

# **North East Avalon Regional Plan Oversight Committee**

Activity Plan  
2017-20

## Message from the Chair

I am pleased to present North East Avalon Regional Plan Oversight Committee's Activity Plan for the period of April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2020. This plan was prepared in accordance with the Transparency and Accountability Act requirements for category 3 entities.

In preparation of this plan, consideration has been given to the strategic directions of government and the commitments identified in The Way Forward. In particular, the committee's activities will contribute to efforts toward creating sustainable communities and a competitive work and business environment.

This committee is comprised of representatives of the 15 municipalities from Witless Bay to Holyrood, including Wabana/Bell Island. The committee is excited to be involved in the process of developing a regional land use plan for government's consideration and we look forward to advancing the development of a new regional land use plan.

My signature below acknowledges the committee's accountability for the preparation of this three-year activity plan and for achieving the objectives of the plan.



**EDDIE JOYCE**

Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment

## Overview

The principal function of the North East Avalon Regional Plan Oversight Committee 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 development of a plan which will help lead future growth and development in the region.

The North East Avalon region includes the area from and including the Towns of Witless Bay and Holyrood and all lands north from there to Cape St. Francis, including Wabana/Bell Island. 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 of Municipal Affairs and Environment as Chairperson. In addition, the committee is supported by Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador (MNL), serving in the capacity of project management lead, and the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment.

In accordance with the committee's Terms of Reference, the committee is responsible for the following:

1. Approving the terms of reference/call for proposals to engage a consultant for preparation of a draft regional plan;
2. Reviewing the recommendations of a review committee comprised of representatives of MNL, the department, and technical staff from the region regarding the proposals and making a final recommendation to the Minister with regard to the preferred consultant;
3. Directing the work of the project management lead (MNL) and their project management consultant, with regards to needed engagement of individuals and organizations to learn about current issues within the regional planning area;
4. Advising the planning consultant, through or in conjunction with MNL, on issues within the regional planning area;
5. Providing available background material or studies to the planning consultant, through MNL;
6. Reviewing and approving an appropriate public consultation process, based on recommendations from MNL, its project management consultant, the department, the planning consultant;

7. Communicating progress on the regional plan development to municipal councils and provincial departments, as applicable to the individual committee member;
8. Reviewing drafts of the regional plan and providing comments to the consultant, through or in conjunction with MNL and their project management consultant;
9. Recommending to the Minister approval of the final version of the draft regional plan; and;
10. Working with the department to organize statutory public hearings on the draft regional plan, as required by the Urban and Rural Planning Act, 2000.

Current members of the committee are as follows:

Minister Eddie Joyce (Chair)	Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment
Mayor John Kennedy	Town of Logy Bay-Middle Cove-Outer Cove
Mayor Stephen Tessier	Town of Conception Bay South
Mayor Gary Gosine	Town of Wabana
Mayor Patrick O’Driscoll	Town of Bay Bulls
Mayor Sébastien Després	Town of Witless Bay
Mayor Randy Simms	City of Mount Pearl
Mayor Gary Goobie	Town of Holyrood
Mayor Dan Bobbett	Town of Paradise
Mayor Joedy Wall	Town of Pouch Cove
Mayor Dennis O’Keefe	City of St. John’s
Mayor Moses Tucker	Town of Portugal Cove-St. Philip’s
Mayor Christopher Dredge	Town of Bauline
Mayor Darrin Thorne	Town of Flatrock
Mayor Nat Hutchings	Town of Petty Harbour-Maddox Cove
Mayor Ralph Tapper	Town of Torbay

## Budget and Expenditures

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

Prior to commencing the North East Avalon Regional Plan, the Province and the 15 municipalities agreed to share the cost of developing the plan on a 50/50 basis, including the costs of a project management firm and a consultant. The municipalities contribute on a per capita basis using the 2011 Statistics Canada Census. MNL, in its capacity as project management lead, administers the funds on behalf of the plan partners.

## Strategic Issue

### Regional Land Use Plan

The North East Avalon has experienced exponential growth and development in recent years which is expected to continue for the foreseeable future. Land use planning in the region is currently guided by the municipal plans for each of the 15 municipalities, including the St. John's Urban Region Regional Plan which was approved in 1976.

In recent years, a number of plans have been updated and amended, while others remained unchanged. As such, the committee recognizes that the resulting policies and strategies of the regional plan and associated municipal plans may be inconsistent with each other. Updating the regional plan, and municipal plans as necessary, will help ensure a coherent and sustainable vision and land use strategy towards the growth and development of the region.

A new regional land use plan is required to address the following issues:

- Municipal Services;
- Transportation;
- Environment;
- Diverse Development;
- Plan Governance;
- Economy; and
- Collaboration.

The development of a regional land use plan for the North East Avalon supports strategic directions related to sustainable communities and a competitive work and business environment. The committee's efforts in developing a regional land use plan for recommendation to the Minister will benefit local governments, the Provincial Government and residents of the region.

The committee is mandated to develop a regional land use plan for recommendation to government; thus the committee has determined that a three-year goal is not applicable at this time. Instead, the committee will report on the same annual objective in each year of the plan; indicators may change in subsequent years covered by the plan.

**Objective:** By March 31, 2018, 2019, and 2020, the committee will have facilitated the development of the land use plan for the North East Avalon Region.

**Indicators:**

- Worked with the consultants in the collection and consideration of public input and feedback on the Regional plan, through forums, symposia, hearings, online surveys, focus group discussions, or other consultation methods as appropriate.
- Worked with the consultants and stakeholders in overseeing the preparation of a comprehensive draft of the North East Avalon Regional Plan (NEAR Plan).