

**Burin Peninsula
Regional Council
of the
Rural Secretariat
Executive Council**



**Activity Report
2008-09**

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Message from the Chair

As Chairperson for the Burin Peninsula Regional Council, I hereby submit the annual activity report for the 2008-09 fiscal year. On behalf of the council and in accordance with the *Guidelines for Annual Activity Reports for Category 3 Government Entities*, my signature is indicative of the council's accountability for the results achieved.

The contents of this report outline the council's activities in respect of its commitments in its 2008-11 Activity Plan.

The Burin Peninsula Regional Council is pleased with the work it has accomplished in year one of its Activity Plan. We are especially pleased with the discussions that occurred as we participated in another round of community engagement sessions. The session discussions were once again frank and honest. Held throughout the region with communities, groups and citizens, these sessions have corroborated the thoughts of the council and provided us with important thoughts and opinions which helped guide us in our advice document submitted to the Provincial Government on regionalism.

Having completed our commitments on regionalism as outlined in year one of our Activity Plan, we are now ready to move on to year two of the plan and provide further advice to the Provincial Government on regional sustainability.

We look forward to another productive year of furthering the agenda of the Rural Secretariat on the Burin Peninsula.

Sincerely,



Michael Graham
Chair
Burin Peninsula Regional Council of the Rural Secretariat

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1. Overview of the Region



The population of the Burin Peninsula is estimated to be 20,962 in 2009, or about 4.1 percent of the total provincial population. This share is expected to decrease to roughly 3.6 percent over the next 15 years.

Employment on the Burin Peninsula is estimated at 10,990 according to Census 2006, or 4.1 percent of total provincial employment. Employment in the region has largely remained unchanged in the ten year period prior, with an increase of about 0.5 percent from Census 2001 data, but decreased approximately by 0.5 percent from Census 1996.

Goods-producing industries, including primary activity, mining and oil extraction, construction, utilities and manufacturing accounted for 40.3 percent of employment in the region in 2006. This sector accounted for 26.8 percent of provincial employment. Industry level detail is provided in Chart 1.

Private sector services, excluding private education and health services, accounted for 38.1 percent of employment compared to 46.3 percent for the province as a whole.

Last, employment in public administration and services that are largely funded or delivered by the public sector, such as education, health care and social assistance, totalled 2,365 in 2005, or 21.5 percent of employment. This compares to 27.1 percent for the province as a whole.

Within the broad public administration and related services group, health care and social assistance services employment totalled 1,115 and educational services totalled 680. Federal, provincial, municipal and aboriginal public administration, including defence services, totalled 570. Industry level detail is provided in Chart 2.

Chart 1
Employment by Industry, 2005

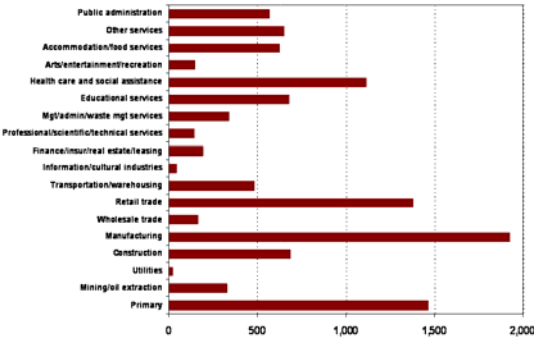
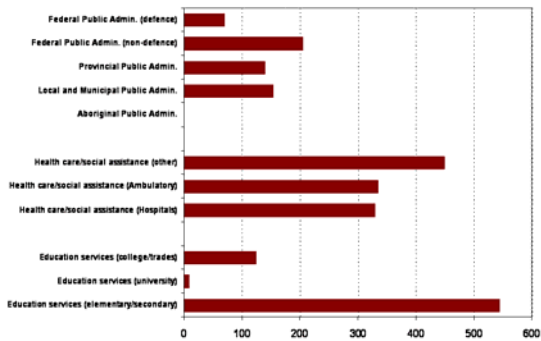


Chart 2
Public and Related Services Employment, 2005



and 31.1 percent was considered full-year.

The potential labour supply is declining at a faster rate than employment. The labour force population (ages 15-64) was estimated at 19,300 in 1995 and 16,000 in 2005, representing a decline of about 17 percent over the ten year period.

The stability of employment in the region relative to the declining labour supply resulted in a lower unemployment rate and higher incomes, and indirectly resulted in lower reliance on income support.

