



*Gander - New-Wes-Valley Regional  
Council of the Rural Secretariat*

*Annual Activity Report  
2006-07*



## *Message from the Chair*

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As Chairperson for Gander – New-Wes-Valley Regional Council of the Rural Secretariat I hereby submit the annual activity report for the 2006-07 fiscal year.

On behalf of the council and in accordance with the *Guidelines for Annual Activity Reports for Category 3 Government Entities*, my signature below is indicative of our accountability for the actual results reported.

The Gander-New-Wes-Valley Regional Council has had five successful meetings over the past year. The contents of this report outline the council's activities for the fiscal year of April, 2006 to March, 2007.

Through much conversation and debate the council has completed a preliminary discussion paper. We are in the process of engaging with citizen's groups to validate some of the work we have done to date, and to explore additional issues such as tourism and infrastructure. These will be examined and incorporated into the document in the upcoming year.

Members of the council are to be admired for their commitment to this process. We have come a long way towards forming a regional perspective and to understanding the long term sustainability issues facing our region.

It has been an honour for me to work with the committee and I look forward to the road ahead.

Sincerely,



Edythe Goodridge, Chair  
Gander - New-Wes-Valley Regional Council of the Rural Secretariat

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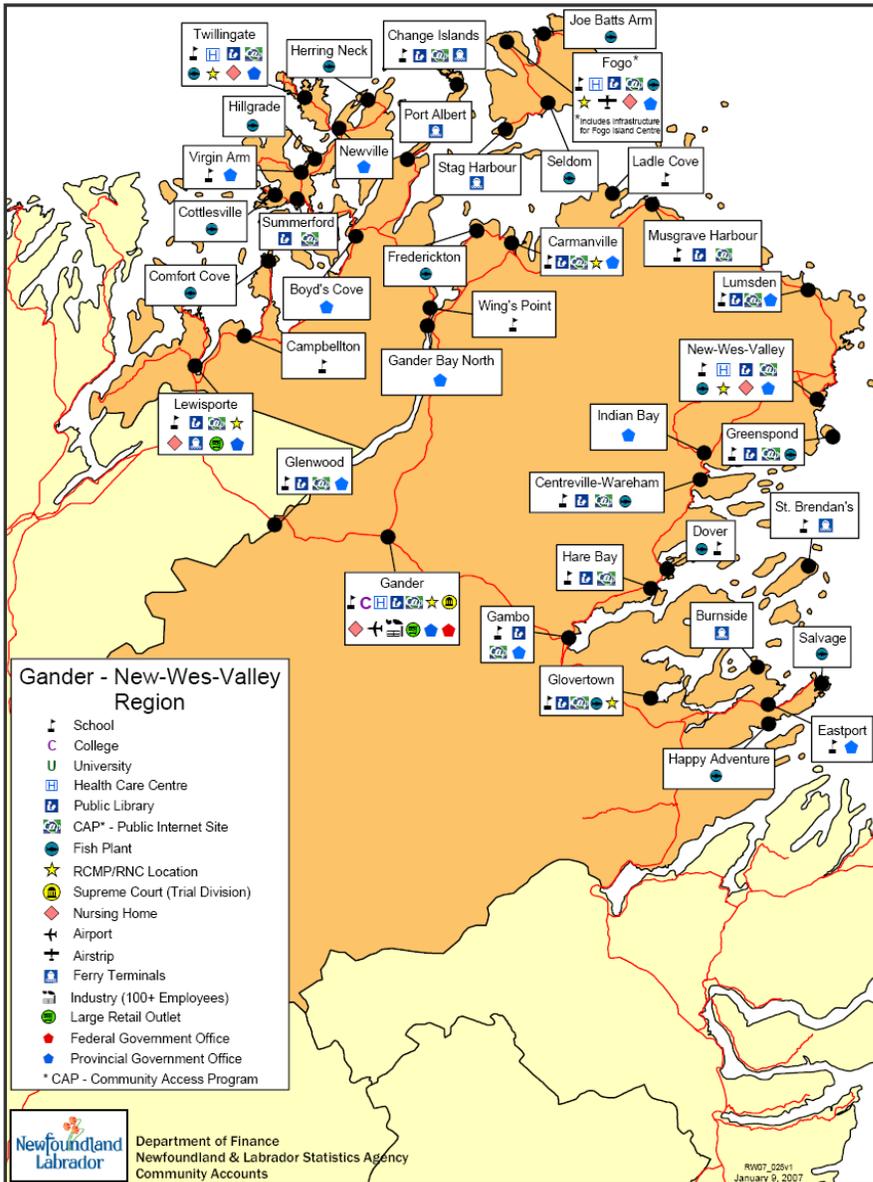
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# Regional Overview



The Gander – New-Wes-Valley Region of the Rural Secretariat spans from Terra Nova National Park in the East to Lewisporte in the West and includes a hundred plus coastal communities in between.

