



## Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office



Annual Report 2014-15



## Message from the Minister



It is my pleasure to present the Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office (LAAO) Annual Performance Report for the fiscal year 2014-15. As the Minister of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs, I am accountable for the preparation of this report and the results reported herein.

The mandate of the Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office includes: advance the social and economic development of Labrador and of the Aboriginal people in the province; co-ordinate and develop policies and programs relating to Aboriginal issues and issues affecting Labrador; provide advice to discharge any Aboriginal duty of consultation which may rest upon the Provincial Government; provide public information on Aboriginal matters; support the exchange of information between Government and residents of Labrador on issues affecting Labrador; work with the Federal Government respecting Labrador and Aboriginal issues; negotiate and ensure the implementation of land claims, self-government

and other agreements related to Labrador and Aboriginal issues; consider the unique interests of the various regions of Labrador in developing and implementing programs, policies and services; and, develop and administer Labrador specific programs and services for which the office is responsible.

Some highlights from 2014-15 include:

- Continued to provide programs such as the Labrador Transportation Grooming Subsidy and the Air Foodlift Subsidy;
- Collaborated with other Provincial Departments and Agencies to address Labrador issues such as provided air freight service to seven Labrador communities when marine services were not available in July 2014 and participated on the Supportive Housing Action Team to address housing needs of individuals in Happy Valley-Goose Bay;
- Implemented a Labrador Flag policy to ensure that the Labrador Flag is flown at entry points in Labrador;
- Hosted pre-Budget consultations in Happy Valley-Goose Bay and provided an opportunity to listen to community concerns;
- Continued to implement the Aboriginal Consultation Policy; and

- Participated in various Aboriginal events such as the Mi'Kmaq PowWow in Flat Bay, the NunatuKavut Annual General Meeting, National Aboriginal Day celebrations in Happy Valley-Goose Bay and recognized Nunatsiavut Day.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of the staff within the Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office and I look forward to encouraging opportunities and addressing challenges in the year ahead.

Sincerely,



Keith Russell, MHA  
Minister of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs

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## Overview

In fulfilling its commitment to being accountable to the citizens of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Provincial Government introduced the Transparency and Accountability Act (the Act). The Act provides the legislative framework for strengthening accountability of the Provincial Government entities



**Mealy Mountains**

through multi-year performance-based plans and annual performance reports that are presented in the House of Assembly. The Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office (LAAO) consists of the Aboriginal Affairs Branch in St John's and offices for the Labrador Affairs Branch in Happy Valley-Goose Bay and Wabush. On June 30, 2014, LAAO tabled its 2014-15 to 2016-17 Business Plan which outlines issues, goals, objectives and indicators for the entity. This Annual Report identifies progress of the LAAO during the 2014-15 fiscal year in

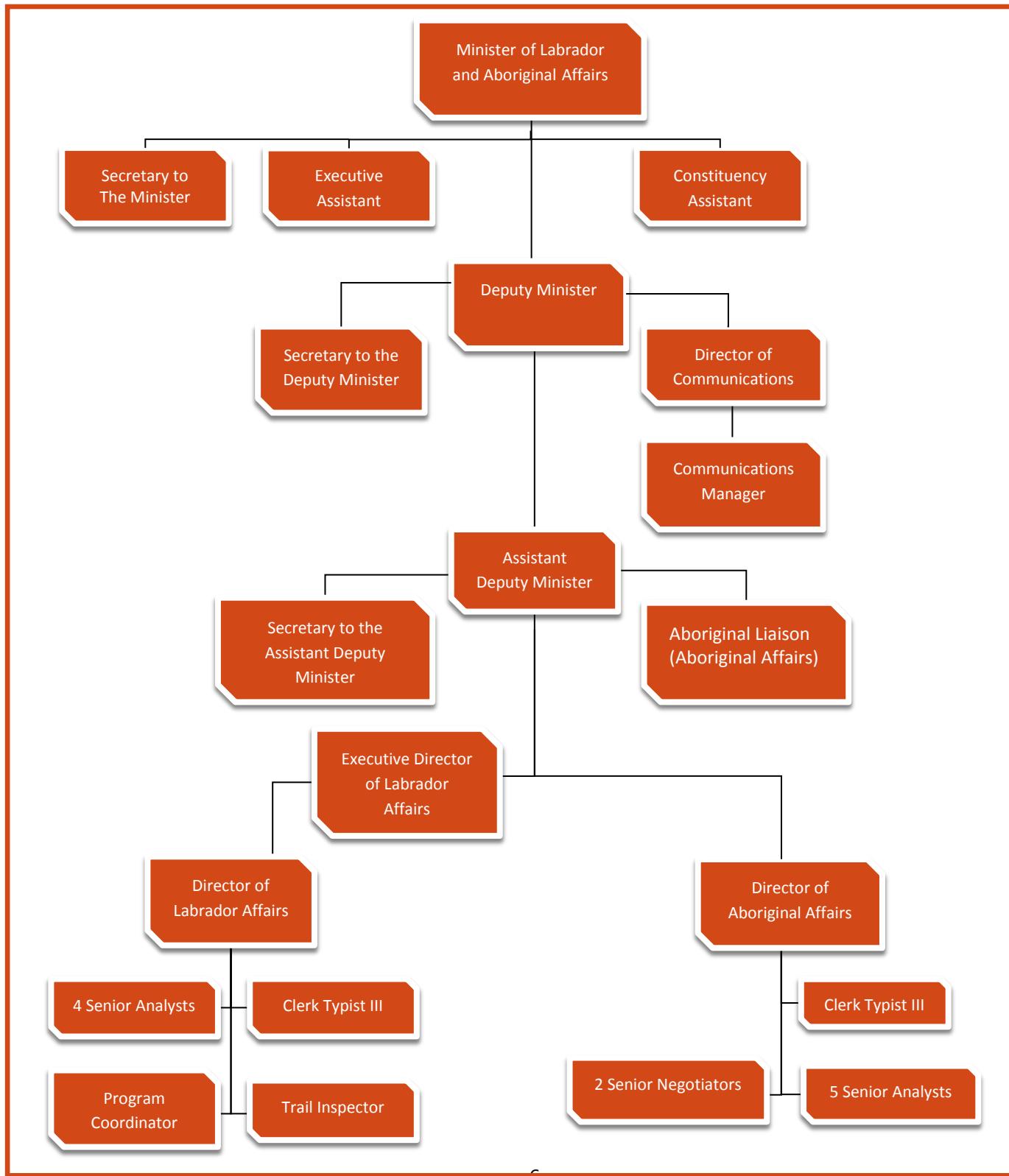
achieving the objectives set out in the 2014-17 Activity Plan. LAAO was considered a Category 3 Public Entity within the context of the Act. The Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office (LAAO) consists of the Aboriginal Affairs Branch in St John's and the Labrador Affairs Branch in Happy Valley-Goose Bay and Wabush. On June 30, 2014, LAAO tabled its 2014-15 to 2016-17 Business Plan which outlines issues, goals, objectives and indicators for the entity. This Annual Report identifies progress of the LAAO during the 2014-15 fiscal year in achieving the objectives set out in the 2014-17 Activity Plan. LAAO was considered a Category 3 Public Entity within the context of the Act.

## Organization Structure and Location

Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office (LAAO) has two branches, Labrador Affairs and Aboriginal Affairs. Labrador Affairs focuses on the social and economic progress of Labrador by ensuring Government policy and provincial programs and services address the unique views of Labrador. Aboriginal Affairs focuses on a mutual respectful relationship with Aboriginal people in the implementation of sound Government policies and programs, vibrant and prosperous Aboriginal communities, and proud Aboriginal people.

LAAO has offices in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Labrador West and St. John's. As of March 31, 2015, LAAO consisted of 25 full-time employees (10 male and 15 female) and one seasonal position (male).

Fourteen employees are located in the Happy Valley-Goose Bay office, one in Labrador West and 11 in the St. John's office.



## Financial Statistics

The budget for LAAO, as provided in the Report on the Program Expenditure and Revenue of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the year ended March 31, 2015, was \$3,486,155. For further details, please refer to the financial statements for 2014-15 at the end of this Annual Report.

