

St. Anthony-Port au Choix
Regional Council of the Rural Secretariat

Annual Activity Report
2005-06



Fishing in the Straits

Message from the Chair

In accordance with the Government's commitment to accountability, this annual activity report outlines the activities of the St. Anthony – Port au Choix Regional Council of the Rural Secretariat for the 2005-06 fiscal year. My signature is indicative of the Council's accountability for the preparation of this report, and the achievement of the results contained herein.

The St. Anthony – Port au Choix Regional Council was appointed in August 2005 and held its first meeting in October 2005. The contents of this report outline the council's activities for the remaining five months of the fiscal year.


The council met three times between October 2005 and April 2006. These first meetings served as an orientation to the council's role and responsibilities. The council received regional specific information that enabled it to better understand the opportunities and challenges within the region. The meetings allowed for in-depth discussion and information sharing. Council members began to see the importance of planning for the future in the face of immediate challenges by moving the focus from individual communities to the region as a whole. It also gave the council a new appreciation of the opportunities that exist within the region.

The St. Anthony-Port au Choix Region has an abundance of natural resources and there is an opportunity to maximize the potential of these resources. The fishery and forestry has sustained this region for generations and with diversification and partnering, both industries can assist in sustaining the future. As well, this region boasts a growing tourism industry that highlights and builds on our unique culture and heritage. With 30,000 people visiting L'anse aux Meadows National Historic Site during the summer season, there is potential to expand and make the tourism industry more sustainable in the St. Anthony – Port au Choix region.

The Council understands that it will take time to fully reap the benefits of its work. Over time, the complex process it has undertaken will contribute to the social and economic development of the region.

I look forward to the work ahead.

Sincerely,



Richard May
Chair

St. Anthony – Port au Choix Regional Council of the Rural Secretariat

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Regional Council Overview

The St. Anthony – Port au Choix Regional Council is comprised of 13 members; 4 female and 9 male. Members of the council have a variety of backgrounds that include forestry, fishery, education, economic, cultural and social development. The council has representation from larger and smaller communities throughout the region:

Name	Community
Con Hoddinott	Hawkes Bay
Don Tulk	Port Saunders
Vachon Noel	Port au Choix
Richard May	Bird Cove
Gloria Toope	Pond Cove
Beverley May	Bear Cove
John Simmonds	St. Anthony
Mike Moss	St. Anthony
Barbara Genge	Main Brook
Ted Lewis	Croque
Ray Norman	Roddickton
Ross Decker	Roddickton
Linda Randell	Bide Arm

**For an updated listing of council members please visit <http://www.exec.gov.nl.ca/rural/regionalmem.asp>.*

The council does not have a budget allocation. Meetings of the council and associated costs are funded through the budget of the Rural Secretariat. The Rural Secretariat also funds a staff position within the region, who among other duties, acts as an information resource for the council and is responsible for the facilitation of the work of the council. The staff person for the St. Anthony – Port au Choix region is Nina Mitchelmore. Nina works out of Roddickton.

Overview of the Region

The Rural Secretariat region of St. Anthony - Port au Choix includes all communities north of and including River of Ponds on the western side of the peninsula and all communities in White Bay Central, Englee to Main Brook.

The region is comprised of 56 coastal communities within 10,450 square kilometers with a population of 15,035 in 2001. These communities primarily access their public services in four communities throughout the region, Port Saunders, Roddickton, Flower's Cove, and St. Anthony. The largest community in the region is St. Anthony which provides a number of services to the area including Charles S. Curtis Memorial Hospital and the College of the North Atlantic.