The 2001 Census population for the Gander – New-Wes-Valley Rural Secretariat Region was 48 595. Located geographically near the centre of the region is the town of Gander, which accounted for 20% of the regions population (9660) in 2001.

The remainder of the region consists of smaller towns and clusters of communities which form sub-regions that offer a local economic base and a modest array of private and public services.

## *Regional Council Overview*

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The Gander – New-Wes-Valley Regional Council is comprised of four females and seven males. Members of the council have a variety of backgrounds that include; business, municipal representation, education, culture, social, environmental, tourism, and economic development. The council has representation from larger and smaller communities throughout the region:

Name	Community
Derm Flynn	Appleton
Victor Cassell	Cottlesville
Gail Hoyles	Gander
Mike Harkaway	Gander
Ross Trimm	Clarkes Head
Douglas Churchill	Glovertown South
Nadine Decker	Joe Batt's Arm
Wander Loder	Pike's Arm
Edythe Goodridge, Chair	Salvage
David Regular	Summerford
Jim Snow	Lewisporte

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

The council does not have a budget. Meetings of the council and associated costs are funded through the Rural Secretariat. In addition a staff position, Tanya Noble, is also funded and her office is located in New-Wes-Valley. Among other duties, she provides information resources and is responsible for the facilitation of the work of the council.

## *Mandate*

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The mandate of the Regional Councils 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.

## *Highlights and Accomplishments*

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The Gander – New-Wes-Valley Regional Council held five meetings during the 2006-07 fiscal year. The regional representative and the regional chair also participated in Dialogue Day of the Rural Secretariat that took place October in Rocky Harbour.

During the past year council has devoted considerable time to discussing and debating the economic, demographic and social challenges and opportunities presented in the region. Some of the highlights have included: education, leadership and municipalities, resource governance (fishery, forestry, mining, culture, water, etc.), health care, tourism, public and private enterprise, and infrastructure. Evolving from these conversations is an initial discussion document which was presented to government and is intended to be updated and shared throughout the region. The document is a working paper which identifies the priority issues and opportunities that have been the focus of council's discussions and debate to date. Over time, these priorities may change as advancements are made. The document will be updated to reflect these changes.

As requested by the minister, council has also identified three overarching priorities to be more fully explored with government. These include:

- The governance and utilization of the Marine Resources.
- The structure and enhancement of the Educational System at all levels.
- The mandate and structure of Municipal Governance in the region.

Members of the council have discussed a plan to actively engage citizen's within the region to explore regional sustainability and further refine the priorities they have identified. Members agreed to pilot a few of these sessions and discuss them further in the upcoming year. To date, council has completed sessions in the Eastport and New World Island areas.

Lastly, council has engaged with both provincial and regional representatives on various topics to expand their knowledge. These engagements have added considerable value to the deliberations of council:

- A presentation and dialogue with the Gander Regional Airport Authority
- An overview of the budgetary process by the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Rural Secretariat
- An overview of the Regional Economic Diversification Strategy by the Assistant Deputy Minister of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development
- An overview of the "Mobilizing Knowledge for Sustainable Regions in Newfoundland and Labrador Project" by the Harris Centre at Memorial University of Newfoundland.

## *Opportunities and Challenges Ahead*

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Due to the long term nature and focus of our mandate, both the opportunities and challenges that we have identified in the 2005-06 Activity Report remain the same for this report.

### **Collaboration**

Collaboration, as defined by members of the council, requires a spirit of cooperation and a willingness to make decisions that will maximize benefits for the whole and not just a piece of the whole. Such collaboration would provide opportunities and benefits that would not otherwise be possible. It also poses a challenge for individuals to step outside their 'comfort zones' and bring a different perspective for the future.

### **Long-term thinking**

Long-term thinking will continue to offer both an opportunity and a challenge for members of the council to define a shared goal for the region. We must therefore in the course of our tenure, define the steps required to achieve the goal.