The regional unemployment rate declined from about 34 percent in 1995 to 23.1 percent in 2005, and personal income per capita, after adjusting for inflation and personal taxes, grew by 26.6 percent.

Total incidence of income support, or the percentage of people that received income support at some point during the year, declined from 19.8 percent in 1995 to 12.5 percent in 2005.

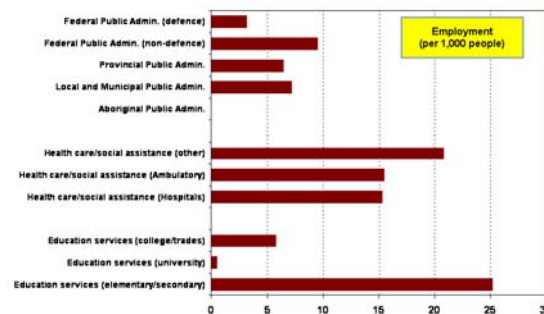
One of the key long term labour market challenges facing the region relates to how to meet employment demand as the labour supply ages and declines over the next decade. Today, about 37 percent of those ages 15-64 are ages 50-64. This is expected to increase to about 45 percent by 2020. Over the same period, the labour force age population is expected to decline by about 20 percent from about 14,900 to fewer than 11,800 persons.

Additional information, including gender-specific information and information for other levels of geography, can be found at www.communityaccounts.ca and www.exec.gov.nl.ca/rural

There were 109.5 persons employed in public administration and related services in 2005 per 1,000 people resident in the region in 2005. This compares to 142.7 persons per every 1,000 residents for the province as a whole. Industry level detail is provided in Chart 3.

The profile of employment in the region is also changing. In 2005, 77.8 percent of employment was considered full-time (30 or more hours per week) and 39.8 percent of employment was considered full-year (50 or more weeks worked per year). By comparison, 78.2 percent of employment was considered full-time in 1995,

Chart 3
Per Capita Public and Related Services Employment, 2005



2. Regional Council Overview

The Burin Peninsula Regional Council is comprised of 10 members; six female and four male. The council currently has representation from larger and smaller communities throughout the region, including ten members from communities of less than 5,000 people. The council met six times in 2008-09.

The council does not have a budget and, as such, an audited financial statement is not required in this report. Meetings of the Council and associated costs are funded through the budget of the Rural Secretariat. Below is a summary of the expenditures for the region including both planner and council costs:

	<i>Burin Peninsula Budget 2008-09</i>	<i>Burin Peninsula Expenditures</i>
Transportation & Communication	12,400.00	14,949.40
Supplies	2,500.00	307.99
Purchased Services	2,500.00	1,540.42
Total Budgeted	17,400.00	16,797.81

The Rural Secretariat also funds a regional planner position in the region, who among other duties, act as an information resource for the council and facilitate its work. The planner for the Burin Peninsula region is Greg Dominaux. His office is located at the Burin campus of the College of the North Atlantic.

Regional Council members	Community
Trina Appleby	Burin
Marie Collins	Lamaline
Jack Cumben	Grand Bank
Kate Edwards	Lawn
Pam Ghent	Harbour Mille
Dr. Michael Graham (Chair)	Burin
Irene Hurley	Spanish Room
Mary McCarthy	Marystown
Harold Murphy	Parker's Cove
Charles Wiscombe	Creston South

* For an updated listing of council members please visit <http://www.exec.gov.nl.ca/rural/regionalmem.asp>

3. Mandate

The Regional Council mandate is:

- To develop a common, evidence-based understanding of the social, economic, environmental and cultural realities of a region.
- To review key regional economic and social measures (e.g. education levels, demographic trends, health status, income levels, EI usage, economic diversity) and to reach agreement on the priorities for change over the next five years.
- To identify policies and programs which either advance, negatively impact or need to be developed to encourage the necessary change.
- To advance regional cooperation through the sharing of information on and discussion about economic and social measures, and to encourage regional partners to take action on and be accountable for those areas within their mandates.
- To nominate an individual to represent the region on the Provincial Council of the Rural Secretariat.

4. Lines of Business

The council supports the Rural Secretariat's two lines of business.

