

2011-2014

**Department of Environment and Conservation
Strategic Plan**

2011

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Message from the Minister

I am pleased to provide the strategic plan for the Department of Environment and Conservation covering three fiscal years, from April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2014. As a category 1 government entity under the *Transparency and Accountability Act*, the department must plan at the outcomes level.

Throughout the development of this plan, careful consideration was given to the strategic directions of government. Strategic directions represent the desired physical, social or economic outcomes for the province and this plan outlines actions required by the department to fulfill these outcomes. A list of government's strategic directions most relevant to environment and conservation can be found beginning on page 17. These directions have been communicated to officials in the department, as well as to the entities for which I am responsible.

This plan carries over with some aspects of the previous plan such as Climate Change Adaptation and the Caribou Strategy, while it incorporates an additional initiative in planning for moose management under the Enhanced Management of Caribou and Moose Popula-

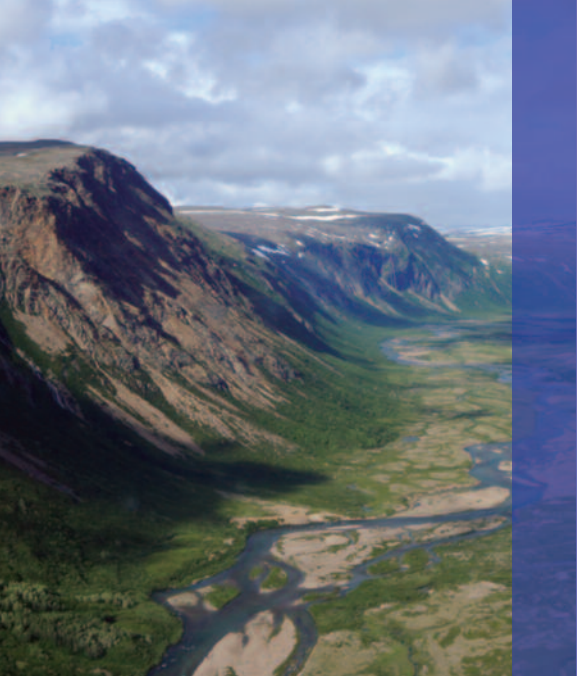
tions strategic issue. Continuity of the department's programs under the Environmental Protection strategic issue highlights the many areas for which the public relies on the department for environmental conservation and stewardship.

Furthermore, improvements in services include improving the public's access to information through real-time, web-based data and real-time reporting. Addressing these issues will help the department achieve the mission it has set out for 2017.

As minister, I am accountable for the preparation of this plan and for the achievement of the specific goals and objectives contained herein.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ross Wiseman".

ROSS WISEMAN, MHA
Trinity North District
Minister



Summary of Plan

Vision

The vision of the Department of Environment and Conservation is a clean, sustainable environment and healthy, resilient ecosystems in perpetuity for the social, physical, cultural, biological and economic well-being of the province.

Mission

By March 31, 2017, the Department of Environment and Conservation will have reduced the adverse impacts of human activities on the environment and improved the health of our ecosystems.

Goals and Objectives

Environmental Protection

Goal

By March 31, 2014, the Department of Environment and Conservation will have implemented measures to improve the protection of land, air and water in Newfoundland and Labrador.

2011-2012 Objective

By March 31, 2012, the Department of Environment and Conservation will have carried out environmental site assessment, remediation, and management of impacted sites.

2012-2013 Objective

By March 31, 2013, the Department of Environment and Conservation will have continued to engage mu-

nicipalities in the development of climate adaptation plans.

2013-2014 Objective

By March 31, 2014, the Department of Environment and Conservation will have developed comprehensive strategies to improve upon water quality issues.



Enhanced Management of Caribou and Moose Populations

Goal

By March 31, 2014, the Department of Environment and Conservation will have implemented measures to enhance the management of caribou and moose populations in Newfoundland and Labrador.

2011-2012 Objective

By March 31, 2012, the Department of Environment and Conservation will have improved the understanding of island caribou ecology and predator-prey dynamics; the understanding of the George River herd dynamics; and the management plan for moose.

2012-2013 Objective

By March 31, 2013, the Department of Environment and Conservation will have implemented a caribou strategy monitoring program; continued to improve the understanding of the George River herd; and produced a draft five-year moose management plan.

