

ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20



Environment, Climate Change and Municipalities





MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

It is my pleasure to present the 2019-20 annual performance report for the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Municipalities, as prepared in accordance with the requirements of the **Transparency and Accountability Act** for a category 1 government entity.

In September 2020, reorganization of government Departments was undertaken. The new Department of Environment, Climate Change and Municipalities consists of all of those functions formerly within the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment with the exception of the fire services, emergency services and municipal infrastructure functions. Protected areas functions move to this Department from the former Department of Fisheries and Land Resources.

This annual report provides details on the indicators and objectives for the fiscal year of April 1, 2019, to March 31, 2020, which is the final year of the current three-year planning period (2017-2020) and includes information on the lines of business that fell within the Department during that period.

By signing below, I undertake the necessary accountability for the outcomes reported in support of our stated goals. I acknowledge the contributions of my predecessor Ministers, who served in the portfolio during the reporting period. The continued efforts and work of the Department's staff is critical to the successes achieved. I would also recognize that the support of community partners is key to the development and implementation of the various initiatives outlined.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Derek Bennett'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'D'.

Hon. Derek Bennett

Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Municipalities

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Departmental Overview

The Department of Environment, Climate Change and Municipalities (the Department) is a category 1 government entity under the **Transparency and Accountability Act** supporting the economic, social, and environmental sustainability of municipalities, communities, and regions through the delivery of effective programs, services and supports to local governments and stakeholders.

The Department supports the strategic directions of government in creating a climate conducive to economic growth and sustainability, building resilient communities for long-term success, and working collaboratively across multiple sectors to improve services and outcomes for residents and visitors.

Reporting Entities

Under the **Transparency and Accountability Act**, a number of government entities also prepare plans and annual reports. Entities which reported to the Minister as of the end of the reporting period included:

- Multi-Materials Stewardship Board
- Municipal Assessment Agency Inc.
- NL911 Bureau Inc.
- Central Newfoundland Regional Appeal Board
- Eastern Newfoundland Regional Appeal Board
- Labrador Regional Appeal Board
- West Newfoundland Regional Appeal Board
- Humber Valley Regional Planning Advisory Authority Leadership Committee
- North East Avalon Regional Plan Oversight Committee

Organizational Structure

During the 2019-20 fiscal year, the Department was organized in the following four branches:

Municipal Infrastructure and Support was responsible for the divisions of Municipal Infrastructure and Waste Management, Municipal Finance, and Municipal Support.

Fire, Emergency and Corporate Services was responsible for the divisions of Fire Services, Emergency Services, Local Governance and Land Use Planning, Policy and Strategic Planning, Legislative Renewal, and Strategic Financial Management.

Environment was responsible for the divisions of Water Resources Management, Pollution Prevention, and Environmental Assessment.

Climate Change was responsible for the development of strategy, policy, research, analysis, and initiatives related to climate change adaptation and mitigation and energy efficiency, including the integration of climate change considerations throughout the Provincial Government.

Staff and Budget

As of March 31, 2020, the Department had 191 employees (134 permanent, 49 temporary, and 8 contractual). The Department headquarters are in St. John's (154 employees) with additional employees located in Clarenville (1), Gander (9), Grand Falls-Windsor (5), Deer Lake (3), Corner Brook (12), and Happy Valley-Goose Bay (7).

The Department's gross expenditure budget for 2019-20 was \$306,464,600 with planned related revenue of approximately \$115,782,900 for a net expenditure of \$190,681,700. Please refer to financial information (p.41) for a summary of expenditures and related revenue.

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Division	# of Employees	Divisional Budget (Net Expenditures)
Executive Support	15	2,085,200
Strategic Financial Management	10	813,900
Local Governance and Planning	11	982,000
Policy and Strategic Planning	14	1,142,200
Fire Services	9	1,394,300
Emergency Services	6	949,600
Municipal Finance	10	644,700
Regional Support	18	70,290,300
Municipal Infrastructure and Waste Management	31	95,373,200
Pollution Prevention	23	2,024,800
Water Resources Management	33	3,329,600
Environmental Assessment and Sustainable Development	8	430,100
Climate Change	5	11,221,800

Highlights and Partnerships

Retail Plastic Bag Ban

In January 2020, the Department announced a ban on retail plastic bags would come into effect on July 1, 2020. To facilitate this, government amended the **Environmental Protection Act** in April 2019 and developed necessary regulations to prohibit a retailer from selling or providing a plastic retail bag to a person. The amendment and regulations were informed by a public consultation process that was held the previous year and resulted in more than 3,000 submissions to the Department.

The province is the second in Canada to implement a ban on the distribution of plastic retail bags. The ban will help protect the environment and improve the waste management system. Since the passing of the legislation, residents, businesses, governments, and organizations have been actively decreasing the amount of plastic waste created by these bags and working to put alternatives in place.

As a result of delay due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the effective date of the ban on retail plastic bags was revised to October 1, 2020.

Provincial Solid Waste Management Strategy Review (PSWMS)

On January 9, 2019, Ann Marie Hann was appointed to lead a review of the PSWMS, which was the first comprehensive review of the strategy since it was announced in 2002.

In accordance with the Terms of Reference established, the review addressed seven topic areas including: waste diversion, regional waste management, standards and technology, economic and employment opportunities, public education, system governance, and legislation.

Public consultations were held during the summer and fall of 2019. Participants raised a number of issues, including fees for waste management services, the cost of

interregional transportation of waste and recycling, waste management implementation in Labrador, environmental standards, and associated legislation.

A report detailing the outcomes of the PSWMS review, titled “Solid Waste Management in Newfoundland and Labrador: Finishing What We Started”, was submitted to the Minister on December 31, 2019 and the final report was publicly released on January 29, 2020 and can be viewed [here](#).

The Department is currently reviewing the report and considering the recommendations to ensure that waste management is delivered strategically and efficiently in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund

The first reporting period for the province’s carbon pricing program ended in 2019-20. It is expected that 16 industrial facilities will file greenhouse gas emissions reports under the program. Reporting information will be available in 2020-21.