- **Partnership Development.** The Rural Secretariat engages citizens and coordinates the development of partnerships to focus on sustainable regional development and provide direct consideration of regional issues in the development of public policy.
- **Regional Impact Awareness and Action.** The Rural Secretariat conducts research and analysis, and provides informed advice on opportunities and challenges in all regions of Newfoundland and Labrador.

5. Values

The core values explain the character of the organization. These values are paramount to the mandate and activities of the council and are as follows:

Collaboration	to commit to working together effectively
Creativity	to seek and support new ideas and approaches
Empowerment	to assume responsibility for participating in discussions, making informed decisions and taking personal responsibility for their contributions
Inclusion	to acknowledge others' views and perspectives and exercise the right and opportunity to express their own
Recognition	to recognize and value the skills that each bring
Transparency	to share open and objective advice based on sound information and principles
Trust	to be open and supportive when partnering and to follow through on requests and commitments

6. Primary Clients

The primary clients of the Regional Council include the Rural Secretariat, the Provincial Council of the Rural Secretariat, and departments and agencies within the Provincial Government, among others.

The council will also engage individuals, groups and organizations within the region as it carries out its work.

7. Vision

The Burin Peninsula Regional Council supports the vision of the Rural Secretariat:

Sustainable regions with healthy, educated, prosperous people living in safe, inclusive communities.

Through its work, the Council is identifying priorities that contribute to regional sustainability which considers economic, social, cultural and environmental aspects.

8. Mission

The mission statement identifies the priority focus area of the Council. It represents the key longer-term result that the council will be striving towards as they move forward with their work. The priority focus areas support the strategic directions of the provincial government. The statement also identifies the indicators that will assist both the Council and the public in monitoring and evaluating success. The council will report on its mission statement in its 2010-11 Annual Report.

The mission statement of the council is as follows:

By 2011, the council will have participated in an ongoing community engagement process that will demonstrate the value of two-way communication between the provincial government and citizens.

9. Report on Performance

In its 2008-11 Activity Plan the council identified three goals. This section outlines each of these goals, its measure and indicators, and describes activities undertaken by the Council to advance its achievement.

The activities and performance of the Council with respect to each of the goals as outlined below, is in support of the provincial government's strategic directions for the Rural Secretariat (Appendix A). In particular, the Council's performance allowed for the development of new partnerships with various stakeholders at the regional level, and provided a new regional forum to discuss citizens' perspectives on regional and rural sustainability. The Council recognizes that these strategic directions are long term in nature and believes that its activities in 2008-09 and beyond will further support these directions.

9.1 Issue 1: Regionalism

The Burin Peninsula Regional Council realized that to achieve long-term sustainability for the region, communities, business and citizens alike will have to both think and act regionally. Due to changes in our demographic and economic landscape, our communities are becoming increasingly challenged to provide quality services to their residents. Community engagement sessions conducted by the Council has further reinforced these issues and the need for communities to be working together more, supporting one another and sharing services where possible.

Goal:

By March 31, 2011, the Burin Peninsula Regional Council will have developed and communicated an informed regional perspective on regionalism to the Provincial Government and community stakeholders that supports the advancement of this issue.

2008-09 Objective:

By March 31, 2009, the Burin Peninsula Regional Council will have developed and communicated an informed regional perspective on regionalism to the Provincial Government and community stakeholders.

Measure:

Position paper document developed and communicated.

Indicator	Accomplishments 2008-09
<p>Document developed that reflects results of Council discussions and the community engagement process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In developing this document, the council undertook several activities to assist in its deliberations and to support the messages being put forward. • The council conducted an extensive review of the region's demographic and economic situation, a review of the Municipal Councillor Survey Newfoundland and Labrador 2007 produced by Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador, a review of the Schooner Regional Development Corporation's Strategic Economic Plan and revisited the information gathered from communities and citizens during the eight community engagement sessions held by the Regional Council in 2007. • The council developed a preliminary "Regionalism" document based on this information and also from their own personal experiences, opinions and discussions on this issue. • Regional Council met six times over the course of the year with regionalism being the topic of discussion at each meeting • To further advance their discussions and understanding of regionalism Council also partnered with the Regional Councils from the Clarenville – Bonavista and the Gander – New-Wes-Valley regions to host a forum on regionalism. The organization of this session was led by Memorial University's Harris Centre. It brought together regional council members, community stakeholders, Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador, government departments, Regional Economic Development Boards and several researchers from Memorial University. • Community engagement sessions were held throughout the region for citizen input. Reports on the results of each of the sessions were then developed and reviewed by the council. Council then used this information to inform and corroborate the advice given in the position paper submitted to the Provincial Government on regionalism.