2013-2014 Objective

By March 31, 2014, the Department of Environment and Conservation will have developed a plan to enhance moose management that addresses both public concerns and improved understanding of moose ecology.

Climate Change Adaptation

Goal

By March 31, 2014, the Department of Environment and Conservation will have enhanced the capacity of municipalities to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

2011-2012 Objective

By March 31, 2012, the Department of Environment and Conservation will have completed the Community Vulnerability Assessment Tool and will have engaged communities in developing climate adaptation plans.

2012-2013 Objective

By March 31, 2013, the Department of Environment and Conservation will have continued to engage municipalities in the development of climate adaptation plans.

2013-2014 Objective

By March 31, 2014, the Department of Environment and Conservation will have worked with MNL and PMA to develop a process for all municipalities to utilize the Community Vulnerability Assessment Tool.





Departmental Overview

The Department of Environment and Conservation is responsible for the protection and enhancement of the environment, and management of the province's wildlife, inland fish, water, parks, Crown land resources, and Pippy Park. The department is also leading government's response to climate change.

The minister is the head of the department. The deputy minister reports directly to the minister and oversees all operational issues of the department. The department consists of the following branches: Environment Branch; Natural Heritage Branch; Lands Branch; and Sustainable Development and Strategic Science (SDSS) Division. These branches are further subdivided into divisions and sections. They are headed by assistant deputy ministers, or an executive director in the case of SDSS, who report to the deputy minister. The department also has a Policy and Planning Division and a Communications Division. The department's work is informed by the Acts listed below and their associated regulations:

Environmental Protection Act
Water Resources Act
Wild Life Act
Provincial Parks Act
Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Act
Endangered Species Act
Lands Act
Lands Surveyors Act
Geographical Names Board Act
National Parks Lands Act
Pippy Park Act

Some aspects of enforcement under the *Environmental Protection Act* and the *Water Resources Act* are administered by the Department of Government Services. Some enforcement activities under the *Wild Life Act*; the *Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Act*; and the *Endangered Species Act* are administered by the Department of Justice.

Physical Location

The department's main offices are located in Corner Brook, Deer Lake and at Confederation Building in St. John's. The department has other offices in St. John's, Grand Falls-Windsor, Clarenville, Gander and Happy Valley-Goose Bay. The department is also responsible for Salmonier Nature Park and numerous provincial parks and reserves around the province. The Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Science (IBES) is a component of the SDSS Division that operates as a partnership between Memorial University and the department. It is located at Memorial University's Grenfell Campus.

Staffing

The department has a staff complement of 489 employees (including contractual, seasonal and temporary employees). Seventy-one percent of employees are male and twenty-nine percent are female. Staff are distributed as follows: Avalon Peninsula, 243; West Coast and Northern Peninsula, 151; Central East, 36; Central West, 27; Labrador, 17; 1 other; and 14 undefined.

Budget

The department's gross expenditure budget for 2011-12 is approximately \$56.6 million with planned related revenues of approximately \$11.3 million for a net expenditure of \$45.3 million.



Mandate

The mandate of the Department of Environment and Conservation is derived from various sources:

- Departmental notice under the *Executive Council Act* on matters related to the protection, enhancement and conservation of the quality of the natural environment, including water, air and soil quality; and the conservation, development, control, improvement and proper utilization of the water resource of the province;
- Departmental notice under the *Executive Council Act* on matters related to provincial lands;
- Departmental notice under the *Executive Council Act* on matters related to the management, preservation, control, protection and development of provincial parks as defined in the *Parks Act*; provincial interests in all national parks established in the province by the Government of Canada; and wilderness and ecological reserves as defined in the *Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Act*;
- Departmental notice under the *Executive Council Act* on matters related to the management, preservation, protection and development of wildlife and inland fisheries;
- The *Wildlife Act* on matters related to wildlife reserves and Salmonier Nature Park; and,
- The *Pippy Park Act* on matters related to Pippy Park.





Values

Accountability

Each employee accepts responsibility for his/her own actions and contributions and follows through on requests and commitments.

Efficiency

Each employee uses resources in an effective and timely manner.

Leadership

Each employee will carry out responsibilities and make decisions to advance the conservation of the environment and natural heritage.

Professionalism

Each employee will be responsible for maintaining professional competencies required for his/her position and demonstrates excellence and high-quality performance.





