

Message from the Premier

As the Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador, I am pleased to connect with you – our province's devoted community leaders – through a new publication, All Hands.

The people who work and volunteer in our cities, towns, and local service districts across the province are the backbone of our communities, driving local progress and delivering essential services. Your leadership and commitment have made a meaningful difference in the lives of the people and places you serve.

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2025 General Municipal Election

Cities, towns and local service districts play a crucial role in strengthening our communities and enriching the lives of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians.

The **2025 General Municipal Election** is on October 2, 2025 and for those inspired to make an impact on their communities, the nomination period will open on September 4, and the closing date is September 11.

For information regarding the municipal election, please e-mail MunicipalElections@gov.nl.ca or call your regional office at:

- Western/Labrador Regional Office:
709.637.2332
- Central Regional Office:
709.256.1050
- Eastern Regional Office:
709.729.0259

Message from the Minister



As Minister of Municipal Affairs and Community Engagement, I am excited to introduce the first issue of All Hands – a resource created with you in mind. As the leaders of our cities, towns and local service districts, you navigate complexity, inspire change, and drive meaningful impact every day. This publication is designed to support and amplify that work.

In this issue, you'll find information on Provincial Government initiatives, funding grants, and key contact resources that may help strengthen the

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All Stories...
share a story
with us!

Do you have a story that shines a light on positive things happening in your community?

Any good news story, no matter how big or small, that highlights creativity, strength, success in your community is welcomed! We'd love to help spread the word in future issues of All Hands. Submit your story anytime to allhands@gov.nl.ca

Message from the Premier

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Our government has made significant investments to enhance the quality of life for our residents and communities. We remain committed to helping with affordability, access to housing and education, while maintaining our focus on improving how and where health care is provided.

Let us continue this work together to build a stronger and brighter future for Newfoundland and Labrador.

Sincerely,
Honourable John Hogan, KC
Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador

Message from the Minister

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daily operations within your communities and the ongoing interactions with your residents.

As we know incredible things are happening in your communities, for future issues, we're also inviting contributions from you. Whether it's a successful community event, policy win, or a unique collaboration – your experiences can inspire and inform other municipal leaders in this province. Let's share the great work and learning happening across our communities!

Thank you for the work you do. I hope you enjoy All Hands, which is yet another tool to help us work together as we build vibrant, sustainable communities throughout Newfoundland and Labrador.

Enjoy the read.

Sincerely,
Honourable Paul Pike
Minister of Municipal Affairs and
Community Engagement



Wildfire Prevention

The 2025 forest fire season in Newfoundland and Labrador is in effect until September 30. Due to dry conditions, our province has faced a busy forest fire season. It is critical that we remain diligent in the prevention of the start and spread of wildfires.

Wildfire prevention is a responsibility we all share. Under the **Emergency Services Act**, municipalities must adopt an emergency management plan. These plans are valuable resources for cities, towns, and local service districts during emergencies and should be reviewed annually.

Our government is an active participant in FireSmart™ Canada, a national program within the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre that empowers Canadians to increase neighbourhood resilience to wildfires and minimize their negative impacts. We can all adopt prevention and mitigation efforts to keep our communities safe and create a defensible space around properties and public buildings, including:

- Maintaining a five-foot (1.5 metre) non-combustible zone immediately around properties.
- Cleaning out and screening gutters to prevent debris.
- Using fire-resistant roofing materials.
- Cleaning underneath decks and enclosing them to prevent them from filling with debris.
- Placing firewood piles away from structures and buildings.
- Trimming grass and weeds.
- Using FireSmart-approved, fire-resistant vegetation when landscaping.

To report a wildfire please call, 1.886.709.FIRE (3473).



Drinking Water

Does your drinking water come from a well?

As part of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's pilot testing program, there are free well water chemistry test kits available at a government service centre near you.

It's important to test well water for naturally occurring contaminants that may be present to ensure levels are within the recommended guidelines for safe consumption. Well owners are responsible for maintaining their well and for testing and treating the water when necessary.

The Department of Environment and Climate Change recommends testing a well for chemistry when it is first constructed, and then every two years after, unless there is a change in colour, smell, taste, sediment, etc.

Learn more at: www.gov.nl.ca/ecc/waterres/groundwater/groundwater-wells/
or email: groundwatersection@gov.nl.ca

Helping communities recruit health care professionals

Communities throughout the province can help support recruitment and retention of health care professionals.

The Welcome Home toolkit provides information and resources to help create welcoming communities for health care professionals including a guide for site visits, an orientation for newcomers, and transportation assistance.

A shared toolkit ensures communities are receiving consistent information and resources about the many recruitment and retention initiatives in Newfoundland and Labrador, while providing room to foster and celebrate regional identities.

