

# Burin Peninsula Regional Council Vision Development



Mooring Cove

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## What is a Vision?

This document represents a vision that has been created by the Burin Peninsula regional council. It is intended to be a dynamic working document that will be adapted as: priorities are achieved, new priorities are identified, community engagement discussions prescribe and as the regions of Newfoundland and Labrador continue to grow and change. The vision will identify what citizens want to see in 15-20 years. Today that time frame is 2022-2027. In five years, that time frame will be 2027-2032.

As priorities are accomplished new priorities will be identified. This will provide an opportunity for us to be informed about what is moving and changing in our regions, where the next opportunity will be and where the next challenge will be. It will also provide a challenge for all involved to have faith in the process and realize that it will take time until these priorities are accomplished. It takes time to make significant change and it is important for this council to remain focused on the future, even in the midst of immediate challenges.

## Background & Introduction

The Burin Peninsula regional council of the Rural Secretariat was appointed in August 2005. The council, comprised of men and women from both large and small communities throughout the peninsula, has been tasked to discuss the long term future of the region. Discussions have focused on how the changes we are living through today will affect us over the next 10 to 15 years. We need to do this to ensure that the decisions we make over the next months and years provide our communities and regions with best opportunity for a bright future. Up to this time the council has discussed and analyzed information on economic, demographic and social challenges and opportunities within the region.

In discussing the future of their region the council has developed a vision of what they would like this region to look like in the future. In doing so, they are also taking a look at what they think the priorities should be to ensure their region's future. Over time, these discussions, and the discussions that the regional council have with organizations in the region, will influence future government policies and programs, and just as importantly, help influence how individual, communities and other stakeholders work together in a region.

## Rural Secretariat

## Regions & Government Working Together

## The Regional Council

The regional council is comprised of members from larger and smaller communities, males and females who bring a diverse background in experience and expertise.

To view a current list of the members, please visit our membership list on our website at:

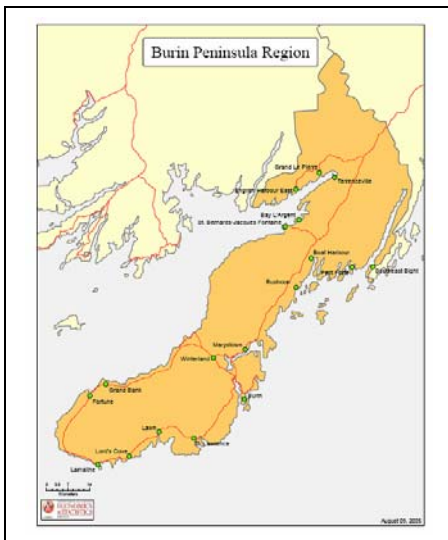
<http://www.exec.gov.nl.ca/rural/RSR8.asp>

## Our Vision for 2020

The year is now 2020.....

The Burin Peninsula, still referred to as “The Boot” by many, stands proud as we enter the year 2020. Much has changed over the years throughout the region but one thing that remains constant is its people and their resilience, work ethic and hospitality.

A region steeped in rich history, culture and tradition, the Burin Peninsula was built on the fishery and, as the region moved through the 20<sup>th</sup> century, mining, shipbuilding and marine fabrication industries expanded the economic base of the region. As the region moved towards the millennium it continued to grow and its population peaked, hovering around the 30,000 mark, and then entered a period of transition. The late 1980's and early 1990's saw the closure of the fluorspar mine in St. Lawrence and the demise of the beloved cod fishery as years of fisheries mismanagement finally took its toll on the industry. Undaunted by the drastic change to their livelihood, those involved in the fishery, harvesters and processors alike, persevered as best they could and diversified into other non-traditional species such as crab, scallop, clams and red fish. Early in the new millennium even aquaculture was beginning to emerge on the scene. Despite these changes and adjustment, however, the landscape of the Burin Peninsula was changed forever as the “new fishery” was not the job generator of days before and people began to



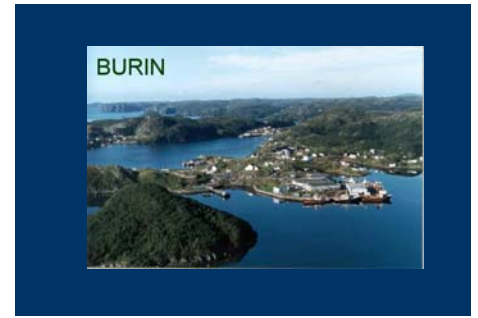
leave to find gainful employment. The new millennium also saw the emergence of the petroleum industry as a new economic driver for the region. It became one of the key focuses of the peninsula's fabrication sector. Despite this, the marine fabrication industry continued to move through periods of high and low activity.

This transition period also saw the emergence and impacts of the global economy on the region as countries like China, once thought of as a far away land, now influenced business operations in our backyard. Major improvements in technology and a requirement of a more highly skilled workforce were part of the new economy as well. People's values entered a period of transition too, as more emphasis was placed on education and the young were no longer as interested in the traditional industries such as the fishery and its limited seasonal work. People's expectations for themselves and their children had changed.

At this point in our history the region also began to experience major shifts in population as many moved to places where they had access to greater opportunities for work, often to urban areas both within and outside the province. This environment of out-migration and migrant workers was nothing new to the region. It became however, more prevalent and its impacts more noticeable. Magnifying the impact of out-migration was the fact that most of those who left were the young, which led to fewer births, fewer children in our schools, an aging population, and a greying workforce.