Budget 2017 allocated \$4 million over three fiscal years (2017-18 to 2019-20) to provide energy efficiency incentives. The final program, delivered in 2019-20, provided a grant of \$1,000 toward the installation of a high efficiency heat pump by a certified installer. There were 848 approved applications. From an energy perspective, the average homeowner is expected to save about 3,100 KWh per year from the heat pump.

The Department also entered into five adaptation-focused contracts with industry groups in the agriculture, fisheries, forestry, mining, and tourism sectors to build industry capacity to respond to climate change. The contracts are valued at about \$1.6 million and expire in 2021-22.

The Department of Transportation and Works spent approximately \$2.7 million as of the end of the reporting period, to begin implementation of the Energy Efficiency and Fuel Switching in Public Buildings Program. This program supports energy efficiency and fuel

switching in existing public buildings that rely on fossil fuels for space heating. The program will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve energy efficiency in public sector buildings. The program is supported by over \$25 million over four years (2018-2022) that is cost-shared 50/50 with the Federal Government.

Partnerships

Eastern NL Blizzard 2020

On January 17 and 18, 2020, the Eastern portion of the Island of Newfoundland experienced record snowfall amounts, along with storm surge and high winds. A new all-time daily snowfall record of 76.2 cm was established at St. John's International Airport.

The storm forced the closure of government offices, schools, and businesses in the metro St. John's area. By the evening of January 17, snow plows were taken off the roads in Eastern parts of the province and power outages were being reported.

The Provincial Emergency Operations Centre (PEOC) was activated on January 20, 2020 to assist with coordination of military tasks and overall government response. The PEOC connected the provincial government with municipalities, police forces, and emergency services to tackle the response to blizzard. The PEOC remained active until January 27, 2020. Over 2,000 calls were recorded and assessed to determine their level of priority. Fourteen communities also declared states of emergency during the storm, including the municipalities in the metro region. The state of emergency issued by the City of St. John's lasted until January 25.

In response to the storm, the Province requested assistance from the Government of Canada, including mobilizing the Canadian Armed Forces, to provide storm relief and ensure safety and access for seniors and vulnerable populations. The Armed Forces arrived on January 19, 2020 and left the morning of January 28, 2020, after completing 900 tasks.

On January 23, the Minister wrote to the federal Minister of Public Safety Canada (PSC) to request funding consideration under the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA) program. In conjunction with this request, the NL Disaster Financial Assistance program (NL-DFAP) was also activated.

Funding for Municipal Infrastructure

In September 2018, the Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador announced an agreement for \$555 million in federal funding for the next 10 years under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan. The projects supported through this agreement involve contributions from the provincial, federal, and municipal governments and other partners. Once fully leveraged, joint funding will result in over \$1.3 billion in investments in public transit, green infrastructure, communities, culture and recreation, rural and northern communities. In 2019-20, 144 projects were approved totaling \$159.4 million, with a provincial investment of \$51.7 million and a federal investment of \$58.4 million.

Under the \$100 million 2017-20 municipal infrastructure program, the Provincial Government has invested \$10 million in each of the three years through the provincial Municipal Capital Works (MCW) Program. The remainder of the \$100 million allocation was made through the Multi-Year Capital Works Program in 2017. In 2019-20 the multi-year MCW program approved 33 projects totaling \$14.7 million, with a provincial investment of \$9.9 million.

Enhanced Water Monitoring on the Exploits, Humber and Churchill Rivers

The Department continued work on enhanced monitoring and flood risk mapping for the Exploits, Humber, and Churchill Rivers throughout 2019-20. Both the Exploits River and the Humber River Flood Risk mapping studies are expected to be completed in the next reporting period.

Work on the flood risk map study for the Churchill River continued during the reporting period and was scheduled for release in the next reporting period. The Churchill River Flood Forecasting was successfully used in the 2019-2020 ice season to provide flood

forecasting services to the communities of Mud Lake and Happy Valley-Goose Bay. A \$200,000 investment was made for satellite imagery and ice thickness monitoring and additionally, a \$75,000 investment was made for vendor support of the flood forecasting system. Water Resources Management Division maintains a dedicated web page for the Churchill River Early Flood Warning and Alert System, which can be found here <https://www.gov.nl.ca/mae/waterres/flooding/lc-flood-warning/>.

Report on Performance

This document reports on the strategic goals and annual objectives applicable to the final year of the then-Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment's 2017-20 Strategic Plan, as well as the 2017-2020 Business Plan of the Office of Climate Change, which is now the Department's Climate Change Branch.

The sections below explain the key issues in the Department's plan, as well as the corresponding goals and results.

Issue 1: Clean, Safe, and Sustainable Municipalities and Regions

A healthy and resilient environment provides the foundation to support safe and sustainable municipalities, communities, and regions. These are the places where people can live and work safely and contribute to the environmental, social, and economic fabric of Newfoundland and Labrador. The Department supports these outcomes through its responsibilities for protecting the environment, supporting local governments, and protecting people and property from emergencies and environmental damage. This is demonstrated through the Department's continued commitment to working with communities and applicable provincial and federal partners to ensure strong environmental protection policies and programs, as well as policies that foster safe and sustainable communities.

2017-20 Goal

By March 31, 2020, the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Municipalities will have advanced environmental protection and strengthened municipal and regional safety and sustainability.

