



**GOVERNMENT OF
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR**

2003-04 Annual Report

**Department of
Environment and Conservation**

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Departmental Overview

The Department of Environment and Conservation was created in February 2004 to support Government's vision that sustainable development of the natural environment is a necessary foundation for long-term economic growth. The new Department consolidated the former Department of Environment with the Lands Branch of the former Department of Government Services and Lands, as well as the Inland Fish and Wildlife Division and the Parks and Natural Areas Division of the Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation. The new Department is in the process of developing an integrated Strategic Plan to include all divisions and branches. For this reason, this document should be viewed in terms of reporting on lines of business rather than strictly on the new Department's strategic issues.

The Department is now comprised of three Branches, which are further subdivided into Divisions (see organizational chart on page 3), a Communications Unit and a Special Projects Unit. Some Divisions are, in turn, subdivided into Sections.

Environment Branch	Ensures safety of drinking water supplies; ensures adequate supplies of water for human, agricultural, industrial and commercial purposes; evaluates industry; develops policies for management of waste materials; ensures an effective environmental assessment process; and development of environmental policy.
Lands Branch	Administers and manages the Province's Crown land resource; investigates and determines land claims against the Crown; develops geomatic products and services; and distributes land-related information.
Natural Heritage Branch	Operates a system of provincial parks, wilderness and ecological reserves and ensures the responsible management of natural resources for the protection and conservation of our natural heritage and wildlife.

The Department also has a Corporate Services Unit (Human Resources and Finance and General Operations), which it shares with the Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation. Information Technology services are provided through Treasury Board Secretariat.

The Department of Environment and Conservation administers the following *Acts* and their associated regulations:

Environmental Protection Act

Endangered Species Act

Water Resources Act

Lands Act

Wildlife Act

Lands Surveyors Act

Provincial Parks Act

Geographical Names Board Act

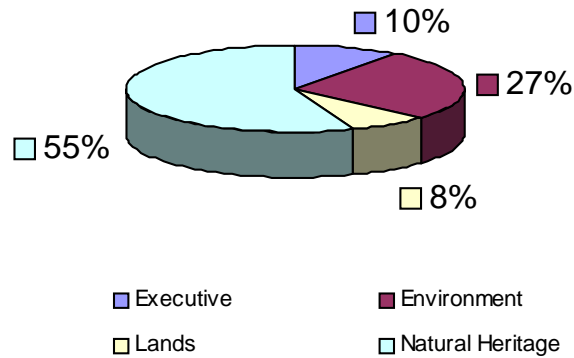
Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Act