Indicator	Accomplishments 2008-09
Document developed that reflects results of Council discussions and the community engagement process (Continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A regionalism advice document was completed and submitted to government in March 2009. Because of time constraints, the council were unable to communicate their informed regional perspective back to community stakeholders. This document will be shared with participants of the community engagement process in early 2009.
Community engagement conducted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Regional Council hosted a series of five community engagement sessions throughout the region. Approximately 60 people participated in total, representing 20 of the 39 communities on the Burin Peninsula. These sessions ensured that communities, organizations and citizens had an opportunity to voice their thoughts and opinions on regionalism. It also provided the opportunity for the Regional Council to share their thoughts with citizens for feedback. These sessions validated the thinking of the Regional Council. Participation was broad and included municipal councillors, local service district committee members, volunteer fire departments, church groups, heritage groups, theatre groups, rural development associations, the regional economic develop board, regional waste management committee, school councils, student councils, harbour authorities, trail associations, the Community Youth Network, Brighter Futures and the business community.
Government engaged	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Partnership Planner met with representative of the Department of Municipal Affairs to discuss current activities occurring in the province related to regionalism and the role that the department is playing in supporting this type of activity. Planner then shared this information with the Regional Council. Representatives from the Department of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development participated in the Rural Secretariat-Harris Centre forum hosted in Clarenville on Regionalization.

Based on these accomplishments, the council will work toward the following measure and indicators for it 2009-10 objective.

2009-10 Objective:

By March 31, 2010, the Burin Peninsula Regional Council will have further engaged the provincial government and community to discuss the results contained in the position paper on regionalism for additional input.

2009-10 Measure:

- Provincial Government and community engaged to discuss the position paper on regionalism.

2009-10 Indicators:

- Position paper shared with community
- Community engaged for their commentary on the position paper on regionalism
- Provincial government engaged for their commentary on the position paper on regionalism

9.2 Issue 2: Economic Growth and Diversification

The Burin Peninsula Regional Council realized that to achieve long-term sustainability for the region, long-term well paying jobs are crucial. The region's residents should have the opportunity to work and earn a living that provides them with a decent quality of living. This is the cornerstone upon which the region's long-term sustainability will be built. Community engagement sessions conducted by the council has further reinforced the importance of this issue.

Goal:

By March 31, 2011, the Burin Peninsula Regional Council will have developed and communicated an informed regional perspective on economic growth and diversification identifying the opportunities and limitations related to future business development in the region and that supports the advancement of economic growth in the region.

2008-09 Objective:

By March 31, 2009, the Burin Peninsula Regional Council will have identified specific issues and opportunities related to economic growth and diversification which will provide the focus of the Council's work for 2010 and discussed the relationship between regionalism and economic growth and diversification.

Measure:

The Regional Council has confirmed the focus of its work for 2010.

Indicator	Accomplishments 2008-09
Discussions have occurred regarding the linkages between regionalism and economic growth and diversification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Regional Council discussed the relationship between regionalism and economic growth and diversification. • The linkages between regionalism and economic diversification were also discussed with participants during the community engagement process. • Recognizing these linkages, the council developed the following definition of regionalism that includes the private sector: <p style="margin-left: 40px;">“Regionalism is a way of thinking and an attitude of cooperation and collaboration among not only communities and towns but also among community groups, the business community and our citizens. Regionalism encompasses an individual's sense of community and pride in their region as well as their town. It is a focused effort towards a common goal.”</p> • The council included the following message to government in their advice document on regionalism: A region that works together will be much more attractive to businesses considering investing in the region. Removal of the competition between communities for economic development opportunities and marketing the benefits of the entire region as a great place to do business will have a greater positive impact on investors.
Specific issues and opportunities related to economic growth and diversification have been identified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through its work over the past year, the council identified a very strong relationship between the region's ability to work together and economic growth and diversification. The following issues and opportunities relating to economic growth and diversification were identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A region that is working together can be much more attractive to outside investors. • A region working together can make better decisions on upgrades to infrastructure to support economic development.