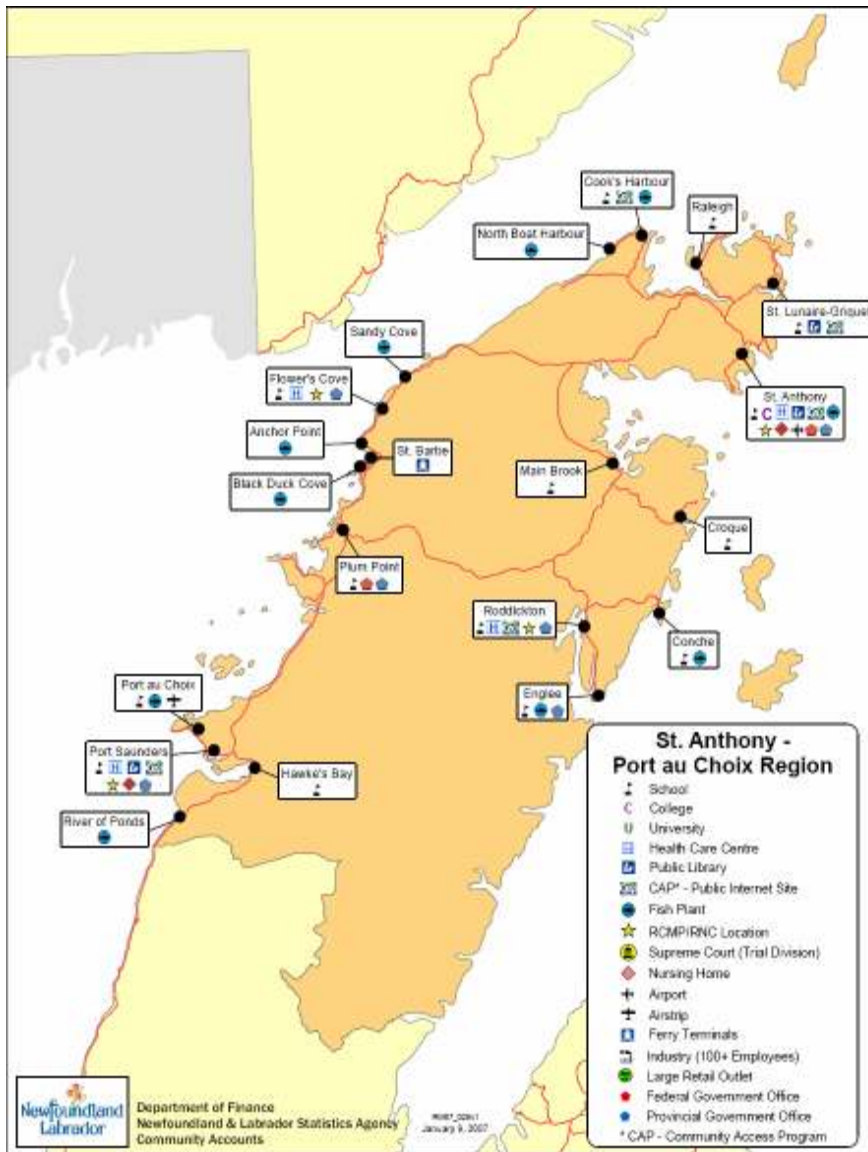
The population of the St. Anthony-Port au Choix Rural Secretariat region is estimated at 13,979 in 2006.¹ This is a decline of about 11.8% from 1999 (compared with a decline of 3.7% for the province overall). The population is expected to drop to about 13,400 by 2011, a further decline of 4.0% (compared to decline of 1.2% for the province overall).

Population decline impacts all age groups and impacts on the size of the labour supply. The 15-64 age group (those of labour force age excluding seniors) is estimated at about 10,000 in 2006, a decline of 10.7% from 1999. This age group is expected to fall by 7.0% to 2011, outpacing overall population decline. This difference can be attributed to continued out-migration from the region combined with fewer youth entering the labour market.