Planned Indicator	Actual Results
<p>Demonstrated leadership in the protection of clean air, soil, and water for residents.</p>	<p>Throughout the 2017-20 planning cycle, the Department continued to lead work in the area of drinking water safety. The Drinking Water Safety Action Plan has been well advanced and work is also in progress to develop a commercial and institutional water supplies database. This resource will provide regulatory guidance and oversight to the owners and operators of water supply systems.</p> <p>The Department was also involved in ambient air monitoring at a number of locations throughout the province. This monitoring occurs through ECCM’s participation in the National Air Pollution Surveillance (NAPS) Network at NAPS Designated Sites, as well as in and around major industrial facilities. Data from the designated sites is used to calculate an Air Quality Health Index for each location. The index is in the low range at all locations in the province.</p> <p>Over the last three years, environmental site assessment work has been carried out on former military radar sites in Labrador. In 2018-19, the</p>

	<p>Department awarded Stassinu-Stantec Limited Partnership a contract for \$485,000 to conduct Phase II Environmental Site Assessments. This included subsurface investigation tests of soil, soil gas, and/or groundwater to identify sources of environmental impacts at three former Mid-Canada Line Radar sites. It also included a Phase III Environmental Site Assessment at another Mid-Canada Line Radar site. The work was completed in 2019.</p>
<p>Supported regional capacity for more effective and sustainable local governance.</p>	<p>In an effort to ensure local governments sustain their viability and sustainability in the long term, the Department continued its efforts to advance analysis of regional governance/ service sharing pilot areas and potential models.</p> <p>During the 2017-20 planning cycle, the Department consulted with the public and municipal stakeholders on the subject of regional governance and service sharing. Regional governance was also the theme of the 2018 Premier’s Forum and three potential models of governance and service sharing were developed by the Department for participants to comment on.</p> <p>During the reporting period the Department considered a model and methodology for selecting pilot areas for implementation of a proposed regional model. It is anticipated that</p>

	<p>data collected from the identified pilot areas will assist in determining innovative and efficient ways of addressing the impacts of Newfoundland and Labrador’s rapidly changing demographics.</p>
<p>Advance regional collaboration on infrastructure and service delivery.</p>	<p>In fall 2018, the Department finalized integrated bilateral agreements on federal infrastructure funding, which allocates over \$555 million to the province over 10 years under four funding streams: \$302 million for green infrastructure; \$39 million for community, culture and recreation; \$109 million for public transit; and \$104 million for rural and northern communities.</p> <p>The Department continued to implement the multi-year municipal infrastructure plan launched in Budget 2017. Under the 2017-2020 \$100 million municipal infrastructure program, the government has invested \$10 million in each of the three years through the provincial MCW Program. The remainder of the \$100 million allocation was made through the Multi-Year MCW Program in 2017.</p> <p>In 2019-20, the Department provided funding for more than 170 projects through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program and Municipal Capital Works program, representing over \$173 million, many of which benefit not only the direct communities, but also the regions (e.g. Baie Verte Regional Community Centre Retrofit).</p>

	<p>The Department was able offer additional funding for qualifying projects that are regional in nature. The following is an excerpt from the recent MI Application Guide: <i>“Projects which are regional in nature, with a signed Memorandum of Understanding between the regional parties, may qualify for a 10 per cent lower municipal cost shared ratio (unless the project already falls into the 90/10 category).”</i></p> <p>With respect to service delivery, the Municipal Infrastructure and Waste Management Division has undertaken a review of business processes. Initial changes implemented include amendments to the consultant procurement request for proposals and the acceptance of electronic documents at all phases of a project, which has increased schedule efficiency, and decreased paper and mailing costs.</p>
<p>Increased regional capacity for emergency management and fire protection.</p>	<p>In 2017-18, the Department worked with 50 municipal fire departments to develop work plans to improve service delivery within local municipalities. Departmental staff also coached, mentored and monitored work plans for enhanced delivery.</p> <p>During 2019-20, a new funding model was implemented for firefighting vehicles, which allowed communities to apply for cost-shared funding under one of three funding streams,</p>

	<p>depending on which stream best suited their financial needs. As a result, 15 firefighting vehicles (11 new, 4 used) were approved for communities throughout the province.</p>
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2019-20 Objective

By March 31, 2020, the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment will have implemented actions to advance environmental protection and strengthen municipal and regional safety and sustainability.

Planned Indicator	Actual Results
<p>Invested in improvements to municipal infrastructure, including the continued development of waste management infrastructure.</p>	<p>In September 2018, the Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador announced an agreement for \$555 million in federal funding for the next 10 years under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. The projects supported through this agreement will involve contributions from the provincial, federal, and municipal governments and other partners. Once leveraged, joint funding will result in over \$1.3 billion in investments in public transit, green infrastructure, communities, culture and recreation, rural and northern communities. In 2019-20, 144 projects were approved totaling \$159.4 million, with a provincial investment of \$51.7 million and a federal investment of \$58.4 million.</p>

	<p>Under the 2017-2020 \$100 million municipal infrastructure program, the Provincial Government has invested \$10 million in each of the three years through the provincial Municipal Capital Works Program. The remainder of the \$100 million allocation was made through the Multi-Year MCW Program in 2017. In 2019-20 the multi-year MCW program approved 33 projects totaling \$14.7 million, with a provincial investment of \$9.9 million.</p> <p>Under the Federal Gas Tax Program, 445 applications were received, with 415 projects approved, valued at \$57 million. Examples of projects range from municipal infrastructure, community energy systems, recreational/cultural infrastructure, and capacity building to disaster mitigation investments.</p> <p>With respect to waste management, in 2019-20, the Department approved \$4,993,750 in Federal Gas Tax funding for the design and construction of landfill Cell #3 at the Regional Waste Management Facility in Norris Arm. This project supports a regionalized approach to waste management in the Province.</p> <p>The Department also approved \$272,050 in federal Gas Tax funding for landfill rehabilitation</p>
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	<p>and interim expansion work at the Crow Head landfill in Southern Labrador.</p>
<p>Supported safety in select communities throughout the province through the replacement of fire protection vehicles program and firefighting equipment program</p>	<p>Throughout the 2019-20 fiscal year, 15 firefighting vehicles were approved for communities throughout the province. Eleven were new vehicles and four were used vehicles. 2019-20 was the first year of the new funding arrangements for firefighting vehicles. The Department expanded the program to allow communities to apply for cost-shared funding under one of three funding streams, depending on which stream best suited their financial needs. Communities can now apply for cost-shared funding for used fire protection vehicles, as well as for a fixed contribution for new vehicles.</p>
<p>Continued development of the Drinking Water Action Plan</p>	<p>Work to develop the Drinking Water Safety Action Plan continued throughout 2019-20. Analysis of the best path forward was examined by Departmental officials in collaboration with representatives from the then-Department of Service NL and the Department of Health and Community Services. The plan will include actions associated with drinking water quality for public, commercial, institutional, and private supplies based on the principle of a multi-barrier approach to protection. Work is also in progress to develop a commercial and institutional water</p>

