

Department of Environment

2001 - 02 Annual Report



GOVERNMENT OF
NEWFOUNDLAND
AND LABRADOR

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

April 2001 - March 2002

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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER



It is my pleasure to present this Annual Report on the work of the Department of Environment for fiscal year 2001-02. The Department of Environment Annual Report was prepared as a result of commitment given in the *2002 Speech from the Throne*.

The Department of Environment saw many new developments in 2001-02, including the separation of the branches of the former Department of Environment and Labour into two new departments. As an independent Department, the Department of Environment was successful in beginning implementation of a province-wide solid waste management strategy. The Department also took important measures toward ensuring safe drinking water in this province by introducing new provincial drinking water quality standards and committing the Department to water quality monitoring and reporting. The Department has also brought forward new legislation in the *Environmental Protection Act* and the *Water Resources Act*.

I would like to thank former Ministers Ralph Wiseman and Kevin Aylward, the Department's dedicated staff and many partners in other departments and agencies for their continued support and assistance in developing and implementing initiatives such as those highlighted here. I look forward to the Department's further successes in the future.

R.D. (Bob) Mercer
Minister

DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW

The Department of Environment exercises key regulatory responsibility for environmental matters that are essential to environmental sustainability in the Province. The Department is mandated “to protect, preserve and enhance the Province’s environment.” The Department’s mission is “to sustain a healthy environment and ensure that development proceeds in an environmentally-acceptable manner.”

The Department is committed to the sustainable development of our economy; to involving stakeholders in policy development through such means as partnerships and consultations on new regulations, to environmental education and outreach to promote public responsibility for a healthy environment and to working in cooperation with local communities on regional issues such as water supplies and waste management.

The Department fulfils its mandate and mission through the control of adverse effects to water, air and soil and through the proper management of water resources. Authorizations are issued and enforced for development projects and activities based on sound environmental management principles. The Department has four principal lines of business through which to carry out its mandate: Water Resources Management, Pollution Prevention, Environmental Assessment, and Environmental Policy and Planning. In addition to four core divisions which directly reflect the lines of business, the Department also includes a communications unit and two special project units.

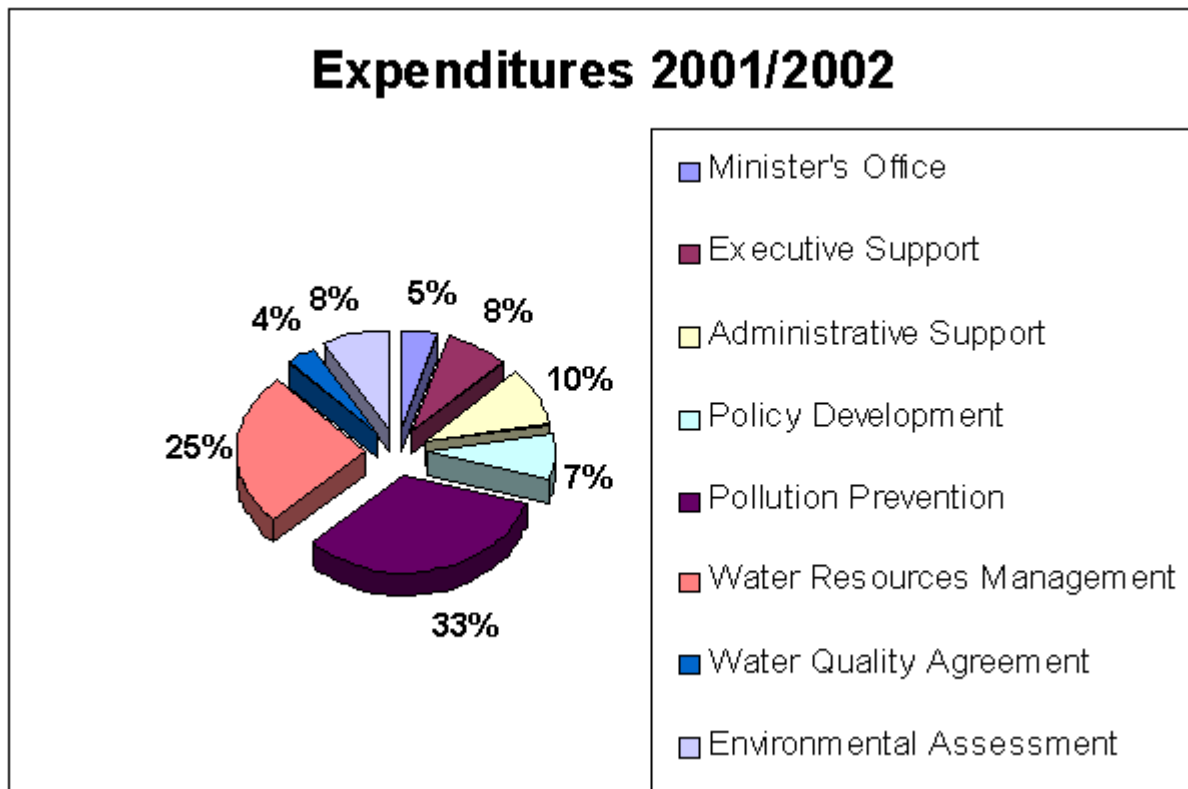
The Department’s headquarters are located in the West Block, Confederation Complex in St. John’s. Regional offices are located in Corner Brook and Grand Falls-Windsor. The Department shares a Corporate Services Unit (Human Resources, Finance and General Operations) with the Department of Tourism, Recreation and Culture and the Department of Labour. The Information Technology Unit is attached to Treasury Board.

