; and
- administers the leasing, sales and transfers of Crown land.

## Provincial Parks, Ecological and Wilderness Reserves, Natural Areas, and Canadian Heritage Rivers

The Department is responsible for:

- the management and administration of provincial parks (the Newfoundland T'Railway Provincial Park is jointly managed by a special T'Railway council);
- designation and management of wilderness and ecological reserves under the *Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Act*;
- development and implementation of environmental education programs within select provincial parks and wilderness/ecological reserves;
- implementation of protection measures for Canadian Heritage Rivers in the Province;
- negotiation of the land transfer to the federal government for National Parks; and
- issuance of various permits for provincial parks, ecological and wilderness reserves:
  - entry permit
  - commercial operator permit
  - commercial operator permit - tour boat
  - educational tour permit
  - scientific research permit

- seabird ecological reserve special access permit.
- seabird ecological reserve guide permit.

## Protection of Wildlife and Inland Fish

The Department protects, manages and conserves the Province's biodiversity, wildlife resources and wildlife habitat. This includes:

- determining the status of species in the Province according to the national Accord for the Conservation of Species at Risk to which the Province is a signatory;
- designating species at risk according to the *Endangered Species Act*;
- designating and managing wildlife areas;
- developing recovery strategies for species at risk according to the *Endangered Species Act*;
- administering the Salmonier Nature Park
- developing management plans for consumptive species which are then published in the annual hunting and trapping guide;
- issuing hunting and trapping licenses:
  - Beaver trapline licenses;
  - General trapper's licenses;
  - Moose and caribou licenses;
  - Spring and fall black bear licenses; and
  - Small Game and Furbearing licenses;
- issuing Newfoundland and Labrador Guide licenses and disabled anglers' hunting and fishing licenses;
- providing firearm safety / hunter education courses and trapper education courses;
- providing assistance in the development of agreements to support wetland stewardship initiatives; and
- publishing reports and general information.

## Coordination of Environmental Assessments

The Department coordinates the provincial environmental assessment process for new development, which includes:

- registration and screening of undertakings;
- actively solicits public input into registered undertakings;
- further environmental assessment of undertakings;
- communicating environmental science pertaining to registered undertakings;
- releasing projects from the environmental assessment process; and
- conducting select surveillance on projects released from the environmental assessment process.

## Prevention of Air, Soil and Water Pollution

The Department is responsible for prevention of pollution of the Province's air, water and soil ecosystems. Responsibilities include:

- preparing and issuing Certificates of Approval and licenses for
  - industrial operations;
  - waste management systems (in collaboration with Government Services);
  - waste dangerous goods transporters;
  - pesticide operators and applicators; and
  - heating oil storage tank inspectors;
- developing policies, guidelines, protocols, and regulations;
- enforcing Certificates of Approval, license conditions and legislation through inspections, other than those done by Government Services; the development of environmental monitoring programs in collaboration with industry; audits of the

- environmental monitoring programs;
- audits of environmental laboratories; and
- the monitoring of Criteria Air Contaminants;
- designating of contaminated sites (both commercial and residential) and risk assessments based on environmental site assessments;
- providing technical advice and outreach;
- managing remediation of select industrial and military contaminated sites that are the responsibility of Government;
- maintaining a contaminated sites registry; and,
- providing select reports and information to the public.

- bodies of water;
- issuance of permits for community water and sewage systems;
- monitoring and inspection of community water and wastewater systems;
- provision of technical assistance on community water and sewage, hydrology, hydraulics, and environmental design of water related structures;
- maintenance of various online water quality and quantity databases and GIS resources;
- conducting studies on groundwater resources, flooding, water resource impacts and water use;
- preparation of an annual drinking water report;
- development of policy guidelines; and
- production of technical reports.

## Water Quality, Availability and Management of Water Resources

The Department ensures that the Province's water resources are protected, conserved and enhanced to provide the greatest possible sustainable benefits to the Province.

Responsibilities include:

- designation of protected water supply areas and protected wellheads;
- monitoring and analysis of chemical water quality of community water supplies;
- issuance of well driller licenses;
- inspection of water well structures in accordance with requirements of the Well Drilling Regulations;
- comprehensive training for municipal water operators of community water and wastewater systems;
- hydrologic modeling;
- investigation of water-related problems and complaints;
- overseeing inspections of dams;
- granting of water rights;
- maintenance of a water rights registry;
- issuance of permits for alterations to

## Climate Change

The Department is lead on the Province's response to the issue of climate change. Specifically, the Department is responsible for:

- Preparation and implementation of the provincial *Climate Change Action Plan*;
- Reporting on the implementation of the *Action Plan*;
- Facilitating stakeholder access to federal climate change funding; and
- Creating stakeholder awareness around climate change.



Little Burnt Bay

## Sustainable Development and Strategic Science

The Department is lead on Government's Sustainable Development Initiative, which includes:

- Preparing recommendations for an Act on Sustainable Development;
- Soliciting from the public industry and the academic community input to the proposed Sustainable Development Act;
- Liaising with the public, industry and the academic community to identify research opportunities; and
- Communicating with the academic community through the Institute for Biodiversity and Ecosystems Science on science expertise on issues related to resource and sustainability projects.



Tour of Burnt Cape Ecological Reserve

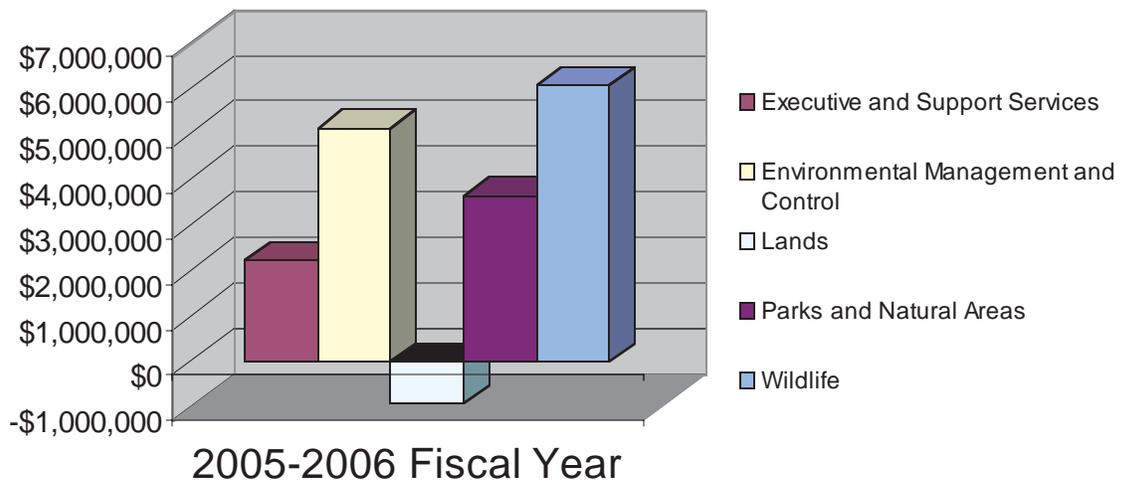


Local Marsh

# Departmental Financial Operations

The departmental total net expenditure for 2005-06 was approximately \$16 million. The Department received over \$7.6 million in revenue from all sources.

The graph below indicates branch net expenditures.



# Shared Commitments

The Department of Environment and Conservation partners with many other departments and agencies to fulfill its mandate and government's strategic commitments.

The 2005 Speech from the Throne highlighted a number of initiatives that required involvement of this Department.

## Poverty Reduction Strategy

Government announced its intention to implement a comprehensive Poverty Reduction Strategy. Over the past year, the Department has worked with others within this context on the issue of energy poverty.

## Sustainable Development

Government has committed to furthering the vision of sustainable development for this Province through the establishment of an Act on Sustainable Development. The Department of Environment and Conservation has been designated lead on this initiative. Throughout 2005-06, the Department led an inter-departmental committee on sustainable development to further refine the concept for government.