### **Citizen Engagement**

There is an opportunity through this process for citizens to directly influence public policy development. It is a vital facet of the work of the council and hopefully will be equally valuable to the residents of the region. This citizen engagement process is intended to engage residents in a two-way conversation and discussion with council members about the challenges facing the region and the future policy directions of government which may ensure sustainability.

## **Vision Development**

The discussion document that has been developed by the council is intended to be a working document. It will continue to identify the critical issues which will have to be addressed in order to effect the changes necessary to ensure the future we envision. As priorities are addressed we will have an opportunity to discover and explore more of the strengths of the region and the determination of its residents to build a vibrant and sound economy for the future.

## *Appendix A*

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### **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.

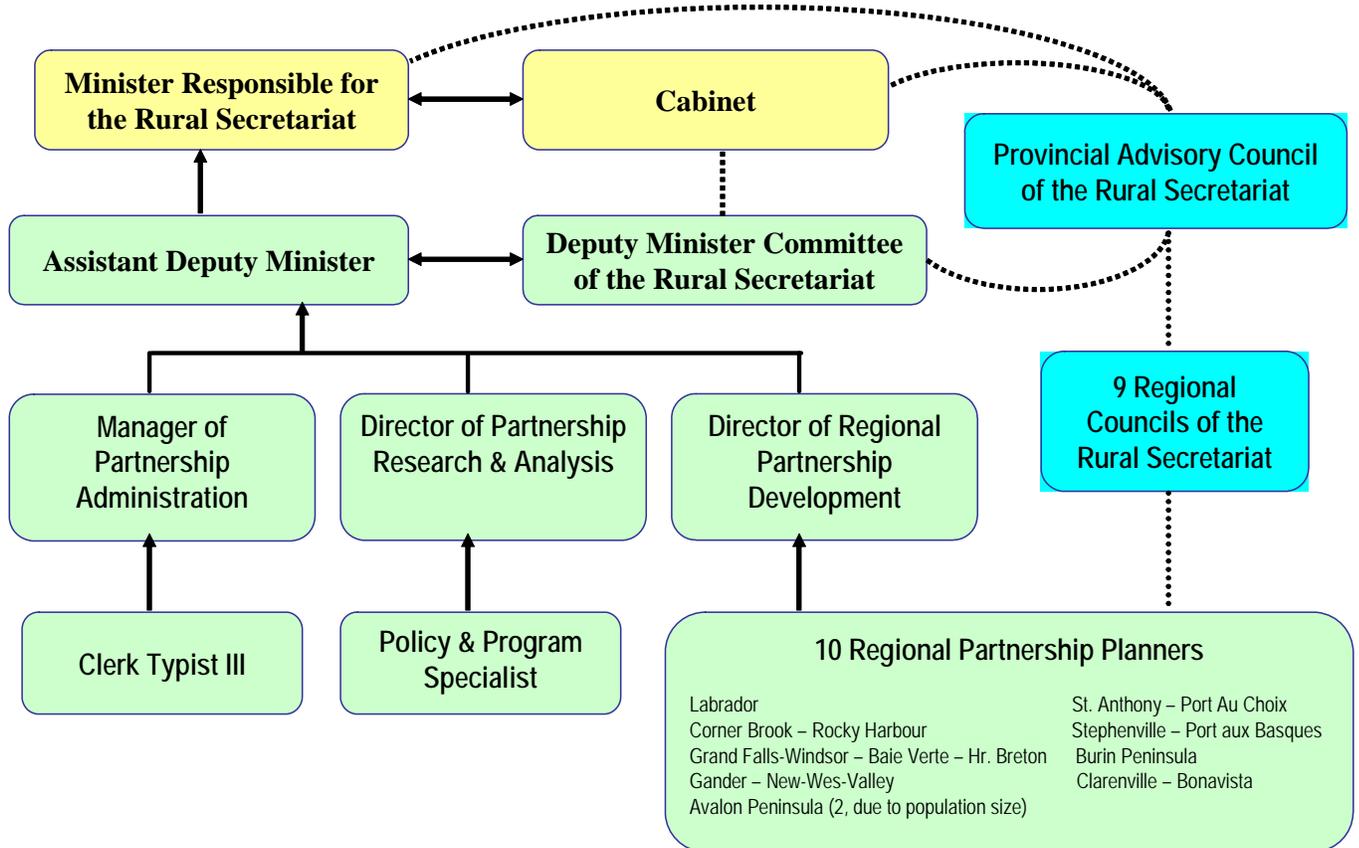
**2. Title: Assessment of Policy on Regional Sustainability**