In 2001-02, the Department had a staff complement of 71 permanent positions, excluding positions with Corporate Services and Information Technology. Five employees were located in Corner Brook while four were at the Grand Falls-Windsor office.

Throughout 2001, the Department was involved in a review and revision of legislation. New legislation in the form of the *Environmental Protection Act* and the *Water Resources Protection Act* was introduced in the House of Assembly in late 2001. Prior to the introduction of new legislation, the Department administered the following Acts: *Environment Act*, *Environmental Assessment Act*, *Pesticides Control Act*, *Waste Management Act*, *Waste Material Disposal Act*, *Well Drilling Act*, *Water Resources Protection Act* and the water rights licensing powers included

in the *Crown Lands Act*.

The total net expenditure of the Department of Environment during 2001-02 was \$5,874,200. The Department received \$889,300 in revenue from fees for various permits, registrations and from cost-shared programs with others. The table on page 18 provides a breakdown of these expenditures along divisional lines. The chart below provides an indication of the relative percentage expended by each division.



SHARED COMMITMENTS

Federal-Provincial Agreements

The Department administers a number of cost-shared agreements with Environment Canada on water resources management. These include i) *The Canada-Newfoundland Hydrometric Agreement*, ii) *The Canada-Newfoundland Water Quality Monitoring Agreement* and iii) *The Climate Network Expansion Agreement*.

Shared initiatives with Environment Canada on air pollution include i) *The National Air Pollution Surveillance (NAPS) Network* to monitor ambient air pollutants, ii) implementation of *The National Action Plan for the Control of Ozone Depleting Substances and their Halocarbon Alternatives* and iii) *The Newfoundland Environment Precipitation Monitoring Network*.

The Department also participates in initiatives developed by working groups of the *Federal/Provincial/ Territorial (FPT) Committee on Pest Management and Pesticides*. One such initiative is the Healthy Lawns Strategy of the Healthy Lawns Working Group. The Department also participates in an Atlantic Working Group (AWG) on Pesticide Education.

Government Services Centre

The Department works closely with the Government Services Centre (GSC) of the Department of Government Services and Lands on permits, licences, approvals and inspections related to issues of environmental concern. The GSC acts as the field delivery agent for some of the routine duties of the Department.

Multi-Material Stewardship Board (MMSB)

Government established the MMSB in 1996 to develop, implement and manage a variety of waste diversion programs in Newfoundland and Labrador in accordance with Government priorities. The MMSB is currently responsible for a provincial beverage recycling program and the Household Hazardous Waste Program. It also administers the Newfoundland and Labrador Waste Management Trust Fund under the direction of the Minister of Environment. The Trust Fund was established in 1997 to provide financial assistance to aid in the development and implementation of waste management initiatives in the Province.