Indicator	Accomplishments 2008-09
Specific issues and opportunities related to economic growth and diversification have been identified (Continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A greater sense of region by citizens can lead to greater awareness of, and more support for local business in the region. • The council will refer to the issues and opportunities defined around economic growth and diversification to guide their work as it relates to regionalism in the coming years.

Based on these accomplishments, the council will work toward the following measure and indicators for it 2009-10 Objective.

2009-10 Objective:

By March 31, 2010, the Burin Peninsula Regional Council will have developed and communicated an informed regional perspective on economic growth and diversification to the provincial government and community stakeholders.

2009-10 Measure:

- Position paper developed and communicated

2009-10 Indicators:

- Document developed that reflects the results of the council discussions and community engagement
- Community engagement conducted
- Government engaged

9.3 Issue 3: Demographic Change

The Burin Peninsula Regional Council realizes that an aging population and overall declining population figures are impacting the region. Due to changes in our demographic and economic landscape, our communities are becoming increasingly challenged to provide quality services to their residents. Community engagement sessions conducted by the council has further reinforced these issues and the importance of dealing with them to ensure our sustainability in the long-term.

Goal:

By March 31, 2011, the Burin Peninsula Regional Council will have developed and communicated an informed regional perspective on demographic trends identifying the issues and opportunities related to demographic change in the region.

2008-09 Objective:

By March 31, 2009, the Burin Peninsula Regional Council will have assessed the relationship between demographic change and regionalism.

Measure:

Assessed the relationship between demographic change and regionalism.

Indicator	Accomplishments 2008-09
Impacts of demographic change on regionalism determined	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Upon reviewing the changing demographics of the region, the council became aware of the challenges the region will face with regards to a declining and aging population. These population changes further mediate the need for cooperation in the region to work towards sustainability. With declining populations and tax bases, municipalities will continue to face greater challenges to provide adequate services.• Through its Regionalism Forum held in November 2008, Council learned that from a historical comparative perspective that regionalism is driven by crisis of some sort, including declining population base. Collaborative efforts to share services between entities and municipalities have proven to increase sustainability.• Through their own review and their Regionalism Forum, Council developed an understanding that the relationship between regionalism and demographics is quite strong.

Through its deliberations, the benefits of adopting a regional approach became apparent to council. Council were able to see the linkages between regionalism, a strengthened economy and an overall improved region to live in, and subsequent positive impacts on Burin Peninsula's demographics. A strengthened economy with increased employment opportunities will allow the Burin Peninsula to be much better positioned to attract and retain residents – especially our youth. Based on these accomplishments, Council will work toward the following measure and indicators for it 2009-10 Objective.

2009-10 Objective:

By March 31, 2010, the Burin Regional Council will have examined issues and opportunities related to demographic change to determine the focus of their work for 2011.

2009-10 Measure:

- The Regional Council has determined the focus of its work for 2011

2009-10 Indicators:

- Discussions have occurred regarding the issues and opportunities related to the linkages between regionalism and demographics

10. Additional Highlights

The Burin Peninsula Regional Council is seeking to broaden public dialogue on long-term opportunities and challenges facing the region. It aims to provide input and advice to the provincial government on these opportunities and challenges. This is a long term process that will require ongoing collaboration with citizens, stakeholders and interests in the region.

The Council feels that its performance in 2008-09 has allowed it to make advancements in this process. Council is providing an open and transparent means for rural perceptions, realities, opportunities, challenges and potential solutions to be discussed, debated and deliberated. It has brought together citizens, stakeholders and interests from differing backgrounds with differing priorities and perspectives, differing bases of information and knowledge, and differing expectations. It has built confidence, leadership and trust, and it has broadened public awareness of issues.

In addition to the points raised in Section 9, four additional highlights are worthy of mention. These are consistent with the Rural Secretariat's strategic directions and mandate, and will serve to inform the work of the Council in 2009-10 and 2010-11.

1. The Regional Council developed and submitted an advice document to the Minister of Human Resources, Labour and Employment with respect to the Youth Retention and Attraction Strategy in December 2008. In its submission, Council's main recommendations focused on:
 - a. The creation of a "Youth Attraction Secretariat" or similar type office within government to provide youth with a "one-stop-shop" for all their information and employment needs. This office would also be responsible for all marketing and awareness campaigns, conducting research, information dissemination and the implementation of all components of the Youth Retention and Attraction Strategy.
 - b. The development and implementation of marketing and education campaigns surrounding current and future employment opportunities, career choices and the benefits of living in Newfoundland and Labrador.
 - c. Begin to negotiate and include benefits/employment opportunities for youth into all future "Benefit Agreements" on new major industrial projects.
 - d. Upon completion of the strategy all recommendations must be implemented as soon as possible, be properly resourced and supported and be executed in a coordinated manner.