Government also previously committed to the protection of the Province's sensitive ecosystems and the sustainable development of its resources. To this end, the Department partners with the Department of Natural Resources to protect natural heritage and wildlife. Natural Resources provides conservation officers as field and logistic support to this Department's wildlife programs. The Department also partners with Environment Canada on habitat stewardship, species at risk and other wildlife-related activities.

## Water Quality

Government has committed to working with municipalities to protect the public from contaminated drinking water. The Department provides classroom style and on-site training to municipal water operators as well as hosts an annual drinking water conference. The March 2006 conference was attended by over 300 municipal staff from around the Province.

The Department continues to work closely with the Department of Municipal Affairs, the Department of Health and Community Services and the Department of Government Services on the Province's *Multi-Barrier Strategic Action Plan* for drinking water safety.

The Department also has various cost-shared agreements in place with the federal government (Environment Canada) on water resources management.

# Lands Branch

## Crown Lands Division

The Crown Lands Division is responsible for allocation of Crown land; Crown title preparation mapping; registration of Crown lands and records; defending the Crown's interest in Crown land; and sale of air photos, maps and related products.

## Land Transfers to Aboriginal Communities

The transfer of Labrador Inuit Lands to the Nunatsiavut Government was completed prior to the implementation date of December 1, 2005. It is anticipated that the transfer of Crown land to each of the five Inuit Community Governments will take place prior to the Inuit Community Government elections which are scheduled for September 2006.

Two agreements on the terms and conditions for land transfers for the Miawpukek Mi'Kmaq First Nations Reserve expansion were executed between the Province, Government of Canada and the Miawpukek Band. The Reserve will expand from about 2.72 square miles to 12.1 square miles. In consideration for providing Crown land for the expansion of the Reserve, the Province received a lump sum payment from the Government of Canada of \$990,000.

## Surveys and Mapping Division

The Surveys and Mapping Division provides geo-referencing services which are the foundation to all Geographic Information Systems (GIS). These geo-referencing services include: geodetic reference points; topographic maps; and aerial photography. The Division also manages the official adoption of names for geographical features and places.

The Division is the lead provincial geomatics agency under the Canadian Geomatics Accord and represents the Province in endeavors to build the Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure (CGDI). The Division has been active in Federal/Provincial cost-shared projects to create and maintain digital base maps and to make the mapping available for use by government, industry and the public. Recent emphasis has been in making map services available on-line via the intranet and internet. There are 10 such web mapping services managed by the Surveys and Mapping Division and the Division spends considerable time in assisting other divisions and branches of government in creating web mapping services.

The Surveys and Mapping Division is nearing completion of a cost-shared project with the Canadian Hydrographic Service, Parks Canada, and the Labrador Inuit Association to obtain new photography and more accurate shoreline mapping in Northern Labrador. There are two mapping contracts remaining to complete the project in 2006.

The third annual revision of the provincial road network was done as a cost-shared project with the federal mapping agency. The work involves change-detection by contacting all municipalities and the Department of Transportation and Works, then some field survey and data assembly. Some previous project work included civic address ranges in the North-East Avalon. Future work will include more wide-spread coverage of civic address ranges.

For many years, the official records of geographical names was maintained by separate federal and provincial databases. In 2005, a reconciliation of the two databases was completed and the resultant data was loaded in a new national names service, such that the on-going maintenance of the Newfoundland and Labrador data will be done locally and on-line by the Secretary to the provincial Geographical Names Board.

The division has partnered with the Forest Resources Branch of the Department of Natural Resources in the creation of a medium scale mapping base (1:10,000) to geo-reference the forest inventory mapping. The new product includes a vector-mapped water layer, a vector-mapped contour layer, and air photo image mapping. These products will serve many users beyond Crown land administration and land management.

## Lands Management Division

The Land Management Division is responsible for the development of provincial land use policies, plans and strategies which guide the use and allocation of Crown land. The *Lands Branch Policy Manual* is available to Lands Branch users via intranet and is updated and expanded as required.

According to the divisional responsibility of determining market value for Crown land, in 2005-06 the Division assessed approximately 677 parcels of Crown land with a value of \$6.6 million and a total area of 1403 hectares.

In 2005-06, the Division developed 49 cottage lots with a value of \$306,000.

# Natural Heritage Branch

## Wildlife Division

The Division has many different program areas that focus on wildlife conservation. The Division is responsible for protecting species at risk; ensuring management of various wildlife species; educating the public about wildlife populations and habitat; evaluating potential impacts of development and land use on wildlife habitat; delivering stewardship initiatives; managing inland fish resources; and licensing for consumptive wildlife users.

### Species at Risk

The Gray-cheeked Thrush was legally listed as a vulnerable species under the *Endangered Species Act* in February 2006. The recommendation to list the Gray-cheeked Thrush as vulnerable was made by the Species Status Advisory Committee (SSAC). The Gray-cheeked Thrush is slightly larger than other, local thrushes but is smaller than a robin. Its upper parts are olive brown and the breast is spotted. This bird prefers dense low coniferous forest, however can be found in other types of coniferous woodlands.

The recovery strategy for the Low Northern Rockcress was released on January 2006.

The Low Northern Rockcress is a small plant that occurs at only one location. Protection of that site will be the primary management action. The Province will be working closely with the landowner of the property and the federal government to ensure the survival of the species. Other actions will include surveying nearby potential areas where the Low Northern Rockcress may occur and learning more about the species. The Low Northern Rockcress has been listed as endangered since December 2004.



### General Status of Species

The 2005 General Status of Species report was completed for approximately 2000 plants and animal species. This program attempts to provide an indication of population changes for all species in the Province at five-year intervals.

### Ongoing Research

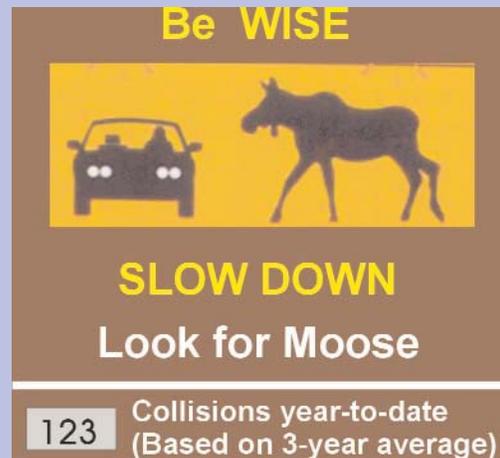
A comprehensive wolverine study was completed in Labrador. Although no signs of wolverine were found, the results of the survey will be used to guide management decisions regarding the possible recovery of Labrador wolverine populations in the future.

## Moose-Vehicle Collision Strategy

The Moose-Vehicle Collision Strategy continued to be developed and delivery of the education program was initiated with radio ads, billboards and bumper stickers urging motorists to watch for moose while driving. A multi-year public awareness program was initiated with the goals of generating a high level of awareness among the general public; strengthening the link between speed and moose-vehicle collisions; and decreasing the severity and occurrence of moose-vehicle collisions.

In 2005, the Moose Alert hotline received over 1100 moose sighting reports between

May and September. In the first three months following the start of the program, there was a 13% decrease in the number of moose-vehicle collisions reported. Accidents resulting in severe injuries were down to less than 1% based on injury status information and there were no fatalities.



## Funding for Habitat Stewardship

Habitat Stewardship program funds were secured for the Labrador Species at Risk Stewardship Program, the Limestone Barrens Habitat Stewardship Program, Newfoundland Martin and Piping Plover. Full-time stewardship facilitators were hired for the Labrador and the Limestone Barrens programs. A community working group was established for the Limestone Barrens program.

## Staff Development

Staff of the Habitat Management Program partnered with Sir Wilfred Grenfell College Environmental Science program to develop and teach an independent study course. Students were provided with data on caribou and forest inventory information and asked to make recommendations on the landscape that should remain unharvested. The course was considered successful and will be repeated in the future.