1. The population data used is based information published by the Economics and Statistics Branch, June 2006. The estimates have since been updated. For example, as of June 2006, the 2006 population estimate has been revised from 513,510 to about 509,700. Further revisions are expected follow-

Indicator	St. Anthony – Port au Choix	Percent of Province
Total Population		
1999	15,855	3.0%
2006	13,979	2.7%
2011	13,414	2.6%
Population Ages 15-64		
1999	11,193	3.0%
2006	9,994	2.7%
2011	9,290	2.6%
Population Ages 55-64 2006	2,000	2.9%
Number of People Employed		
1999	8,680	3.3%
2004	8,160	3.0%
Earned Income per Worker Employed		
1999 (\$2004)	\$17,500	72.1%
2004	\$18,000	68.0%
Personal Income per capita		
1999 (\$2004)	\$16,100	90.0%
2004	\$17,700	85.9%
Employment by Occupation		
Fishery (harvesting + processing)	2,080	8.9%
Primary activity (excl fish harvesting)	575	6.6%
Manufacturing (excl. fish processing)	330	3.6%
Construction	1,400	3.3%
Services sector (incl. public admin)	2,705	2.2%
Health and education services	640	2.4%
EI beneficiaries		
1999	5,640	5.5%
2005	5,370	5.4%
Educational Attainment Ages 18-64		
University Degree	575	1.5%
Post secondary/Trades certificate	2,780	2.6%
High school/some post secondary	2,000	2.6%
Not completed high school	4,615	4.1%

Source: Calculated from Community Accounts website and Economic Research and Analysis, Department of Finance (www.communityaccounts.ca, www.economics.gov.nl.ca)



Summary Infrastructure Map for the St. Anthony – Port au Choix Region of the Rural Secretariat

Within the 15-64 age group, 20.0% are ages 55 to 64. This means, in broad terms, that about one in five individuals will exit the labour force over the next decade. This movement out of the labour force will create “replacement” demand for labour in the region for younger workers. While not all retiring workers will likely be replaced (i.e., firms will substitute investment in machinery and equipment for labour) there will be opportunities for youth in the region in the future, probably at higher wages rates as the labour market tightens.

The labour market, measured in terms of the number of people with earned income, is also declining. In 2004, 8,160 individuals received earned income, a drop of

6.0% from 1999.² After adjusting for inflation, the average earned income per worker employed grew by 2.9% over this period, about one-third of provincial real growth of 9.0%. Growth in real earned income also allowed for growth in real personal income per capita over this period (10.0% versus 15.2% for the province overall). This trend means that personal income per capita in the region is diverging away from the provincial average, declining from 90.0% of the provincial average in 1999 to 85.9% in 2004.

2. Employment and earned income data is based on taxfiler residency information, not place of work. For example, those working in Alberta but filing taxes in the St. Anthony-Port au Choix Rural Secretariat region would show as being employed and earning income in the region.

In other words, both the population and labour market of the St. Anthony-Port au Choix region are declining, however those that remain are experiencing real earned income growth.

On an occupational basis, the fishery (harvesting and processing) employed 2,080 in 2000, or about 27% of employment, in the St. Anthony-Port au Choix region compared to 10% for the province overall. This meant that 8.9% of total fisheries related employment in the province, but 2.7% of the population, accrued to the St. Anthony-Port au Choix region.

The overall occupational structure in the region is weighted toward goods producing seasonal industries. In 2000, the fishery, other primary activity and construction accounted for 52.5% of employment in the region, and 55.9% of EI beneficiaries in 2005. Overall, there were 5,370 EI beneficiaries in the region in 2005, or about 6.5 EI claims for every ten people with earned income. The region accounted for 5.4% of total provincial EI beneficiaries in 2005, double its population share of 2.7%.

The educational profile of workers in the region is generally aligned with the occupational structure. Just under 600 individuals between ages 18-64 (5.8%) had a university degree in 2000 compared with almost 2,800 individuals with a trades or college level certificate (27.9%). Overall, therefore, 33.7% of individuals ages 18-64 in the St. Anthony-Port au Choix region had completed post secondary studies. This compares to 43.6% for the province overall).

