



St. Anthony - Port au Choix Regional Council Activity Plan 2011-14



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Message from the Chairperson

As Chair of the St. Anthony – Port au Choix Regional Council of the Rural Secretariat and in accordance with the Provincial Government's commitment to accountability, I hereby submit the council's 2011-14 Activity Plan. My signature below is indicative of the entire council's accountability for the preparation of and achievement of the objectives contained in this plan, pursuant to section 7(4) of the *Transparency and Accountability Act*.

During the last planning phase, the St. Anthony – Port au Choix Regional Council submitted three formal advice documents to government on the topics of Transportation/Communication, Retention of Skilled Labour and Forestry. As well, several advice letters were developed and submitted to the appropriate department as issues arose in the region. The council also assisted the provincial council in their work by deliberating and responding to topics on regionalism, land use planning and food security.

In order to complete this work, the council held two forums, several engagement sessions and conducted research to inform the advice they submitted. The council feels this process was successful in getting informed advice developed and hopes to continue in the future. The council will continue to work toward improving the sustainability of the region by advising the Provincial Government on regional issues.

As a category 3 entity under the *Transparency and Accountability Act*, the St. Anthony – Port au Choix Regional Council will table an Activity Plan. During the next three years, April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2014, the council will work diligently to achieve the objectives laid out in this plan. The council has considered the strategic directions outlined by the Minister and will contribute to these directions by engaging citizens, researching issues and working with partners in order to provide informed advice to government.

Sincerely,



Joan Simmonds
Chair

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

1. Regional Council Overview

The St. Anthony-Port au Choix Regional Council is comprised of eight members; three female and five male. The council currently has representation from larger and smaller communities throughout the region; all members are from communities of less than 5,000 people.

The Rural Secretariat also funds a regional planner position in the region, who among other duties, act as an information resource for the council and facilitate the work of the council. The planner for the St. Anthony-Port au Choix region is Nina Mitchelmore. Her office is located in Roddickton.

| Regional Council members | Community |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Ross Decker | Roddickton |
| Terry Hedderson | St. Lunaire-Griquet |
| Ted Lewis | Roddickton |
| Beverley May | Lower Cove |
| Richard May | Plum Point |
| Joan Simmonds(Chair) | Conche |
| Gloria Toope | Plum Point |
| Loomis Way | Green Island Cove |

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

2. Mandate

The Regional Council's mandate is:

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

3. Lines of Business

The council supports the Rural Secretariat's four lines of business:

Citizen-based policy advice: The Rural Secretariat supports nine citizen-based Regional Councils, and one stakeholder-based Provincial Council, to develop policy and decision-making advice for submission to government. Typically, councils, with the support of Rural Secretariat staff, hold public engagement sessions involving citizens and/or stakeholder group representatives, and conduct community-based research activities, to inform the development of advice documents.

Collaboration: The Rural Secretariat understands that sustainability in rural Newfoundland and Labrador can be significantly advanced through more and better collaboration between and among rural stakeholders including governments. Sometimes the Rural Secretariat works to support existing rural collaborative processes such as partnerships. Other times they work to help convene new regional collaborative processes such as networks or alliances. The broad goal is to help build a strengthened 'culture of collaboration' in rural Newfoundland and Labrador.

Research: The Rural Secretariat collaborates with provincial partners on a number of formal research endeavors that help to improve understanding of the challenges facing, and opportunities available to, rural regions of this province. The Rural Secretariat also works directly with regional partners and councils on a host of community-based research initiatives – small regional-level data-gathering efforts that give those involved the information and knowledge they need to effectively advise the Provincial Government on regional and rural policy issues.

Public dialogue and engagement: In addition to supporting councils to conduct public engagement efforts, the Rural Secretariat is also available to assist other Provincial Government departments to design and deliver their own public engagement initiatives. The Rural Secretariat also periodically convenes special deliberative dialogue initiatives on themes deemed to be of particular importance to the rural sustainability of this province, often in partnership with rural stakeholder groups and other government departments.