## Mandate

The mandate of the Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office builds on the departmental notice under the *Executive Council Act* and is as follows:

- a)** advance the social and economic development of Labrador and of the Aboriginal people in the province;
- b)** co-ordinate and develop policies and programs relating to Aboriginal issues and issues affecting Labrador;
- c)** to provide advice to discharge any Aboriginal duty of consultation which may rest upon the Provincial Government;
- d)** provide public information on Aboriginal matters;
- e)** support the exchange of information between Government and residents of Labrador on issues affecting Labrador;
- f)** work with the Federal Government respecting Labrador and Aboriginal issues;
- g)** negotiate and ensure the implementation of land claims, self-government and other agreements related to Labrador and Aboriginal issues;
- h)** consider the unique interests of the various regions of Labrador in developing and implementing programs, policies and services; and,
- i)** develop and administer Labrador specific programs and services for which the office is responsible.

## Lines of Business



Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office conducts four lines of business

### **1. Policy, Programs and Planning**

In accordance with its mandate, LAAO is responsible for the development, implementation and administration of provincial policies and programs respecting Labrador and Aboriginal issues.

LAAO aims to ensure that provincial policies, programs and services consider the cultural concerns of the Aboriginal Governments/Organizations in the province, and Labrador-related issues, mainly via the provision of advice to provincial departments and agencies and participation in provincial horizontal initiatives.

LAAO strives to develop a focused approach to Government's service delivery in Labrador and to Aboriginal people, and demonstrate Government's commitment to support Labrador issues through the administration of Labrador specific programs for which LAAO is responsible, including:

- Air Foodlift Subsidy;
- Labrador Transportation Grooming Subsidy;
- YC Grant (Youth Conference); and,
- Combined Councils of Labrador funding.

### **2. Land Claims, Self-Government and Other Agreements**

The Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office represents the province in tripartite negotiations among the Provincial Government, Federal Government and Aboriginal Governments/Organizations towards land claims, self-government, devolution and other agreements. LAAO is responsible for the implementation and management of these agreements.

### **3. Aboriginal Consultation**

LAAO provides leadership and advice with respect to any duty to consult Aboriginal Governments/Organizations that may be owed by the Provincial Government. Government has updated its Aboriginal Consultation Policy on Land and Resource Development Decisions.

This Policy can be found on LAAO's website at:

[http://www.laa.gov.nl.ca/laa/publications/aboriginal\\_consultation.pdf](http://www.laa.gov.nl.ca/laa/publications/aboriginal_consultation.pdf).

### **4. Coordination, Collaboration and Advocacy**

LAAO is mandated to advance the social and economic development of Labrador and of Aboriginal people in the province. This is achieved through coordination and collaboration of Labrador and Aboriginal related initiatives. LAAO collaborates with Aboriginal Governments and Organizations, Provincial Government departments/entities, federal and municipal governments and industry organizations to advance economic and social development of Labrador and of Aboriginal people. LAAO often takes a prominent role on Labrador focused committees such as the Senior Officials Working Group on Lower Churchill Impacts on the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay and the Labrador West Regional Task Force.

LAAO liaises with other northern ministries and assists in the management of intergovernmental relations on Labrador/northern issues, such as the Northern Development Ministers Forum. It also

participates in inter-jurisdictional working groups and committees, with National Aboriginal Organizations, to advance Aboriginal interests.

LAAO advocates for the Federal Government to discharge its Constitutional responsibility to all Aboriginal people in the province, in particular by providing all Aboriginal people access to the full suite of federal programs and services to which they are entitled.

## **Vision**

**The Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office vision is of a strong and vibrant Labrador, Aboriginal people who are empowered to pursue their aspirations, and a diverse, inclusive, prosperous province, where all people have the opportunity to achieve their hopes, and contribute to their communities, regions, and the province.**

## **Mission**

**By March 31, 2017, the Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office will have sought to advance the social and economic development of Labrador and Aboriginal people in the Province.**

## **Shared Commitments**

Shared commitments represent those objectives that could not be met without the participation and actions of partners. In much of LAAO's work, collaboration was integral to the achievement of the

objectives identified in the Business Plan. On a daily basis, LAAO played a lead role in coordinating among provincial departments/entities, the Federal Government and other associated groups on issues pertaining to Labrador residents and Aboriginal governments and organizations.

Although LAAO administered some 'Labrador-specific' programs, most programs and services provided by the Provincial Government to Labrador residents are typically delivered by other departments or entities. Labrador-specific



**Muskrat Falls Project**

programs refer to programs that are delivered by the Provincial Government only in Labrador.

Much of LAAO's activities include those for which it was the designated lead such as monitoring of the Northern Strategic Plan for Labrador (NSP), implementation of the Aboriginal

Consultation Policy, and co-chairing the Labrador West Regional Task Force, all of which involved close collaboration with one or more provincial departments and agencies.

### ***Lower Churchill Development***

The Lower Churchill Development was sanctioned in December 2012 and will bring economic benefits to Labrador. Construction continues on the hydroelectric dam on the Lower Churchill River in Labrador and more than 1,500 kilometres of associated transmission lines. The project continues to provide direct employment in Newfoundland and Labrador and the timeline for completion is anticipated for late 2017.

Since 2012, LAAO has undertaken the coordination role for the Provincial Government with the permitting process for the Lower Churchill development including Muskrat Falls, the Labrador Island Link and the Maritime Link. LAAO maintained contact with relevant departments/entities to ensure that permits for the project were completed in a timely fashion.

LAAO developed, implemented and administered Aboriginal Consultation guidelines for both the Generation Project and the Labrador Island Transmission Link Project. These guidelines continue to assist the proponent, Nalcor Energy, and provincial regulatory departments and agencies discharging any duty to consult that the province may owe to an Aboriginal Government or organization.

LAAO continues to field questions and provide assistance to both Nalcor Energy and provincial departments and agencies on the process set out in the guidelines.



**Torngat Mountains**

### ***Supportive Living Action Team***

A Supportive Living Action Team was established in April 2014 to address the displacement of individuals from the closure of a local boarding house in Happy Valley-Goose Bay and other housing/homelessness concerns in the area. The Action Team consists of Provincial Government representatives, the Nunatsiavut Government, and the Salvation Army Church. The Action Team is chaired by Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation and LAAO participates as a member.

### ***Torngat Mountain and Mealy Mountains National Park Committees***

LAAO has non-voting observer status at meetings of the Torngat Mountains Cooperative Management Board. This board assisted Parks Canada in an advisory capacity regarding the management of the Torngat Mountains National Park, including the development of policy for visitor use of the park.

On February 5, 2010, Canada and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador announced the commitment to create a new national park reserve in the Mealy Mountain area of Labrador. The responsible provincial and federal ministers accepted the consensus recommendations of the Steering Committee

for the National Park Feasibility Study, and signed a memorandum of understanding outlining the next steps the two governments will take to establish the national park reserve, including the negotiation of a federal-provincial land transfer agreement.

LAAO participated on the provincial negotiating team for the federal-provincial land transfer agreement.

### ***Northern Strategic Plan for Labrador***

The NSP for Labrador identified eight priority areas to support the economic and social development for Labrador including: Transportation; Natural Resources and Environment; Tourism and Cultural Development; Education and Employment; Health; Access to Programming and Services; Aboriginal Partnerships; and Working Together.

When launched in 2007, the NSP consisted of 145 commitments spanning the eight prioritized themes.

As a living document, the NSP has increased in commitments from 145 to currently 217. LAAO, in collaboration with line departments/entities, monitor the progress of each individual commitment that supported the goals and objectives of the NSP.

### ***Labrador Aboriginal Training Partnerships***

The Labrador Aboriginal Training Partnership (LATP) was established in 2009 in preparation for major resource developments in Labrador. LATP was mandated, in collaboration with the Nunatsiavut Government (NG), the Innu Nation, the NunatuKavut Community Council (NCC) and Nalcor Energy, to develop and oversee a comprehensive training plan to prepare individuals for employment opportunities. It was co-funded by the Provincial Government and the Federal Government, in partnership with the NG, Innu Nation, NCC and Nalcor Energy.