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	<p>supplies database which will serve as a useful resource to provide regulatory guidance and oversight to the owners and operators of these systems.</p>
<p>Completed flood risk mapping on the Humber, Exploits, and Churchill Rivers</p>	<p>Flood risk maps were completed for Humber River by Wood PLC, Exploits River by Hatch Engineering, and Churchill River by KGS Group. At the end of the reporting period, the flood risk maps for the Churchill River were under review by the impacted communities of Mud Lake and Happy Valley-Goose Bay. The final maps will be reviewed and approved by the Department in the next reporting period.</p>
<p>Continued to advance analysis of regional governance/service sharing pilot areas and potential models, and initiated discussions with interested communities</p>	<p>In an effort to ensure local governments sustain their viability and are sustainable in the long term, the Department has continued its efforts to advance analysis of regional governance/ service sharing pilot areas and potential models. The Department considered a suggested model and methodology for selecting pilot areas for implementation of a proposed regional model. It is anticipated that data collected from the identified pilot areas will assist in determining innovative and efficient ways of addressing the impacts of the Province’s rapidly changing demographics. Throughout 2019-20, the Department had meetings with small groups of communities who wish to work together to implement service sharing activities.</p>

Discussion of Results

In 2019-20, the Department continued to advance work to ensure the sustainability of regions and municipalities. This included work on improving municipal and waste management infrastructure; enhancing the fire protection vehicles program; continuing to advance drinking water safety; maintaining flood risk mapping; and continuing work on regional governance. Work in these areas contributed to achieving the goals of safe and viable regions. The progress made on initiatives ultimately benefits residents by ensuring that communities throughout the province have the resources to make them a desirable place to live and grow.

Throughout 2017-20, the Department maintained environmental protection programs and policies, and worked effectively with communities, local governments, and relevant provincial and federal partners to pursue regional governance models, and improve service delivery, planning, and infrastructure.

Issue 2: Modern and Efficient Frameworks

As the Department responsible for supporting local governance, protecting the environment, and maintaining a fire and emergency services system, having modern, relevant and effective legislation, regulations, and policies is essential. The then-Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment was responsible for approximately 40 pieces of legislation and associated regulations and policy frameworks to support its lines of business. As such, the Department's goal over the last three years has been the renewal of legislation, regulations, and policies with the goal to enhance programs and create more efficient delivery of Departmental services.

2017-20 Goal

By March 31, 2020, the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment will have advanced the modernization of legislative, regulatory and policy frameworks.

Planned Indicator	Actual Results
<p>Identified opportunities for modernization and/or efficiencies in operations and service delivery.</p>	<p>During the planning cycle, the Department reviewed a number of key existing regulatory and legislative permitting and licensing processes and implemented improvements. For instance, a review of the permitting and licensing requirements of the Water Resources Management Division was conducted and a number of information technology challenges were identified with the permit tracking system (Entrack). The division worked with the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) to make improvements to the system’s functionality, including nine new functionalities.</p> <p>A review of land use planning processes was also completed and, as a result, authority for the registration of municipal plans, development regulations and amendments to the same, have been delegated to the director of Local Governance and Land Use Planning. Some steps were also eliminated in the regional appeal process, and rules, procedures and guidelines were also updated, making it a more streamlined</p>

	<p>and efficient process for residents when making an application to a regional appeal board.</p>
<p>Engaged in appropriate stakeholder consultation.</p>	<p>To inform the review of municipal legislation, public consultations were completed in two phases. The first phase consisted of an open call for written submissions in the winter of 2017-2018. The second phase involved in-person engagement sessions with primary stakeholders and an online questionnaire, conducted in the spring and summer of 2018.</p> <p>The Municipal Legislation Review was also the topic of the third annual Premier’s Forum on Local Government in October, 2018. This provided an additional opportunity for engagement with municipal leaders.</p> <p>More than 2,000 suggestions, ideas, and recommendations were generated through the consultation and engagement process. A What We Heard document, summarizing both phases of consultation and the Premier’s Forum, was released November 22, 2018.</p> <p>To inform the review of the Environmental Assessment legislation and regulations, the Department launched a six-week public consultation period on April 4, 2019. The</p>

	<p>Department received 40 on-line submissions and 29 written submissions.</p> <p>Public comments received during the reporting period have been analyzed by departmental staff and all submissions were considered as proposed amendments continued to be developed.</p>
<p>Amended relevant legislation, regulation, and/or policies to facilitate modern and efficient processes.</p>	<p>In August 2017, the Department began a comprehensive review of legislation which provides the legal framework for the governance of cities and municipalities. This includes the Municipalities Act 1999, the City of Corner Brook Act, the City of Mount Pearl Act, the City of St. John’s Act, and the City of St. John’s Municipal Taxation Act.</p> <p>The review is being informed by stakeholder and public consultations, cross-jurisdictional research, and analysis of departmental correspondence, data, and records.</p> <p>During winter 2020, Department officials met regularly with representatives from the Professional Municipal Administrators (PMA) and Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador (MNL) as part of a working group to provide feedback on proposed alternatives to address a number of topics in the new legislation.</p>

	<p>The Department is continuing to engage the cities of Corner Brook, Mount Pearl, and St. John's on a number of key topics as the review continues.</p> <p>During the planning period, the Department advanced its review of the Environmental Assessment legislation and process with a view to modernizing the legislation.</p> <p>The Department completed a jurisdictional review of relevant legislation and best practices across Canada. The Department also actively participated and engaged in the federal environment assessment review process.</p> <p>An advisory committee comprised of the Environmental Assessment Division, the Public Engagement and Planning Division of the Communications and Public Engagement Branch, and the Newfoundland and Labrador Environmental Industries Association (NEIA) was established to support and guide a public consultation process.</p> <p>Public consultations were completed in spring/summer 2019 and all submissions are being considered as proposed amendments are currently being developed by the Department.</p>
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	<p>With respect to policies, the Department completed the Lean process to streamline municipal capital works projects. This included amendments to the policy on consultant procurement request for proposals and the acceptance of electronic documents at all phases of a project, which has increased schedule efficiency, decreased paper, and mailing costs.</p>
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2019-20 Objective

By March 31, 2020, the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment will have developed modern, efficient legislative and policy frameworks.

