

2016

Models for the Sharing of Fire Protection Services



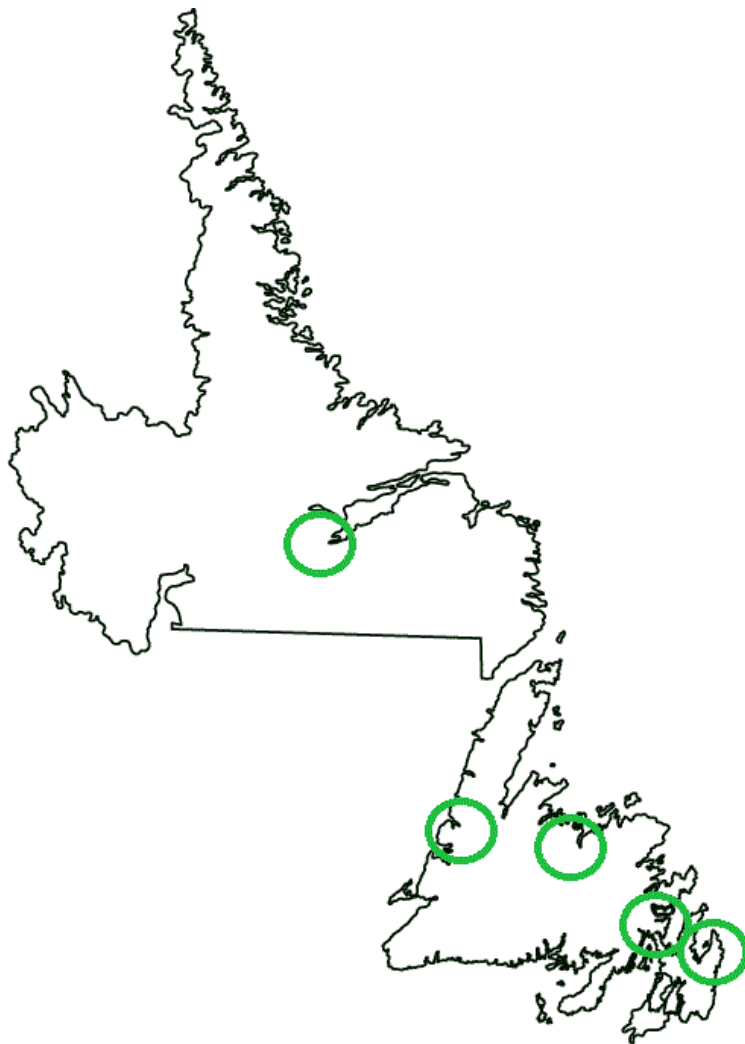
Introduction

The sharing of fire protection services enables more than one municipality or local service district to combine efforts to enhance current service levels or to maintain effective fire protection services.

Fire and Emergency Services-Newfoundland and Labrador (FES-NL) supports fire departments that voluntarily share fire protection services by providing technical advice and support to help interested communities identify the best model to fit their unique needs and circumstances.

There are five common models for the sharing of fire protection services from which municipalities and local service districts may choose.

This document provides a brief overview of these five models. For more information, please contact the FES-NL office nearest you.



St. John's
25 Hallett Crescent
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6
1-709-729-1608

Clareville
221B Memorial Drive
Clareville, NL A5A 1R3
1-709-466-4109

Grand Falls-Windsor
27B Hardy Avenue
3 Cromer Avenue
Grand Falls-Windsor, NL A2A 1W9
1-709-292-4414

Deer Lake
2 Wellon Drive
Deer Lake, NL A8A 2G5
1-709-635-4153

Happy Valley-Goose Bay
169 Hamilton River Road
P.O. Box 2014, Stn. B
Happy Valley-Goose Bay,
NL A0P 1E0
1-709-896-7957

Model 1 - Shared Administration

Neighbouring communities may choose to combine the administration of their separate fire departments.

Communities maintain the same number of fire halls, but see an improved level of service by sharing costs, personnel, training, and responsibility for inspections, fire prevention, public awareness, and more.

Model 2 - Shared Resources

Communities may choose to voluntarily pool their resources in order to provide shared fire protection services on a regional basis, which may include a written agreement between the participating councils.

Pooling resources gives each individual fire department access to more firefighters or equipment than they would otherwise have. For example, Port au Port East and Port au Port West combined in 2013 to form a regional fire department.

Model 3 - Purchase from Neighbouring Community

Communities, including local service districts, may choose to purchase fire protection services from a neighbouring municipality on a fee for service basis.

Small communities are often able to purchase services from neighbouring departments for less than it would cost to operate their own. For example, the Local Service District of Deer Park purchases fire protection services from the Town of Holyrood.

Model 4 - Regional Governance

Where a regional governance structure, such as a regional service board, already exists, it can assume responsibility for the provision of fire protection services in its area.

Regional governance can encompass more than just the fire department. Examples include the Northern Peninsula Regional Services Board, and the Bay de Grave Regional Services Board.

Model 5 - Municipal Amalgamation

Where more than one municipality or local service district is combined into one municipality, the fire departments are joined to provide fire protection services within their new area.

This option combines two or more local governments. By sharing a single municipality and fire department, communities usually pay less per capita. Examples include the Town of Fogo Island, and the Town of Roddickton-Bide Arm.

Key Considerations

Although the process of setting up shared fire protection services is tailored to meet each community's unique needs, there are several key considerations that those interested are advised to follow.

- Contact the FES-NL office nearest you for technical advice and support during the entire process;
- Identify the level of fire protection service that you currently have and the level of service you wish to provide;
- Organize a meeting between the affected fire departments to discuss common issues;
- Organize a committee with a representative from each department to act as the spokesperson;
- Have the committee arrange a meeting with the affected councils or local service district to identify issues and prepare a draft agreement;
- Contact FES-NL and the Department of Municipal Affairs to state the intention to share fire protection services;
- Organize a public meeting to obtain the input and support of affected residents; and
- Promote the initiative.