Lines of Business

Land resources

The Department of Environment and Conservation is responsible for the administration and management of the province's land resources, in particular:

- maintains map and air photo library services;
- maintains the Provincial Crown Lands Registry;
- investigates adverse land claims;
- reviews and inspects legal surveys;
- prepares legal documents of title for all dispositions of Crown land;
- produces and distributes topographic base maps for provincial departments and agencies;
- provides the geodetic reference system for legal and engineering surveys and topographic mapping;
- provides new aerial photography; a repository/archive of provincial aerial photography; and scanning/printing services;
- facilitates the official naming of geographical features and place names and maintains joint federal/provincial data base;
- provides the central data-store and on-line base layers for GIS applications;
- provides standards and consultation services in geomatics;
- facilitates federal/provincial collaboration in geomatics (building the Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure (CGDI) under the Canadian Geomatics Accord);
- produces Crown title maps;
- develops land use management plans;
- maintains the Land Use Atlas;
- enforces lands legislation and addresses incidents of unauthorized occupation of Crown land;
- coordinates within government the inter-departmental

- review of Crown land development through the Inter-Departmental Land Use Committee (ILUC);
- develops land use policy; and,
- administers leasing, sales and transfers of Crown land.

Provincial parks, ecological/wilderness reserves, natural areas, Canadian Heritage rivers

The department is responsible for:

- the management and administration of provincial parks (the Newfoundland T'Railway Provincial Park is jointly managed by a special T'Railway Council);
- designation/management of wilderness and ecological reserves under the *Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Act*;
- development and implementation of environmental education programs within select provincial parks and wilderness/ecological reserves;
- implementation of protection measures for Canadian Heritage Rivers in the province;
- negotiation of the land transfer to the federal government for national parks; and,
- issuance of various permits for provincial parks, ecological and wilderness reserves, such as:
 - wilderness and ecological reserves entry permits;
 - park daily/ seasonal vehicle entry permits;
 - commercial operator permits;
 - commercial operator permits (tour boat);
 - educational tour permits;
 - scientific research permits;
 - seabird ecological reserve special access permits; and,
 - seabird ecological reserve guide permits.

Wildlife and inland fish

The department protects, manages and conserves the province's biodiversity, wildlife resources and wildlife habitat. This includes:

- determining the status of species in the province according to the national Accord for the Conservation of Species at Risk to which the province is a signatory;
- developing and implementing stewardship agreements to support the recovery of species at risk;
- identifying, designating and developing recovery strategies for species at risk according to the *Endangered Species Act*;
- developing and implementing strategies for the conservation of biodiversity;
- designating and managing wildlife areas;
- administering Salmonier Nature Park - a wildlife rehabilitation, interpretation and research facility;
- developing management plans for consumptive species, which are then published in the annual hunting and trapping guide;
- issuing hunting and trapping licences;
- developing policies and guidelines regarding wildlife utilization;
- issuing Newfoundland and Labrador guide licences;
- providing education, awareness and training programs such as firearm safety, hunter and trapper education courses;
- implementing the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, including providing assistance in the development of agreements to support wetland and coastal stewardship initiatives;
- developing long-term landscape level planning to minimize conflicts between wildlife and other land uses;
- permitting for the non-consumptive use, possession, importation and export of wildlife and parts thereof;
- collecting scientific information to provide input into the sustainable management of wildlife, including inland fish populations, and habitat; and,
- utilizing education, awareness and stewardship programs and initiatives to foster appropriate attitudes, respect, behavior and appreciation towards our wildlife and habitat.

Environmental assessments

The department coordinates the provincial environmental assessment process for new development, which includes:

- registering undertakings;
- gathering background information concerning the environmental impacts of the proposals;
- analyzing information according to a well-defined set of environmental assessment procedures;
- providing recommendations to the minister as to whether a project can proceed in an environmentally acceptable manner; and,
- conducting select surveillance on projects released from the environmental assessment process.

Air, soil and water pollution

The department is responsible for the prevention of pollution of the province's air, water and soil ecosystems. Responsibilities include:

- preparing and issuing Certificates of Approval and licences for:
 - industrial operations;
 - waste management systems (in collaboration with Government Services Centre);
 - waste dangerous goods transporters;
 - pesticide vendors, operators and applicators; and,
 - heating oil storage tank inspectors;
- developing policies, guidelines, protocols, and regulations;
- developing training material and providing training;
- enforcing Certificates of Approval, licence conditions and legislation through:
 - inspections, other than those done by Government Services Centre;
 - the development of environmental monitoring programs in collaboration with industry;
 - audits of environmental monitoring programs;
 - audits of environmental laboratories; and,
 - the monitoring of criteria air contaminants;
- designating contaminated sites and auditing risk assessments based on environmental site assessments;
- providing technical advice and outreach;
- managing remediation of industrial and military contaminated sites that are the responsibility of government; and,
- maintaining a registry of contaminated sites.

