

PROCEDURE CONCERNING THE SUBMISSION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Inquiries concerning geographical nomenclature in Newfoundland and Labrador proposals concerning new names, changes in the form, spelling or application of existing names, should be submitted in writing to:

Newfoundland and Labrador Geographical Names Board
Dept. of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture
GIS and Mapping Division
192 Wheelers Road, P.O. Box 2006
Corner Brook, NL A2H 6J8
e-mail: GMD@gov.nl.ca

An application form for naming features in Newfoundland and Labrador is attached.

WHO MAY PROPOSE NAMES

Any individual or organization may propose a name for a previously unnamed feature or suggest a change in an existing name, provided they comply with the established principles and procedures.

INFORMATION REQUIRED

The application form outlines the basic information required for a new name or name change prior to perusal by the Newfoundland representative.

ADEQUATE NOTICE

The consideration of proposed names or name changes may require considerable time, particularly when local investigations are required.

Individuals or organizations contemplating publications that include unapproved geographical names, should submit proposals well in advance of publication dates. The publication of unauthorized names will not necessarily result in official recognition.

APPLICATION OF PRINCIPLES

It is recommended that the Guiding Principles of the Geographical Names Board of Canada (see pages 2 and 3) be carefully consulted to ascertain the suitability of proposed names.

The booklet entitled, Principles and Procedures for Geographical Naming, 2011 is can be acquired via this web address:

https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/sites/www.nrcan.gc.ca/files/earthsciences/pdf/gnames/GNBC_english_accessible.pdf

PRINCIPLES OF NOMENCLATURE

Generally speaking, the Newfoundland and Labrador Geographical Names Board is guided by the principles of nomenclature as recommended by the Geographical Names Board of Canada. These principles can be summarized as follows:

Principle 1: NAMES GOVERNED BY STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

The names municipalities, territorial divisions, reserves, parks, and other legal entities as created by, or as a result of legislation by the appropriate government shall be accepted by the Board.

Principle 2: NAMES IN GENERAL PUBLIC USE:

First priority shall be given to names with long-standing local usage by the general public. Unless there are good reasons to the contrary, this principle should prevail.

Principle 3: NAMES GIVEN BY OTHER AGENCIES:

Names for facilities established by postal authorities, railway companies, and other major public utilities shall be accepted if they are in keeping with the other principles. Names established for land divisions by federal, provincial, and territorial departments shall also be accepted, if they conform to the other principles. Active encouragement should be given to such agencies to have open communication with the appropriate names authorities.

Principle 4: NAMING AN ENTIRE FEATURE AND IDENTIFYING ITS EXTENT:

A decision on a name proposal for a physical or cultural feature should specify the geographical limits of the feature to which the name applies. Future approval of different with the same generic for a part of what is deemed to be the same feature should be avoided.

Principle 5: USE OF PERSONAL NAMES:

A personal name should not be given to a geographical feature unless such application is in the public interest. The person commemorated should have contributed significantly to the area where the feature is located; when such a name is applied, it should normally be given posthumously. The adoption of a personal name during the lifetime of a person concerned should only be made in exceptional circumstances. Ownership of land should not in itself be grounds for the application of the owner's name to a geographical feature. However, where names already in common local use are derived from the names of persons, either living or deceased, Principle 2 takes precedence.

Principle 6: APPROVING NAMES FOR UNNAMED FEATURES:

In approving names for previously unnamed features for which no local names are found to be in use, the following sources are recommended: descriptive names appropriate to the features; names of pioneers; names of persons who died during war service; names associated with historical events connected with the area; and names of Aboriginal languages formerly identified with the general area.

Principle 7: FORM AND CHARACTER OF NAMES:

Geographical names should be recognizable words or acceptable combinations of words, and should be in good taste.

Principle 8: LANGUAGE FORMS AND TRANSLATION:

A name should be adopted in a single language form, although other forms may be accepted where in use and when sanctioned by the appropriate names authority. A name should, where possible, be written in the Roman alphabet. A name derived from languages other than English or French should be written according to the considered opinion of linguistic specialists and be acceptable to the appropriate names authorities and the language communities concerned. Names of selected geographical entities of “pan-Canadian” significance, as established by Treasury Board in 1983, are recognized in both English and French for use on federal maps and in federal texts.

Principle 9: SPELLING STANDARDS IN ENGLISH AND FRENCH:

The spelling and accenting of names should agree with the rules of the language in which they are written. In English, hyphenation and genitive apostrophe should be approved only when well established and in current usage.

Principle 10: UNIFORMITY IN THE SPELLING OF NAMES:

Names of the same origin applying to various service facilities in a community should conform in spelling with the official name of the community. Names with the same specific for associated features should agree in form and spelling.

Principle 11: DUPLICATION:

Where established are duplicated are similar in sound or spelling, and tend to cause confusion, local assistance will be obtained to achieve distinction among them. In giving new names, duplication to the extent that confusion may result in a local community should be avoided.

Principle 12: GENERIC TERMINOLOGY:

A geographical name usually includes both a specific and a generic element. The generic term in a newly-approved geographical name should be appropriate to the nature of the feature. Its position in the name should be dictated by euphony and usage. The generic term will be recorded in English, in French, or in an Aboriginal language by the names authority concerned.

Principle 13: USE OF QUALIFYING TERMINOLOGY:

Qualifying words may be used to distinguish between two or more similar features with identical specific forms. Such words may be derived from other local names or features, or may be terms such as “upper”, “new”, “west branch”, “nouveau”, “petit”, and “gros”. Wherever possible, however, new names should be distinctive.

Principle 14: NAMES OF SMALL FEATURES:

Except where local and historic usage dictates, the official approval of a name of a minor feature should be guided by the relative significance of the feature, the familiarity with the name, and the scale of mapping available.

APPLICATION FOR NAMING A GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURE

NOTE: Please supply the required information on the proposed name by completing both pages of this application. (Attach additional information if sufficient space has not been given). Names or name changes may be proposed by an individual or organization.

Names proposed must be for specified geographical features. For instance: populated places, lakes, rivers, creeks, etc.

The consideration of proposed new names or name changes may require extensive research and on-site investigations before the application is finalized and recommendations area made.

PROPOSED NAME _____ FEATURE _____

a) Location: Latitude _____ Longitude _____

Provincial Electoral District _____

National Topographical Series Map Area _____

If a change in location, supply present location _____

b) Feature Identification: Indicate the extent as precisely as possible by color, by arrow on map or by description relative to adjoining features.

c) Origin of Proposed Name: _____

If not available through this source, please supply names of other persons who may be contacted in support of this application:

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____

(Additional names or petition may be attached on separate sheet)

d) If named after person: Living _____ Deceased _____ No details available _____

Give details (next of kin and/or address) _____

Highlights of person's life in Newfoundland: _____

e) If descriptive name, i.e., Limestone Point, give details of descriptive origin: _____

f) If a name change, supply present name: _____

g) If a local name, is it well known? _____ For how long? _____

Are there any other local names for the same feature? _____

h) If name applies to a populated place, supply also approximate population or give other details, i.e., "scattered settlement of six homes" or "consists of a post office, grocery store and ten homes". _____

i) Reasons for proposing new name or name change: _____

j) Additional support for proposal: _____

Source of information (please print):

Name: _____

Address: _____

Forward **COMPLETED APPLICATION TO:**

Newfoundland and Labrador Geographical Names Board
Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture
GIS and Mapping Division
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Corner Brook, NL A2H 6J8
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