Newfoundland Environmental Industry Association

The direction of the Department lends itself to the development of a strong environmental industry in the Province. To foster a strong provincial environmental industry, the Department liaises with environmental businesses and their industry association, the Newfoundland Environmental Industry Association (NEIA). The Executive and the Minister meet regularly with NEIA to discuss strategic and ongoing issues affecting the growth of environmental industries in the Province and liaise with the Department of Industry, Trade and Rural Development in this regard.

Newfoundland and Labrador Climate Change Education Centre

The Newfoundland and Labrador Climate Change Education Centre is part of a pilot project to establish a national network of climate change education centres or hubs. The Department provides partial funding for the operation of the local Education Centre through the Newfoundland and Labrador Conservation Corps. Matching funds are provided by the federal government and additional resources come from the private sector.

Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME)

The Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment (CCME) is the major intergovernmental forum on environmental matters in Canada. All provinces and territories and the federal government sit on the council. CCME operates on the basis of consensus to develop standards and guidelines on various environmental issues. The province uses the products of CCME as our base documents and we participate in their development through several of the council's task groups.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND PRIORITIES

Water Quality

Newfoundland and Labrador has assumed the responsibility for monitoring and reporting on public drinking water quality. The Department of Environment is designated as the contact point and lead Government agency for all public enquiries on drinking water safety. The Department's strategic plan of action to ensure public confidence in water supplies was outlined in the *2001 Speech from the Throne*. Water quality is protected primarily through watershed management, permitting for undertakings that effect water bodies, water quality management and monitoring and training of operators. In order to protect water quality in this Province, the Department outlined a number of priority activities for 2001-02:

- Improve source protection measures including designation of new protected water supply areas, monitoring, reporting, enforcement and development of watershed management plans.
- Work with the Department of Municipal and Provincial Affairs on the installation of new water treatment facilities with disinfection being the minimum treatment.
- Improve the operation and maintenance of water supply systems through education and training for system operators.
- Increase microbiological and chemical sampling and testing for determinants of water quality.
- Reduce the number of contamination incidences.
- Communicate water data and boil advisories to the public.
- Provide free access to all water quality related information.
- Identify and correct public well construction problems.
- Carry out water quality modelling.
- Identify water supplies at greatest risk of contamination and delineate wellhead protection areas.
- License well drillers and review well records.

The Water Resources Management Division was able to achieve progress in these priorities in 2001-02. The division has established a system whereby all public water supplies are sampled on a regular basis. During the current reporting period, 3,490 source and tap samples were collected for various types of chemical analyses. An early contaminant exceedance reporting system was implemented, allowing the division to inform a community of any problems in samples collected from a community as soon as it is detected at the analytical laboratory.

HIGHLIGHT

The Department released the reports *Source to Tap: Water Supplies in Newfoundland and Labrador, May 2001* and *Trihalomethane Levels in Public Water Supplies of Newfoundland and Labrador*. In consultation with other Government departments, the Department also developed a Multi-Barrier Strategic Action Plan (MBSAP) for drinking water safety. Government allocated \$1 million during fiscal year 2001-02 towards ensuring the safety of water drinking water.

As part of the Province's plan of action on water quality, announced in May 2001, the Department of Environment released the reports *Source to Tap: Water Supplies in Newfoundland and Labrador, May 2001* and *Trihalomethane Levels in Public Water Supplies of Newfoundland and Labrador*.

The Department of Environment chaired the interdepartmental Safe Drinking Water Technical Working Group, which was responsible for implementing the Multi-Barrier Strategic Action Plan (MBSAP) for drinking water safety. The

group completed a revision of provincial standards for bacteriological quality and chemical water quality of drinking water. It also evaluated microbiological sampling regimes, current boil water advisories and coordinated provincial budgetary submissions for a multi-jurisdictional approach.

A pilot project, endorsed by the Department of Education, was initiated to chemically sample all schools in the Province with their own water supply. About half of the 70 schools identified were sampled during the fiscal year and the results conveyed to the respective school boards. The remaining schools will be sampled next year. This initiative benefits approximately 5,100 students.

Two hundred sixty-five regulatory permits were issued for water and sewer-related works as well as a limited number of activities within public water supply areas. The permitting system is being continuously improved to facilitate development activities.

Fifty-four operator education and training seminars were offered in 18 locations throughout the Province. These seminars were attended by approximately 855 municipal operators and workers.

