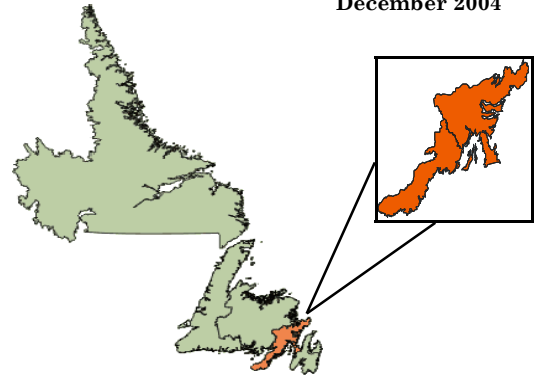


# POINTS EAST



## Welcome

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### DID YOU KNOW ?

A major indicator of well-being is how people rate their own health status. In 2001, 68% of individuals in the Eastern SSP Region rated their health status from very good to excellent. The provincial number in 2001 was 67%.

It has been an exciting but busy four years since the inception of the Regional Steering Committee for the Strategic Social Plan. Many readers will recall that in 1998 the Government of Newfoundland & Labrador launched the Strategic Social Plan for this province. Its hope was to promote a society of people who are *healthy, educated, distinctive, self-reliant and prosperous living in vibrant, supportive communities within sustainable regions.*

In 1998, the province of Newfoundland & Labrador was divided into six regions: Labrador; Cormack-Grenfell; Central; Eastern; Avalon; and Northeast Avalon. Each of these six regions would have a Regional Steering Committee comprising of representatives from the boards of Education, Health and Economic. In addition, provincial and federal government agencies would support the work of the boards and other community interest groups were invited to sit at the table.

In November 2000, the Eastern Regional Steering Committee was established to provide a regional voice to the social and economic issues which were facing many of our rural communities. As the Regional Steering Committee began to develop a regional work plan, which aimed to find solutions to issues relating to the voluntary sector, health & well-being of the community, creating partnerships and life-long learning, there was a strong need to communicate to the people of the region.

The Regional Steering Committee is very pleased to be able to launch its first regional newsletter which aims to promote the work

of our regional partners as we find solutions to many of our social and economic challenges in this region. As we move now into the development of a new rural strategy for this province through the Rural Secretariat, we need to communicate with you on ways we can improve our lives in this region that promotes our common vision.

The Eastern Region is a dynamic place to live and our partners, at the community or regional level, are working very hard to address many of these concerns. The Regional Steering Committee hopes that you will enjoy this newsletter as we plan to inform and celebrate our numerous successes over the coming months and years. Should you have questions about the content of any article in this newsletter, we would invite you to contact us using the information at the back.



**Fay Matthews, Chairperson**

## Supporting Volunteers

The Eastern Regional Steering Committee for the Rural Secretariat (Strategic Social Plan) has, since its inception in 2000, tried to find new ways to support the Voluntary Sector. Many people will recall the Volunteers in Partnership Conference in November 2001 which brought together many representatives from community-based organizations for the very first time.

### *Community Consultations*

Similarly, in 2002, the Town Hall Forums were held throughout the Eastern region to gain input from community leaders and community organizations on issues affecting the social and economic development of the region. It was during these forums that the

Regional Steering Committee was asked for assistance in supporting the Voluntary Sector's need to recruit and retain its many volunteers.

### *Volunteer Database is Developed*

Through a new partnership with the Discovery Regional Development Board, Schooner Regional Development Corporation, Human Resources Skills Development Canada and the Community Services Council, the Regional Steering Committee has developed a new database which serves to profile the needs of rural community organizations and to match these needs to the skills of volunteers.

Over a 30-week period, from April to October, eight Field Workers canvassed individual community-based organizations throughout the Eastern SSP Region to help assess volunteer requirements and volunteer skill pre-requisites. A database of "Volunteer Opportunities" has been developed and it is hosted and maintained through Envision.ca, a virtual resource center designed by the Community Services Council to assist voluntary community-based organizations throughout the province. Users of the new database can access this information by logging on to [www.envision.ca/volunteereastern](http://www.envision.ca/volunteereastern).

"Volunteers will be able to go to their respective local areas and look at the lists of volunteer opportunities which may interest them," says Fay Matthews, Chairperson of the Eastern Regional Steering Committee. Ms. Matthews adds "Our goal is to help community organizations fill volunteer

positions with appropriately matched individuals in their communities".

The Regional Volunteer Network Field Workers hosted ten volunteer forums within each of their local areas as a way to highlight the valuable work that community organizations do for their communities.

These forums also served to promote the new database and to demonstrate how

community-based organizations can post volunteer opportunities or how volunteers can become orientated to the needs and skill requirements for any volunteer organization. "This is a great project which will help unite the social and economic fabric of small communities as they begin to draw upon new volunteers to become more involved in their communities," says Bernice Dyke, Project Coordinator. "It is our feeling that volunteers can be motivated to become involved in the social and economic development of the community if their interests are matched to the right kind of volunteer work." The delivery of these forums continues the work of the Regional Steering Committee to build partnerships between community-based organizations, government agencies and regional partners to find effective and efficient solutions together.