The board was comprised of the following voting members: the NG, Innu Nation, NCC and Nalcor Energy. Federal Government and Provincial Government departments' representatives, such as LAAO, were non-voting board members. Meetings were held quarterly in 2014-15 and LAAO attended the meetings and the Annual General Meeting.

### ***Other Shared Commitments***

LAAO also participated on other shared commitments with governments, community groups and other stakeholders such as:

- » Ex-officio member on the Board for the Institute of Environmental Monitoring and Research;
- » Advisory capacity on the Community Advisory Panel in Labrador West;
- » Represented on both the Deputy Ministers Steering Committee and Working Group of Arctic Opportunities;
- » Represented on the Climate Change Ministerial Committee;
- » Represented on the Deputy Ministers Committee for the Violence Prevention Initiative;
- » Represented on the Deputy Ministers Committee and the Officials Committee in support of the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS);
- » Participated on the Advisory Board for the Food Security Network Newfoundland and Labrador;
- » Represented on the Newfoundland and Labrador Geographical Names Board;
- » Member of the Labrador Winter Games Board;
- » Chairs the Labrador Regional Senior Management Council;
- » Advisory capacity on Destination Labrador;
- » Participates as a member of the Happy Valley-Goose Bay Homelessness/Transitional Housing Working Group;
- » Participated as a member of the Homelessness Partnering Strategy;
- » Participated on the Regional Oversight Committee on Oceans Management; and,
- » Participated on the Canada-NL Committee on Oceans Management.



**Labrador-Grenfell Health (LGH) CEO Tony Wakeham, Hon. Keith Russell, Hon. Steve Kent, Mayor Jamie Snook – break ground for the new extension to LGH - long term health facility.**

## Highlights and Accomplishments

### *Labrador West Regional Taskforce*

The Labrador West Regional Taskforce (LWRT) was established in February, 2012 by the Iron Ore Company of Canada. The taskforce is facilitated by LAAO and the Department of Natural Resources. The LWRT was established to discuss mining development in the Labrador West region and the opportunity to work collectively on potential impacts. LWRT meetings are held quarterly with one meeting per year to be held in St. John's and the remaining meetings in Labrador West. The LWRT was comprised of Provincial Government departments/entities, mayors from both Labrador City and Wabush, a representative from the Town of Fermont, a representative from the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and local mining industry representatives. Other stakeholders were invited to meetings based on the agenda.

During 2014-15, the LWRT discussed specific topics around the idling and closure of the Wabush Mines, the impact on the communities of Labrador West due to the drop in iron ore prices, programs and services available to displaced workers, and the future plan going forward in the current economic environment.

### *Northern Development Ministers' Forum*

The Northern Development Ministers Forum (NDMF) was established in 2001 to advance the diverse and common interests of Canada's North across the country and raise awareness among decision-makers and the public about the accomplishments, contributions and potential of the north. The NDMF's objectives include: exchanging information; reinforcing cooperation among provincial and territorial authorities with Northern regions and the Government of Canada; and to identify, act and provide leadership on strategic actions that will advance the socio-economic development of the North.

NDMF member jurisdictions include representatives from the governments of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Ontario, Québec, Newfoundland and Labrador, as well as Canada (Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada).

LAAO represented the province on the NDMF, is a member of the NDMF Senior Officials Working Group, and in 2015 chaired a committee on a priority project "Managing Change" that would be presented at the next Forum in 2015-16. The Managing Change project examined the impacts of major resource development projects in Canada's North and shared information on how to mitigate impacts, in effort to assist regions to better understand and prepare for development.

### **Combined Councils of Labrador**

The Combined Councils of Labrador (CCL), established in 1972, provides an opportunity for municipal representatives throughout Labrador to discuss and voice mutual concern. LAAO has provided an annual operating grant to the CCL to support community collaboration since 2007-08. LAAO worked closely with the CCL by coordinating and facilitating discussions on issues in Labrador.

### **Labrador Transportation Grooming Subsidy**

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, through LAAO, continued to provide funding to support the Labrador Transportation Grooming Subsidy (LTGS). The purpose of the LTGS is to maintain snowmobile trails to remote Labrador communities that do not have year-round road connections to service centers. The communities include Hopedale, Makkovik, Postville, Rigolet, Williams Harbour, Norman Bay, Black Tickle, and Mud Lake. This subsidy supported direction to improve economic and social development in Labrador.

In 2014-15, LAAO continued to evaluate the LTGS by holding discussions with service providers and groomer operators, conducting a fleet assessment of the groomers and continued to develop a survey for trail users.

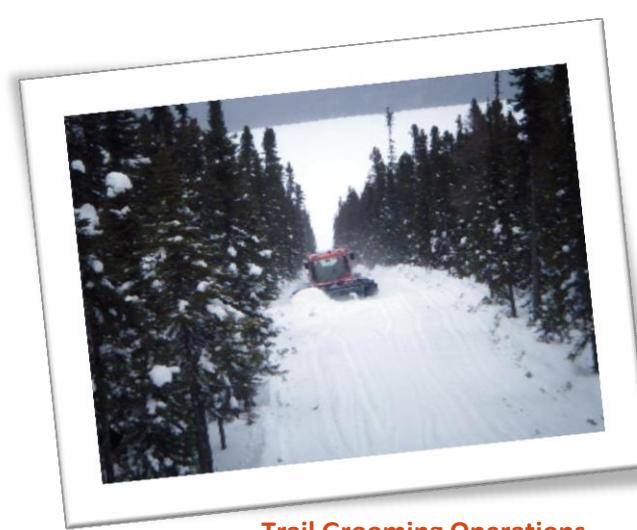
### **The Air Foodlift Subsidy**

The Air Foodlift Subsidy (AFS) program supports the accessibility of nutritious, perishable items such as fruit, vegetables and dairy products to Labrador's North Coast communities and Black Tickle. The AFS program is extended to communities in Southern Labrador and the Labrador Straits only when the marine service is unavailable for an extended period of time. LAAO coordinated, managed and administered the AFS program. The subsidy supported LAO strategic direction to improve economic and social development in Labrador.

In recognition of the moratorium on caribou in Labrador, AFS funding was provided to the Nunatsiavut Government in 2014-15 to cover the cost of transporting moose meat from Gros Morne National Park to the Inuit communities of Rigolet, Postville, Makkovik, Hopedale and Nain.

### **Land Claims and Self Government Agreements**

LAAO continued negotiations toward a Final Land Claims agreement and implementation plan with the Innu Nation and the Federal Government. Negotiations also continued toward a final self-government agreement and implementation plan with the Miawpukek First Nation and the Federal Government.



**Trail Grooming Operations**

LAAO continued to take a lead role in the implementation of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement (LILCA) and provides advice to all departments respecting their implementation obligations.

### ***Aboriginal Consultation and Policy Advice***

LAAO continuously reviewed all resource development applications and environment assessment registrations to ensure Aboriginal and Labrador perspectives are considered. LAAO provides advice on all mineral exploration referrals, Crown Land applications and Quarry permits and continued to work with other Provincial Government departments and agencies to ensure Labrador and Aboriginal perspectives were considered when developing policy, program and initiatives throughout Government. This was accomplished through interdepartmental communication and consultation, attending committee meetings, providing input into interdepartmental working groups, the creation of an Aboriginal Consultation Policy, reviewing resource development applications and environmental assessment processes, and utilizing an Aboriginal and Labrador lens when reviewing Cabinet submissions.

### **Report of Performance**

In consideration of Government's strategic directions to enhance economic and social development in Labrador and strengthen relations with Aboriginal people, governments and organizations, and the mandate and financial resources of LAAO, the following issues have been identified as the key priorities of the Minister for the next three years:

#### ***Therefore the issues addressed in this plan are:***

1. Support the economic and social development of Labrador and Aboriginal people;
2. Advance for consideration and increase awareness of the unique perspectives of residents of Labrador and Aboriginal people; and,
3. Ensure the Provincial Government discharges any Aboriginal Consultation duty that it may owe.