The Province now has one of the most advanced source protection programs in the country. Approximately 70% of the total population receives drinking water from protected surface and groundwater supplies. There are seven active Watershed Monitoring Committees in the Province dealing with land management issues in the most sensitive water supply areas. Source water testing of public groundwater supplies was completed in 2001-02.

Improvements were also made to the Water Resources Management Division's webpage, http://www.gov.nf.ca/env/Env/water_resources.asp, to include links to Acts, Regulations, Policy Directives and Water Quality Standards and to provide on-line information to the public on drinking water quality, boil water advisories and operator education and training. Application forms, fee schedules and guidelines are also available to be downloaded by the public.

VALUED PUBLIC SERVICE

Haseen Khan, Manager of Surface Water, was awarded the Public Service Award of Excellence. Haseen was honoured for his work in 2001 on the watershed protection program.

Water Management

Water in its natural state must be properly managed to protect natural ecosystems and ensure the availability of water for all beneficial uses. The Department ensures the sustainable use of water primarily through water use allocations and associated monitoring and enforcement. The

present system will be replaced by a new licencing system and water rights registry under the new *Water Resources Act*. A number of priorities for water management were outlined for 2001-02:

- To develop and implement regulations and guidelines for the wise and efficient allocation and use of water.
- To establish a water rights registry under the new *Water Resources Act* for inspection by the public.
- To maintain an acceptable level of response to new use allocation proposals, renewal of expired use allocation and use conflicts.
- To ensure that all technical tools and data needed are available in an effective and cost-efficient manner.
- To carry out hydrological modelling, water quality monitoring, flood forecasting, GIS implementation and dam inventories.
- To protect water resources from harmful or illegal alterations.
- To ensure that alterations to water bodies are carried out to acceptable environmental and engineering standards.
- To respond to complaints.
- To maintain and update flood risk maps.

Much information on groundwater resources was collected and made available during 2001-02. During the reporting period, the Department fulfilled a commitment to chemically sample all public water supplies in the Province and conveyed the results to communities. This was first-time sampling for many public groundwater systems and constituted a major effort to locate, obtain and catalogue all the information on public wells. A compact disc was created containing

information on approximately 15,000 drilled water wells, providing the most comprehensive information on the Province's groundwater resources. The information has proven useful for communities contemplating a groundwater supply, consultants, other Government departments, real estate companies, pump installers, well drilling companies and the general public. Regulations for dug wells were drafted in response to concerns expressed in a submission from the public hearings on the proposed *Water Resources Act*.

The Water Resources Division evaluated and assessed 80 water use allocation proposals and issued 73 water use authorizations for various water uses such as aquaculture, water bottling and other commercial and industrial uses. The division prepared and reviewed provisions on water use and rights in the proposed *Water Resources Act* and compiled data on water rights registries and databases from other Canadian provinces for the purpose of establishing a Water Rights Registry. Meetings were held with the Inuit and the Innu on water management and water rights in Labrador. The Division collected the 2001-02 water power rentals fees to the amount of \$410,436 compared to \$16,450 in 2000-01. The increase was due to the retroactive nature of the Water Power Rental Regulations developed in 2000-01.

The Water Resources Management Division has also made progress in hydrological modelling. Flood forecasting was successfully completed for Badger and the Humber River Watershed. The Flood Forecast System for Deer Lake and Steady Brook was updated to reflect changes in dam elevation. A Real Time Water Quality Monitoring (RTWQM) pilot station was installed on Leary's Brook in St. John's to monitor temperature, pH and conductivity.

Environmental Monitoring

The Department continues to carry out and improve monitoring of environmental effects and industry compliance. Environmental monitoring indicates how emissions and effluents from human activities affect the environment and points to needed improvements in technology and remediation. The priorities in 2001-02 for this strategic issue were to review monitoring plans for three major industrial facilities, modify as appropriate to address deficiencies and initiate discussions in selected industries where monitoring plans do not exist and to complete implementation plans for nationally set, harmonized environmental standards.

Monitoring plans were reviewed for Corner Brook Pulp and Paper's (CBPP) mill, the Abitibi Consolidated Grand Falls mill (ACGF), the Abitibi Consolidated Stephenville mill (ACST), Iron Ore Company of Canada (IOCC) and Wabush Mines. Discussions were initiated with CBPP, IOCC and Wabush Mines on modifications to their plans. Discussions also began with the Abitibi Consolidated mills for the purpose of establishing monitoring regimes.