## Coyote Management

Due to public concern about the impact of coyotes on the Island ecosystem, the Wildlife Division has increased efforts to educate guides, outfitter, hunters and the general public about these animals. Information about coyotes is now available on the departmental website. The Division also continues to deliver information seminars to hunters across the Island. The seminars cover the biology and management of the species as well as proven harvesting strategies.

## Parks and Natural Areas Division

The Parks and Natural Areas Division is responsible for the planning, establishment, administration and management of Newfoundland and Labrador's provincial parks, wilderness and ecological reserves and Canadian Heritage Rivers. The Division also works with Parks Canada in planning new national parks and national marine conservation areas in the Province.

The Division operates 14 camping parks, six natural and scenic attractions, 11 park reserves and the T'Railway Provincial Park. The Division is also responsible for two wilderness reserves and 17 ecological reserves. A map of the provincial park system and related reserves system is attached as an Appendix. In 2005-06, visitor usage of provincial parks was down slightly from 2004-05 with a decrease of 1.2% for a total of 185,654 visitors. Revenue in Provincial Parks was down slightly from 2004 from \$877,903 to \$861,770 in 2005. Both these decreases may be attributed to the poor weather conditions experienced during the months of May and June.

### Infrastructure Upgrades to Provincial Parks

Various upgrades to park infrastructure were undertaken in 2005-06. La Manche Provincial Park received electricity. A new comfort station with showers, flush toilets and a laundromat and a dumping station were constructed. Three new vehicles were purchased for the Division to replace old parks trucks. Twelve new campsites were constructed at Butter Pot Park.

A new capitalization plan was drafted for the Provincial Parks system that would increase the level of services provided by Provincial Parks and repair or replace ailing parks infrastructure.

### New Website

The Division launched Phase I of a two phase project to develop a more user-friendly website with enhanced content and improved navigation on wilderness and ecological reserves and the Canadian Heritage Rivers system. Phase II - the Provincial Parks and Environmental Education content is to be developed in 2006-07.



Camping at our provincial parks

### Alcohol Ban

The alcohol ban that was introduced in Notre Dame Provincial Park in 2004-05 was extended for the 2005-06 season to cover the May 24 weekend up to and including the last weekend in June. This ban has been very well received by families camping in the park.

### Increased Patrols

A park ranger was extended for the winter months in 2005-06 at Butter Pot and Notre Dame parks to assist with winter operations. This was a valuable improvement for the recreational programs and for park patrols.

## Public Education

The Parks and Natural Areas Division is also responsible for public education in provincial parks and reserves. The Division implemented another successful summer interpretation program in six provincial parks and two ecological reserves. Attendance was slightly up for these programs with a total of 28,566 participants. The fall "Nature's Classroom" school educational program took place at five provincial parks and two ecological reserves. These programs are designed to meet the curriculum guidelines for Grades 1-6. This year saw 1,673 participants in the program.



Notre Dame Provincial Park

## Wilderness and Ecological Reserves

Wilderness and Ecological Reserves play an important role in protecting the Province's natural heritage. The Division is responsible for issuing the necessary permits for public access to these reserves. In 2005-06, the Division issued 750 permits to users of the Avalon and the Bay du Nord Wilderness Reserves. Nineteen scientific research permits were issued on topics ranging from seabird population dynamics, caribou/ coyote interactions, the vulnerability of endangered plants and wildlife species, and the impacts of climate change. A new guidebook was developed for the Wilderness and Ecological Reserves System to assist people in understanding the uniqueness of our spaces and the activities that are allowed within these areas.

Public consultations on the draft management plan and regulations for the Mistaken Point Extension Ecological Reserve were held in April 2005. The Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Advisory Council (WERAC) recommended that full ecological reserve status be granted. Other areas still being reviewed by Government include the proposed Main River Waterway Provincial Park and Little Grand Lake Provisional Ecological Reserve.

Smokey Falls - Bay du Nord River



**The Bay du Nord River was officially declared Newfoundland and Labrador's second Canadian Heritage River on October 31 2005.**

# Environment Branch

## Water Resources Management Division

The Water Resources Management Division of the Department is the lead government agency for drinking water safety. Water quality is protected through watershed management, water quality monitoring and reporting, and monitoring and training of operators. The Division also administers various statutes as they relate to the allocation of water, stream alterations, licensing of well drillers, approval of water and sewage works and other aspects of water resource management.

### Water Quality Data

The Division started reporting Drinking Water Quality Index (DWQI) values for all public water supply systems on a quarterly basis. The Index is a means by which water quality data is summarized for reporting to the public in a consistent manner. It is similar to the UV index or an air quality index. It tells us, in simple terms, what that quality of drinking water is from a drinking water supply.

The Division also began reporting Langelier Index values for all public water supply systems on a quarterly basis. The Langelier Index is one of the several tools used by water operators to optimize their water supply systems and identify leakage potentials. Leakage is a common problem in this Province due to the acidic nature of provincial waters.

### Website Developments

The Drinking Water Quality geographical information system (GIS) internet application was enhanced to provide access to ambient water quality data and real time hydrometric and water quality data. The GIS application allows drinking water quality and other water resources data sharing between all four government departments involved in ensuring safe drinking water through the Province's Mutli-Barrier Strategic Action Plan. This is currently an internal application but will be made accessible to the public in the near future.

A new system was designed to automatically update on a daily basis the Division's Public Water Supplies GIS layer on the division's web

page. This layer depicts the geographic boundaries of Public Water Supplies in the Province.

Satellite RADAR imagery used to determine the location of the river ice front and to calibrate the "Ice Progression Model" for flood forecasting at Badger was formatted and made available to the public through the Division's web page.

Summary information on the risks of fluoride in well water was mapped and also made available to the public through the Division's web page.

A web page was created to provide the public access to the data collected by the Pippy Park real time weather station.

## Database of Provincial Dams

One of the key accomplishments last year was the development of a database for the estimated 500 dams in the Province. Among other things, the database confirms the location, status, ownership and condition of dams. It was developed from our existing information and questionnaires that were sent to dam owners in the Province. The database will form a key element of the Division's dam safety program.

**As per Government's Multi-Barrier Strategic Action Plan for drinking water safety, the annual Drinking Water Safety Report for 2004-05 was released.**

## ESRI Canada Award of Excellence

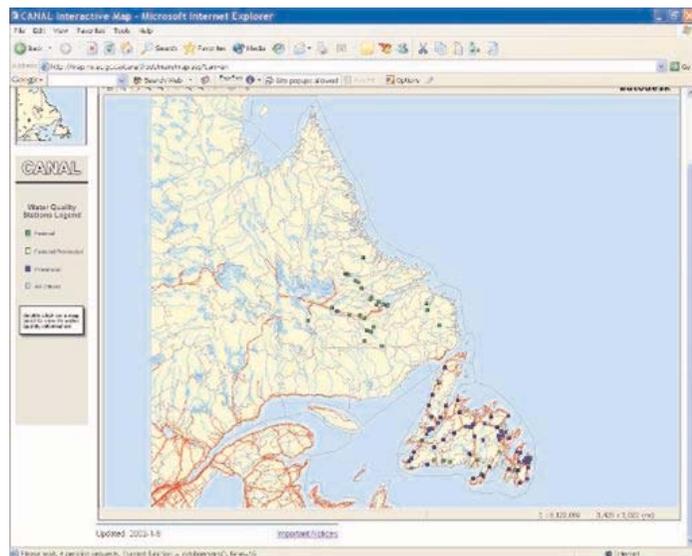
The Water Resources Management Division was the recipient of the 2005 ESRI Canada Award of Excellence for the Atlantic region for the Drinking Water Quality GIS application. The award is presented annually to one organization in each of the five regions across the country for innovation in the application of GIS technology. ESRI Canada is the leading GIS provider in Canada.



L to R - Alex Miller, President of ESRI Canada; Amir Ali Khan and Paul Neary, Water Resources Management Division; Eric Melanson, Regional Manager, ESRI Canada

## Canada-Newfoundland/Labrador Aqua Link (CANAL)

The Division completed work on the Canada-Newfoundland / Labrador Aqua Link (CANAL). CANAL is a joint federal - provincial website aimed at providing the public with direct access to ambient water quality data collected under the Canada-Newfoundland Water Quality Agreement from over 100 provincial sites. CANAL is the first website of its kind in the country and has been developed as a prototype under the National ResEAU project for distributing ambient water quality data to Canadians.