Water resources

The department ensures that the province's water resources are protected, conserved and enhanced to provide the greatest possible sustainable benefits to the province. Responsibilities include:

- designation of protected water supply areas and protected wellheads;
- monitoring and analysis of chemical water quality of community water supplies;
- issuance of well driller licenses;
- inspection of water well structures in accordance with requirements of the *Well Drilling Regulations*;
- comprehensive training for municipal water operators of community water and wastewater systems;
- hydrologic modeling;
- investigation of water-related problems and complaints;
- overseeing inspections of dams;
- granting of water rights;
- maintenance of a water rights registry;
- issuance of permits for community water and sewage systems, extensions and alterations;
- monitoring and inspecting of community water and wastewater systems;
- provision of technical assistance on community water and sewage, hydrology, hydraulics, and environmental design of water related structures;
- maintenance of various online water quality and quantity databases and GIS resources; and,
- conducting studies on groundwater resources, flooding, water resource impacts and water use.

Horizontal Initiatives

The department is lead in two key government-wide initiatives: government's response to climate change and sustainable development. These are evolving files and thus the programs and services offered by this department in these areas are also evolving. The programs and services that the public can expect from the department on these two initiatives are outlined as follows:

Climate Change

Specifically, the department is responsible for:

- implementation of the provincial Climate Change Action Plan; Atlantic Climate Adaptation Solutions (ACAS) Program;
- administration of the Newfoundland and Labrador Green Fund and administration of RAC; and,
- creation of stakeholder awareness on greenhouse gas reduction strategies and climate change impacts and adaptation.

Sustainable Development

The department is responsible for:

- strategic research on wildlife species, notably the caribou strategy in support of the sustainable development initiative;
- provision of support for the Sustainable Development Round Table;
- the development of indicators and a provincial sustainability report as directed by the *Sustainable Development Act*;
- development of public education and outreach information related to sustainable development;
- development and coordination of graduate research projects through the Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Science; and,
- general promotion of sustainable development within government and the larger community.





Primary Clients and Vision

The primary clients of the Department of Environment and Conservation are:

- the general public;
- municipalities;
- large industries such as pulp and paper companies, mining or oil refining companies;
- businesses involved in such areas as pesticide application, waste management, heating oil or refrigeration services, among others;
- the engineering and waste management consultant community;
- the academic community and student populations;
- environmental non-governmental organizations;

- consumptive wildlife users, guides, outfitters and others involved in the wildlife industry;
- tourists; and,
- federal government and other provincial departments.

Vision

The vision of the Department of Environment and Conservation is a clean, sustainable environment and healthy, resilient ecosystems in perpetuity for the social, physical, cultural, biological and economic well-being of the province.





Mission

The department can be effective in achieving its mandate through the remediation and management of human-impacted sites, implementation of air standards for industry, scientific testing and management of inland water resources, enhanced management of caribou and moose populations in the province, and by working with municipalities to provide the tools for climate change adaptation.

The mission statement identifies the priority focus area of the minister over the next two planning cycles (2011-17). The work of the department is continuous, and as such, work begun under previous plans may coincide with, continue during, or be realized during the tenure of the current plan or in forthcoming plans.

At present, the work is a continuation of previous plans that have been carried over into the present planning regime. The mission statement represents the key longer-term result that the minister and the department are working towards as they move forward on the strategic directions of government.

The mission of the department is the reduction of adverse, human-induced impacts on the environment and the improvement of the health of our ecosystems. In achieving this mission, the department recognizes that environmental issues are extremely complex and difficult to measure, and that it will be difficult to affect a definitive positive outcome in all areas.

Despite these challenges, the department will actively work towards achieving our mission by enacting upon initiatives that are within our sphere of control. This includes appropriate regulations, enforcement practices and techniques, monitoring practices and techniques, or scientific measures, among others.

Mission Statement

By March 31, 2017, the Department of Environment and Conservation will have reduced the adverse impacts of human activities on the environment and improved the health of our ecosystems.