Ten global Certificates of Approval and four condition letters were issued to industry to address environmental concerns of the Department of Environment, with the objective to prevent and mitigate the adverse environmental impact of industry and institutional facilities.

The Department continued work on the priorities of Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) including the development of *Canada-Wide Standards for Particulate Matter and Ozone, Mercury, Dioxins and Furans, Petroleum Hydrocarbons, and Benzene*.

In the summer of 2001, representatives from the Department were involved with a “No Fees/No Fines” vehicle emission clinic in St. John’s where 462 vehicles were tested.

The Department participated in a “Smog Prediction Program” pilot project in conjunction with Environment Canada, Atlantic Region.

A second Criteria Air Contaminants site for monitoring air pollutants was established in Corner Brook.

Waste Management

Waste management was outlined as a priority for the Department in the *2001 Speech from the Throne*. The Province intends to develop a long-term strategy on waste management which will include the reduction of the total number of landfill sites, the improvement and standardization of operational practices and the development of waste stream diversion options.

The priorities for waste management for 2001-02 were:

- To begin implementation of stewardship programs for three waste stream components and to investigate other potential programs.
- To identify priority areas for co-operative waste management among communities.
- To select up to three strategic regions for consolidation of waste disposal sites.
- To work with the Department of Municipal and Provincial Affairs and communities in the waste disposal areas to promote a co-operative regional approach to waste management.
- To review of applications to the Waste Management Trust Fund.

Considerable progress was made in 2001-02 on solid waste management. The ban on the landfill disposal of petroleum-contaminated soil was expanded to include most communities on the island portion of the Province on June 30, 2001. Some areas of the Province still did not have reasonable access to soil treatment and those areas were allowed an additional six months to give interested companies an opportunity to establish soil treatment facilities in those areas.

HIGHLIGHT

In the March 13, 2001 *Speech from the Throne*, Government stated that it would develop a long-term provincial strategy to address waste management and to seek the views of individuals, communities and other interested parties. The Minister of Environment appointed an independent Waste Management Advisory Committee in May 2001. The Committee conducted public consultations throughout the Province during the summer of 2001 and presented its final report and recommendations to Government in October 2001.

In July 2001, the rechargeable battery stewardship program for Government employees was launched. Collection boxes were distributed to all Government offices throughout the Province to provide employees with an easy and convenient way to participate in the program.

Also in July 2001, the Minister of Environment and the Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs released a consultant report on solid waste management on the Avalon Peninsula. The report was based on the tripartite agreement signed the previous year between the Department of Municipal and Provincial Affairs, the Town of Harbour Grace and the Conception Bay North Incinerator Association.

The Minister of Environment and the Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs announced the formation of the Avalon Waste Management Community Consultative Committee in November 2001. The Committee was tasked with undertaking the development of a regional waste management plan for the Avalon Peninsula.

During the reporting period, the Department continued its work toward the remediation of hazardous waste sites. During 2001/2002, the number of PCB storage sites under provincial jurisdiction was reduced from 50 to 20 following detailed audits of the sites and the collection and transport for destruction of PCB materials.

An *Environmental Emergencies Contingency/ Response Plan* was developed by the Waste Management Section of the Pollution Prevention Division. The plan was distributed to industry stakeholders and federal/provincial counterparts. This document provides detailed information on contacts, designated responsibilities and procedures to be followed in the event of a spill or leak of oil or other hazardous liquids and materials into the environment.

HIGHLIGHT

The Domestic Fuel Oil Spill Prevention Committee presented its report in September 2001. Government endorsed the report's primary recommendation. Regulations were scheduled to come into force on April 1, 2002.

The Waste Management Section also completed a *Recycling and Reuse Guide* (released April 2002) to be used as a reference guide on waste diversion for homeowners and consumers.

A Domestic Fuel Oil Spill Prevention Committee was formed in March 2001 to advise Government on how to address domestic fuel oil spills and to suggest mechanisms to minimize contamination. This committee consisted of members of the oil, insurance and environmental industries, as well as Government officials and members of the public. The committee presented its report to Government in September 2001. Government endorsed the report's primary recommendation to introduce regulations governing the manufacture, installation, and operation of fuel systems less than 2,500 litres in size.