### *Regional Volunteer Network Coalition*

Early in 2005, the Eastern Regional Steering Committee expects to have in place a Regional Volunteer Coalition that will meet regularly to discuss and address the collective needs of the voluntary sector in the Eastern SSP region. If you are interested in being a member of this Regional Volunteer Coalition, you can submit your name to Ms. Heather Gillingham, Rural Secretariat Office at 709-466-4034.



**Town Hall Forum, 2002**

*"This is a great project which will help unite the social and economic fabric of small communities as they begin to draw upon new volunteers"*

## Profile On Peninsulas Health Care Corporation

The Peninsulas Health Care Corporation (PHCC) provides acute care and long-term care services in the region served by the Eastern Rural Secretariat. Almost 1,100 employees work in our facilities throughout the region: Bonavista Peninsula Health Centre, Golden Heights Manor, Dr. G.B. Cross Memorial Hospital, Burin Peninsula Health Care Centre, U.S. Memorial Health Centre, Blue Crest Nursing Home and Grand Bank Community Health Centre. PHCC also manages several clinics.

With government's September announcement of the restructuring of health care boards, there will be changes in the health care system over the next few years. PHCC will work closely with government to ensure that these changes take place as seamlessly as possible.

For more information about PHCC, please visit our website [www.peninsulas.ca](http://www.peninsulas.ca).

All of PHCC's facilities are very busy. Here are some statistics from the past three years:

	2003/04	2002/03	2001/02
<b>Number of ER visits</b>	93,631	88,406	72,450
<b>Number of outpatient clinic visits</b>	54,439	44,219	48,922
<b>Number of surgical/operative services</b>	5,224	5,416	5,949
<b>Number of visits to a nurse practitioner</b>	5,589	5,058	3,818
<b>Number of chemotherapy visits</b>	1,249	1,268	1,032

*There were 360 births at PHCC facilities in the fiscal year 2003/04, down from 394 in 2001/02.*

## Family Literacy Centre Opens

It's taken more than a year to plan, but on Friday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2004 the Neighbourhood of Friends Tenant Association opened the area's first Family Literacy Centre. Approximately 80 people dropped by the Centre which is located at 63 Moores Road in Clarenville to take a look at the freshly painted walls, the computer systems and the library.

Services Eastern Board, Vista Family Resource Centre, Smallwood Crescent Community Centre, Eastern School District and Human Resources, Labour & Employment. The purpose of the Advisory Committee is to provide support and direction to the project and advice on the programs which will be offered at the new Centre.

This project has been made possible through a partnership with Newfoundland & Labrador Housing Corporation, Human Resources Skills Development Canada, the Neighbourhood of Friends Tenant Association and the Rural Secretariat. In addition, an Advisory Committee has been formed consisting of representatives from other community organizations including Health & Community

In the coming weeks, new programs will be offered to children aged birth to 12 years and their families ranging from Drop In N' Play, Homework Haven, and Basic Adult Literacy. If anyone would like additional information about the Family Literacy Centre, you can call Ms. Louise Newell, Coordinator at 466-1511.



A NEWSLETTER FOR THE  
EASTERN RURAL SECRETARIAT

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*Partnering to Promote  
Social & Economic  
Development in the  
Eastern Region*

The vision of the Strategic Social Plan is a vision for Newfoundland and Labrador. It includes a place which is of a healthy, educated, distinctive, self-reliant and prosperous people living in vibrant, supportive communities within sustainable regions. The values inherent in this vision include: Self-reliance; Fairness; Equity; Social Justice; and Collaboration.

In February 2004, the Strategic Social Plan was re-named as the Rural Secretariat. The proposed mandate for the Rural Secretariat is to (1) promote sustainable economic and social development; (2) carry out research and analysis of economic and social issues affecting rural Newfoundland and Labrador; (3) ensure that rural concerns are considered throughout the provincial government and promoted at the federal level; and (4) promote awareness of provincial and federal programs and services regarding rural communities.

The benefits in having a Regional Steering Committee include a collective ability to influence government in its policy and program development. The key to the success of the Regional Steering Committee stem from open communication at regular monthly meetings, information sharing and trust between partnering organizations, and improved knowledge about the social and economic challenges in the region.



**Eastern Regional Steering  
Committee for the Rural  
Secretariat  
(Strategic Social Plan)**  
[www.gov.nl.ca/rural/regions/  
eastern.asp](http://www.gov.nl.ca/rural/regions/eastern.asp)

## Membership

Eastern Interim School Board  
College of the North Atlantic  
Discovery Regional Development Board  
Schooner Regional Development Corporation  
Peninsulas Health Care Corporation  
Health & Community Services - Eastern Regional Board  
Newfoundland & Labrador Federation of Municipalities  
Human Resources Skills Development Canada  
Human Resources, Labour & Employment  
Innovation, Trade, and Rural Development  
Royal Canadian Mounted Police  
Executive Council - Rural Secretariat  
Youth Representative  
Community Representatives  
Discovery Women's Network