## Allocation of Water Rights

In the area of wise and efficient allocation of water, in 2005-06 the Division evaluated 118 water use allocation proposals and issued 110 water use licenses. Proposals and licenses were for a variety of water uses, including agricultural, aquaculture, institutional, water bottling, water power generation, mineral and oil exploration and other commercial and industrial uses. The Division continuously updated its Registry of Water Rights which now contains more than 1400 records.

In the same area, the Inuit land claims agreement became effective on December 1, 2005 and the Division is now coordinating water use allocation with the Nunatsiavut Government. Also, the Division is continuing its work on water management and water rights related to Labrador Innu and Sheshatshiu and Conne River Reserves land claims agreements.

**In 2005-06, boil water advisories were reduced by 10.**

## Water Use Studies and Water Power Rentals

In 2005-06 the Division collected water power rentals in the amount of \$353,270. Also in this area, the Division has been actively involved in a study on the analysis of selected industries to determine performance indicators and benchmark water use for water conservation with the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) Water Conservation and Economics Task Group as well as the initiation of a study on agricultural water use.



Testing water for pH.

## Public Service Award of Excellence

Dr. Amir Ali Khan of the Water Resources Management Division was honoured with the 2005 Public Service Award of Excellence. Ali leads a group of professional staff which has implemented leading edge technology within the Department, such as the development of an intranet application that allows users to map and interpret drinking water quality data as visual layers of information for the Province. Other accomplishments of Ali's team include the Canada - Newfoundland /Labrador Aqua Link website, the installation of the first real-time weather station and innovative technology in the area of flood forecasting.

## Pollution Prevention Division

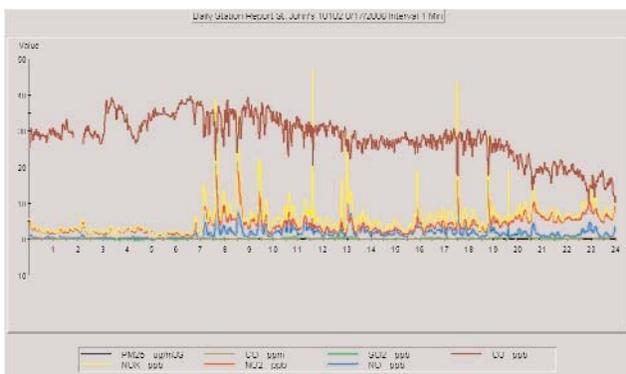
The Division is responsible for monitoring pollutants and environmental effects and ensuring industrial compliance with environmental regulations. The Division also provides support in the form of policy direction and regulations to Government Services Centres on waste management issues and a number of programs that are designed to manage certain regulated substances, such as petroleum products, pesticides and ozone depleting substances that have the potential to adversely impact the physical environment or human health.

### Air Quality Monitoring

With the cooperation of Environment Canada, the DR. DAS data management system was installed at all five National Air Pollution Surveillance (NAPS) stations in the Province. The \$80,000 system will allow for live access to ambient monitoring data as well as provide for automated quality assurance / quality control to tie-in with the national monitoring network amongst the many other benefits and features. The system will also be expanded to industry-specific monitoring locations thereby allowing instantaneous feedback to the Department if a particular facility is experiencing an upset condition.

The Division worked with federal departments (Environment Canada, Health Canada, Natural Resources Canada), Provinces, aboriginal groups, and industry representatives in an initiative to develop a 'Smart Regulation' to improve on air emissions from pulp and paper mills across Canada.

As of July 31, 2005 the monthly reporting of opacity readings to the Department for designated facilities became mandatory. Administrative penalties for opacity exceeding designated standards came into effect on January 1, 2006. Potential penalties have caused industry to take measures to improve the quality of their air emissions.



### Example of Air Quality Monitoring

The DR. DAS system installed in the NAPS stations assist in monitoring by providing graphical output such as the image to the left.

In this graph, higher levels of the Nitrogen Oxides ( $\text{NO}_x$ ) (yellow line) start to become evident as commuter traffic begins around 7:30 am. Total  $\text{NO}_x$  spikes start to decrease as the sun sets and the levels of Nitrogen Dioxide

( $\text{NO}_2$ ) (red line) increase significantly with a related decrease in ozone levels (brown line).

## Development of Effluent Regulations

All effluent discharge is currently regulated under the *Environmental Control Water and Sewage Regulations*. Preliminary work has begun on the development of industry-specific industrial effluent regulations which will enable the establishment of appropriate environmentally-protective discharge parameters.

## Pesticide Control Regulations

Following public consultations, the Department was given direction to revise the *Pesticide Control Regulations*. The Division is now working with the Department of Justice to draft revised regulations, which are expected to come into force in 2007.

## Halocarbon Regulations

In May 2005, the updated *Halocarbon Regulations* were promulgated. These regulations apply to air conditioning or refrigeration equipment, fire extinguishing equipment, and containers and equipment designed for use with, or for the servicing of, air conditioning or refrigeration equipment and fire extinguishing equipment. The updated regulations place greater restrictions on the release of halocarbons and on the servicing of devices which may contain these substances.

## Petroleum Storage and Management

Implementation of the *Heating Oil Storage Tank System Regulations* (HOST) continues. By year end there were 152 licensed inspectors operating in the Province. A great deal of time continued to be spent responding to questions from the public and industry. An updated edition of our *System Installation and Inspection Manual* was published this year and is now in use.

During this year an additional 6948 HOST registration tags were distributed to these licensed inspectors to use in the identification of registered systems.

The registration of storage tank systems under the *Storage and Handling of Gasoline and Associated Products Regulations* continued during the year and the numbers in our electronic database are now up to 3119.

## Waste Management

The Division has been collaborating with the Department of Natural Resources Agrifoods Division on two composting studies. One is on the management of mink farm waste and the second looks at growth trails and toxicity concerns using chicken manure compost.

The 2005-06 budget provided the Department with \$1 million in funding for Phase II of the remediation of PCB-impacted soil at the former USAF Pinetree site near St. Anthony. Work commenced in October 2005 and the last shipment of contaminated soil left the site on November 14, 2005.

The Division evaluated the environmental condition of 72 sites, of which 21 were subsequently closed.

## Environmental Assessment Division

The Environmental Assessment (EA) Division ensures that development projects proceed in an environmentally acceptable manner.

### Project Referrals

Each year this Division is consulted by other agencies and proponents on whether the EA Regulations apply to a particular project. The staff of the Division reviews the proposal and a determination is given in writing for each referral. The number for 2005-06 has remained high at 247 determinations.

### Registrations

Projects that must be reviewed for their potential environmental effects undergo a review by over 26 government agencies and are available for comment by the public. The results and comments are intensively analyzed by EA staff and recommendations made to the Executive and Minister, all within a 45 day deadline from the registration day. In 2005-06 the number of these registrations (or environmental assessment reviews) was 59 of which 50 were released after registration by the Minister.

### Environmental Preview Reports

These reports (or EPRs) are required by the Minister after an environmental assessment review if the registration document has insufficient information to allow agencies to give adequate advice to the Minister, or if the public comments have pointed out an area of concern upon which the Minister wishes the proponent to elaborate. There was one EPR ordered by the Minister in 2005-06 for the South Brook (Pasadena) Watercourse Channel Relocation.

### Environmental Impact Statements

These studies are required of the Minister mainly if original research is required to predict potential environmental effects from a proposed undertaking. There were two undertakings registered in 2005-06 for which the Minister ordered Environmental Impact Statements to be prepared. They were the Argentia Wind Farm and the Long Harbour Commercial Nickel Processing Plant.