The Department continued support for environmental remediation work at abandoned sites with an \$800,000 allocation in the 2001-02 budget.

MULTI-MATERIALS STEWARDSHIP BOARD

During 2001-02, 78 applications to the Waste Management Trust Fund were approved, more than 285 schools received matching funds and \$2,440,467 was awarded for environmental projects.

The Minister of Environment and the Multi-Materials Stewardship Board (MMSB) announced the implementation of a recycling program for used tires in February 2002. This program of the MMSB has the principal objective of ensuring that waste tires generated in this province are disposed of without negatively affecting the environment.

Environmental Assessment

Environmental assessments and associated surveillance are the Department's primary tools for ensuring that development projects proceed in an environmentally-acceptable manner. From both an environmental and an economic perspective, it is critical that the process be effective and efficient.

The priorities identified in this area for 2001-02 were to implement approved environmental assessment reforms, establish a protocol to regularly solicit the views of affected stakeholders on the effectiveness and efficiency of the environmental assessment process and improve surveillance of undertakings that have been released from the environmental assessment process.

A new *Environmental Assessment Act* was introduced in 2000 and was in effect during the

reporting period. Under this new Act, 87 projects were registered with the Department during 2001-02. Seventy-five of these were released and three were required to submit an Environmental Preview Report (EPR). Key projects reviewed by the Department include the Special Waste Transfer Station, the Bellevue Eighteen Hole Golf Course, Hammerdown Mine Project - Baie Verte Peninsula and the St. Lawrence Wind Demonstration Project.

The Department made substantial improvements to its website in 2001. An enhanced Environment Assessment Division webpage was launched in September 2001, providing basic information about the assessment process, links to the *Environmental Assessment Guide* and legislation, a current project location map and detailed information about current and recent projects. The page is available at <http://www.gov.nf.ca/env/Env/EA%202001/pages/index.htm>. The site has been well used by the public, receiving close to 600 hits per month. It has substantially reduced the need for production of hard copies of documents by project proponents and departmental staff.

Legislation

The Department strives to maintain effective up-to-date legislation, developed through continuous review and consultation. Appropriate legislation underlies the work of the three operating divisions - Water Resources, Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assessment. Environmental protection is achieved through regulatory controls and procedures including: assessments, permitting, monitoring, surveillance and enforcement.

The departmental priorities for 2001-02 with regards to legislation were to implement proposed reforms to the *Environmental Assessment Act*, to complete and implement a new *Environmental Protection Act* and a new *Water Resources Act* and to ensure continuous review of departmental legislation.

HIGHLIGHT

The Department of Environment introduced two new Acts in the House of Assembly on November 30, 2001: the *Environmental Protection Act* and the *Water Resources Act*.

During October 2001, nine public consultation sessions were held on two new acts: the *Environmental Protection Act* and the *Water Resources Act*. The Acts were introduced in the House of Assembly on November 30, 2001. The new *Environmental Protection Act* revises and consolidates five previous Acts: *Environment Act*, *Environmental Assessment Act*, *Pesticides Control Act*, *Waste*

Management Act and *Waste Material Disposal Act*. The new *Water Resources Act* revises and replaces the water management provisions of the *Environment Act*, and incorporates the *Well*

Drilling Act and *Water Resources Protection Act*, as well as the water rights licensing powers that were in the *Crown Lands Act*. It also introduces new provisions for water rights licensing.

Climate Change

The primary responsibility for the climate change file moved from the Department of Mines and Energy to the Department of Environment in 2001. The main priorities for the Department on the climate change file were the development of a provincial strategy on climate change that reflects the opportunities and challenges of this province's social, economic and natural environment, negotiation of emission credits on behalf of the Province and promotion of the Province's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance ambient air quality.

HIGHLIGHT

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador provided \$40,000 for the Newfoundland and Labrador Climate Change Education Centre.

Work on the development of a provincial strategy continued during the reporting period. The Department actively participated in the national forum in consideration of ratification of the Kyoto Protocol, evaluation of environmental and economic impacts and development of a national implementation plan. The negotiation of emission credits was

deferred pending the national decision on ratification of the Kyoto Protocol. The Department provided advice to the provincial government on the potential impacts of climate change, appropriate adaptation strategies, and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in this province.

