



Digital Government and Service NL

Public Safety Appeal Board

**Annual Activity Report
2019-20**

For More information:

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PAPER

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REFERENCE PERIOD

**This report covers the period April 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020,
the fiscal year of the Public Safety Appeal Board.**

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Responsible Person's Message

As member representing the Public Safety Appeal Board, I am pleased to submit the Annual Activity Report for 2019-20. This report is prepared in compliance with the **Transparency and Accountability Act**, which categorizes the Board as a Category three government entity and requires the Board to submit an annual report. The Board is accountable for the preparation of this report and for the results reported.

There were no appeals received during this period. Thus, there is no progress to report for this fiscal year.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Murray". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

Jennifer Murray, P.Eng.
Board Member

Overview

The Public Safety Appeal Board is established under subsection 25(1) of the **Public Safety Act** (the “Act”) to hear appeals from persons who may be aggrieved by a decision of one of the Chief Inspectors related to the operations of various technical safety systems (e.g. electrical; boilers/pressure vessels; elevating devices). The Board, after hearing an appeal, may confirm, revoke or vary the notice, order, decision or action of the Chief Inspector. The Board is comprised of five members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, upon recommendation by the Minister, and meets only when an appeal has been filed pursuant to section 26 of the Act. Board members for 2018-19 were:

- Chairperson (vacant)
- Alex Dugal
- Jennifer Murray
- Eileen O’Brien
- Hayward Pike

Efforts are underway to recruit for the position of Board Chairperson.

Mandate

The Board is an independent, quasi-judicial body which has the function of hearing and adjudicating an appeal. It meets when it has received an appeal pursuant to section 26 of the Act and is empowered to uphold, revise and/or revoke an order or action by the Chief Inspector. Decisions by the Board are based on review of the written and oral submissions and documents. The Board’s decisions may be appealed to the courts.

Revenues and Expenditures

In fiscal year 2018-19, the Public Safety Appeal Board had no revenues or expenditures. The board is funded through the operating budget of the Government Services Branch of Digital Government and Service NL. The Public Safety Appeal Board is not required to submit audited financial statements.

Report on Performance

Report on 2019-20 Objective

Objective One: By March 31, 2020, the Public Safety Appeal Board will have processed all appeals it has received in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

Indicators:

- Notice of appeal forwarded from the person who receives it to the Chairperson within 15 days of receipt of appeal.
- Appellant given at least 10 days’ notice regarding hearing of appeal.
- Appeals commenced not more than 90 days after notice in writing has been received by the chairperson under subsection 26(2).
- Appeal considered and decided in a timely manner.

- Decision of appeal communicated to relevant parties in a timely manner.

The Public Safety Appeal Board meets only when an appeal has been filed pursuant to section 26 of the Act. No appeals were filed in fiscal year 2019-20.

Report on 2017-20 Objective

Objective: By March 31, 2018, 2019 and 2020, the Public Safety Appeal Board will have processed all appeals it has received in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

Indicators:

- Notice of appeal forwarded from the person who receives it to the Chairperson within 15 days of receipt of appeal.
- Appellant given at least 10 days notice regarding hearing of appeal.
- Appeals commenced not more than 90 days after notice in writing has been received by the Chairperson under subsection 26(2).
- Appeal considered and decided in a timely manner.
- Decision of appeal communicated to relevant parties in a timely manner.

There were no appeals filed in 2017-18, 2018-19, or 2019-20.

Opportunities and Challenges Ahead

Opportunities

- To provide a venue for appeals to be brought forward, considered and decided in a timely manner.
- To maintain and enhance communication with Newfoundlanders and Labradorians regarding the mandate of the Public Safety Appeal Board.

Challenges

- Although the Board did not hold any hearings over the 2017-20 reporting period, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic mitigation may have delayed technical safety system work (e.g., electrical; boilers/pressure vessels; elevating devices) and any related appeals to the Board.