4. Values

The core values explain the character of the organization. The core values of the Rural Secretariat are as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Collaboration: | We are committed to building a culture of collaboration within Newfoundland and Labrador and beyond |
| Creativity/innovation: | We strive to transcend traditional ideas, rules, and patterns, and to work together to create new ideas, relationships, and approaches |

- Inclusion:** We acknowledge difference and cherish the views and perspectives of all. We will take steps to ensure all have an opportunity to express their own views
- Learning culture:** We accept that we have a lot to learn and relish the opportunity to learn more
- Participation/engagement:** We believe citizen/stakeholder/community engagement is essential to the development of good public policy
- Teamwork:** We provide support to one another, work co-operatively, respect differing views and strive to make our work environments safe and enjoyable
- Honesty:** We are open and honest in all our dealings and maintain the highest integrity at all times
- Excellence:** We strive for excellence and quality in everything we do

5. Primary Clients

The primary clients of the St. Anthony-Port au Choix Regional Council include the Rural Secretariat, the Provincial Council of the Rural Secretariat, and departments and agencies within the Provincial Government, among others.

The council will also engage individuals, groups and organizations within the region as it carries out its work.

6. Vision

The St. Anthony-Port au Choix Regional Council supports the vision of the Rural Secretariat:

Vibrant rural regions and communities where collaborative organizations and engaged and informed citizens work closely with governments to advance rural sustainability

Through its work, the council is identifying priorities that contribute to regional sustainability which considers economic, social, cultural and environmental aspects.

7. Mission

The St. Anthony-Port au Choix Regional Council supports the mission of the Rural Secretariat:

By March 31, 2017, the Rural Secretariat will have worked with regional and departmental partners to improve the sustainability prospects of rural communities and regions.

The St. Anthony-Port au Choix Regional Council agrees with the mission of the Rural Secretariat and will strive to support it by providing advice to the Provincial Government on issues affecting the region. The council will engage citizens, conduct research and work with partners to ensure the advice that is being provided will assist in improving the sustainability of rural communities and regions.

For additional detail please refer to the Rural Secretariat Activity Plan 2011-14.

8. Issues

Issue: Provide Advice to Government

Over the next three years, the St. Anthony-Port au Choix Regional Council will strive to meet the mandate that has been set out. In order to accomplish this, the council will identify issues that affect the sustainability of the region. The council will undertake research of the identified issue to ensure that their discussions and deliberations are well informed on the topic. To do this, the council will undertake literature reviews and engage in discussions with citizens and stakeholders in the region on the identified topic as well as other research that will help achieve the measure outlined below. After consensus is reached on a particular piece of advice to be submitted to the Provincial Government, the council will seek the most appropriate way of communicating this to officials.

The council will be providing ongoing advice to the Provincial Government on issues that affect the region. This will ensure that the current Provincial Government is aware of the issues that affect the region and can consider this advice when making decisions. In order to do this effectively, the council will engage citizens, conduct research and work with other partners in the region on the identified issues. This relates to the strategic direction identified in this plan.

The council will report on the same objective for the three years identified by this plan.

Objective:

By March 31, 2012 council will have provided advice to the Provincial Government on an issue that relates to regional sustainability.

Measure:

Provided advice

Indicators:

- Issue identified
- Researched issue
- Consensus developed on advice to Government
- Communicated advice to Government