Environmental Industries and Technologies

The Department of Environment recognizes the potential for business to help develop solutions to local environmental problems and the added potential to export such solutions. In order to foster an environmentally sustainable economy, the Department supports the development of a strong environmental industry, based in part on opportunities resulting from the need to protect and preserve our environment. As priorities, the Department highlighted the need to assess the economic and service potential of environmental policies and to consult with industry on implementation of new programs and regulations. The departmental executive has established an ongoing relationship with Newfoundland Environmental Industries Association and environmental companies. This relationship continued to be strengthened in 2001-02 to ensure that this sector's concerns continue to be considered.

Coastal Zone Management

The Department of Environment chairs an interdepartmental *ad hoc* working group to address Recommendation 61 of the 1997 Report of the Terra Nova Development Project Environmental Assessment Panel. The panel recommended that the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador establish a coastal management plan for the Avalon Peninsula, including Placentia Bay. The priorities for 2001-02 were to develop a partnership with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, to identify and compile existing information on Placentia Bay from provincial and federal sources, to initiate contact with key stakeholders in the region and to become familiar with coastal zone policies and research pertaining to the Atlantic region. The Department was able to achieve progress on each of these issues during the reporting period. The Department also participated in the intergovernmental, multi-sectoral Atlantic forum on coastal management, Atlantic Coastal Zone Information Steering Committee, the Oceans Management Research Network and supported the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture as co-chair of the federal/provincial Oceans Task Group. Work with communities in Placentia Bay was initiated in 2001-02 and will continue in cooperation with Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

STATISTICS - DIVISIONAL WORK

WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT DIVISION	
Water use allocation proposals evaluated	80
Water use authorizations issued	73
Permits for alteration to bodies of water	477
Investigations of complaints	45
Technical review of projects registered under environmental assessment process	47
Review of referrals from Crown Lands	220
Review of referrals from municipalities	40
Review of referrals from municipalities (development in flood plain areas)	6
Training seminars for water supply system operators	54
Source to tap chemical samples	3490
Source water testing of public new groundwater supplies	312
POLLUTION PREVENTION DIVISION	
Industrial Certificates of Approval issued	10
Industry site inspections	61
Technical meetings with industry	92
Responses to public complaints concerning industry	48
Requests for information on industry	63
Hazardous waste generators registered	350
PCB storage sites	20
Tonnes of hazardous waste diverted (excl. used oil waste)	3813
Review of consultant environmental reports	45
Pesticide operator licenses issued	41
Vehicles tested at vehicle emissions testing clinics	462

<i>ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DIVISION</i>	
Referrals (presentation of project to the Department)	150
Registrations (initiation of review process)	87
Releases by Minister (after initial review, project may be cleared by the Minister)	75
Environmental Preview Reports ordered (assessment based on existing data)	3
Environmental Impact Statements ordered (additional studies, original research, study of alternatives and mitigation measures)	0
Withdrawn by proponent (proponent's decision not to continue with project)	7
Active (project EIS/EPR currently in review process)	2

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

The Department of Environment is challenged throughout the coming year to continue to realize progress on its key initiatives, especially with regards to ensuring safe drinking water and solid waste management. A number of emerging issues with respect to drinking water quality such as haloacetic acids and trihalomethanes (THMs) will continue to be monitored. The Department will develop an on-site training program for operators, a unique initiative in Canada. Improvements will be made to the Department's data management system and changes are also planned for the permit application process. With regards to solid waste management, the Department is challenged to develop a multi-year, province-wide waste management strategy based on the recommendations presented by the Waste Management Advisory Committee in its October 2001 report.

The passage of new legislation presents an opportunity to the Department to prepare new policies and regulations. In terms of water resources management, high priority areas include alterations to bodies of water, development in flood plains, dam safety and use of treated wood in and near water. In pollution prevention, the Department will be examining the possibility of revising regulations related to air pollution controls, pesticides and ozone depleting substances. The Department also has the opportunity to better help prevent oil spills due with the introduction of new regulations for domestic fuel oil systems.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2001-02

EXECUTIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICES	
Minister's Office	272,000
General Administration	
• Executive Support	471,000
• Administrative Support	568,900
• Policy Development and Planning	434,700
Total Executive and Support Services	1,746,600
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL	
Environmental Management (Pollution Prevention)	1,938,600
Water Resources Management	1,697,700
• Water Resources Management	1,470,400
• Water Quality Agreement	227,700
Environmental Assessment	491,300
Total Environmental Management and Control	4,127,600
Total Net Expenditure	5,874,200