In the first decade of the new millennium the resilience of the people came through and they, through working together, took stock of the existing strengths in the region, built on those strengths, and put the economic “kick” back in “The Boot”. Focusing on long term planning and sustainability, communities, businesses, and individuals alike put their differences aside and began working together to make the region stronger.

Now the year is 2020, and while the Burin Peninsula is not the same place it was 15 years ago, the region is prosperous, people are happy and as resilient as ever. While the population is smaller and concentrated in fewer



communities, it has stabilized. The unemployment rate has dropped dramatically and people are making more money. The region has new leaders as the youth of 15 years ago are now at the helm. They have brought a new energy to the region as well as a new way of thinking. Today's leaders are innovators, visionaries, and work together as a team, not as rivals.

The people living here and those moving here to work, continue to enjoy a safe place to live and raise their children. Clean air, nature's beauty, and the low cost of living are now important assets in attracting new residents to the region. In describing the new Burin Peninsula:

The fishery is still significant, but the region's economy has diversified and a renewed entrepreneurial spirit has emerged. The reorganized fishery continues to play a key role and is much more stable. Aquaculture is well established throughout the region and non-traditional species are being harvested. The majority of those involved in the industry have secure jobs, are working longer, earning more money, and are self-reliant.

The Burin Peninsula has established itself as a key part of the province's petroleum and marine service industry. The region is a leader in marine fabrication and work in that sector is constant. The development of the province's natural resources such as off-shore oil and gas, mining and hydroelectricity has had a positive economic impact on the entire province, especially on the Burin Peninsula. Strategic investment has led to state of the art local infrastructure and services that support the industry. A stable concentration of local highly skilled workers has ensured the development of a world leading fabrication industry.

The region has developed a new culture of innovation. It has become home to several renewable energy sources. Wind and wave power have proved to be successful with commercial production and application leading to new economic opportunities. The peninsula is now home to a large wind turbine farm. This spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship has led to the technologies developed by local researchers being manufactured locally for use internationally.

The region's tourism industry has developed substantially with the highest level of tourists visiting the region on record. There is a diverse array of high quality tourism products, with well established shoulder seasons and a reputation of service excellence. People continue to visit for the rich history, the celebration of our culture, natural beauty and of course to explore the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon.

Partnerships between local enterprises, investment attraction, and the exploitation of markets outside the province have fuelled much of the growth in the private sector. Improved relations with St. Pierre and Miquelon, expansion to markets in the U.S. and Europe, and more effective use of technology have been key to achieving success.

Education is a high priority for the residents of the Burin Peninsula. In 2020, all citizens in the region have access to high quality education with a focus on life long learning. While further adjustment of the physical delivery of education continued over the years leading to fewer schools, students now have access to the latest in technology. There is an increased emphasis on live instruction and career development. There is a much closer linkage with industry throughout the K-12 and post-secondary system. The literacy rate has increased. The vast majority of students are achieving a high school education. The delivery of post-secondary education in the region is a priority. A close linkage between the private sector and post secondary institutions ensures the availability of a highly skilled work force. The local public post secondary institutions continue to lead regionally focused applied research and innovation activities.

All residents of the region continue to enjoy access to quality health care and

the regional hospital in Burin remains the heart of the healthcare system on the peninsula. While new investments in the healthcare system have led to vast improvements in technology and distance medicine infrastructure, we have also invested heavily into community based preventative healthcare. This in turn has led to better and more efficient care for patients and enhanced working conditions for the region's healthcare providers. Our health practitioners are staying in the region for the long term and we now have real-time access to specialists outside the region allowing for expedited and more accurate diagnosis of patients. All areas of the region are served by reliable ambulance service and 9-1-1 service is available to all residents. The region's vulnerable populations are valued citizens. The aging population has benefited from investment in facilities, increased home-support services and innovative methods to care for this large component of the population. Those with physical and mental disabilities are benefiting from innovative methods of treatment and have been integrated into communities. They are productive members of society.

Creative social programming has led to a reduction in poverty levels. People have been empowered and supported to make the transition into the workforce. These individuals have developed self-confidence and the skills they need to become self reliant. Children and families are benefiting from an improved minimum living standard and increased access to opportunities for growth. School breakfast programs and a focus on healthy lifestyles have been expanded to all schools in the region.

A sense of region has arrived. Communities are working together, sharing services and supporting one another. A few towns continue to act as "hubs" and provide many of the regional services and amenities. In many areas of operation there is regional governance allowing for greater efficiency in the delivery of shared public services. We have cooperation in the delivery of services and use of facilities between all three levels of government. There is increased cooperation between departments and agencies at each level. There is shared support for regional facilities and infrastructure in

both the private and public sectors. There is an increased emphasis on partnership and "buying-local." Facilities are multi-use and are available to a variety of users.

The region's public infrastructure has been upgraded. A regional infrastructure strategy has been developed and implemented in consultation with the private sector. This has helped make the region sustainable. Communities working together and sharing costs and services has enabled towns to upgrade their municipal infrastructure. The government has made appropriate investments and upgrades in transportation, communications infrastructure and port development in support of the local economy.

## Rural Secretariat

Greg Dominaux

Regional Partnership Planner

P.O. Box 307

Burin Bay Arm, NL

A0E 1G0

Tel: 709-891-2800

Fax: 709-891-2802

E-mail:

[GregDominaux@gov.nl.ca](mailto:GregDominaux@gov.nl.ca)

**For additional  
information on the Rural  
Secretariat please visit  
our website at**

[www.gov.nl.ca/rural](http://www.gov.nl.ca/rural)

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### **PHOTO CREDITS:**

**Mooring Cove**– Greater Lamiline Area Dev Association

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