Appendix A: Strategic Direction

1. **Title:** Rural Newfoundland and Labrador

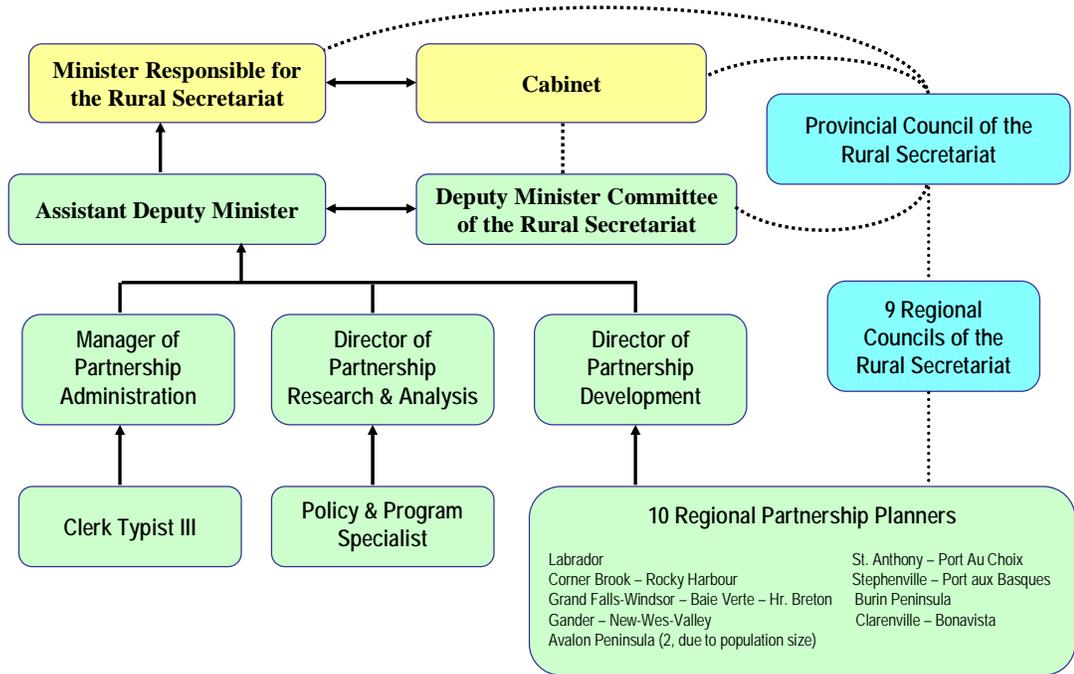
Outcome Statement: A sustainable rural Newfoundland and Labrador.

Clarifying Statement: This outcome requires systemic intervention by the Rural Secretariat in the areas of:

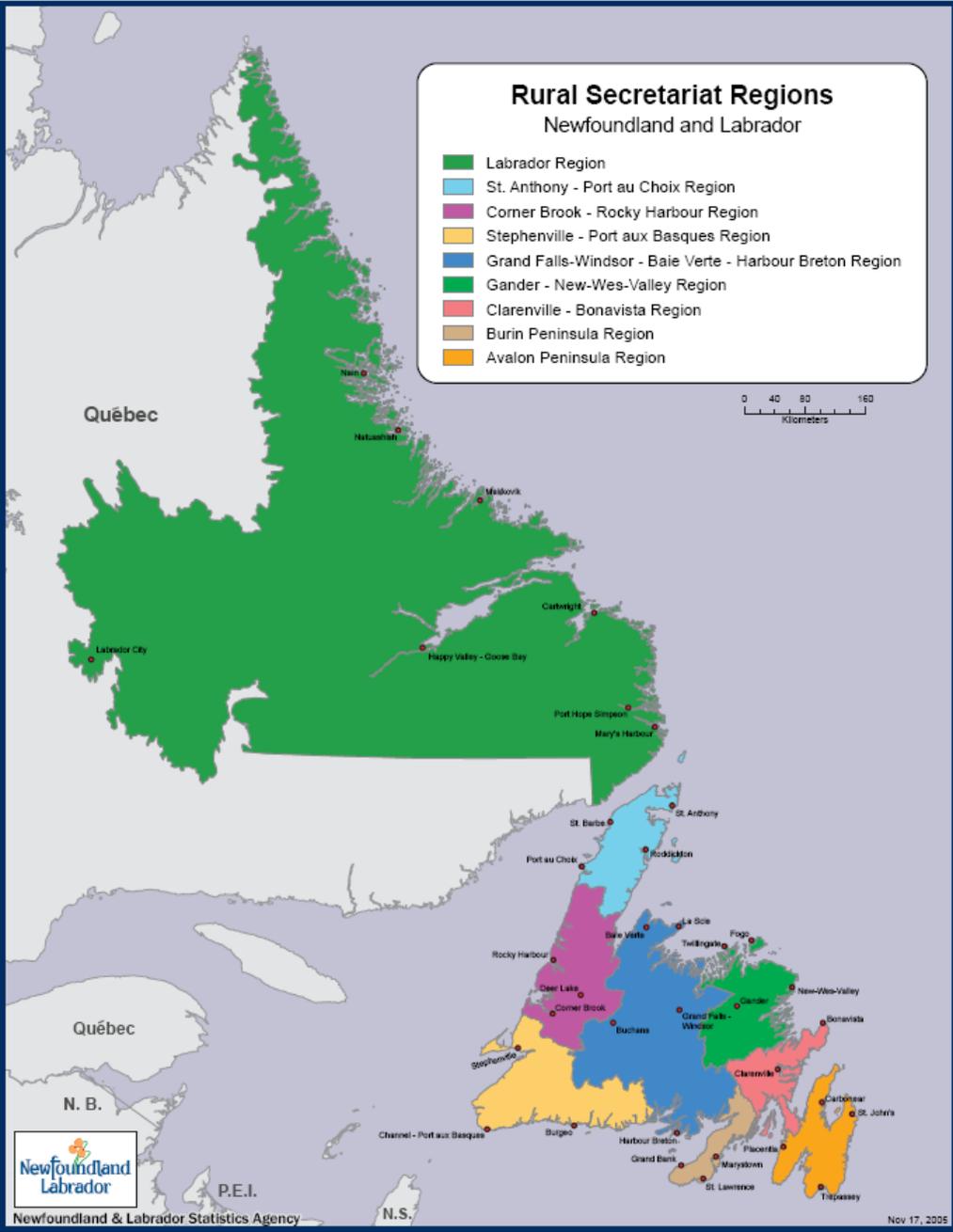
- Citizen-based policy advice
- Public dialogue and engagement
- Collaboration
- Research

| Focus Areas/Components of the Strategic Direction | This Direction is: |
|---|--|
| | addressed in the council's activity plan |
| 1. Citizen-based policy advice | X |
| 2. Public dialogue and engagement | X |
| 3. Collaboration | X |
| 4. Research | X |

Rural Secretariat Structure



Appendix C: Map of Rural Secretariat Regions



Mandate of the Rural Secretariat

The Rural Secretariat's mandate is to:

- Promote the well-being of rural Newfoundland and Labrador through a comprehensive and coordinated approach aimed at integrating economic, social, cultural aspects of rural and 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 rural concerns are considered throughout the Provincial Government and promoted at the federal level.
- Carry out research and analysis of economic and social issues affecting rural Newfoundland and Labrador.
- Help communities and regions identify and take advantage of growth opportunities.
- Promote awareness of provincial and federal programs and services regarding rural communities.

Mandate of the Provincial Council of the Rural Secretariat

The Provincial Council mandate is:

- To develop a common, evidence-based understanding of the social, economic, environmental and cultural realities facing Province.
- To review key economic and social measures (e.g. education levels, demographic trends, health status, income levels, Employment Income usage, economic diversity) and to reach agreement on the priorities for change over the next five years.
- To identify and advise the provincial government on policies and programs which either a) advance, b) negatively impact or c) need to be developed to encourage the necessary change over the five year period.
- To advance cooperation through the sharing of information on and discussion about the economic and social measures, and to encourage government and community partners to take action on and be accountable for those areas within their mandates.
- To serve as an external sounding board for government for the development of strategies, policies, programs and budget issues that will effect Provincial and Regional sustainability.

Photo Credits



Courtesy of Nina Mitchelmore



Courtesy of Nina Mitchelmore



Courtesy of Nina Mitchelmore



Courtesy of Nina Mitchelmore



Rural Secretariat

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