Residents of Labrador and people of Aboriginal descent have unique needs resulting from historic, social, cultural and geographic factors. Advancement of these issues requires effective relationships

with the residents of Labrador and their organizations, Aboriginal people and their governments and organizations, and the Federal Government. These relationships are enhanced by effective communications and consultations. As a result of such communication and consultation, Provincial Government policy will more



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**Minister Russell and the Big Land**

effectively reflect the interests and perspectives of residents of Labrador and the Aboriginal people of the province.

## **Issue 1- Support the economic and social development of Labrador and Aboriginal people**

Economic and social development of Labrador and Aboriginal people is a strategic direction of Government. Resource development activities that are occurring in several areas of Labrador may have impacts on Provincial Government programs, services and infrastructure aimed at addressing the economic and social needs of residents of Labrador and Aboriginal people. Existing transportation links, health and education, housing, unique social needs and regulatory regimes may be impacted. LAAO provides input on Government policy, programs and services that consider impacts from these resource development activities. Additionally, LAAO participates in the negotiation and implementation of land claims and self-government agreements with Aboriginal Governments/Organizations. This is particularly important, where the resource potential of Labrador overlaps with areas of asserted Aboriginal claims, as resource development activity requires discharging any applicable Aboriginal Duty to Consult, and facilitating meeting Government's obligations under any agreement to which Government is a party in relation to Labrador or Aboriginal interests. LAAO also supports the development of Provincial Government policy, programs and services by considering the perspectives of Aboriginal people. LAAO will support and provide input into processes to work towards ensuring Provincial Government policy, programs and services consider the special perspectives of residents of Labrador and the unique interests of Aboriginal people.

These activities support the Strategic Directions of LAAO through economic and social development in Labrador and Aboriginal relationships.

### **Report on Objectives**

#### ***Goal A1***

By March 31, 2017, LAAO will have promoted sustainable development by considering impacts of major resource developments on communities in Labrador and on Aboriginal people.

#### ***Objective A1.1***

By March 31, 2015, LAAO will have promoted sustainable development by considering impacts of major resource development on communities in Labrador and on Aboriginal people.

#### ***Objective Measure***

Promoted sustainable development by considering impacts of major resource development on communities in Labrador and on Aboriginal people.

#### ***Objective Indicators***

- » Monitored the economic and social development initiatives for Labrador and Aboriginal people via such forums as Northern Ministers Development Forum, Northern Lights, Centre for the North and Expo Labrador:

- ≈ LAAO represented the province on the Northern Development Ministers Forum (NDMF) and is a member of the NDMF Senior Officials Working Group. The 2014 forum was postponed and was rescheduled for Spring 2015 in Whitehorse, Yukon. LAAO led a priority project entitled “Managing Change” which examined the impacts, changes and lessons learned from large-scale natural resource developments to be presented at the next Forum.
- ≈ Happy Valley-Goose Bay hosted the Centre for the North committee meetings in April 2014. Centre for the North was launched in 2009 by the Conference Board of Canada to lead research and discussion papers on critical issues of importance to Northerners, including education, housing, health, governance, and community resilience. LAAO assisted with logistics of meeting locations and luncheons. LAAO also assisted with arrangements of a tour to the Voisey’s Bay mine site for the delegation.
- ≈ LAAO attended Expo Labrador June 20-23, 2014 in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. LAAO attended presentations and luncheons on various topics including resource development and networked with stakeholders.
- ≈ LAAO also participated in and/or attended:
  - Northern Exposure Labrador Opportunity Conference and Trade Show;
  - Pre-Budget consultations in Happy Valley-Goose Bay and Labrador West;
  - Labrador North Chamber of Commerce and Labrador West Chamber of Commerce sessions and luncheons;
  - Resources and Sustainable Development in the Arctic (ReSDA) conference;
  - Violence Prevention Labrador meetings;
  - Poverty Reduction roundtable sessions;
  - National Aboriginal Women’s Summit;
  - Deputy Ministers committee on the Lower Churchill Project; and
  - Institute for Environmental Monitoring and Research meetings.

“The innovative proposals received for the Aboriginal Women’s Violence Prevention Grants this year demonstrate a collaborative approach to helping end violence. The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador will continue to support the prevention of violence against Aboriginal women, and we will continue to call upon the Federal Government to establish a national inquiry into missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls in Canada.”

- The Honourable Keith Russell, Minister of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs

- » Supported committees that address impacts of major projects on Labrador and Aboriginal communities such as Senior Officials Working Group on Lower Churchill Impacts on the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay and Labrador West Regional Task Force:
  - ≈ LAAO co-chaired the Labrador West Regional Task Force meetings which consist of provincial and federal officials, the mayors of Wabush and Labrador City, representation from the Town of Fermont and local mining stakeholders. In 2014-15, the Task Force discussed issues around Wabush Mines, community impacts and future opportunities.

LAAO assisted with logistics of the meetings, recorded minutes, and arranged guest presenters, as required.

- ≈ Work on the Senior Officials Working Group (SOWG) on Lower Churchill Impacts finalized in 2014. LAAO co-chaired the committee with the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay and the committee was represented by officials from several Provincial Government departments.
- ≈ LAAO participated as a member of the Board for the Labrador Aboriginal Training Partnerships. Meetings were held quarterly in 2014-15 and included representatives from Labrador's three Aboriginal organizations and both federal and provincial officials.
- » Provided input on environmental assessments, particularly integrating any needed Aboriginal consultations into environmental assessments and post-environmental assessment permitting:
  - ≈ Since 2012, LAAO has undertaken the coordination role for government with the permitting process for the Lower Churchill development including Muskrat Falls, the Labrador Island Link (LIL), and the Maritime Link. In 2014-15, LAAO maintained contact with relevant departments and entities to ensure that permits for the project were completed in a timely fashion.
  - ≈ As part of the post-environmental assessment on the Lower Churchill development, LAAO reviewed reports pertinent to the Project. In 2014-15, LAAO coordinated the update process for the recommendations that stemmed from the Report of the Joint Review Panel.
  - ≈ LAAO reviewed all environmental assessments and post-environmental assessment permitting in Labrador, including projects such as Joyce Lake Direct Shipping Iron Ore Project and Labrador West Transmission project, in order to ensure that Labrador and Aboriginal perspectives were considered and that Aboriginal Governments/Organizations were consulted appropriately. Additionally, LAAO developed project specific Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines to assist Provincial departments and agencies discharge any Duty to Consult that the Province may owe to Aboriginal organizations during the post-environmental assessment permitting phase including for the Lower Churchill projects, and the Tata Steel/New Millennium Direct Shipping Ore Project. LAAO provided advice and support to Provincial departments and agencies and project proponents during the environmental assessment and post environment assessment phases, largely through meetings and correspondence.
  - ≈ Government has continued to incur Aboriginal consultation obligations on a regular basis, even as it developed and implement the Aboriginal Consultation Policy and develop the Model Guidelines. Throughout 2014-15, LAAO responded to Aboriginal consultation requirements on a case-by-case basis. This ongoing support of natural resource development has contributed to the sustainability and growth of the economy.
- » Advocated for federal investment and policies that are reflective of the economic and social needs and opportunities for Labrador and Aboriginal people:



### Minister Russell the traditional Mi'kmaq PowWow in Flat Bay

implications for the Air Foodlift Subsidy stemming from the Nutrition North Canada Auditor General Report.

- ≈ LAAO worked jointly with the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group (AAWG) and advocated for federal policies and investment reflective of the needs and opportunities in Aboriginal communities. The AAWG strives for economic development, education, ending violence against Aboriginal women and girls, Aboriginal housing, disaster mitigation and emergency management in Aboriginal communities. The AAWG sought federal participation in the working group's process, since the Federal Government has a constitutional, jurisdictional and fiduciary responsibility for Aboriginal people in Canada. These efforts have had occasional successes with federal officials attending AAWG meetings.
- ≈ Through correspondence with the Federal Minister of AANDC, LAAO submitted letters on issues such as the Labrador Comprehensive Healing Strategy funds renewal, funding for Canada's Enhanced Prevention Funding Approach for Newfoundland and Labrador First Nations, the status of the NunatuKavut Community Council, Inc. Land Claim and the accommodation of unique Newfoundland and Labrador circumstances in the implementation of any First Nations education legislation or strategy. LAAO also encouraged the Federal Government to explore all options to support the Innu of Natuashish in maintaining their housing infrastructure.
- » Consulted and collaborated with Provincial Government departments/entities to advance economic and social development for Labrador and Aboriginal people such as to increase public infrastructure and sustainable major resource developments in Labrador:
  - ≈ The NSP, launched in 2007, supports the social and economic development of Labrador. LAAO advocated for NSP goals and objectives by working closely with Provincial

≈ In 2014-15, LAAO advocated for support from the Federal Government for 5 Wing Goose Bay. LAAO attended meetings with Goose Bay Citizen's Coalition; reviewed reports and documentation pertinent to 5 Wing Goose Bay; and sent correspondence to the Federal Government.