For more information, email Recruit@WorkinHealthNL.ca



Marieke Van Den Berg,
Registered Nurse, Labrador City



Cyber Security is Everyone's Responsibility

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has created a **Cyber Security Community of Action** to empower the public sector and other service and critical infrastructure organizations with vital cyber security knowledge.

Through in-person events and webinars, as well as information sharing through email updates, advisories and threat alerts, this community collaborates to share ideas and valuable intelligence about emerging cyber-threats and discuss best practices in cyber security.

The community also meets regularly to discuss cyber security trends and topics, and how to increase an organization's resilience to cyber security threats.

Please join us to enhance your skills and forge valuable connections as we unite to create a safer digital future for Newfoundland and Labrador.

Membership is free. If interested in joining visit:
www.gov.nl.ca/cso/community-of-action/

cyber**safe**NL



Affordability

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is helping residents and businesses with affordability, through measures such as:

- No new taxes or fee increases for the fourth consecutive year.
- Indexing the seniors' benefit to the consumer price index, building on the 15 per cent increase over the last three years.
- Increasing the income supplement by 15 per cent over the past three years.
- Increasing the child benefit by 300 per cent and the nutritional supplement up to age five.
- Cutting the provincial fuel tax by 50 per cent.
- Reducing vehicle registration fees by 50 per cent.
- Driver medical exams are free for individuals 75 and over.
- Eliminating the 15 per cent retail sales tax on home insurance.
- Maintaining the home heating supplement for eligible households using furnace or stove oil.
- Reducing the small business tax rate, introducing new tax credits, and increasing the exemption threshold for the health and post-secondary education tax.



Brigus, NL



10 new rental units being completed in Pouch Cove, NL

Hundreds of new homes going up throughout the province

The **Affordable Rental Housing Program** provides incentives to private and community sector projects to build affordable homes and is supporting the construction of hundreds of new homes throughout the province. The program provides one-time capital funding to developers, who are required to rent the homes at affordable rates set by Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation for between 15 and 30 years.

Construction is complete on 47 new homes located in Glenwood, Twillingate, Happy Valley-Goose Bay, King's Point and Botwood. Construction is underway on 191 new homes in 15 communities throughout the province, while another 112 homes in 13 communities are expected to begin construction in the coming weeks.

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador continues to address current housing needs head on, with investments to support private and community sector housing construction, the construction and maintenance of public housing, and the expansion of transitional and supportive housing options to break the cycle of homelessness.

Maximizing Tourism Opportunities

Tourism is a major economic driver in Newfoundland and Labrador, attracting over 500,000 visitors annually for leisure, business, and visits with friends and family. Combined with resident spending, tourism generates nearly \$1.4 billion each year—more than \$3.8 million per day—on accommodations, dining, entertainment, and transportation. Notably, 66 per cent of this spending occurs outside the St. John's metro area, supporting communities across the province.

The sector contributes approximately \$595.2 million in direct GDP and supports over 20,000 jobs, representing 10 per cent of provincial employment. An additional \$439.9 million is generated through indirect and induced GDP, amplifying tourism's broader economic impact.

Vision 2026 is the province's roadmap for tourism growth. Developed in partnership with industry, it emphasizes sustainable development, regional balance, season extension, and a visitor-first approach. A key focus is aligning provincial, regional, and local efforts to improve services, enhance experiences, and deliver on the provincial brand.

Introducing a Tourist Accommodations Tax requires careful planning and industry consultation. Many operators rely on pre-contracted rates with group tours and motorcoach companies, which are critical to bringing long-term, volume-based business to the province. Sudden changes could disrupt these agreements and weaken Newfoundland and Labrador's competitiveness.

A coordinated approach, shaped by provincial tourism guidance through the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation in partnership with Hospitality NL and regional destination management organizations, ensures communities can align with provincial strategies, maximize investments, and strengthen regional partnerships. This collaborative model avoids duplication, supports shared priorities, and ensures the benefits of tourism are felt provincewide.

More information on Vision 2026 is available at: www.gov.nl.ca/tcar/tourism-division/vision-2026, or by contacting Lexie McKenzie, Manager of Strategic Initiatives, at lexiemckenzie@gov.nl.ca



Newfoundland
&
Labrador

Regional Office Contact Numbers

Our Municipal Support division provides support and advice to local governments on issues. Regional offices serve as the primary contact between the department and local governments throughout the province.

To contact your regional office, please call:

- Western/Labrador Regional Office: 709.637.2332
- Central Regional Office: 709.256.1050
- Eastern Regional Office: 709.729.0259