



Humber Valley Regional Planning Advisory Authority: Leadership Committee

Annual Report
2016-17

Message from the Chair

I am pleased to submit the 2016-17 Annual Report for the Humber Valley Regional Planning Advisory Authority Leadership Committee. This report has been prepared in accordance with the Transparency and Accountability Act requirements for a category three entity.

In planning and conducting our activities, the Committee operates in consideration of the strategic directions of government. In particular, the Committee's activities are consistent with strategic directions related to sustainable communities and a competitive work and business environment and also supports The Way Forward commitment to advance regional collaboration.

My signature below acknowledges that the Committee is accountable for the preparation of this report and the results reported.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donovan F. Downer".

Donovan F. Downer, PhD
Chairperson

Overview

The principal function of the Humber Valley Regional Planning Advisory Authority Leadership Committee (the Committee) is to facilitate the development of a regional plan for the Humber Valley Regional area for recommendation to Government. As such, the Committee oversees the work and preparation associated with developing a Regional Land Use Plan which will help lead future growth and development in the region.

The Committee was established pursuant to section 9 of the *Urban and Rural Planning Act, 2000*. In particular, the role of the Committee is to:

- Identify the goals and objectives of the regional plan;
- Report back to each municipality;
- Approve and oversee the public consultation process;
- Provide municipal feedback; and,
- Recommend approval of the completed regional plan to the Minister.

The Committee comprises an independent chairperson and seven mayors or designates.

The current chairperson and members of the Committee are:

Dr. Don Downer, Chairperson
Mayor Peter Rowsell, Steady Brook
Mayor Otto Goulding, Pasadena
Councillor Elmo Bingle, Deer Lake
Mayor Melvin Rideout, Cormack
Mayor Roger Barrett, Reidville
Councillor Mary Ann Murphy, Corner Brook
Mayor Gordon Davis, Massey Drive

Budget and Expenditures

The Committee does not have any dedicated staff, nor does it manage any funds or financial statements. Further, members of the Committee do not receive remuneration.

The Province and municipalities share the cost of developing the regional plan. The Province contributed 80% of the funding and the municipalities shared the remaining 20% of the costs on a per capita basis.

Report on Performance

Issue: Regional Land Use Plan

The Humber Valley region experienced significant growth and development in recent years. In 2009, in order to foster a more equitable system of development control in the region, the department recommended that a regional plan be developed for the area. The Humber Valley Regional Planning Advisory Authority Leadership Committee was established to facilitate the development of the plan.

Given the Committee's mandate is to develop a regional land use plan for recommendation to the Minister, the Committee determined that a three year goal was not applicable. The Committee reports on the same annual objective for each year of its Activity Plan (2014-17).

Objective:

By March 31, 2017, the Advisory Authority will have submitted a revised draft regional land use plan for the Humber Valley region to the Minister.

Indicator:

In the 2015-16 Annual Report, the Committee reported on the completion of their mandate. As the objective was already met, and no further action or advice was requested by the Minister, there are no applicable indicators to report on in 2016-17.

Discussion of Results:

In developing the land use plan, the Committee consulted with participating municipalities, as well as government representatives and other individuals and organizations with an interest in land use in the region. The Committee engaged a consultant to undertake various components of the development of the land use plan. A draft plan was submitted for Government's consideration in winter 2011. In 2014, after a comprehensive review of the draft plan, Government responded to the Committee requesting additional work be carried out. A revised plan was submitted to the Minister on May 25, 2015 and is under review.

The Committee has successfully met the objective set out in their 2014-17 Activity Plan.

Opportunities and Challenges

The Humber Valley is the regional centre for commercial, industrial and government services for the western part of the Island of Newfoundland. It is an area that has experienced significant growth in the past decade and this growth is expected to continue. Much of the growth has occurred outside areas of municipal jurisdiction within the region. Economic opportunities in other areas of the province such as mining, oil development, and tourism rely on and benefit the Humber Valley Region.

Although there are innate challenges in harmonizing development practices in multiple jurisdictions, the development of a regional land use plan creates an opportunity to introduce consistency. Consistency in land use and development policies will reduce regulatory requirements for businesses wishing to set up or expand across municipal borders, thereby encouraging continued economic development for all community partners.