



Forward

Message from the Premier

Our government recognizes that Labrador will play a pivotal role in shaping the province's future and understands that Labrador is a distinct part of the province in its geography, demographics, history, and culture.

In the 2005 Speech from the Throne, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador committed to developing a Northern Strategic Plan for Labrador. Our government has invested and will continue to invest in meaningful initiatives throughout the region. The Northern Strategic Plan has clear goals with focused priorities for Labrador over the next five years.

This government is committed to seeking input from its citizens to shape public policy. The priorities developed in this plan are the result of extensive consultations and working together with many stakeholders and community organizations. The Ministers Responsible for Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs will continue to work closely with the people of Labrador during the implementation of this plan.

The Northern Strategic Plan for Labrador identifies a wide variety of initiatives that our government will be pursuing to improve programs and services throughout the region. Our goal is to work together to implement a vision that will advance the social and economic agenda in Labrador.

I am pleased to release the Northern Strategic Plan for Labrador.

Danny Williams, Q.C.
Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador



Message from the Ministers

As the Ministers Responsible for Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs, we are very pleased to present the Northern Strategic Plan for Labrador. The Plan launches a new vision for Labrador and is a result of extensive work over the past several months within government and the community.

In June, Government released the public discussion paper that launched the planning process of the Northern Strategic Plan through the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs. The Department heard from hundreds of people through the numerous consultation and one-on-one sessions as well as email and written input. The submissions and advice received helped to develop this strategy.

The Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs will lead the implementation of the Northern Strategic Plan, but it will require the active involvement and support of all departments and agencies to ensure its objectives are met. It also needs the participation and commitment of all Labradorians. We are optimistic that, equipped with this Plan, we will have the focus and determination we need to meet our strategic directions and achieve the best results for Labradorians in the coming years.

This document should be viewed as a living document and we encourage you to read it and submit any thoughts that you would like to share with us. It will be updated regularly to adjust to changes in demography, technology, society and the economy. Working together, citizens, government and the community can achieve positive change.



John Hickey
*Minister Responsible for
Labrador Affairs*



Thomas G. Rideout
*Minister Responsible for
Aboriginal Affairs*

We envision Labrador where Government and people work together to advance social and economic development so that residents share in an improved quality of life.

Government's Vision for Labrador

Executive Summary

Labrador plays a significant role in the overall future of the province of Newfoundland and Labrador. Its people, land, resources, diversity and culture make it unique and will contribute greatly to the province's future prosperity. Recognizing this, the Northern Strategic Plan for Labrador was developed to establish social and economic priorities that will enable strategic decision making by Government for the benefit of Labradorians and the province, as a whole.

Government's success in priority setting for development in Labrador lies in the strategic planning process. It is important to recognize the challenges faced in Labrador with recruitment and retention of employees, limited access to programs and services due to geographic location and the impending labour shortage. In light of these barriers, Labrador is abundant in its strengths through its resource development potential, perseverance of its people and the diversity of culture through its Aboriginal communities. It is these opportunities that need to be validated and built upon for the future foundations of social and economic development in Labrador.

In establishing Government's strategic directions for the Northern Strategic Plan, substantial research, interdepartmental collaboration and public engagement was required. Consultation with the people of Labrador was critical in establishing a path forward. Based on the feedback received from stakeholders, recurring themes were identified:

- Transportation
- Natural Resources and Environment
- Tourism and Cultural Development
- Education and Employment
- Health
- Access to Programming and Services
- Aboriginal Partnerships
- Working Together

These themes facilitated the shaping of Government's vision and strategic directions in the Northern Strategic Plan.

Government has identified four strategic directions to support the Northern Strategic Plan as it moves towards the advancement of social and economic development in Labrador:

- Supporting equitable programs and services and improving infrastructure to facilitate enhanced accessibility for the residents of Labrador.
- Fostering the progression of social development in Labrador.
- Providing leadership and supporting maximization of economic development opportunities
- Encouraging communications and partnerships with governments, Aboriginal people, communities, organizations and other stakeholders.

These directions are Government's framework for future planning in the region. To support this, specific goals and objectives have been developed for the next five years. Actions and initiatives identified in the Northern Strategic Plan to achieve these goals and objectives were developed in collaboration with a variety of provincial government departments and agencies. Some initiatives resulting from the Northern Strategic Plan include an increase in annual funding to the Labrador Travel Subsidy, development of a Labrador based archive through Them Days Inc., the creation of a Justice Liaison position for Labrador and the implementation of integrated long term management plans for the significant wildlife populations of Labrador. The responsibility to implement the Plan lies with these entities and progress will be monitored by the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs to ensure success.

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador looks forward to Labrador's future and to working with Labradorians in the implementation of the Northern Strategic Plan.