Planned Indicator	Actual Results
<p>Continued to advance the review of municipal legislation.</p>	<p>Throughout 2019-20, the Department continued cross-jurisdictional and other policy research to support analysis of key issues identified during the review.</p> <p>Departmental officials conducted policy analysis on more than 50 individual issues related to the Municipalities Act, 1999, the City of Corner Brook Act, and the City of Mount Pearl Act.</p> <p>Between January and March 2020, Department officials held ongoing meetings with key internal and external stakeholders such as Municipalities NL, Professional Municipal Administrators, and the cities of Corner Brook and Mount Pearl.</p> <p>These discussions will continue throughout 2020.</p>

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	<p>Discussions were also held in 2019 with the City of St. John’s legal Department on all aspects of the City of St. John’s Act and the City of St. John’s Municipal Taxation Act.</p>
<p>Initiated the Municipal Support Infrastructure System (MSIS) program upgrade to better harmonize with the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) under the Investing in Canada Plan.</p>	<p>Throughout late 2019 and early 2020, progress was made by the Department and OCIO officials to better harmonize the MSIS program with ICIP. During the planning year the main focus of the project was to identify and address functional problems identified with MSIS based on changes in the Department’s business processes (since MSIS original rollout), addressing and remedying program bugs, and make updates to the program to improve general work flow. Divisional staff are committed to the project oversight and are called upon on an as-needed basis to provide insight on changes, conduct testing of changes, and provide feedback in general. It is anticipated that improvements to this program will allow for greater efficiencies in departmental work and ease of access for project applicants.</p>
<p>Reviewed responses received during public consultations process and continued to review Environmental Assessment legislation.</p>	<p>The current Environmental Assessment legislation is over 15 years old and the legal, economic, and environmental landscape has changed. The current legislation needs to be updated to reflect development in best practices in access to information, engagement, and procedural steps; technological advances; and emergent environmental issues such as climate</p>

	<p>change, sustainable development, and cumulative effects.</p> <p>On April 4, 2019, Government launched a six-week public consultation period on the EA processes and regulations. The consultations were put on-hold during the provincial caretaker period and re-opened from June 5 – July 3 to complete the six weeks. During the public consultation period, 40 on-line submissions and 29 written submissions were received.</p> <p>Public comments received to date have been analyzed by departmental staff and all submissions are being considered as proposed amendments are developed by the Department.</p>
<p>Developed regulations to facilitate a ban on single use retail plastic bags.</p>	<p>In April 2019, government amended the Environmental Protection Act and, based on feedback from public consultations, developed regulations that prohibit a retailer from selling or providing a plastic retail bag to a person.</p> <p>The Retail Plastic Bag Regulations were filed on January 16, 2020 and due to come into force in the subsequent reporting period.</p>
<p>Concluded the comprehensive review of the Provincial Solid Waste Management Strategy.</p>	<p>The review of the Provincial Solid Waste Management Strategy was undertaken, with the final report publically released on January 29, 2020. The Department began reviewing the report and considering changes to the strategy to</p>

	<p>ensure that waste management is delivered strategically and efficiently in Newfoundland and Labrador. The Municipal Infrastructure and Waste Management Division will lead implementation of the report recommendations. The report is available online at: https://www.mae.gov.nl.ca/waste_management/index.html.</p>
<p>Completed the Lean process to streamline municipal capital works projects.</p>	<p>With respect to service delivery, the Municipal Infrastructure and Waste Management Division has undertaken a review of business processes. Initial changes implemented include amendments to the consultant procurement request for proposals and the acceptance of electronic documents at all phases of a project, which has increased schedule efficiency, decreased paper and mailing costs.</p>

Discussion of Results

In 2019-20, the Department continued to advance the modernization of legislative and policy frameworks through its work on the municipal and environmental assessment legislative reviews. It also concluded the comprehensive review of the Provincial Solid Waste Management Strategy and developed regulations to facilitate a ban on single use retail plastic bags.

During the 2017-20 planning cycle, the Department focused on renewal of legislation, regulation, and policy to support responsive, innovative and efficient programs, and service delivery. The Department reviewed processes, permits, and authorizations to ensure clarity and efficiency for the public and local governments, as well as environmental, business, and industry stakeholders. While the Department continues to finalize its work on the municipal and environmental assessment legislative reviews, it

has made significant progress and is using the results from its extensive consultation processes to inform the legislative renewal going forward.

Report on Performance – Climate Change Branch

In August 2017, the Office of Climate Change moved from Executive Council and was integrated into the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Municipalities as the Climate Change Branch. Prior to joining the Department, the Office of Climate Change had prepared its own Business Plan for the 2017-2020 planning period. Progress on the goals and objectives of the Office of Climate Change 2017-2020 Business Plan are addressed in this annual report.

Issue 1: Transitioning to a Low-Carbon, Climate-Resilient Economy

Global temperatures are rising, and as a result, the Earth's climate is changing. It is expected that these changes will bring warmer, wetter, and stormier weather conditions to Newfoundland and Labrador. The impacts, which the province is already experiencing, include flooding, storm surges, coastal erosion and reduced sea ice. This, in turn, impacts the province's communities, businesses and the natural environment.

As greenhouse gases (GHGs) are not bound by jurisdictional boundaries, there is increasing recognition that all jurisdictions must do their part to reduce emissions. As such, the Provincial Government has committed to taking action to reduce GHG emissions, minimize potential risks associated with climate change, and maximize new opportunities.

2017-20 Goal

By March 31, 2020, the Office of Climate Change will have advanced initiatives to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, strengthen resilience to the impacts of climate change and increase energy efficiency to support growth in the green economy in the Province.