≈ In 2014-15, LAAO held discussions with officials from Aboriginal and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) on potential

Government departments/entities on existing and new commitments and monitoring all monies spent to support social and economic development of Labrador. Initially a five-year plan, the NSP continues to be monitored to ensure progress of all commitments. LAAO continued to monitor the 217 commitments in the NSP to ensure completion and/or progression.

- ≈ LAAO provided advice to Government on Labrador issues in preparation of the pre-Budget consultations. In February 2015, the Minister of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs hosted the pre-Budget consultations in Happy Valley-Goose Bay on behalf of Government. LAAO officials also attended the Labrador West pre-Budget session.
- ≈ LAAO reviewed all government cabinet submissions relevant to Labrador and provided advice and commentary on Labrador and Aboriginal issues.

- » Provided advice to departments regarding consultations with Aboriginal Governments/Organizations and residents of Labrador on resource development in Labrador:
  - ≈ Throughout 2014-15, LAAO continuously reviewed all resource development applications and environment assessment registrations to ensure Aboriginal and Labrador perspectives are considered. LAAO provides advice on all mineral exploration referrals, Crown Land applications and Quarry permits.
  - ≈ LAAO continued to provide advice on Aboriginal land claims and treaty rights to such departments as Natural Resources, Transportation and Works, Environment and Conservation, Service NL and Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs (MIGA).
  - ≈ LAAO presented on the Aboriginal Consultation to the Labrador West Regional Task Force, as well as the Town of Labrador City and the Community Advisory Panel in Labrador West in February 2015. The presentation involved the aspects and importance of Aboriginal consultation in planning for resource development.

#### ***Objective A1.2***

By March 31, 2016, LAAO will have continued to promote sustainable development by considering impacts of major resource development on communities in Labrador and on Aboriginal people.

#### ***Objective Measure***

Promoted sustainable development by considering impacts of major resource development on communities in Labrador and on Aboriginal people.

#### ***Objective Indicators***

- Monitored the economic and social development initiatives for Labrador and Aboriginal people via, but not limited to, such forums as Northern Ministers Development Forum, and Expo Labrador;
- Supported committees that address impacts of major projects on Labrador and Aboriginal communities such as Labrador West Regional Task Force;

- Provided input on environmental assessments, particularly integrating any needed Aboriginal consultations into environmental assessments and post-environmental assessment permitting;
- Advocated for federal investment and policies that are reflective of the economic and social needs and opportunities for Labrador and Aboriginal people;
- Consulted and collaborated with Provincial Government departments/entities to advance economic and social development for Labrador and Aboriginal people such as to increase public infrastructure and sustainable major resource developments in Labrador; and
- Provided advice to departments regarding consultations with Aboriginal Governments/Organizations and residents of Labrador on resource development in Labrador.

## **Issue 1: Objective 1 Discussion of Results**

The measure of Objective 1 was “promoted sustainable development by considering impacts of major resource development on communities in Labrador and on Aboriginal people”. LAAO supported the process of sustainable development in Labrador through collaboration and discussion with Provincial Government departments and agencies and federal counterparts. Consultation with Aboriginal Governments and Organizations and local Labrador residents through meetings and forums assisted LAAO in understanding the priorities and providing feedback to relevant entities.

### ***Goal B1***

By March 31, 2017, LAAO will have progressed relations with Aboriginal people through participation in the negotiation and implementation of land claim, self-government and other agreements.

### ***Objective B2.1***

By March 31, 2015, LAAO will have participated in negotiation and implementation of land claims, self-government and other agreements with Aboriginal people.

### ***Objective Measure***

Participation in the negotiation and implementation land claim, self-government and other agreements with Aboriginal people.

### ***Objective Indicators***

- » Worked towards a final land claims agreement and implementation plan with Innu Nation and the Federal Government and a final self-government agreement and implementation plan with the Miawpukek First Nation and the Federal Government:
  - ≈ The Provincial Government, Federal Government and Innu Nation continued to have Final Agreement negotiation sessions scheduled on a monthly basis. To prepare for these negotiations the provincial negotiating team met with departmental representatives to solicit advice on matters that fall within that department's mandate.
  - ≈ The parties continued to resolve outstanding issues through negotiations, as well as, continued to negotiate the Final Agreement Implementation Plan along with legal/technical drafting. Once the agreement has been finalized, the Innu will have the

authority to make laws in areas such as education, health, and child, youth and family services. The Innu will also receive economic benefits from resource development in their settlement area.

- ≈ The Miawpukek First Nation, the Government of Canada and the Provincial Government continued to negotiate a final agreement, including chapters on Archeology and Dispute Resolution. Negotiation of the Self-Government Implementation Plan commenced in 2014-15.
- » Strived to achieve devolution agreements with Innu Nation and the Federal Government on Income Support:
  - ≈ The Income Support Devolution Plan among Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada and the Innu continued to move forward with the Devolution Strategy. It was originally thought that a Memorandum of Agreement would be required to devolve Income Support; however, it is now suggested that the Parties pursue devolution via an exchange of letters, rather than a formal agreement. Devolution will occur through stages that will include Final Preparation, Transition and Capacity Refinement as well as long term in-kind support. LAAO supports this process by providing advice to AES's income support division, and acting as an advocate vis a vis the federal government.
- » Strived to achieve agreement with Innu Nation, the Miawpukek First Nation and the Federal Government on an Enhanced Prevention Framework:
  - ≈ The province continued to encourage the Federal Government to provide funding for the Innu First Nations and the Miawpukek First Nation for child and family prevention services under the Federal Enhanced Prevention Focused Approach (EPFA), and worked with the Innu Round Table and the Federal Government in order to move towards an agreement for this funding.

"Having the opportunity to listen to the experiences of Aboriginal women at this summit was both emotional and inspiring. The strength and views of Aboriginal women in our country are of value to leaders everywhere. I am grateful to have met so many of the delegates. Their heartfelt experiences increase our resolve as a government to continue our efforts to end violence against Aboriginal women and children and to do our part in improving the lives of all Aboriginal people in our country."

- The Honourable Keith Russell, Minister of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs

- » Advocated for the Federal Government to make a decision regarding the land claim of the NunatuKavut Community Council, Inc. and continued to encourage the Federal Government to provide access to federal programs and services to all Aboriginal people in the province to which they are entitled:
  - ≈ In 2014-2015, LAAO discussed the NunatuKavut Community Council Inc.'s land claim with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada and continued to urge the Government of Canada to make a decision on that claim.