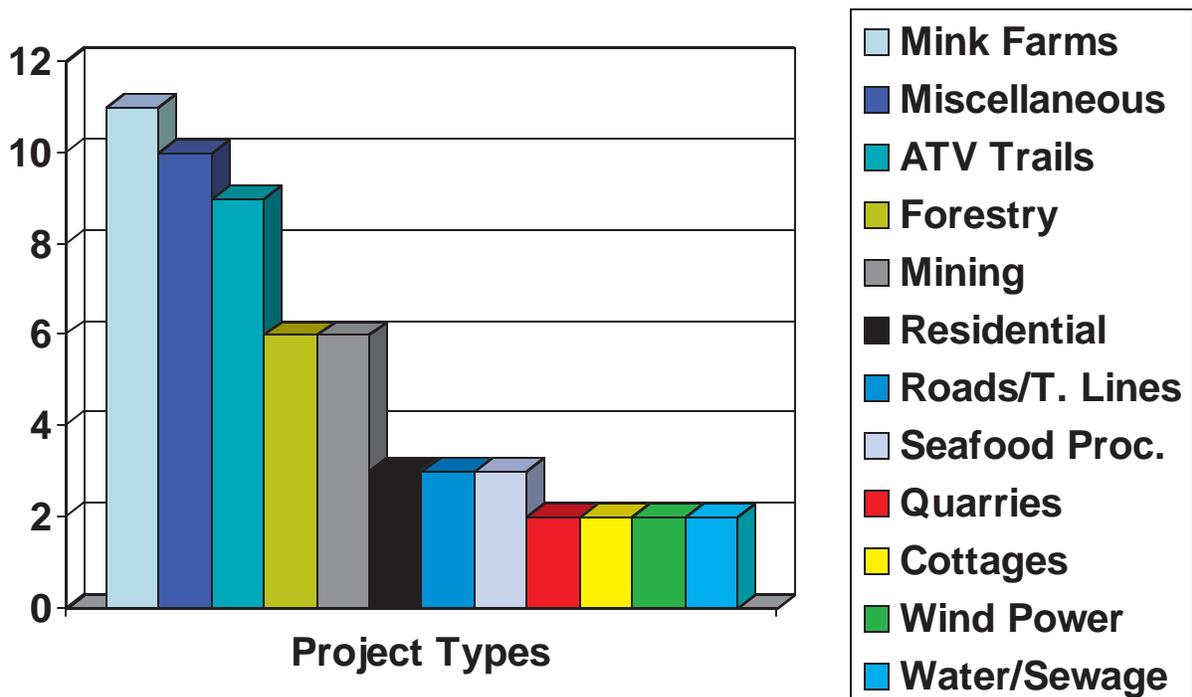
### Environmental Protection Plans (EPP)

There are certain instances when the Minister may order the proponent to prepare an EPP to compile and organize commitments and regulatory requirements so that a field-ready manual is available to construction and operating staff of the proponent and the monitoring and enforcement staff of various government departments. There were two ordered in 2005-06 for Pine Cove (Open Pit) Mine and the Plateau Dolomite Quarry (East of Wabush Lake).

## Environmental Monitoring and Surveillance

Many projects that are registered in the EA Process are released with conditions that are issued specifically under the authority of the Environmental Assessment Regulations and require follow-up by the EA Managers. In any given year the staff conducts spot checks of the projects that are still under development for compliance. These projects are province-wide and the number varies each year, but comprise a considerable amount of field work for the staff.

**Environmental Assessment Projects by Type**  
April 1, 2005 - March 31, 2006



# Sustainable Development and Strategic Science Division

## Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Science

In January 2006, staffing was completed for the Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Science (IBES). Two permanent staff positions of Manager and Coordinator are now established in departmental offices at Sir Wilfred Grenfell College in Corner Brook. IBES will function to facilitate graduate student research in support of provincial priorities in the broad domain of sustainable development and resource management and conservation.

## Environmental Science Curriculum

The Environmental Science Curriculum Project was further developed this year with a field trial of several teaching units in four provincial high schools. The project is being coordinated by the Division and is a joint effort with our colleagues in the Department of Education. The project is scheduled for full implementation in September 2007.

## Policy and Planning Division

### Climate Change Initiatives

The Department released the provincial *Climate Change Action Plan* in July 2005. The Plan contains 40 action items around reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation to climate change. The Policy and Planning Division is now in the process of implementing the Plan.

Divisional staff participated as part of the Canadian delegation in the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Montreal from November 28 to December 9, 2005. The Division also coordinated and staffed a provincial booth on local climate change activities as part of the conference.

Also in December, the Division organized a workshop for municipalities on the issue of climate change. The goal of the workshop was to educate municipal leaders about the impacts of climate change and the importance of adapting and planning now for potential adverse events.

In March 2006, the Division partnered with the Department of Health and Community Services, Memorial University and Environment Canada to organize a two-day conference on the health impacts of climate change. The conference included sessions and posters on a wide range of topics including temperature related morbidity and mortality, impacts of extreme weather events, air pollution related health impacts, water resources issues, adaptation of health sector to climate change, socio-economic impacts on community health and well-being, and the health impacts of climate change on Aboriginal communities.

# Other Activities

## Green Committee

The Department has an active Green Committee whose mission it is to identify, advance and promote strategies, policies and practices within the Department's operations aimed at minimizing negative environmental impact and maximizing benefits to the environment. The Committee is made up of volunteers from various divisions of the Department. A representative of the Committee is also active on the Inter-Departmental Recycling Committee. The Green Committee is responsible for organizing the annual Environment Week programme for departmental employees. Environment Week 2005 took place from June 5 to 11 and included activities such as the presentation of environmental awards, a nature walk, an electronic scavenger hunt, a photo contest, and talks on zoonotic diseases of importance for this Province, climate change and the environmental science curriculum.

## Sixteenth Annual Environmental Awards

The annual Newfoundland and Labrador Environmental Awards Program is a partnership of the Department of Environment and Conservation, the Newfoundland and Labrador Women's Institutes and the Multi-Materials Stewardship Board. Over the past 16 years, the award has recognized those who have made an outstanding contribution to the conservation, protection and restoration of our environment. Nominations may be made in various categories including: individual, community group or organization, educator, youth or youth group, school, business and municipality.

The 2005 winners were:

Individual	Diane Eastman, Carmanville
Community Group / Organization	Project Green, Memorial University, St. John's
Youth	Stephen Foster, Corner Brook and Christopher Downey, Doyles
Municipality	Town of Botwood
School	MUN Botanical Garden, St. John's
• Honourable Mention	• Stephenville Primary School, Stephenville
Business	Central East Health Care Institutions Board - Central Regional Integrated Health Authority

# Opportunities and Challenges

Government's Sustainable Development initiative presents an excellent opportunity for this Department. Sustainable Development recognizes that the environment and its resources are crucial to sustaining and improving our quality of life. The initiative promotes creating a stewardship ethic and maintaining the integrity of the ecosystem. These values are certainly in line with those of this Department. The importance given to this initiative also helps to raise the profile of the work done by this Department. The creation of an Act on Sustainable Development, Roundtable and Strategic Environmental Management Plan for the Province will be an exciting time for the Department. It will be a challenge to create a balanced approach to sustainable development but the Department is confident that it is the correct approach.

In line with Government's commitment to Sustainable Development, the Department will be working on developing a Natural Areas System Plan in the near future. The challenge around this initiative will be to develop appropriate protection strategies for representative examples of each of the Province's eco-regions while mitigating land use conflicts that may arise.

The Department may be challenged somewhat in the implementation of the provincial *Climate Change Action Plan* due to a change in the policy direction of the federal government. Under the previous federal government, the Department had signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work together on climate change issues and was in the process of negotiating cost-shared projects. Many items in the provincial *Action Plan* were tied to federal initiatives. The new federal government is taking a different approach to climate change. Existing partnerships with the federal government will need to be renegotiated.

# Financial Statement

Expenditure and revenue figures included in this document are based on public information provided in the *Report on the Program Expenditures and Revenues of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for Fiscal Year Ended 31 March 2006*.