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Planned Indicator	Actual Results
Released a new strategic framework on climate change.	After extensive consultation with academic, business, municipal and non-profit partners in the agriculture, fisheries, forestry, mining, and tourism sector, the Climate Change Action Plan was released on March 1, 2019. The Climate Change Action Plan is a collaborative, five-year action plan that supports action on climate change across all sectors of the economy while supporting clean growth. The plan contains 45 commitments, and substantive action has already been taken on 35 of them.
Developed regulations pursuant to the Management of Greenhouse Gas Act .	The Department completed consultations related to regulations pursuant to the Management of Greenhouse Gas Act , consulting large industrial companies in the oil extraction and refining, mining, pulp and paper and electricity generation sectors, and Indigenous governments and organizations. The regulations came into force in December 2018.
Worked with internal stakeholders to continue to integrate climate change and energy efficiency considerations into policy development, planning, and decision-making.	Throughout the planning cycle, the Department actively engaged internal stakeholders on a wide range of climate change initiatives. For instance, to facilitate implementation of the provincial carbon program, the Department engaged with internal government Departments to seek feedback. OCIO was also engaged to develop a registry to support the implementation of the Management of Greenhouse Gas Act .

	<p>A climate lens has also been developed and is required for all applications for Municipal Capital Works and Cost-Shared Funding Programs, supporting municipal infrastructure.</p>
<p>Engaged and collaborated with external stakeholders and the public to raise awareness and understanding on climate change and emergency efficiency.</p>	<p>To facilitate implementation of the provincial carbon program, the Department engaged with Indigenous governments and organizations, as well as a range of external stakeholders including large industrial companies and associations such as Newfoundland and Labrador Environmental Industries Association, Newfoundland and Labrador Oil and Gas Industries Association, the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Labour, and the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board.</p> <p>The Department presented at a number of conferences and events to raise awareness and disseminate information on climate change and it continues to provide education and outreach through its Turn Back the Tide website.</p>

2019-20 Objective

By March 31, 2020, the Office of Climate Change will have advanced implementation of the new five-year plan for taking action on climate change in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Planned Indicator	Actual Result
<p>Engaged with internal and external stakeholders to commence implementation of commitments in the Climate Change Action Plan.</p>	<p>The Climate Change Action Plan was released on March 1, 2019, and as such 2019-20 was the first full year of the five-year action plan. The Department consulted with 11 provincial government departments and agencies on various action items to move them towards implementation. In addition, extensive consultation with academic, business, municipal, and non-profit partners in the agriculture, fisheries, forestry, mining, and tourism sector took place to address climate change.</p> <p>To date, substantive action has been taken on 35 of the 45 action items in the Plan. Examples of successful activities from the Climate Change Action Plan to date include the implementation of the province’s carbon plan, implementation of the \$89.4 million Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund and Building Regional Adaptation Capacity and Expertise Agreement, approval of 14 Level 3 electric vehicle charging stations (the first Level 3 chargers in the province), extension and expansion of the Building Climate Resilience Project led by Memorial University, and development of three new flood risk maps for vulnerable areas across Newfoundland and Labrador, which will allow communities to build better resiliency to climate change.</p>

<p>Enhanced collaboration across government, and with other levels of government, as well as industry, stakeholders and Indigenous organizations on advancing climate action in Newfoundland and Labrador.</p>	<p>Collaboration with all levels of government, including Indigenous governments and organizations, to advance climate action continued into 2019-2020. During this time, the Department worked with the federal government and other provinces and territories to implement the Pan Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change on matters related to carbon pricing, complementary actions such as electric vehicle infrastructure and adaptation planning and capacity building.</p> <p>In collaboration with the federal and municipal governments, as well as other partners including Memorial University, Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Newfoundland and Labrador, Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador, the Newfoundland and Labrador Environmental Industries Association, and the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Professional Planners, a number of training materials were delivered to professional engineers, planners, as well as municipalities to build capacity to account for the impacts of climate change in their profession. This included organization and launching two large-scale conferences, three webinars, as well as continual online engagement.</p> <p>Through Natural Resources Canada Building Regional Adaptation Capacity and Expertise</p>
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	<p>program, the Department initiated adaptation capacity building projects with stakeholder groups in the agriculture, fisheries, forestry, mining, and tourism sectors as well as with municipalities. These are membership driven projects to facilitate industry capacity building, priority setting, and adaptation training.</p> <p>Over the past year, there has been ongoing partnership with indigenous governments and organizations. The Department is involved with the Nunatsiavut Government's Climate Change Committee, involving other local, provincial, and national partners to advancing climate change in the North. In addition the Department sits on the federal-provincial Northern Transportation Adaptation Initiative which works towards developing sustainable transportation networks in the north, including by road, ferry, and airplane.</p>
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Discussion of Results

In 2019-20, the Department continued to actively engage with internal and external stakeholders to advance climate action in Newfoundland and Labrador. It was also the first full year of implementation for the Climate Change Action Plan, which was released in March 2019. By the end of the reporting period, of the 45 action items in the plan, the Department has already made progress on 35 items.

During the three year planning cycle, the Department worked with the federal government and other provinces and territories to implement the Pan Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change (PCF). It conducted extensive

consultations with internal and external stakeholders, including Indigenous governments and organizations, to inform the Climate Change Action Plan and to develop regulations pursuant to the **Management of Greenhouse Gas Act**. The Department also continued to raise awareness and understanding on climate change and emergency efficiency and collaborated with stakeholders to facilitate implementation of the provincial carbon program.

Issue 2: Advancing the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change

In December 2016, federal, provincial, and territorial governments launched the PCF. It is based on four key priority areas:

- Implementing carbon pricing policies to reduce GHG emissions;
- Advancing other complementary policy, regulatory and technology-based measures to reduce GHG emissions;
- Fostering opportunities for clean technologies, innovation and related long-term employment; and
- Building resilience to the impacts of climate change.

2017-20 Goal

2017-20 Goal	
By March 31, 2020, the Office of Climate Change will have worked with other jurisdictions to advance implementation of the PCF.	
Planned Indicator	Actual Results
Participated in intergovernmental processes to advance PCF actions and commitments.	The Department has been an active participant in the PCF intergovernmental processes since they were initiated in 2016. For instance, the Department participated in discussions on the development and design of federal carbon pricing regulations that came into effect on January 1, 2019.