At the same time, 46.3% of this age group in the region have not graduated from high school. While many of these workers have acquired on-the-job skills, their earnings growth potential, and their ability to upgrade and transfer their existing skill sets, may be limited. There are some age specific differences of importance for this education level. For example, considering older workers only (those ages 55-64), 74.4% have not completed high school. Conversely, considering younger workers only (those ages 25-29), 32.3% fall in this category.

3. Occupational and educational attainment data is sourced from the 2001 Census. Data from the 2006 Census will not be available until 2008.

Mandate

The mandate of the Regional Councils is:

- To develop a common, evidence-based understanding of the social, economic, environmental and cultural realities of a region.
- To review key regional economic and social measures (e.g. education levels, demographic trends, health status, income levels, EI usage, economic diversity) and to reach agreement on the priorities for change over the next five years.
- To identify policies and programs which either advance, negatively impact or need to be developed to encourage the necessary change.
- To advance regional cooperation through the sharing of information on and discussion about economic and social measures and to encourage regional partners to take action on and be accountable for those areas within their mandates.
- To nominate an individual to represent the region on the Provincial Council of the Rural Secretariat.

Highlights and Accomplishments

The council was appointed in August 2005. During the remaining five months of the fiscal year, the council met three times.

The first meeting of the council was held during the Dialogue Day of the Rural Secretariat Marble Mountain, Steady Brook. This meeting served as an introduction to the role and responsibilities of the council. Information presented to the council included data on demographics, education and labour market participation. This meeting also provided an opportunity for the council to meet directly with Cabinet.

Two more meetings were held by the end of the fiscal year, in December and March. Up to this time the council was presented with information on economic, demographic and social challenges and opportunities within the region, and began a discussion about the challenges and opportunities within the region.

The council began the process of thinking regionally and coming to terms with the idea of planning for the future in the context of the current needs of the region. Being sustainable over the longer term is key to making this process successful.

Opportunities and Challenges Ahead

Collaboration

Collaboration, as the Council defines it, requires a spirit of cooperation and a willingness to make decisions that will maximize benefits for the whole and not just a piece of the whole. This kind of collaboration provides opportunities and benefits that would not otherwise be possible. It also poses a challenge for individuals to step out of their ‘comfort zones’ and look at issues differently.

Long-term thinking

Long-term thinking will continue to be both an opportunity and a challenge. Thinking long-term, in the context of the work of the council, provides an opportunity to set a shared goal for the region and to, collectively, define the steps required to achieve the goal. Thinking long-term will also be challenging for individuals and groups when there are immediate issues surfacing within regions.

Citizen Engagement

There is an opportunity through this process for citizens to directly influence public policy development. This citizen engagement process is a purposeful, deliberate process to engage citizens in a two-way conversation with government decision-makers. This process is not limited to the citizens that sit on the councils of the Rural Secretariat, rather there is a process for the broader citizenship to engage in a discussion about the future policy directions of government. The challenge will be to truly open our minds, listen to each other and discuss issues in a respectful manner.

Vision Development

The vision document that is being developed by the Council is not intended to achieve a final form, but rather the intention is for it to continue to be a working document. The vision document will identify what we want to see 15 to 20 years out. Today that time frame is 2022-2027. In five years time, that time frame will be 2027-2032. As priorities are accomplished new priorities will be identified. This will provide an opportunity for us to be informed about what is moving and changing in our regions, where the next opportunity will be and where the next challenge will be. It will also provide a challenge for all involved to have faith in the process and realize that it will take time until these priorities are accomplished. It takes time to make significant change and it is important for this council to remain focused on the future, even in the midst of immediate challenges.

Appendices

Strategic Directions

1. Title: Regional Partnership Development

Outcome Statement: Stronger and more dynamic regions.

Clarifying Statement: This outcome requires systemic intervention by the Regional Council in the areas of:

- Partnership Development
 - Within regions
 - Between government and regions
- Forum for informed discussion and priority identification that links economic, social, cultural and environmental aspects of regional sustainability.