Minister's Office	\$241,848
Executive Support	891,555
Administrative Support	415,645
Policy Development and Planning	426,115
Administrative Support (Capital)	249,387
<b>Total Executive and Support Services</b>	<b>\$2,224,550</b>
Environmental Management	\$2,446,892
Water Resources Management	1,850,949
Water Quality Agreement	213,754
Environmental Assessment	469,278
Voisey's Bay Environmental Management Board	168,493
<b>Total Environmental Management and Control</b>	<b>\$5,149,366</b>
Crown Land	\$2,851,776
Land Management and Development	(4,589,276)
Surveying and Mapping	638,237
Geomatics Agreements	191,090
<b>Total Lands</b>	<b>\$(908,173)</b>

Provincial and National Parks and Natural Areas	\$3,069,734
Park Development	587,929
<hr/>	
<b>Total Parks and Natural Areas</b>	<b>\$3,657,663</b>
Administration - Endangered Species and Conservation Services	\$1,817,477
Salmonier Nature Park	601,232
Management Planning	918,090
Wildlife and Natural Heritage Research	2,335,612
Wildlife Ecosystem Monitoring	193,241
Institute for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Science	208,004
<hr/>	
<b>Total Wildlife and Natural Heritage</b>	<b>\$6,073,656</b>
<b>Total Net Expenditure</b>	<b>\$16,197,062</b>

# Appendices



# Statistics

## Pollution Prevention Division

Industrial Certificates of Approval Issued	32
Industry site inspections	48
Hazardous waste generators registered	76
PCB storage sites	7
Tonnes (metric) of hazardous waste diverted	6353
Licensed pesticide operators	21
Vehicles tested at vehicle emissions testing clinics	257
Heating oil storage tank inspectors licensed	152

## Water Resources Management Division

Water use licenses issued	110
Water use	0
Permits for alteration to bodies of water	382
Investigations of complaints	244
Technical review of projects registered under EA	56
Review of referrals from Crown Lands	502
Review of referrals from municipalities	29
Review of referrals from municipalities (flood plain)	1
Training seminars for water supply system operators	96 seminars 359 on-site sessions
Number of public drinking water quality tap water samples	1903
Number of public drinking water quality source water samples	593
Water and wastewater operator certificates issued	45

## **Environmental Assessment Division**

Referrals (presentation of project to the Department)	247
Registrations (initiation of review process)	59
Releases by Minister (after initial review, project may be cleared)	50
Environmental Preview Reports ordered (based on existing data)	1
Environmental Impact Statements ordered (additional studies)	2
Withdrawn by proponent (decision not to continue with project)	2
Rejected	1
Deferred	1
Active	2

## **Crown Lands Division**

Crown land applications accepted	3218
Crown titles issued	2401
Hectares granted in Crown titles	2691
Applications reviewed under the <i>Quieting of Title Act</i>	30
Transfers / assignments of Crown titles	619
Legal surveys of Crown titles reviewed	1117
Crown titles incorporated into Crown Lands digital mapping	2566
Crown titles scanned and indexed	1540
Customers served	23,942

## **Land Management Division**

Number of parcels of Crown land assessed	677
Value of assessed land	\$6.6 million
Number of cottage lots developed	49

## Survey and Mapping Division

### Topographic Mapping

- Community Mapping 43 maps
- Drainage, contours and imagery - C. Newfoundland 4,483 km<sup>2</sup>
- Shoreline and drainage mapping - N. Labrador 10,441 km<sup>2</sup>

### Aerial Photography

- Northern Labrador 1,077 frames
- Central Newfoundland 1,240 frames
- Community mapping 650 frames
- Air photo prints and scans 14,010

### Geographical Names

- Board meetings 3
- Board decisions 329

### Services

- On-line GIS mapping services 10
- Geomatics consultations inquiries 500
- Digital map sales 769 map files
- Annual data revision on roads 4.2 person-months

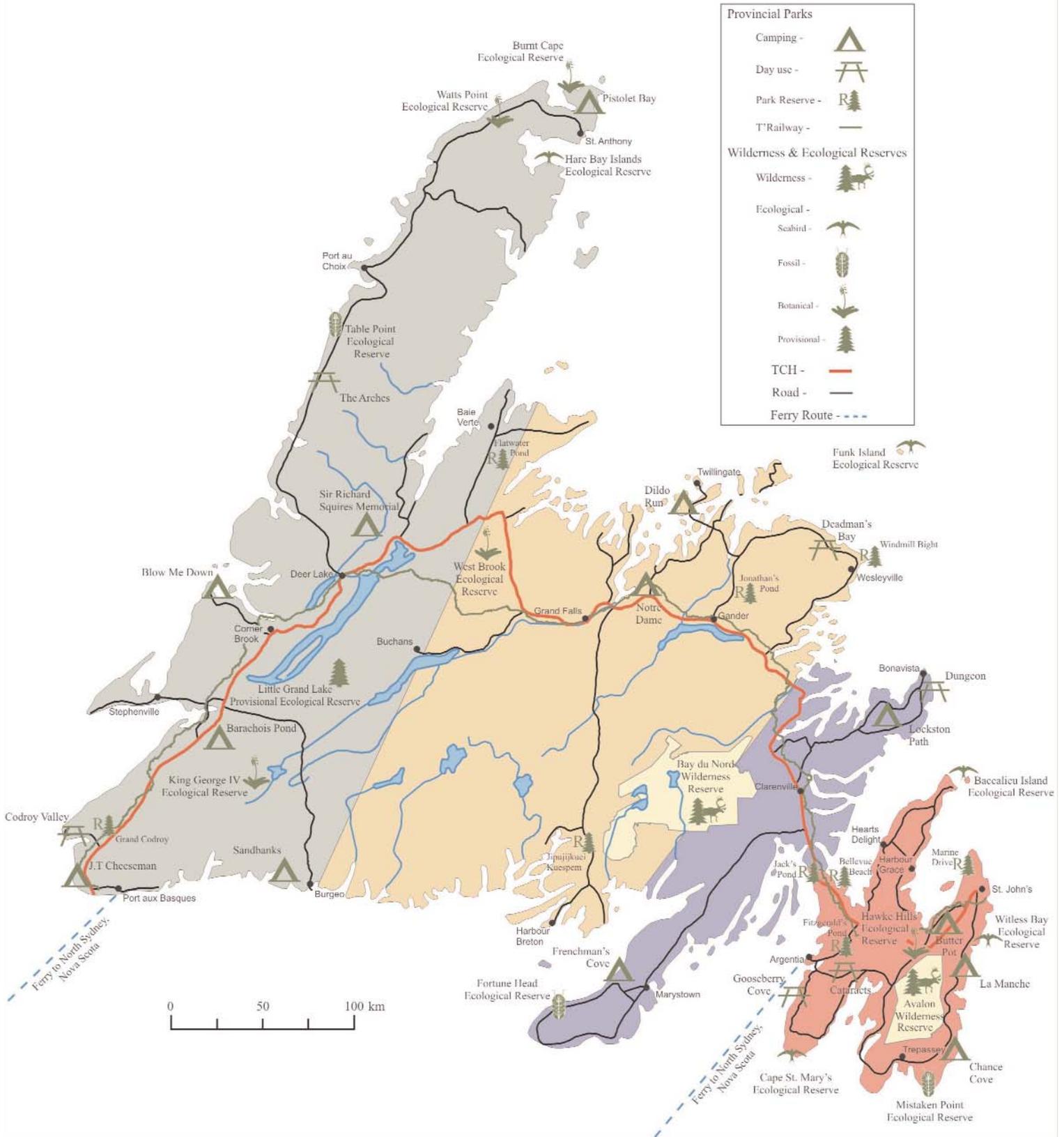
## Wildlife Division

- Visitors at Salmonier Nature Park 27,000
- Non-toxic shot workshops 3 (47 participants)
- Caribou licenses available 26,663
- Moose licenses available 5,734