Measure

Will have reduced the impacts of human activities on the environment

Indicators

- Introduced air quality standards for industry, leading to improved air quality
- Improved public access to drinking water quality and boil water advisory information
- Conducted comprehensive scientific studies and operational activities to enhance the management of caribou and moose populations
- Improved scientific knowledge of the health of wildlife populations
- Enhanced municipal climate adaptation tools
- Decreased sites with contaminants



Strategic Issues

In consideration of government's strategic direction and the mandate and financial resources of the department, the following areas have been identified as the key priorities of the minister for the next three years. The goals identified for each issue reflect the results expected in the three-year time frame, while the objectives provide an annual focus. Measures and indicators are provided for both the goal and the first year's objective to assist both the department and the public in monitoring and evaluating success.

Environmental Protection

The Department of Environment and Conservation has the mandate to protect and mitigate human impacts upon the environment of the province. It is integral that the department serve this mandate by leading key initiatives and strategic approaches through the implementation of methodologies which preserve, protect and improve the quality of land, air and water in the province both now and into the future.

The department provides environmental stewardship for the province in the way it initiates changes to current regimes and practices, through adoption of the latest scientific, evidence-based approaches to managing the land, air and water. At the same time, the department continues to do the work it had previously undertaken, ensuring continuity in its management role.

The continuity of departmental programs is further enhanced through the use and application of new technologies and eco-centered innovations. These dual approaches and processes will continue in this current three-year plan, strengthening the environmental pro-

tection of the province and preparing for contingencies as these arise during the life of the plan.

A critical part of the department's success is in the relationships it builds and continues to have with its partners in communities, industries and the public. The overall quality of life in the environment, including managing security risks, relates to the need for preparedness in those relationships. It requires stakeholders to contribute to and participate in making the provisions for a healthy and safe environment. Successful relationships undertaken with stakeholders are based on cooperation and awareness of the environmental protection issues the province faces. Harnessing the strength of that relationship is exemplified through a directed, common approach to environmental protection at the community, regional and provincial levels.

The following initiatives will be ongoing over the next three years and represent the broadest extent to which the department's strategic plans manage the land, air and water of Newfoundland and Labrador. This is indicative of the department's commitment to government's strategic directions of investing in Labrador and the provincial solid waste management strategy.

Goal

By March 31, 2014, the Department of Environment and Conservation will have implemented measures to improve the protection of land, air and water in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Measure

Implemented measures to improve the protection of land, air and water

Indicators

- Site assessment, remediation, and management of impacted sites is advanced
- Air quality standards are developed
- Improved drinking water quality in select communities
- Measurements used to identify changes in land, air and water have been improved

2011-2012 Objective

By March 31, 2012, the Department of Environment and Conservation will have carried out environmental site assessment, remediation, and management of impacted sites.

Measures

- Environmental site assessments
- Remediation and management of sites completed

Indicators

- Hopedale Remediation – implemented year one of a five-year plan (2011-2016)
- New Harbour Landfill Closure plan – Environmental Assessment completed (2012)
- Continued long-term monitoring program of hazardous waste in Come by Chance

2012-2013 Objective

By March 31, 2013, the Department of Environment and Conservation, building on existing requirements, will have developed comprehensive strategies for monitoring and reporting on air quality in the province and increased public access to air quality information.

2013-2014 Objective

By March 31, 2014, the Department of Environment and Conservation will have developed comprehensive strategies to improve upon water quality issues.

Enhanced Management of Caribou and Moose Populations

Good wildlife management starts with quality research and monitoring efforts. By studying wildlife interactions, distributions, populations and habitat use, research biologists are able to make sound recommendations for wildlife management. Only with a strong understanding of the biology of our wildlife species can we predict the effects of management strategies. Equally important to management is that of monitoring populations after implementation of a management strategy. This allows



managers to measure the actual impact of the management strategy in order to know if the desired outcome was reached.

Many research projects include a field component designed to collect data on specific wildlife species and to test specific hypotheses about factors regulating wildlife populations. Research results are used to make recommendations to wildlife managers within the Wildlife Division, as well as to other provincial and federal government agencies such as Environmental Assessment and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Departmental research into wildlife populations involves collaring and monitoring caribou for the caribou strategy, but also involves research involving other big game, small game, furbearing and fish species, and the interactions between these species and their habitats. The Wildlife Division collects, processes and analyzes wildlife samples including moose and caribou jawbones, coyote carcasses, and bear skulls, and provides support to the entire division for the analysis of wildlife-related data.