2. Several Regional Council members attended a learning event hosted by the Rural Secretariat on October 15, 2008. Building on the annual Dialogue Day events from 2004 to 2007, this event was facilitated by Dr. Rupert Downey of the University of Victoria and focused on community-based research. This learning event was followed by the *Knowledge in Motion '08* conference hosted by the Leslie Harris Centre of Regional Development of Memorial University. This conference focused on the importance of linking university research to community development needs and priorities and how to translate knowledge to

inform public policy and decision making.

3. The Regional Council continued its community engagement process. These sessions were perhaps the most important piece of the Council's activity plan as it ensured that communities, organizations and citizens had an opportunity to voice their thoughts and opinions on regionalism. These sessions were held throughout the region and once again validated the thinking of the Regional Council. An equally important benefit of the sessions was that it provided a forum for citizens to gather and start talking about regionalism. Approximately 60 people participated in total, representing 20 of the 39 communities on the Burin Peninsula. Participation was broad and included municipal councillors, local service district committee members, volunteer fire departments, church groups, heritage groups, theatre groups, rural development associations, the regional economic develop board, regional waste management committee, school councils, student councils, harbour authorities, trail associations, the Community Youth Network, Brighter Futures and the business community.
4. To further advance their discussions and understanding of regionalism Council partnered with the Regional Councils from the Clarendville – Bonavista region and the Gander – New-Wes-Valley region to host a forum on regionalism. The Lesley Harris Center's Knowledge Impact on Society project led the organization of this Knowledge Transfer Session. It brought together regional council members from the three regions, community stakeholders from each region, Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador, government departments, regional economic development boards and several researchers from Memorial University. Information learned from the researchers and other participants at the session provided further support to the thoughts and ideas put forth by the Council in their advice document.

11. Opportunities and Challenges Ahead

As the nature of the work of the Council is broad-based and long-term in nature, the challenges and opportunities faced by the Council remain fairly similar from year to year. It feels that these challenges and opportunities can be categorized along three themes.

Provision of Policy Advice to government

The council's mandate commits it to reaching consensus on the priorities for change in its region and to identifying policies and programs to encourage desired change. The challenge for council, given the range of issues, perspectives, interests and needs within its region, is to reach consensus on priorities for change and on policy advice to provide to government. The opportunity for council is to position itself as an objective, informed and influential advisory body within the region that can both provide informed bottom-up policy advice to government as well as respond to top-down policy level requests from government that may impact on the region.

Regional collaboration

The council's mandate commits it to sharing information, advancing regional cooperation and to encouraging regional partners to more actively participate on matters that can advance regional sustainability. The challenge for council is to position itself as an objective, informed and influential advisory body within the region that can advance collaboration. There are two opportunities for council. First, it can position itself as a broad-based and cross-sectoral advisory body that can lead, participate and/or support regional collaboration across a range of sectors, communities and interests. Second, as a broad-based advisory body, it can identify the various supports necessary to foster collaboration and provide advice to government to advance efforts to provide such supports.

Regional communications

The council understands that a range of non-governmental organizations in rural areas provide advice to government on a range of policy matters. In large part, these organizations are focused on particular agendas, needs and interests, such as and among others, regional economic development, environmental awareness and protection, social policy advancement and municipal governance. The challenge for it is to openly and positively communicate its mandate and role to other regional stakeholders and interests, and to position itself as an objective, informed and influential advisory body that can assist other stakeholders. The opportunity for it, through new and strengthened relationships with regional stakeholders, is to ensure that a broad range of perspectives are considered as it identifies regional priorities, provides advice to government and fosters collaboration.

Appendix A: Strategic Directions

Strategic Directions

1. Title: Regional Partnership Development

Outcome Statement: Stronger and more dynamic regions.

Clarifying Statement: This outcome requires systemic intervention by the Regional Council in the areas of:

- Partnership Development
 - Within regions
 - Between government and regions
- Forum for informed discussion and priority identification that links economic, social, cultural and environmental aspects of regional sustainability.