GLOSSARY OF USEFUL TERMS

- **Certificate of Approval** - An approval issued by the Department of Environment to industry outlining required environmental operating conditions.
- **Climate Change** - A change in the average weather; the rate and magnitude of global climate change may have many impacts on the Earth's ecosystems. It is thought that human activities are altering the chemical composition of the atmosphere through the build-up of greenhouse gases, which is resulting in changes to the global climate, including a rise in temperatures and more frequent extreme weather events.
- **Coastal Zone Management** - see Integrated Coastal Zone Management.
- **Conductivity** - A measurement of how well water conducts an electrical current. Conductivity increases with an increase in the amount and mobility of ions.
- **Criteria Air Contaminants** - Air pollutants including Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂), Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x), Carbon Monoxide (CO), Particulate Matter (PM) and Ozone (O₃). There are health concerns associated with these pollutants.
- **Effluent** - Wastewater--treated or untreated--that flows out of a treatment plant, sewer, or industrial outfall.
- **Emission** - Pollution discharged into the atmosphere by any means.
- **Environmental Assessment** - A process by which the environmental effect of a project is predicted and evaluated before the project has begun.
- **Environmental industry**- Those corporations, individuals or organizations that provide services related to the protection and/or enhancement of the physical environment.
- **Environmental Preview Report (EPR)** - a report presenting the results of an investigation based on readily available information that supplements the information provided by a proponent upon registration of a project. This report assists the minister in determining whether or not an environmental impact statement is required.
- **Greenhouse gases (GHGs)**- Gases that trap solar heat within the Earth's atmosphere. These are primarily Carbon Dioxide (CO₂), Methane, Nitrous Oxide (N₂O), and water vapour. These gases ensure that the Earth is warm enough to support life but an increase in these atmospheric gases is thought to be a primary cause of climate change.
- **Groundwater** - All water that exists beneath the surface in the zone of saturation and includes springs.
- **Hazardous material** - Any material that poses a threat to human health and/or the environment. Typical hazardous substances are toxic, corrosive, ignitable, explosive, or chemically reactive.
- **Hydrological modelling** - Modelling, usually with the aid of a computer, of components of the water cycle.
- **Integrated Coastal Zone Management** - An ongoing and collaborative approach to

planning and managing, that brings together interested parties to incorporate social, cultural, environmental, and economic issues in the development and implementation of ocean use plans and management processes.

- **PCB** - Polychlorinated Biphenyl
- **Pesticide** - substance or mixture of substances used for the destruction or control of insects, birds, rodents, fungi or other pests and micro-organisms or for the destruction or control of vegetation.
- **pH** - A measurement of the acidity in water.
- **Stakeholder** - Any party that has an interest in the subject at hand or may be impacted by a policy, program, project or legislation.
- **Smog** - The mixture of air pollutants that can often be seen as a haze in the air. The mixture of pollutants is made up Ozone (O₃), fine particulates, Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂), Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂), Carbon Monoxide (CO) and Ammonia.
- **Solid Waste** - Non-liquid, non-soluble materials that contain complex and sometimes hazardous substances. Solid wastes include municipal and industrial waste, sewage sludge, agricultural refuse, demolition wastes and mining residues.
- **Stewardship** - The process whereby individuals or organizations assume responsibility for the protection and enhancement of the environment or any of its constituent components.
- **Sustainable Development** - According to the World Commission on Environment and Development (the Brundtland Commission - 1987), sustainable development is “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”
- **Remediation** - Methods used to remove or contain a toxic spill or hazardous materials from a site.
- **Trihalomethane (THM)** - A byproduct of chlorinating water that contains natural organics. THMs do not pose a high health risk as compared to other waterborne diseases, but some studies have linked them to certain types of cancer and other health effects.
- **Waste diversion** - diversion of waste materials from traditional disposal such as landfilling or incineration to be recycled, composted, or re-used.
- **Waste management** - the collection, transportation, handling, storage, treatment, utilization, diversion, recycling, reuse, recovery, reduction and disposal of waste material
- **Watershed** - The land area that drains into a stream or lake.