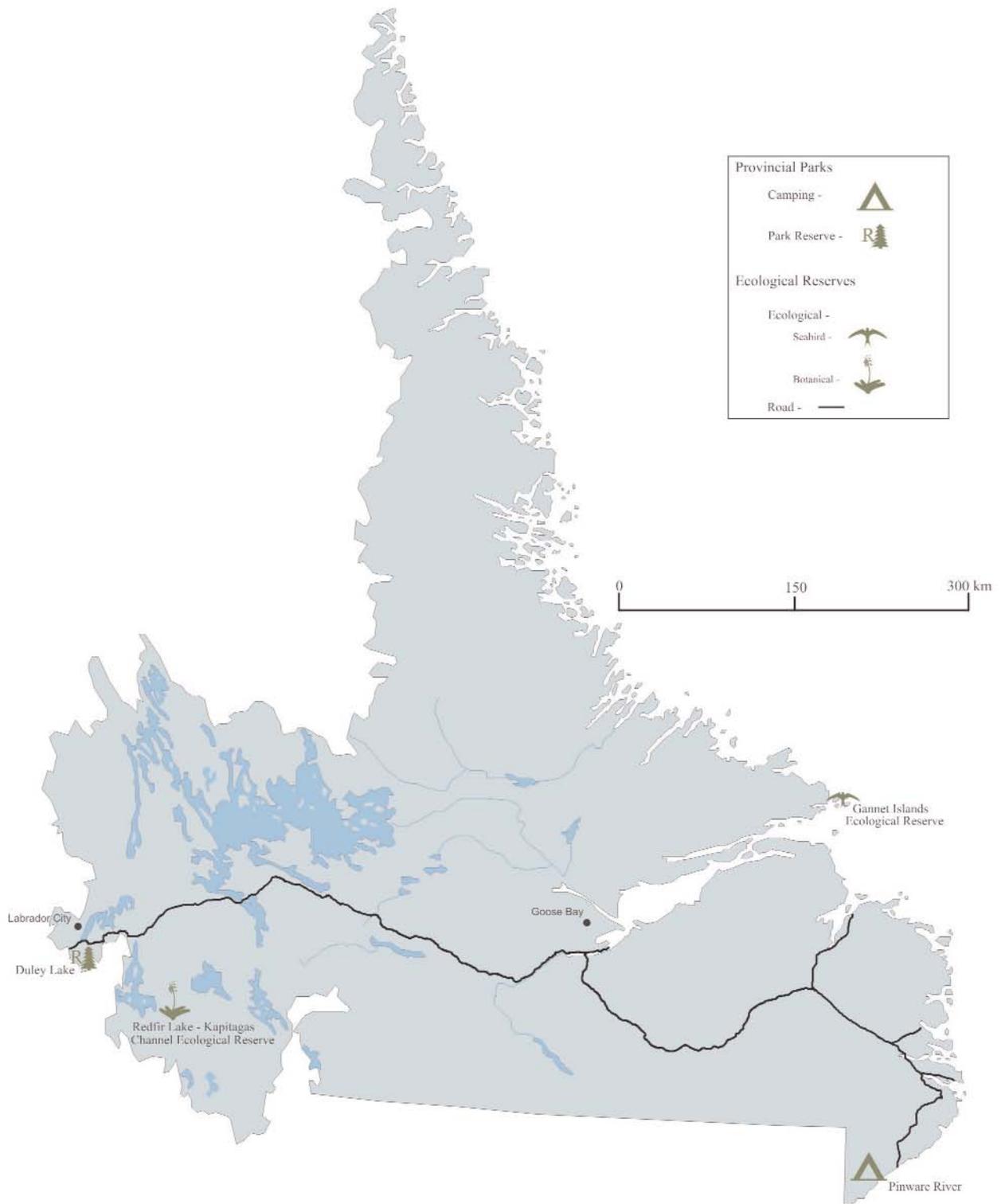
## Parks and Natural Areas Division

Park	Visitors
• Barachois Pond	28,516
• Blow Me Down	2,761
• Butter Pot	62,532
• J. T. Cheeseman	7,399
• Dildo Run	4,184
• Frenchman's Cove	8,902
• La Manche	21,559
• Lockston Path	11,730
• Notre Dame	23,351
• Pinware River	1,133
• Pistolet Bay	3,569
• Sandbanks	3,862
• Squires Memorial	6,156
<b>Total</b>	<b>185,654</b>
<b>Reserve</b>	
• Cape St. Mary's	16,797
• Burnt Cape	825
<b>Other Statistics</b>	
Number of provincial parks	32
Number of wilderness and ecological reserves	18
Wildlife reserves and special management areas	5
Total area of provincial protected areas	18,406 km <sup>2</sup>
Percentage of the Province protected	4.5%

# Provincial Parks and Reserves of Newfoundland



# Provincial Parks and Reserves of Labrador



# Committee Involvement

Employees of the Department of Environment and Conservation are active on a variety of issues on the provincial national and even international stages. The following list outlines some of the many committees in which our employees participate on behalf of the Department.

## Executive

- Environmental Planning and Priorities Committee of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME)
- CCME Deputy Ministers Committee
- New England Governors / Eastern Canadian Premiers committees (various)
- Multi-Materials Stewardship Board (MMSB)

## Environment Branch

- Air Quality Intex (AQI) Management Committee
- Association of Professional Engineers Environment Committee
- Atlantic Partnership in RBCA (Risk-based corrective action) Implementation
- Atlantic Canada Water Works Association - Small Systems Committee
- Atlantic Water and Wastewater Operators Certification Board
- Aquaculture Inter-Agency Committee
- Buffer Zone Working Group
- CCME Development Committee for National Municipal Wastewater Management Strategy
- CCME Environment Hazardous Waste Task Group
- CCME National Task Force on Storage Tanks
- CCME Petroleum Hydrocarbons Committee
- CCME Task Team on Contaminated Sites Management
- CCME Water Quality Task Group
- Canada Standards Association Technical Committee on Installation Code for Oil-burning Equipment
- Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA) National Advisory Committee Municipal Wastewater Subgroup
- Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA) National Advisory Committee
- Canadian Water and Wastewater Associations Technical Committees
- Canadian Water Resources Association Committees (various)
- Classification Implementation Working Group
- Climate Change Education Centre Steering Committee
- Departmental GIS Working Committee
- Dioxins and Furans Canada Wide Standards Development Committee
- Federal Provincial Groundwater Working Group
- Federal Provincial Territorial Canada Food Inspection Agency - Task Team on Disposal
- Federal Provincial Territorial Committee on Drinking Water
- Federal Provincial Territorial Committee on Health and Environment
- Federal Provincial Territorial Committee on Pest Management and Pesticides
- Federal Provincial Territorial Committee on Recreational Water Quality Guidelines
- Federal Provincial Working Group for Controls Harmonization - Ozone Depleting Substances
- Government of Newfoundland and Labrador GIS Technical Committee
- Healthy Lawns Working Group
- Joint Initial Actions Coordinating Committee (JAICC)
- Labrador Contaminants Database Working Group
- Mealy Mountains National Park Feasibility Study Interdepartmental Committee

- Mercury Canada-wide Standards Development Committee
- National Air Issues Coordinating Committee
- National Air Pollution Surveillance (NAPS) Managers
- National Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Committee
- National Environmental Assessment Directors Committee
- National Framework for Petroleum Refinery Emission Reductions Steering Committee (various subgroups)
- National Hydrometric Administrators
- National Research Council Guide Project
- National Water Survey of Canada Federal Provincial Web Task Group
- New England Governors / Eastern Canadian Premiers Acid Rain Task Force
- New England Governors / Eastern Canadian Premiers Environmental Sub-Committee on Climate Change
- New England Governors / Eastern Canadian Premiers Mercury Task Force
- Petroleum Hydrocarbons Canada-wide Standards Development Committee
- Provincial Territorial Committee on Climate Change
- Provincial Wellness Advisory Council
- Safe Drinking Water Technical Working Group
- TransLabrador Highway Consultative Committee
- Technical Committee for Climate and Deer Lake Power Agreements
- Technical Committee for Climate and DLP Agents
- TransLabrador Highway Environmental Management Committee
- Underwriters Laboratories of Canada Committees (various)
- Voisey's Bay Technical Environmental Review Committee
- Voisey's Bay Environmental Management Board