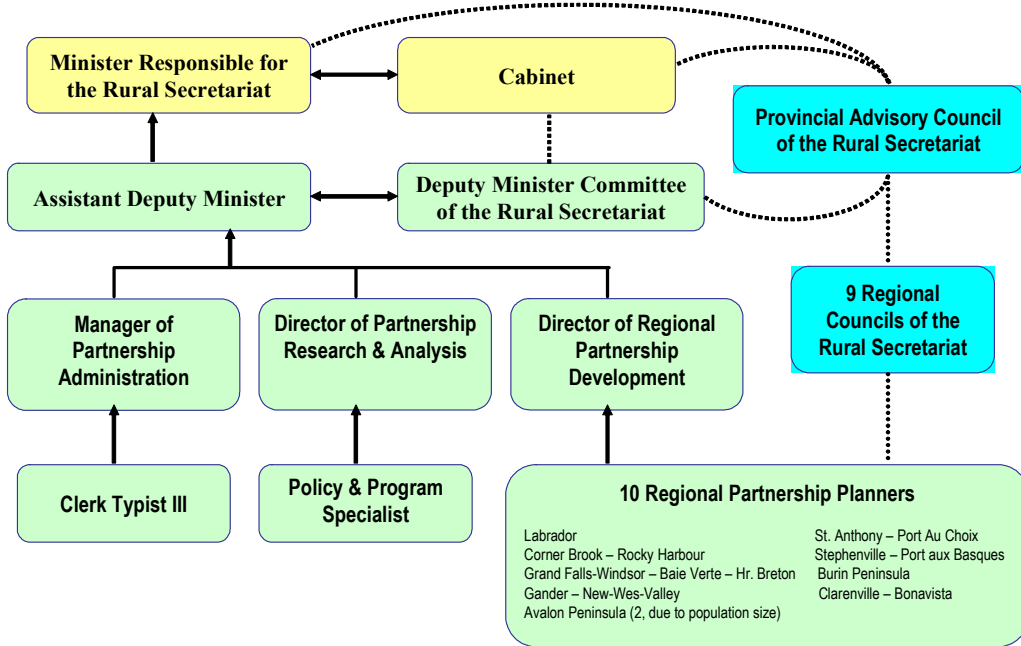
2. Title: Assessment of Policy on Regional Sustainability