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

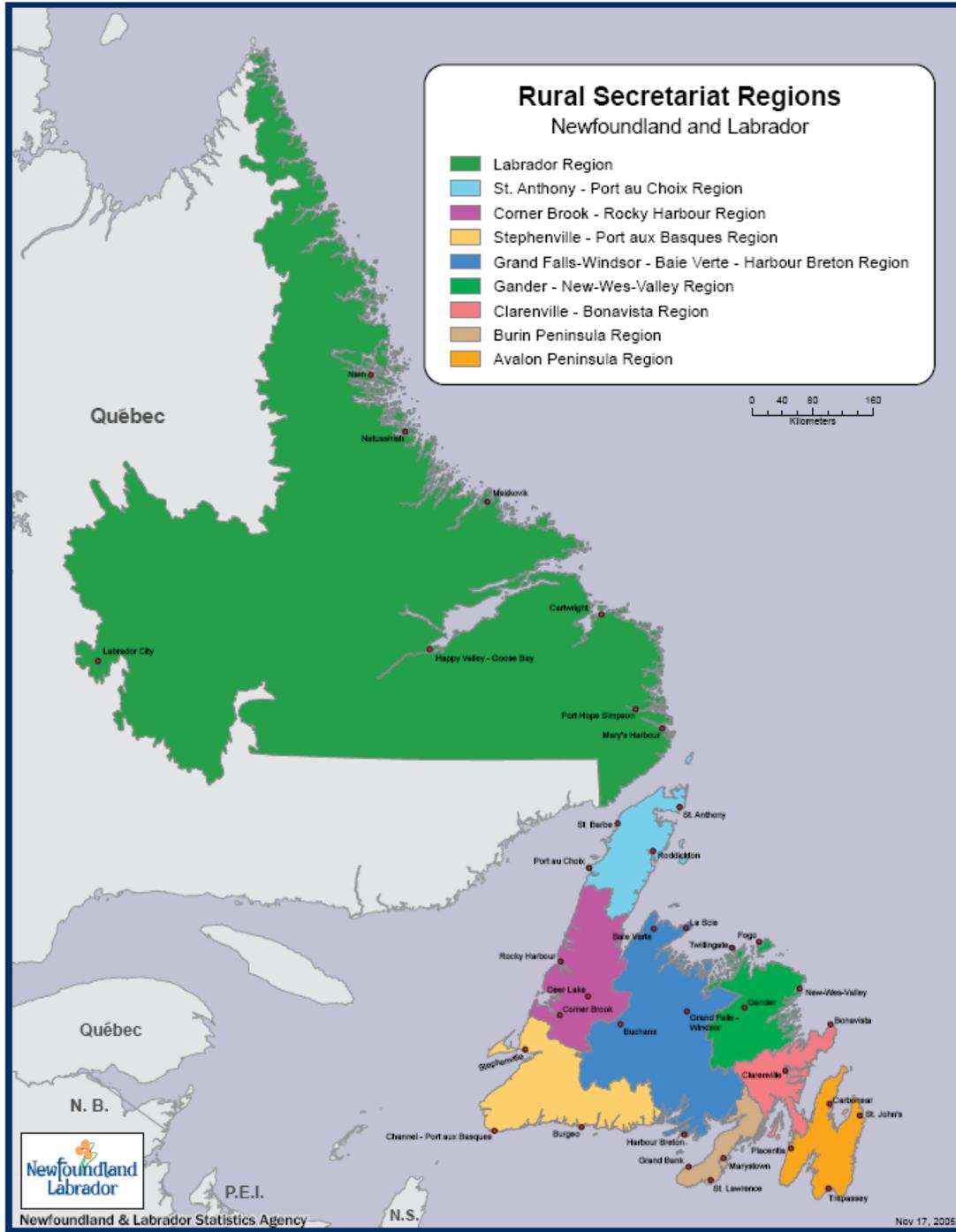
**Clarifying Statement:** This outcome requires systemic intervention by the Regional Council in the areas of:

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

# Rural Secretariat Structure



# Appendix C



## Appendix D

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### **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.

PHOTO CREDITS:



Change Islands:  
Photo Compliments of Lynn Pardy



Pools Island:  
Photo Compliments of Tanya Noble



Tilting, Fogo Island  
Photo Compliments of Transportation & Works



Burnside  
Photo Compliments of Ed Vincent



*Rural Secretariat*

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