Over the next two years, the department will continue to improve our understanding of caribou population dynamics. This information will be used to assist in the recovery and long-term sustainable management of this resource. In Budget 2011-12, government committed to supporting research and monitoring efforts to improve understanding of the George River caribou (GRC) herd. Efforts are also in place to support cooperative management efforts among all GRC user groups and to establish a harvest management plan, as demonstrated in the strategic direction of investing in Labrador and its corresponding focus area of wildlife management.

Moose are important to our province, both culturally and economically. Recent concerns for moose-vehicle collisions have led to considerations for different moose management strategies. The moose-vehicle collision strategy (2005-06) delivered an educational awareness program consisting of radio ads, billboards and bumper stickers. This effort encouraged people to be mindful and observant of moose when traveling on Newfoundland and Labrador's highways. In addition, the recent 2011-12 moose quota was increased by 5,020 over that of previous year for a total quota of 33,440 moose licences. However, there is still much to learn about how best to manage the moose population. Government is committed to determining the values that the Newfoundland and Labrador public places on moose and in incorporating these values in future moose management strategies through the development of a moose management plan outlining future management and research priorities and actions.



Goal

By March 31, 2014, the Department of Environment and Conservation will have implemented measures to enhance the management of caribou and moose populations in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Measure

Implemented measures to enhance management of caribou and moose

Indicators

- Commenced initiatives regarding caribou management
- Commenced initiatives regarding moose management

2011-2012 Objective

By March 31, 2012, the Department of Environment and Conservation will have improved the understanding of island caribou ecology and predator-prey dynamics; the understanding of the George River herd dynamics; and the management plan for moose.

Measures

- Improved understanding of island caribou ecology and predator prey dynamics
- Improved understanding of George River herd dynamics
- Improved management plan for moose

Indicators

- Completed survey classifications; updated annual population estimates; and held workshops to disseminate information on caribou and predators to the public
- Acquired and deployed collars needed to assess population status and movement patterns; conducted fall classifications surveys; improved tracking of licence and harvest data; developed human resource capacity in Labrador to support the George River caribou program; and worked with interested stakeholders to gather input into future harvest management strategies and management models
- Developed mechanisms to assess public opinion on moose

2012- 2013 Objective

By March 31, 2013, the Department of Environment and Conservation will have implemented a caribou strategy monitoring program; continued to improve the understanding of the George River herd; and produced a draft five-year moose management plan.

2013-2014 Objective

By March 31, 2014, the Department of Environment and Conservation will have developed a plan to enhance moose management that both addresses public concerns and improved understanding of moose ecology.

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate change is a complex global issue that has consequences for every community in Newfoundland and Labrador. The changes have already started with impacts measured in both immediate, catastrophic events similar to Hurricane Igor, and in the more gradual, progressive ones such as erosion and sea level rise.

The impacts of climate change vary significantly by geographic location, but most areas will experience increased extremes of temperature and precipitation. These changes may result in warmer winters, hotter summers, more frequent flooding and increased incidences of drought. There are also potential opportunities from climate change; for example, long shoulder seasons for tourism and warmer spring and fall for agriculture.

The Department of Environment and Conservation takes climate change seriously and is working with communities across the province to prepare for and limit the impacts of climate change through adaptation. Adaptation means identifying vulnerabilities to assess the risk to communities and its citizens, while planning to reduce risks.

There is a wide range of adaptations that communities can implement, such as changing building permits, monitoring changes to infrastructure, expanding flood zones, cleaning out culverts more frequently, and using water more efficiently. Specifically, the department will work to help communities through the development of the Community Risks and Vulnerabilities Assessment (CRVA) Tool. The CRVA was adapted from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) by Memorial University and the Labrador Institute to provide communities with a tool for the concise assessment of climate change risks and vulnerabilities. This will serve as a guide for community leaders and decision makers to provide a means for a quick analysis of local climate change impacts and possible adaptation options.

This is in line with government's strategic direction of climate change and the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency initiatives and increased awareness and planning for climate change.

Goal

By March 31, 2014, the Department of Environment and Conservation will have enhanced the capacity of municipalities to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Measure

Enhanced municipal capacity

Indicator

Implemented the Community Vulnerability Assessment Tool in select municipalities

2011-2012 Objective

By March 31, 2012, the Department of Environment and Conservation will have completed the Community Vulnerability Assessment Tool and will have engaged communities in developing climate adaptation plans.