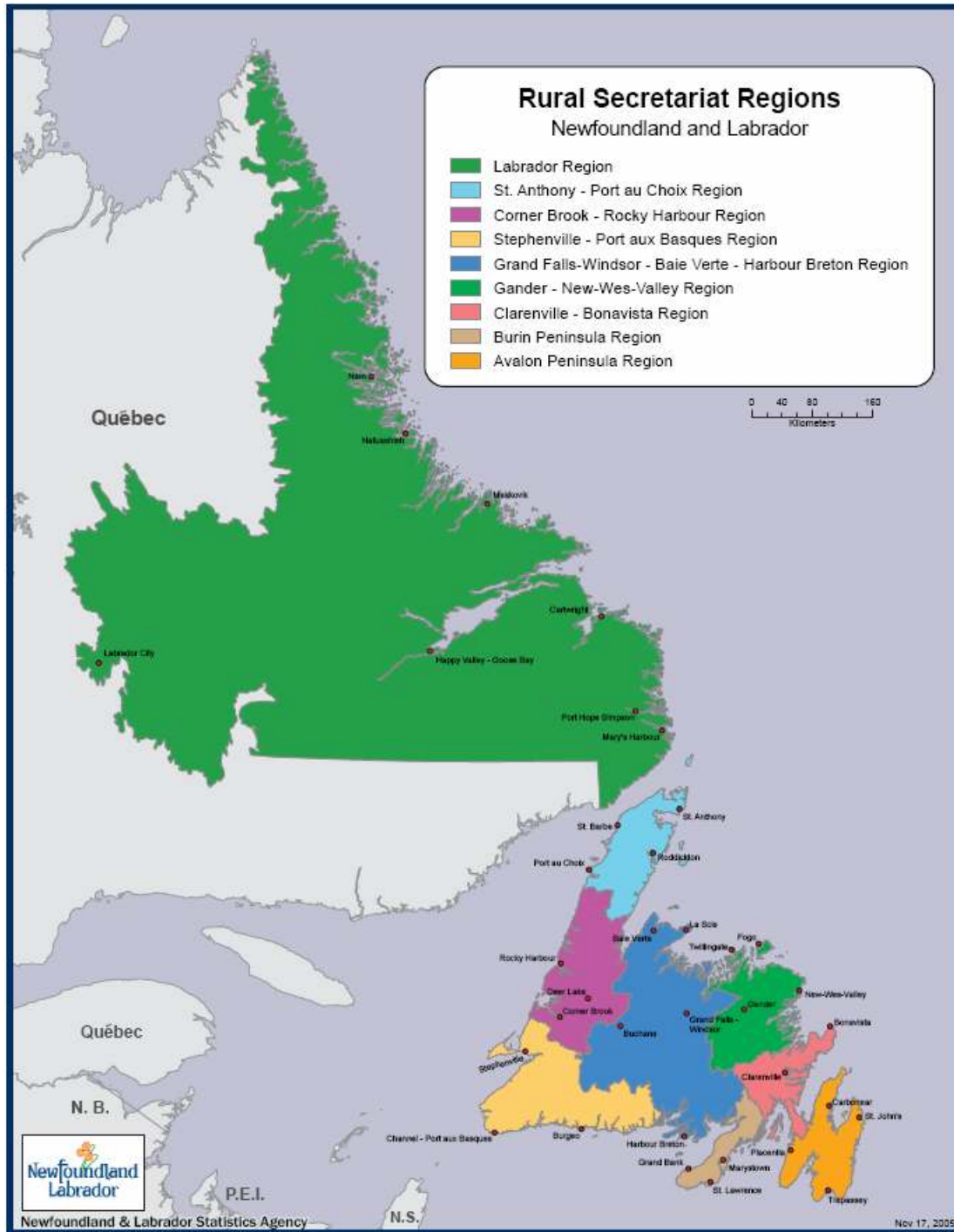
Outcome Statement: Improved Government understanding of and response to significant and long-term regional issues.

Clarifying Statement: This outcome requires systemic intervention by the Regional Council in the areas of:

- Regional perspectives which can inform the development and implementation of public policy.

Rural Secretariat Structure





Mandate of the Rural Secretariat

The Rural Secretariat's mandate is to:

- Promote the well-being of all regions of Newfoundland and Labrador through a comprehensive and coordinated approach to economic, social, cultural and environmental aspects of regional development.
- Act as the focal point for government to work with local and regional partners to build strong and dynamic regions and communities.
- Ensure that regional concerns are considered throughout the provincial government and promoted at the federal level.
- Carry out research and analysis of economic and social issues affecting all regions of Newfoundland and Labrador.
- Help communities and regions identify and take advantage of growth opportunities.

Mandate of the Provincial Council of the Rural Secretariat

The Provincial Council's Mandate is to:

- Develop a common, evidence-based understanding of the social, economic, environmental and cultural realities facing the province.
- Review key provincial economic and social measures (e.g. education levels, demographic trends, health status, income levels, EI usage, economic diversity) and to reach agreement on the priorities for change over the next five years.
- Identify and advise government on policies and programs which either advance, negatively impact or need to be developed to encourage the necessary change over the five year period.
- Advance cooperation through the sharing of information on and discussion about economic and social measures, and to encourage government and community partners to take action on and be accountable for those areas within their mandates.
- Meet twice annually with the provincial Cabinet and deputy ministers to advance regional development priorities.
- Serve as an external sounding board for government for the development of strategies, policies, programs and budget issues that will affect provincial and regional sustainability.



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