	<p>To support intergovernmental action on adaptation, the Department is engaged in working groups specifically aimed at improving climate resilience in northern regions. These include the Northern Transportation Adaptation Initiative and the Nunatsiavut Climate Change Committee, and have provided input into the federally-led Arctic Policy Framework and Northern Adaptation Strategy.</p> <p>From the mitigation perspective, the Department participated in a range of working groups linked to carbon pricing as well as other complementary measures to reduce GHG emissions. This included the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment: the Climate Change Committee, Offsets Project Team, Emissions Projections Project Team, and Inventories Project Team.</p>
<p>Worked with stakeholders to build understanding and capacity to implement PCF actions and commitments.</p>	<p>The Department routinely engages with stakeholders to enhance implementation of PCF actions and commitments. For instance, the Department engaged with all departments and agencies in the development of the new Climate Change Action Plan, and, as a result, the 45 actions within the plan are being led by 13 different departments and agencies across government. All 45 action items in the plan support the four pillars of the PCF.</p>

2019-20 Objective

By March 31, 2020, the Office of Climate Change will have implemented priority actions and commitments and monitored progress under the PCF.

Planned Indicator	Actual Result
<p>Participated in PCF intergovernmental processes to share and learn from initiatives implemented across jurisdictions, provide updates on progress, and collaborate on action.</p>	<p>Newfoundland and Labrador continues to be an active participant in the PCF intergovernmental process for both adaptation and mitigation activities. By the end of the reporting period, the Department has shared best practices with other jurisdictions, including but not limited to: climate data knowledge mobilization, sea level change, flood risk mapping, climate change risk assessment, adaptation indicators, mitigation indicators, and guidance tools for climate data.</p>
<p>Advanced initiatives to support commitments in the PCF related to carbon pricing, other complimentary measures to reduce GHG emissions, and enhancing resilience to climate change impacts.</p>	<p>The Department has collaborated on three national adaptation projects with risk assessment best practices for climate change risk assessments, natural infrastructure terminology, and national adaptation indicators. On the mitigation side, work continued on the PCF commitment to assess the impact of carbon pricing on industry competitiveness, and work was completed on national mitigation indicators as well as on a national carbon offsets framework.</p>

Discussion of Results

In 2019-20, the Department continued to participate in federal-provincial-territorial working groups and meetings to support the continued implementation of the PCF and report on progress achieved in its third year. The Department also implemented the first full year of the Climate Change Action Plan. All 45 action items in the plan support the four pillars of the PCF.

During 2017-20, the Department participated in intergovernmental processes to advance PCF actions and commitments and routinely engaged with stakeholders to build understanding and capacity to implement PCF actions and commitments. To support the ongoing implementation of the PCF, the Department will continue to work with the Federal Government and other stakeholders to advance fair and flexible approaches to taking action on climate change.

Opportunities and Challenges

Being a good steward of the environment requires the Department to continue leading through strong, progressive legislation and a willingness to work with the many partners that have an interest in a safe and sustainable environment. The impacts of climate change continue to inform and shape the activity, policy decisions and work of the Department. Going forward, even greater emphasis will be placed on the Department's ability to incorporate climate change data, adaptation measures and energy efficiency best practices into its interactions with municipalities, industry, academia and the public. This will also guide investments in the province that continue to support municipalities, water quality, environmental protection, and sound waste management practices.

Ensuring strong local governance that meets the needs of residents remains a challenge that is a focus for the Department. This dynamic and constantly evolving area requires the cooperation of many stakeholders. The Department remains committed to facilitating, engaging and supporting local governments. As a provider of services, the Department continues to explore opportunities that allow it to effectively and efficiently deliver these services while equipping municipalities to make decisions to respond to the needs of their residents. Late in the reporting period, the Department began working with local governments to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. As the pandemic and associated challenges continue, the Department will collaborate and work with local governments to support residents through this time.

Annex A: Labrador Regional Appeal Board

Overview

The Labrador Regional Appeal Board (the “Board”) is established by the **Urban and Rural Planning Act, 2000**. The Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Municipalities (ECCM) appoints its Board members. The Board hears appeals related to land use and development issues that arise from decisions made by municipalities or a provincial government authority.

Issues which may be appealed to the Board include:

- a decision made under **Municipal Development Regulations**;
- a decision to issue an Order under section 102 of the **Urban and Rural Planning Act, 2000**;
- a decision to issue an Order under section 404 of the **Municipalities Act, 1999**;
- a decision to refuse to issue a permit under section 194 of the **Municipalities Act, 1999**;
- a decision made under Interim **Municipal Development Regulations**;
- a decision under a Protected Area Plan, **Protected Road Zoning Regulations** or **Highway Sign Regulations**;
- a decision made under **Occupancy and Maintenance Regulations**; and
- decisions made under any other Act or regulations, including Municipal Plans and Development Regulations, where specifically designated.

Appeals may be made by a person or an association of persons.

The Board considers and determines appeals in accordance with all relevant legislation, including municipal by-laws. Section 42 of the **Urban and Rural Planning Act, 2000**, outlines procedures with respect to appeals. The Board can confirm, reverse or vary a municipal council or other authority’s decision and may impose conditions. Further, the Board may direct a municipal council or relevant authority to carry out its decision.

The Board consists of three to five members, including the chairperson. A quorum consists of a chairperson and two members. In the absence of the chairperson, another

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member of the Board may act in the chairperson's capacity. The Board had four active members during 2019-20:

Name	
Karen Oldford Chair	Labrador City
George Andrews	Happy Valley Goose Bay
Nina Rumbolt- Pye	Mary's Harbour
Reginald Hutchings	North West River
VACANT	

The Board does not have an office location or staff, nor does it manage its own finances. The Department of Environment, Climate Change and Municipalities provide administrative and technical support. Board members are paid honoraria as well as related travel expenses from the Department's budget.