2. Title: Assessment of Policy on Regional Sustainability

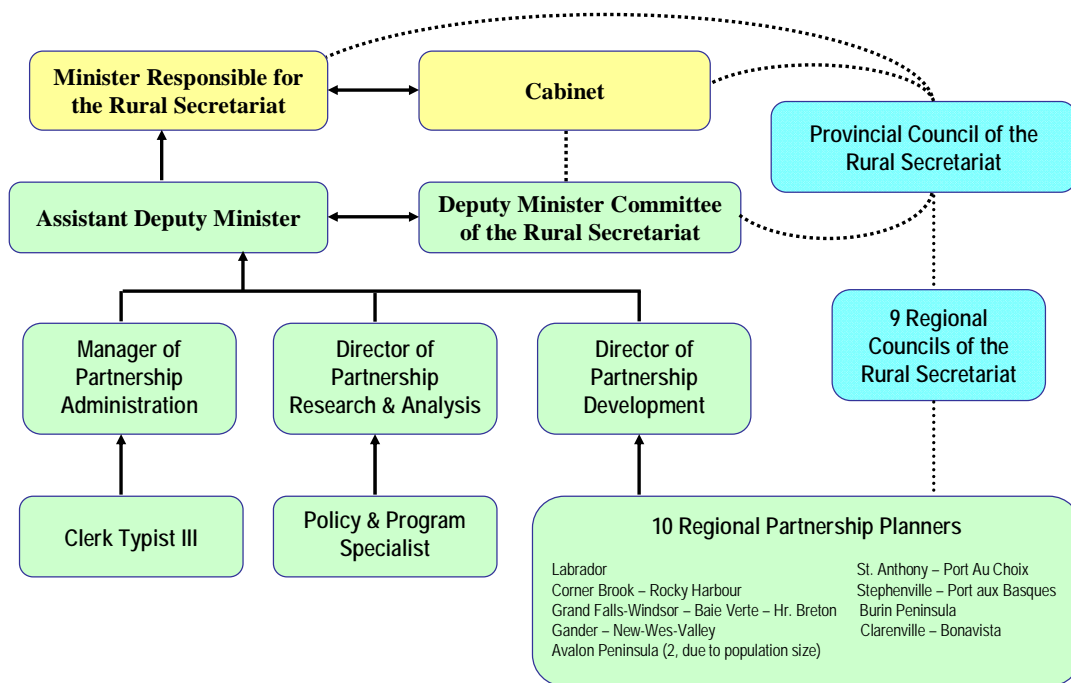
Outcome Statement: Improved Government understanding of and response to significant and long-term regional issues.

Clarifying Statement: This outcome requires systemic intervention by the Regional Council in the areas of:

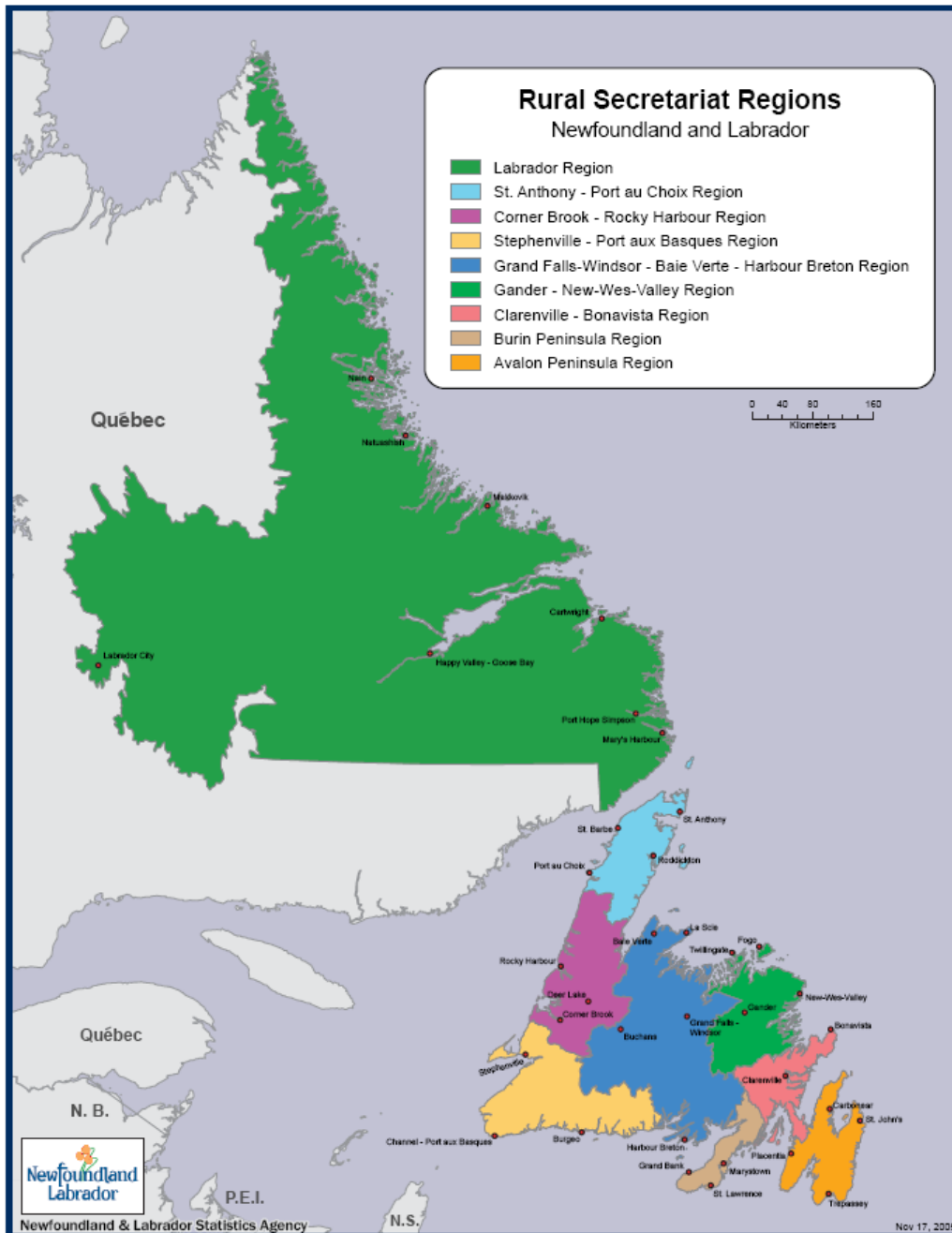
- Regional perspectives which can inform the development and implementation of public policy

Appendix B: Organizational Structure

Rural Secretariat Structure



Appendix C: Map of Rural Secretariat Regions



Appendix D: Mandate of Rural Secretariat and Regional Councils

Mandate of the Rural Secretariat

The Rural Secretariat's mandate is to:

- Promote the well-being of all regions of Newfoundland and Labrador through a comprehensive and coordinated approach to economic, social, cultural and environmental aspects of regional development.
- Act as the focal point for government to work with local and regional partners to build strong and dynamic regions and communities.
- Ensure that regional concerns are considered throughout the provincial government and promoted at the federal level.
- Carry out research and analysis of economic and social issues affecting all regions of Newfoundland and Labrador.
- Help communities and regions identify and take advantage of growth opportunities.

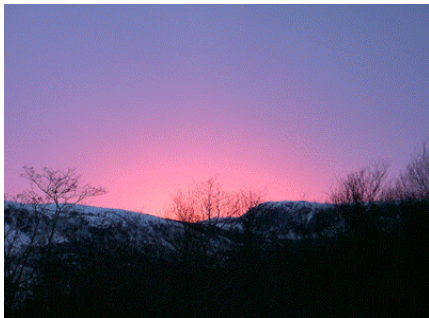
Mandate of the Provincial Council of the Rural Secretariat

The Provincial Council's mandate is to:

- Develop a common, evidence-based understanding of the social, economic, environmental and cultural realities facing the province.
- Review key provincial economic and social measures (e.g. education levels, demographic trends, health status, income levels, EI usage, economic diversity) and to reach agreement on the priorities for change over the next five years.
- Identify and advise government on policies and programs which either advance, negatively impact or need to be developed to encourage the necessary change over the five year period.
- Advance cooperation through the sharing of information on and discussion about economic and social measures, and to encourage government and community partners to take action on and be accountable for those areas within their mandates.
- Meet twice annually with the provincial Cabinet and deputy ministers to advance regional development priorities.
- Serve as an external sounding board for government for the development of strategies, policies, programs and budget issues that will affect provincial and regional sustainability.

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Photos Courtesy of: courtesy of the Greater Lamaline Area Development Association



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