#### Lands Branch

- Advisory Committee on College of the North Atlantic - Geomatics Engineering
- Agricultural Land Tenure Review Committee
- Association of Newfoundland Land Surveyors
- Atlantic Coastal Zone Information Steering Committee
- Baie Verte Watershed Committee
- Canadian Council on Geomatics (CCOG)
- Canadian Institute of Geomatics
- Canadian Land Directors Committee
- Central Regional Council
- District 1 Five Year Forest Harvesting Planning Team
- Forest Resources Ecosystem Planning Committees (4)
- Gander Lake Watershed Committee and subcommittees
- Geographical Names Board of Canada
- Geomatics Working Group of the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Technical Industries
- Geomatics Steering Committee
- Geomatics Technical Committee
- Inter-Departmental Land Use Committee
- Labrador Regional Council
- Labrador Training Initiatives Committee
- Lands Branch GIS Working Group
- Newfoundland and Labrador Geographical Names Board
- Northern Arm Lake Monitoring Committee
- Steady Brook Watershed Planning Committee
- Voisey's Bay Technical Environmental Review Committee
- Western Newfoundland Model Forest Management Team

## Natural Heritage Branch

- Access and Benefit Sharing Working Group
- Atlantic Wildlife Directors Committee
- Atlantic Canada Habitat Species at Risk Stewardship Advisory Committee
- Atlantic Flyway Committee
- Atlantic Provinces Hunter Education Committee
- Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre Scientific Advisory Committee
- Atlantic Game Bird Technical Committee
- Biodiversity Assessment Project Group and Technical Sub-committee
- Burnt Cape Steering Committee
- Buffer Zone Working Group
- Canada's Stewardship Portal Working Group
- Canada's Stewardship Communities Network
- Canadian Fur Managers Committee
- Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre Board of Directors
- Canadian Council of Ecological Areas
- Canadian Heritage River Board
- Canadian Parks Council
- Canadian Wildlife Directors Committee
- Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada
- Connectivity Working Group
- Criteria and Indicators Working Group
- Eastern Habitat Joint Venture Board of Directors, Provincial Steering Committee, Working Group
- Endangered Species Recovery Teams and Working Groups (various)
- Environmental Education committee with Canadian Wildlife Federation
- Federal, Provincial, Territorial Stewardship Working Group
- Forestry and Wildlife Liaison Committee
- Fur Institute of Canada
- Hospitality Newfoundland and Labrador
- Innu Land Claims Negotiating Team (Wildlife and Protected Areas Chapters)
- Inter-Departmental Land Use Committee
- International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
- International Hunter Education Association (Canadian VP)
- Interpretation Canada
- Labrador Trout working group
- Labrador Salmonid working group
- Limestone Barrens Stewardship Education Committee
- Main River Advisory Committee
- National Task Group on Freshwater Fisheries
- National General Status Working Group
- National Stewardship Conference 2006 Steering Committee
- National Task Group on Recreational Fishing
- National Biodiversity Working Group
- Newfoundland Marten Modelling Working Group and Technical Sub-committee
- Newfoundland and Labrador Forestry Research Advisory Committee
- Newfoundland Marten Research Committee
- Newfoundland Marten East Coast Working Group
- Newfoundland Marten Education Committee
- Newfoundland and Labrador Federal/Provincial Working Group (Species at Risk)
- Newfoundland Salmonid working group
- Newfoundland Trout working group
- Nordic Trail Association

- North American Bird Conservation Initiative Board of Directors
- North American Wetlands Conservation Council
- Northeast Fur Resource Technical Committee
- Partners in Adaptive Management
- Planning and Applied Science Committee of the Western Newfoundland Model Forest - Chair
- Provincial GIS Technical Committee
- Salmonid Council of Newfoundland and Labrador
- Scientific Advisor to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wildlife Flora and Fauna (CITES)
- Sea Duck Joint Venture Board of Directors
- Seabird Ecological Reserves Advisory Committee (SERAC)
- Secretariat to the Species Status Advisory Committee
- Stewardship Association of Municipalities
- T'Railway Council and associated committees
- Vegetation Classification Working Group
- Western Newfoundland Model Forest Board of Directors and Management Group
- Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Advisory Committee (WERAC)
- Wood Supply Committee

# Glossary of Terms

- Biodiversity - refers to the full complement of life including wildlife (aquatic and terrestrial plants, animals and fishes) and the ecosystems that sustain them.
- Certificate of Approval - An approval issued by the Department of Environment to industry outlining required environmental operating conditions.
- Climate Change - A change in the average weather; the rate and magnitude of global climate change may have many impacts on the Earth's ecosystems. It is thought that human activities are altering the chemical composition of the atmosphere through the build-up of greenhouse gases, which is resulting in changes to the global climate, including a rise in temperatures and more frequent extreme weather events.
- Consumptive Wildlife Use - Harvesting of wildlife species by means of hunting, trapping, or fishing.
- Crown land - defined under the *Lands Act* as any land including land which is underwater that has not been lawfully alienated from the Crown.
- Ecosystem - A self-sustaining system formed by the dynamic and complex interactions of a community of organisms with their non-living environment.
- Effluent - treated or untreated (can potentially contain a large number of harmful pollutants) wastewater that is released from the outfall(s) of a wastewater system.
- Emission - Pollution discharged into the atmosphere by any means.
- Environmental Assessment - A process by which the environmental effects of a project are predicted and evaluated before the project has begun.
- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) - A report that presents the results of an environmental assessment.
- Environmental Preview Report (EPR) - a report presenting the results of an investigation based on readily available information that supplements the information provided by a proponent upon registration of a project. This report assists the minister in determining whether or not an environmental impact statement is required.
- Forest Inventory - assessment of forest resources detailing forest stand characteristics based on aerial photography (species composition, height, age, site quality)
- Geographical Information System - Computer software that allows the user to analyse a combination of layers of geographical information.
- Greenhouse Gases (GHGs)- Gases that trap solar heat within the Earth's atmosphere. These are primarily Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), Methane, Nitrous Oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), and water vapour. These gases ensure that the Earth is warm enough to support life but an increase in these atmospheric gases is thought to be a primary cause of climate change.
- Halocarbon - a substance that contains various combinations of the chemical elements carbon, hydrogen, chlorine, fluorine and bromine.
- Hazardous Material - Any material that poses a threat to human health and/or the environment.

Typical hazardous substances are toxic, corrosive, ignitable, explosive, or chemically reactive.

- Opacity - the degree to which an air contaminant emitted into the environment reduces the passage of light, expressed numerically from 0% (transparent) to 100% (opaque).
- Ozone Depleting Substance - a substance that contains various combinations of the chemical elements carbon, hydrogen, chlorine, fluorine and bromine which destroy stratospheric ozone. These chemicals are often described by the general term 'halocarbon'.
- Pesticide - A substance or mixture of substances used for the destruction or control of insects, birds, rodents, fungi or other pests and micro-organisms or for the destruction or control of vegetation.
- Proponent - A person (individual, group or government) who carries out or proposes to carry out an undertaking (project), or is the owner or person having charge, control or management of an undertaking.
- Stewardship - The process whereby individuals or organizations assume responsibility for the protection and enhancement of the environment or any of its constituent components.
- Sustainable Development - According to the Brundtland Commission report (1987), sustainable development is "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."
- Remediation - Methods used to remove or contain a toxic spill or hazardous materials from a site.
- Topography - graphic delineation in detail usually on maps or charts of natural and man-made features of a place or region especially in a way to show their relative positions and elevations.
- Waste management - the collection, transportation, handling, storage, treatment, utilization, diversion, recycling, reuse, recovery, reduction and disposal of waste material.





Government of Newfoundland and Labrador  
**Department of Environment and Conservation**

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