Measures

- Community Vulnerability Assessment Tool completed
- Communities engaged in the development of climate adaptation plans

Indicators

- Developed the Community Vulnerability Assessment Tool to assist municipalities to recognize potential climate change impacts, and to identify vulnerabilities and adaptation options
- Distributed the Community Vulnerability Assessment Tool to all communities
- Assisted six communities assess their vulnerability

2012-2013 Objective

By March 31, 2013, the Department of Environment and Conservation will have continued to engage municipalities in the development of climate adaptation plans.

2013-2014 Objective

By March 31, 2014, the Department of Environment and Conservation will have worked with MNL and PMA to develop a process for all municipalities to utilize the Community Vulnerability Assessment Tool.



Strategic Directions 2011-14

The *Transparency and Accountability Act* requires that department/government entities take into account the strategic directions of government in the preparation of the strategic plan. Strategic directions are the articulation of the desired physical, social or economic outcomes. These normally require action by one or more government departments/entities.

Strategic directions inform the development of the department's or entity's strategic issues in its plan, although they are not necessarily the same. Strategic issues may also be developed from issues that arise dur-

ing a department's or entity's environmental scan. Each strategic direction has a number of focus areas, which can be addressed in the department's or entity's strategic plan (minister's plan), operational plan (deputy's plan) or work plan (divisional plan). It is up to the department/entity to determine which focus areas are applicable to its specific line of business.

The following strategic directions are approved by the Minister of Environment and Conservation for distribution to the relevant entities.



Title: Investing in Labrador

Outcome: The desired outcome is an improvement in the social and economic conditions of the region

Focus Areas:

- Climate change adaptation
- Remediation of contaminated sites
- Protected areas
- Environmental stewardship projects
- Wildlife management
- Lower Churchill project

Components	Entity	Addressed in Strategic Plan	Addressed in Operational Plan	Addressed in Work Plan	Other Entity
Climate change adaptation	ENVC	X			
Remediation of contaminated sites	ENVC	X			
Protected areas	ENVC			X	
Environmental stewardship projects	ENVC	X			
Wildlife management	ENVC	X			
Lower Churchill project	ENVC			X	

Title: Provincial Solid Waste Management Strategy

Outcome: The desired outcome is implementation of the provincial waste management strategy

Focus Areas:

- Expansion of MMSB mandate
- Development of site and waste handling standards
- Elimination of conical waste incinerators

Components	Entity	Addressed in Strategic Plan	Addressed in Operational Plan	Addressed in Work Plan	Other Entity
Expansion of MMSB mandate	ENVC				X
Development of site and waste handling standards	ENVC	X			
Elimination of conical waste incinerators	ENVC		X		

Title: Electronic Service Delivery

Outcome: The desired outcome is improved service to clients

Focus Areas:

- Technology use in parks
- Air quality monitoring
- Water resources data online
- Lands data online
- Game licensing

Components	Entity	Addressed in Strategic Plan	Addressed in Operational Plan	Addressed in Work Plan	Other Entity
Technology for use in parks	ENVC	X			
Air quality monitoring	ENVC	X			
Water resources data online	ENVC	X			
Lands data online	ENVC	X			
Game licensing	ENVC	X			

Title: Development of Lower Churchill Power

Outcome: The desired outcome is production of electricity from the Lower Churchill, either for domestic use or for export

Focus Areas:

- Support for joint panel

Components	Entity	Addressed in Strategic Plan	Addressed in Operational Plan	Addressed in Work Plan	Other Entity
Support for joint panel	ENVC				X

Title: Climate Change

Outcome: The desired outcome is a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency initiatives, and increased awareness and planning for climate change

Focus Areas:

- Administration of the NL Green Fund
- Administration of projects under the Atlantic Climate Adaptation Solution Initiative
- Implementation of new initiatives under the Climate Change Action Plan 2011

Components	Entity	Addressed in Strategic Plan	Addressed in Operational Plan	Addressed in Work Plan	Other Entity
Administration of the NL Green Fund	ENVC	X			
Administration of projects under the Atlantic Climate Adaptation Solution Initiative	ENVC				X
Implementation of new initiatives under the Climate Change Action Plan 2011	ENVC	X			