- » Worked towards the renewal of agreements associated with the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement and implementation plan and on a land use plan for the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area:
  - ≈ LAAO served as a member of the Tripartite Implementation Committee with the Federal Government and the Nunatsiavut Government. This Committee, which is responsible for overseeing and monitoring implementation of the LILCA and met three times in 2014-15 to discuss implementation issues.
  - ≈ The province and the Nunatsiavut Government signed a funding agreement for 2014-15 respecting the province's one third share of the funding for the Dispute Resolution Board which is mandated to deal with disputes that may arise under the LILCA. Also, the province, the Nunatsiavut Government and the Federal Government jointly appointed a member to fill a vacancy on the Dispute Resolution Board. LAAO supported the province's efforts in this regard.
  - ≈ In August 2014, a tripartite funding agreement for 2014-15 was signed with each of the Torngat Joint Fisheries Board and the Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-management Board by the province, the Nunatsiavut Government, the Federal Government and each of the board chairs. LAAO supported the province's efforts in this regard.
  - ≈ The province, the Nunatsiavut Government and the Federal Government met several times during 2014-15 to discuss renewal of the LILCA Implementation Plan including the budgets for the boards established pursuant to the LILCA. The Implementation Plan which came into effect on the effective date of the LILCA (December 1, 2005) expires on December 1, 2015. The Implementation Plan is essentially a guide to implementation of the LILCA.
  - ≈ LAAO and MIGA met with the Nunatsiavut Government in May 2014 to discuss the possibility of working together on a joint land use plan for the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area. LAAO also shared with the Nunatsiavut Government for discussion purposes a draft land use plan for the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area outside Labrador Inuit Lands.
  - ≈ The Subsurface Resource Revenue Sharing Committee (SRRSC) met twice in 2014-15 to discuss issues respecting subsurface resource revenue sharing. The SRRSC, which was established pursuant to the LILCA, is comprised of members appointed by the province and the Nunatsiavut Government. LAAO supports Finance on this committee.
  - ≈ The province contributed to the LILCA 2013-14 annual report. LAAO coordinated provincial department's contributions.
- » Participated in the Innu Round Table, an Innu-led initiative that includes the Province and the Federal Government and focuses on health and healing in the Innu communities:
  - ≈ The Innu Round Table (IRT) is an Innu-led trilateral roundtable formally launched in 2012 to address community health and healing initiatives for the Innu of Labrador, and is the

successor to the Labrador Innu Comprehensive Healing Strategy. Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador are both members of the IRT, as are the Mushuau Innu First Nation (MIFN), the Sheshatshiu Innu First Nation (SIFN) and the Innu Nation. The objectives of the IRT are to strengthen the relationship among Canada, Newfoundland and Labrador, and the Innu, and to provide opportunity for co-operative decision making by the parties. LAAO led the province's participation.

- ≈ The IRT is supported by the Innu Round Table Secretariat, in addition to sub-committees and short term task forces. LAAO is the provincial lead on the IRT, and is supported on the Main Table, and the various subcommittees, by the departments of Advanced Education and Skills (AES), Child, Youth and Family Services (CYFS), Health and Community Services (HCS), and Justice and Public Safety (JPS).
- ≈ In 2014-15 the IRT convened meetings in St. John's, Halifax and Happy Valley-Goose Bay. The IRT is currently focusing on: Income Support Devolution; improvement of CYFS services in Innu communities; formation of a Justice and Policing Sub-Committee; and, renewal of Health Canada funding for Health and Healing Services.

» Developed policy documents including an Aboriginal Foundational Document and a Land Claims and Self-Government Implementation Policy:

- ≈ LAAO worked on a draft Land Claims and Self-Government Implementation Policy, whose development is ongoing.

#### ***Objective B2.2***

By March 31, 2016, LAAO will have continued to participate in negotiations and implementation of land claims, self-government and other agreements with Aboriginal people.

#### ***Objective Measure***

Participation in the negotiation and implementation of land claims, self-government and other agreements with Aboriginal people.

#### ***Objective Indicators***

- Worked towards a final land claims agreement and implementation plan with Innu Nation and the Federal Government and a final self-government agreement and implementation plan with the Miawpukek First Nation and the Federal Government;
- Strived to achieve devolution agreements with Innu Nation and the Federal Government on Income Support;
- Strived to achieve agreement with Innu Nation, the Miawpukek First Nation and the Federal Government on an Enhanced Prevention Framework;
- Advocated for the Federal Government to make a decision regarding the land claim of the NunatuKavut Community Council, Inc. and continued to encourage the Federal Government to provide access to federal programs and services to all Aboriginal people in the province to which they are entitled;

- Worked towards the renewal of agreements associated with the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement and implementation plan and on a land use plan for the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area;
- Participated in the Innu Round Table, an Innu-led initiative that includes the Province and the Federal Government and focuses on health and healing in the Innu communities; and
- Continued to develop a Land Claims and Self-Government Implementation Policy.

## **Issue 1: Objective 2 Discussion of Results**

The measure of Objective 2 was “participation in the negotiation and implementation land claim, self-government and other agreements with Aboriginal people”. LAAO supported the participation in the negotiation and implementation land claim, self-government and other agreements with Aboriginal people through collaboration and discussion with Provincial Government departments and agencies and federal counterparts. Consultation with Aboriginal Governments and Organizations through meetings and forums assisted LAAO in understanding the priorities and providing feedback to relevant entities.

## **Issue 2 - Increase awareness of the unique perspectives of residents of Labrador and Aboriginal people**

Residents of Labrador and people of Aboriginal descent have unique needs resulting from historic, social, cultural and geographic factors. Government policy and programs that do not reflect these needs may not be effective to residents of Labrador and Aboriginal people of the province. The vision and mission of LAAO are to ensure that Provincial Government policies and programs are appropriately adapted or modified to account for these unique needs. To ensure these needs are reflected in Provincial Government policy and programs it is necessary to communicate and promote perspectives of Labrador residents and Aboriginal people to Government departments/entities and to the general public.

These activities support the Strategic Directions of LAAO through economic and social development in Labrador and Aboriginal relationships.

### ***Goal 2***

By March 31, 2017, LAAO will have worked to increase awareness of the unique perspectives of residents of Labrador and Aboriginal people in Government policy and programs.

**Objective 2.1**

By March 31, 2015, LAAO will have promoted the unique perspectives of residents of Labrador and Aboriginal people.

**Objective Measure**

Promoted the unique perspectives of residents of Labrador and Aboriginal people.

**Objective Indicators**

- » Conducted an evaluation of the Labrador Transportation Grooming Subsidy Program which addresses the unique needs of residents living in Labrador's isolated communities:
  - ≈ The evaluation was not completed in 2014-15 due to the need for additional data collection; however, key components of evaluation were completed such as consultations.
  - ≈ LAAO conducted industry stakeholder meetings for the Labrador Transportation Grooming Subsidy (LTGS) program in summer 2014. Data was collected from interviews with service providers and trail equipment operators providing valuable feedback as part of the program evaluation process.
  - ≈ A fleet assessment was conducted on the grooming equipment in summer 2014. A report identifying any recommendations was created and will be used to inform the final report on evaluation.
  - ≈ LAAO, in collaboration with the Department of Finance – Newfoundland and Labrador Statistics Branch, created and implemented a trail user surveys. Due to low-uptake in the summer months of 2014, the surveys were postponed until 2015.
- » Provided advice to departments/entities regarding unique perspectives of residents of Labrador and Aboriginal people:
  - ≈ LAAO represents the Department of Environment and Conservation as a non-voting observer at meetings of the Torngat Mountains Cooperative Management Board. The Board assisted Parks Canada in an advisory capacity regarding the management of the Torngat Mountains National Park, including the development of policy for visitor use of the park. LAAO attended two meetings in 2014-15.
  - ≈ LAAO participated on the provincial negotiating team for the federal-provincial land transfer agreement for the proposed National Park in the Mealy Mountains. In 2014-15, LAAO attended and participated in three meetings. Formal negotiations began in 2012 and will continue until the provincial land is transferred to the Federal Government.
  - ≈ LAAO chaired the Labrador Tourism/Transportation Senior Officials Working Group, an interdepartmental committee promoting proactive dialogue between officials of the

Department of Transportation and Works, Department of Business, Tourism, Culture and Rural Development and the Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office in addressing any Labrador transportation and tourism issues of common concern. Meetings were held quarterly.