The following is a summary of ECCM's 2019-20 expenditures related to the Labrador Regional Appeal Board's honoraria and travel expenses:

Expenditure Name	Expenditure Amount
Honoraria	\$480.00
Travel Cost	\$555.90
Total	\$1,035.90

The Board's geographic area of jurisdiction is prescribed in subsection 2(c) of the **Regional Appeal Boards Establishment Order**, under the authority of section 40 of the **Urban and Rural Planning Act, 2000**.

The **Regional Appeal Boards Establishment Order** and the **Urban and Rural Planning Act, 2000**, are accessible through the House of Assembly website at www.assembly.nl.ca/legislation.

Activities

The Board was able to hear appeals during fiscal year 2018-19. In accordance with the Board’s mandate, the following activities occurred:

2019-20 Indicator	Actual Result
Number of appeals heard	2 appeals were heard in 2019-20
Number of appeal hearing days	Appeals were heard on 1 day
Number of written decisions rendered within 21 days from date of hearing	2 written decisions rendered

Annex B: Inactive Entities

Humber Valley Regional Planning Advisory Authority Leadership Committee

The Committee's main goal was to prepare a regional land use plan for the area: the Humber Valley Regional Plan. The Committee operated in consideration of the strategic directions of government. The Committee's activities were consistent with strategic directions related to sustainable communities, and a competitive work and business environment, which also supports Government's commitment to advance regional collaboration.

Since the 2017-18 reporting period, the Committee has been inactive; however, work has continued on government's assessment of the draft Humber Valley Regional Plan.

North East Avalon Regional Plan Oversight Committee

The Committee's principal function is to facilitate the development of the North East Avalon's Regional Land Use Plan for recommendation to government. As such, the Committee oversees the work and preparation associated with the development of the Plan. When completed, the North East Avalon Regional (NEAR) Plan will be an overarching planning and policy document intended to guide development, infrastructure and land use within the region.

The North East Avalon region includes the areas from Witless Bay and Holyrood to all lands north to Cape St. Francis, including Wabana. The Committee is established pursuant to section 9 of the **Urban and Rural Planning Act, 2000**. It is comprised of mayors from each of the region's 15 municipalities, and the Minister or designate. In addition, the Committee is supported by Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador, serving in the capacity of project management lead, with technical advice and support from the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Municipalities.

The Committee has been inactive since the 2018-19 reporting period.

Financial Information

Department of Environment, Climate Change and Municipalities

	2019-20	2019-20
	Estimates	Expenditures
1.1.01 - Minister's Office	239,400	214,004
1.2.01 - Executive Support	1,699,800	1,513,000
Revenue - Prov.	(169,000)	(134,849)
	1,530,800	1,378,151
1.2.02 - Administrative Support	320,000	285,534
Revenue - Prov.	(5,000)	(128,853)
	315,000	156,681
1.2.03 - Strategic Financial Management	813,900	724,374
Total Executive & Support Services	2,899,100	2,473,210
2.1.01 - Local Governance and Planning	1,016,500	789,798
Revenue - Prov.	(34,500)	(13,149)
	982,000	776,649
2.2.01 - Policy and Strategic Planning	1,142,200	1,080,617
2.3.01 - Fire Services	1,394,300	1,342,294
2.3.02 - Emergency Services	603,000	606,745
2.3.03 - Disaster Assistance	1,846,600	946,925
Revenue - Prov.	(1,500,000)	-
	346,600	946,925

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	2019-20	2019-20
	Estimates	Expenditures
Total Fire, Emergency and Corporate Services	4,468,100	4,753,230
3.1.01 - Regional Support	1,049,600	972,218
Revenue - Prov.	(160,000)	(160,000)
	889,600	814,218
3.1.02 - Municipal Finance	644,700	534,391
3.2.02 - Industrial Water Services	239,700	184,267
Revenue - Prov.	(136,700)	(50,596)
	103,000	133,281
3.3.01 - Municipal Debt Servicing	408,100	429,161
3.3.02 - Municipal Debt Servicing - Principal	6,260,900	6,457,586
3.3.03 - Municipal Operating Grants	22,000,000	21,861,852
3.3.04 - Special Assistance	2,014,000	11,001,869
3.3.05 - Community Enhancement	4,964,700	3,948,506
3.3.06 - Provincial Gas Tax Revenue Sharing	7,100,000	7,055,945
3.4.01 - Municipal Infrastructure	53,664,800	48,295,800
3.4.02 - Federal/Provincial Infrastructure Programs	78,980,100	53,884,636
Revenue - Federal	(37,374,700)	(17,341,094)

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	2019-20	2019-20
	Estimates	Expenditures
	41,605,400	36,543,542
3.4.03 - Canada/NL Gas Tax Program	88,208,100	38,015,682
Revenue - Federal	(64,435,100)	(64,556,583)
	23,773,000	(26,540,901)
3.4.04 - Fire Protection Vehicles and Equipment	2,880,000	2,822,886
Total Municipal Infrastructure and Support	166,308,200	113,358,136
4.1.01 - Pollution Prevention	2,288,700	3,233,859
Revenue - Prov.	(263,900)	(334,826)
	2,024,800	2,899,033
4.2.01 - Water Resources Management	5,017,700	5,303,491
Revenue - Prov.	(1,870,200)	(1,430,078)
	3,147,500	3,873,413
4.2.02 - Water Quality Agreement	1,180,700	1,111,890
Revenue - Prov.	(998,600)	(666,539)
	182,100	445,351
4.3.01 - Environmental Assessment and Sustainable Development	580,100	483,534
Revenue - Prov.	(150,000)	(48,689)
	430,100	434,845
Total Environmental Management and Control	5,784,500	7,686,751

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	2019-20	2019-20
	Estimates	Expenditures
5.1.01 - Climate Change	1,889,200	1,405,569
5.1.02 - Low Carbon Economy Fund	18,017,800	1,434,975
Revenue - Fed.	(8,685,200)	(63,953)
	9,332,600	1,371,022
Total Climate Change	11,221,800	2,776,591
Total Department	190,681,700	131,013,809
Total Gross Expenditures	306,464,600	215,943,407
Total Gross Revenues	(115,782,900)	(84,929,598)
Total Net	190,681,700	131,013,809

Newfoundland
Labrador