- ≈ The Supportive Housing Action Team was established in April 2014 to address housing issues in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. The Action Team consists of provincial department officials, the Nunatsiavut Government, Melville Native Housing and the Salvation Army Church. LAAO participated on the Action Team as a committee member and attended meetings and/or updates monthly.
- ≈ LAAO continued to work with other Provincial Government departments and agencies to ensure Labrador and Aboriginal perspectives were considered when developing policy, program and initiatives throughout Government. This was accomplished through interdepartmental communication and consultation, attending committee meetings, providing input into interdepartmental working groups, the creation of an Aboriginal Consultation Policy, reviewing resource development applications and environmental assessment processes, and utilizing an Aboriginal and Labrador lens when reviewing cabinet submissions.
- ≈ Throughout 2014-15, LAAO actively participated in a number of horizontal initiatives:
  - Aboriginal Affairs Working Group
  - Interdepartmental Committee on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities
  - Interdepartmental Committee Working Group on Aging and Seniors
  - Health Services Integration Fund
  - Violence Prevention Initiative
  - Adult Protection Act Steering Committee
  - Innu Roundtable
  - Business Continuity Planning
  - Committee on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities
  - Healthy Aging Strategy
  - Poverty Reduction Strategy
  - Interdepartmental Land Use Committee
- » Promoted or presented at annual forums such as: Combined Councils of Labrador, Northern Development Ministers Forum, and the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group:
  - ≈ LAAO participated in a public consultation Webinar on Destination Labrador's Tourism Destination Visitor Appeal Appraisal (TDVAA) in April 2014. This is an intentional, collaborative and proactive process designed to identify priorities and recommendations that will enhance the visitor appeal of the Labrador region and in turn, grow visitation and revenues.

- ≈ In 2014-15, the Combined Councils of Labrador did not host an Annual General Meeting or participate in Ministerial Meetings with Provincial Government departments due to scheduling conflicts. LAAO continued to communicate with the CCL, ensure the CCL workplan was moving forward and provided assistance, when required.
- ≈ LAAO represented the province on the Northern Development Ministers Forum and is a member of the NDMF Senior Officials Working Group. The 2014 forum was postponed and was rescheduled for Spring 2015 in Whitehorse, Yukon. LAAO leads a priority project entitled “Managing Change” which examines the impacts, changes and lessons learned from large-scale natural resource developments, scheduled to be presented at the next Forum in 2015.

“This past year saw the results of a successful collaboration amongst the Provincial, Federal and Nunatsiavut Governments in the release of an Inuit Housing Needs Assessment and the creation of a joint housing repair program by the Provincial and Nunatsiavut Governments. This summer, the Provincial Government also announced a suite of initiatives to support awareness of Aboriginal culture and representation within the provincial public service. Our government remains firmly committed to working with Aboriginal people, governments and organizations to advance issues of importance to Aboriginal individuals, families and communities.”

- **The Honourable Keith Russell, Minister of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs**

- ≈ As referenced above, the annual Aboriginal Affairs Working Group (AAWG) meeting was held on May 12, 2014, for provincial and territorial ministers responsible for Aboriginal Affairs and Leaders of the five National Aboriginal Organizations. LAAO officials attended the meeting. The AAWG prepared a Progress report, which was presented to Premiers and Aboriginal Organization Leaders in August 27, 2014 at the meeting of Premiers and National Aboriginal Organizations. LAAO represented the province at the AAWG meetings.
- ≈ Further to direction from Premiers emanating from their August 2014 meetings in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, the Newfoundland and Labrador’s Minister of Child, Youth and Family Services, supported by the Minister of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs, worked with provincial and territorial Ministers to develop a report to Premiers on Aboriginal Children in Care. Work on this report is ongoing, and is scheduled to be presented to Premiers for their review at their July 2015 meeting in Happy Valley-Goose Bay.
- ≈ LAAO supported Newfoundland and Labrador’s participation in the fourth National Aboriginal Women’s Summit, held in Membertou, Nova Scotia in October 2014. The Minister of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs and LAAO officials comprised part of the provincial delegation of officials that supported the Minister of Justice and Public Safety and the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women at this meeting.

- ≈ Similarly, LAAO supported Newfoundland and Labrador's participation in the first National Roundtable on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, held in Ottawa in February 2015, where the provincial delegation, also comprised in part of LAAO officials, supported the Minister of Justice and Public Safety and the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women at this meeting.
- » Supported community/Provincial Government committees such as the Labrador West Regional Taskforce:
  - ≈ LAAO continued to co-chair the Labrador West Regional Taskforce. Meetings were held quarterly and consisted of representation from provincial, federal and municipal government officials and local mining stakeholders. LAAO assisted with logistics in meeting locations and requested presenter and guest speakers for the meetings. LAAO also coordinated minutes of the meetings and followed-up on action items.
  - ≈ LAAO participated in the Homelessness Partnering Strategy aimed to prevent and reduce homelessness across Canada. It developed partnerships that contribute to a sustainable and comprehensive continuum of supports to help those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness move towards self-sufficiency. The meetings occur monthly.
  - ≈ LAAO attended the Annual General Meeting for Violence Prevention Labrador in Happy Valley-Goose Bay in May 2014. Violence Prevention Labrador is the regional coordinating committee for the Violence Prevention Initiative program for the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.
  - ≈ LAAO continued to participate as a member on the Food Security Network Newfoundland and Labrador (FSN-NL) Advisory committee. FSN-NL are working with communities in Nunatsiavut to examine food security issues and implement a food assessment tool to look at new initiatives such as gardening, composting and community freezers. LAAO met with FSN-NL officials in July 2014 to discuss food security issues in Labrador.

### ***Objective 2.2***

By March 31, 2016, LAAO will have continued to promote the unique perspectives of residents of Labrador and Aboriginal people in Government policy and programs.

#### ***Objective Measure***

Promoted the unique perspectives of residents of Labrador and Aboriginal people.

#### ***Objective Indicators***

- Conducted an evaluation of the Labrador Transportation Grooming Subsidy Program which addresses the unique needs of residents living in Labrador's isolated communities;
- Provided advice to departments/entities regarding unique perspectives of residents of Labrador and Aboriginal people;

- Promoted or presented at annual forums such as, but not limited to: Combined Councils of Labrador, Northern Development Ministers Forum, and the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group; and
- Supported community/Provincial Government committees.

## Issue 2 Discussion of results

The measure of Issue 2 was “promoted the unique perspectives of residents of Labrador and Aboriginal people”. LAAO provided input to ensure Labrador and Aboriginal interests were considered in Provincial Government policy and programs through the provision of input on Labrador and Aboriginal perspectives to policy development, monitoring Provincial Government initiatives, participating in interdepartmental working groups, supporting Provincial Government consultations and administering Labrador-specific programs/subsidies.



**Battle Harbour**

## Issue 3 - Support departments and agencies in the discharge of any duty to consult Aboriginal Governments/Organizations that may arise.

The Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office works with provincial departments and agencies to ensure that the Aboriginal Consultation Policy is implemented.

LAAO and the province via this Policy aim to maintain, foster and improve effective working relationships

among Aboriginal Governments/Organizations, project proponents and the province. Government's Aboriginal Consultation Process intends to produce increased communication, stronger relationships and easier resolution of issues among project proponents, Aboriginal Governments/Organizations and the province.

These activities support the Strategic Directions of LAAO through Aboriginal relationships.

### ***Goal 3***

By March 31, 2017, LAAO will have implemented actions related to the development and application of Aboriginal consultation guidelines and processes to assist departments and agencies in the discharge of any duty to consult Aboriginal Governments/Organizations that may arise.

### ***Objective 3.1***

By March 31, 2015, LAAO will have developed guidelines and processes to assist departments and agencies in the discharge of any duty to consult Aboriginal Governments/Organizations that may arise.

***Objective Measure***

Supported the development of guidelines and processes.

***Objective Indicators***

- » Supported the completion of project specific and model Aboriginal consultation guidelines:
  - ≈ LAAO continued to work towards developing model Aboriginal consultation guidelines, whose development has been delayed due to the examination of the other jurisdictional models which has taken longer than expected, and the need for the interdepartmental consultation which has been more complex than expected.
  - ≈ Updated guidelines for Alderon's Kami Iron Ore Project were provided to the proponent by LAAO in September 2014.
- » Provided advice to departments regarding consultation obligations with Aboriginal Governments/Organizations:
  - ≈ LAAO, in consultation with government departments, developed individual Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines for major development projects to ensure that any Duty to Consult owed to Aboriginal organizations is discharged.
  - ≈ LAAO continued to ensure the consideration of Aboriginal issues and concerns during the development of provincial policy, programs and services. LAAO provided advice to departments and agencies regarding when consultation with Aboriginal Governments and Organizations is required or recommended.
  - ≈ In 2014-2015, LAAO reviewed all resource development applications and environmental assessment processes to ensure Aboriginal perspectives are considered and that Aboriginal organizations / governments were consulted appropriately. LAAO provided advice and support to departments on mineral exploration referrals and applications and Crown Land application in Labrador.
  - ≈ LAAO continued to provide advice on asserted Aboriginal land claims and treaty rights to numerous departments and agencies including the departments of Natural Resources, Transportation and Works, Environment and Conservation, and Service NL during its review of regulatory applications in 2014-2015.
- » Supported implementation of the policy and guidelines:
  - ≈ All resource development applications and environmental assessments are reviewed by LAAO. Such review is conducted to ensure Aboriginal perspectives are considered and that Aboriginal Governments/Organizations are consulted appropriately. All reviews by LAAO are conducted in accordance with the policy.

***Objective 3.2***

By March 31, 2016, LAAO will have continued to develop guidelines and processes to assist

departments and agencies in the discharge of any duty to consult Aboriginal Government/Organizations that may arise.

***Objective Measure***

Supported the development of guidelines and processes.

***Objective Indicators***

- Supported the completion of project specific and model Aboriginal consultation guidelines;
- Provided advice to departments regarding consultation obligations with Aboriginal Governments/Organizations; and
- Supported implementation of the policy and guidelines.

**Issue 3 Discussion of Results**

The measure of the objective was “supported the development of guidelines and processes”. LAAO continued to support departments and stakeholders in the process of Aboriginal consultation. LAAO is continuing to implement project specific Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines to assist with step by step recommendations on how to consult with Aboriginal Governments and Organizations. LAAO continues to support Aboriginal



**Nain**

Governments and Organizations through collaborative dialogue and open discussions.



**Trans Labrador Highway**

### **The Year Ahead - Opportunities and Challenges**

Labrador continues to experience major resource development projects throughout the region. From nickel mining in the North to iron ore mining in the West to hydroelectric construction in Central; significant opportunities exist in Labrador. LAAO continues to advocate for Aboriginal and Labrador

residents and support Aboriginal consultation through advice to provincial and federal departments and agencies; attending meetings, conferences and forums to discuss issues and concerns; and reviewing Provincial Government policies and providing feedback.

Transportation infrastructure is vital and a top priority for all Labrador residents. Summer 2015 will see the completion of hard-surfacing for Phase I of the Trans Labrador Highway (TLH); Phase III of the TLH will continue to be widened and sections hard-surfaced; and additional work is being completed on Phase II of the TLH.

The marine service for the North Coast of Labrador and Black Tickle will continue to be serviced by the MV Northern Ranger (providing passenger/freight service) and the MV Astron (providing freight service) while the Strait of Belle Isle service will continue to be serviced by the MV Apollo (providing passenger/vehicle/freight service). Concerns with the longevity and sustainability of the marine ferry services continue to be voiced by local residents. The recent withdraw of a Request for Proposals for new ferries and ferry services has cause for concern for residents and stakeholders. LAAO continues to work with the Department of Transportation and Works on these issues and provides advice, when required, on progressing forward with marine services for Labrador.

The volatility of resource based commodities impacts communities. Labrador West has experienced challenges in the mining industry in 2014-15 with the idling and then closure of Wabush Mines and the lay-off of employees with the Iron Ore Company of Canada. LAAO continues to meet with local Labrador West residents and stakeholders and be kept apprised of current developments. LAAO and

the Department of Natural Resources continue to co-chair the Labrador West Regional Task Force meetings and work on collaborative means of addressing issues and concerns with the communities of

Labrador City and Wabush. The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, through the Department of Advanced Education and Skills and Department of Business, Tourism, Culture and Rural Development and with the College of the North Atlantic, continues to provide support to displaced workers and local stakeholders/businesses. MIGA provided support to the Town of Wabush with transitional funding assistance due to loss of revenues from the Grant in Lieu that the town was receiving from Cliffs Natural Resources, associated with the operations of the Wabush Mine.

Labrador is growing socially and economically and our future is very promising. These investments reflect the Provincial Government's ability to plan for the future and to anticipate greater demands for infrastructure that meet the needs of families in this area of the province. Labrador is, and will continue to be, a strong priority and focus for our government."

*- The Honourable Keith Russell, Minister of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs*

In late 2015, an evaluation on the Labrador Transportation Grooming Subsidy will be complete. A final report, outlining the findings and potential recommendations on how best to enhance the program, will be generated.

LAAO will continue to participate on many Aboriginal, intergovernmental and interdepartmental committees and boards. LAAO will continue to meet, consult and communicate with all those committees / boards to ensure Aboriginal and Labrador interests and concerns are being considered.

## Financial Statements

For the year ending March 31, 2015 (unaudited)

|  | Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office | <u>Actual (\$)</u> | <u>Estimates</u>    |                      |  |
|--|--|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--|
|  |  |                    | <u>Amended (\$)</u> | <u>Original (\$)</u> |  |
| <b>Executive Support</b>                             |  |                    |                     |                      |  |
| Salaries   | 654,195                                | 654,400            |                     | 719,700              |  |
| Employee Benefits                                    | 7,764                                  | 8,200              |                     | 6,000                |  |
| Travel and Communications                            | 98,172                                 | 134,700            |                     | 171,200              |  |
| Supplies   | 3,970                                  | 7,000              |                     | 12,000               |  |
| Professional Services                                | -                                      | 6,000              |                     | 6,000                |  |
| Purchased Services                                   | 2,722                                  | 10,000             |                     | 14,000               |  |
| Property, Furnishings and Equipment                  | 5,933                                  | 6,500              |                     | 3,900                |  |
| <b>Total: Executive Support</b>                      | <b>772,756</b>                         | <b>826,800</b>     |                     | <b>932,800</b>       |  |
| <b>Labrador Affairs</b>                              |  |                    |                     |                      |  |
| Salaries   | 576,609                                | 598,400            |                     | 608,400              |  |
| Employee Benefits                                    | 6,011                                  | 5,800              |                     | 3,500                |  |
| Travel and Communications                            | 65,530                                 | 104,200            |                     | 104,500              |  |
| Supplies   | 8,000                                  | 10,300             |                     | 12,300               |  |
| Professional Services                                | -                                      | 8,000              |                     | 8,000                |  |
| Purchased Services                                   | 187,958                                | 284,600            |                     | 309,600              |  |
| Property, Furnishings and Equipment                  | -                                      | 4,000              |                     | 4,000                |  |
| Grants and Subsidies                                 | 562,795                                | 601,500            |                     | 556,500              |  |
| <b>Total Labrador Affairs</b>                        | <b>1,406,903</b>                       | <b>1,616,800</b>   |                     | <b>1,606,800</b>     |  |
| <b>Aboriginal Affairs</b>                            |  |                    |                     |                      |  |
| Salaries   | 718,293                                | 727,900            |                     | 764,900              |  |
| Employee Benefits                                    | -                                      | 1,000              |                     | 1,000                |  |
| Travel and Communications                            | 75,931                                 | 76,300             |                     | 79,000               |  |
| Supplies   | 4,359                                  | 12,300             |                     | 14,300               |  |
| Professional Services                                | -                                      | 9,000              |                     | 15,000               |  |
| Purchased Services                                   | 11,737                                 | 13,400             |                     | 13,000               |  |
| Property, Furnishings and Equipment                  | 250                                    | 300                |                     | -                    |  |
| Grants and Subsidies                                 | 362,066                                | 382,300            |                     | 402,300              |  |
| Revenue – Provincial                                 | (6,717)                                | -                  |                     | -                    |  |
| <b>Total Aboriginal Affairs</b>                      | <b>1,165,919</b>                       | <b>1,222,500</b>   |                     | <b>1,289,500</b>     |  |
| <b>Total: Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office</b> | <b>3,486,155</b>                       | <b>3,869,100</b>   |                     | <b>3,829,100</b>     |  |

Report on the Program Expenditure and Revenue of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the year ended March 31, 2015

To obtain a copy of this report:

Online:

Website: [www.gov.nl.ca/laa](http://www.gov.nl.ca/laa)

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