National Parks Lands Act

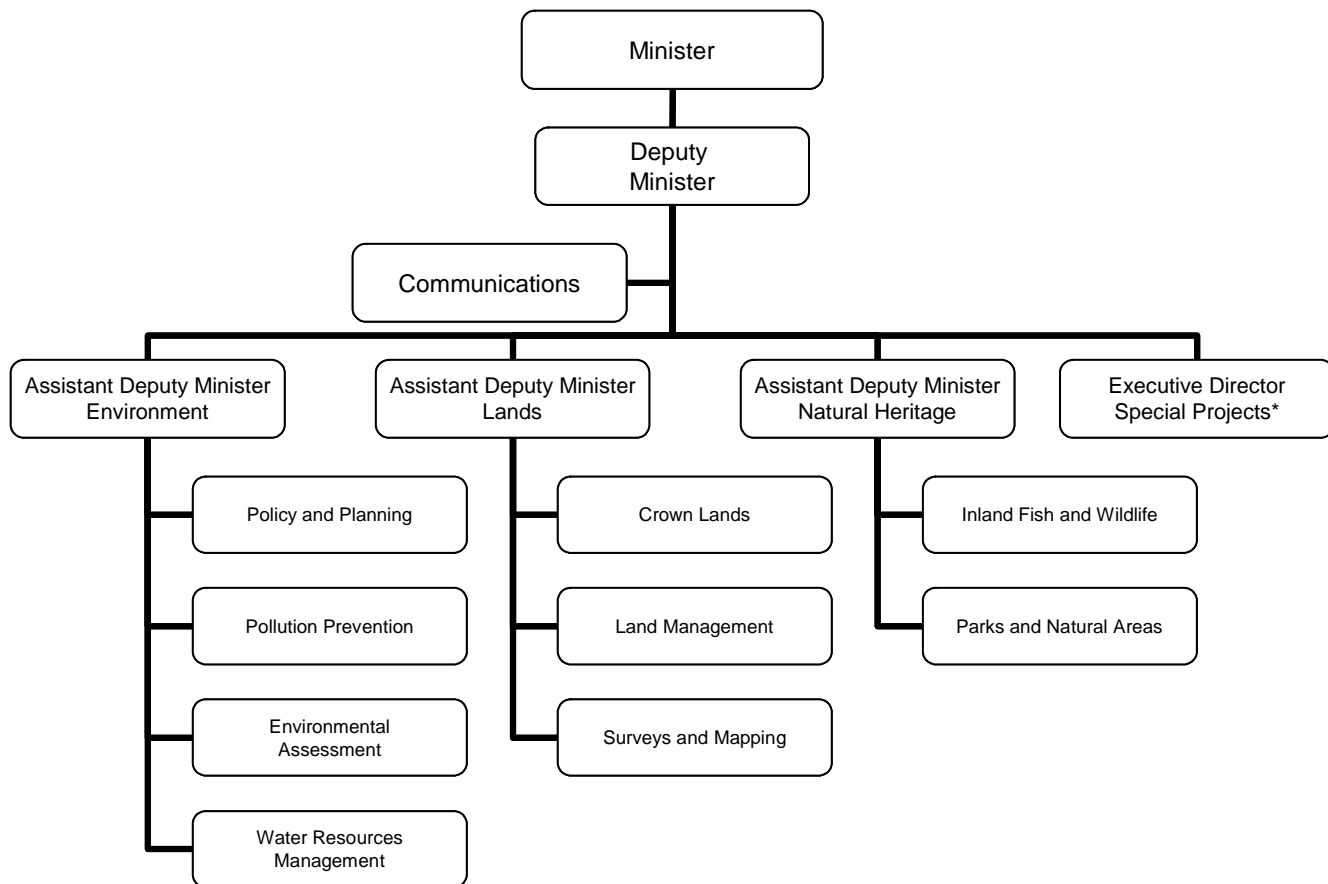
The Department of Environment and Conservation is headquartered at Confederation Building in St. John's. The head office of the Environment Branch is in St. John's. The Branch also has regional offices in Corner Brook and Grand Falls-Windsor. The Environment Branch has a staff of 81. The Lands Branch has a staff of 83. The Lands Branch is based in St. John's, but has offices in Clarenville, Gander, Corner Brook and Goose Bay. The Natural Heritage Branch has a staff of 191. The Parks and Natural Areas Division is based in Deer Lake and the Inland Fish and Wildlife Division is based in Corner Brook. Other offices are located in St. John's and at Salmonier Nature Park. Provincial parks are located throughout the Province.

The net expenditure of the Department of Environment and Conservation during 2003-04 was \$17,027,531. The Department's revenue during the same period was \$4,643,268. This revenue comes from fees for various permits, licenses and registrations, sales of provincial maps and land and cost-shared programs with others.

Net Expenditure



Department of Environment and Conservation Organizational Chart



* Special Projects: Sustainable Development and Strategic Research

SHARED COMMITMENTS

ENVIRONMENT BRANCH

The Environment Branch works cooperatively with a number of other provincial departments on issues affecting its mandate. The Department has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the **Department of Natural Resources** (formerly Mines and Energy) to establish a cooperative framework whereby information gathered by each department will be shared on joint projects and studies. The Department also has an MOU with the **Department of Government Services** (GS) indicating that GS will act as delivery agent on permits and inspections. The Pollution Prevention Division worked closely with the Department of Natural Resources to address environmental issues related to nine abandoned mines, five operating mines, and three proposed mine developments. Activities included site inspections, review of reclamation plans, and the drafting of approvals for operating mine sites. The Branch is working with the **Department of Municipal and Provincial Affairs** and the **Multi-Materials Stewardship Board (MMSB)** to implement the *Newfoundland and Labrador Waste Management Strategy*.

The Minister of Environment and Conservation is also responsible for the MMSB which Government established in 1996 to develop, implement and manage a variety of waste diversion programs in Newfoundland and Labrador in accordance with Government priorities. The MMSB is currently responsible for a provincial beverage recycling program and the Household Hazardous Waste Program. It also administers the Newfoundland and Labrador Waste Management Trust Fund. The Trust Fund was established in 1997 to provide financial assistance to aid in the development and implementation of waste management initiatives in the Province.

The Environment Branch is also involved in shared initiatives with federal partners. Shared initiatives with **Environment Canada** on air pollution include:

- *The National Air Pollution Surveillance (NAPS) Network* to monitor ambient air pollutants. Environment Canada provides monitoring equipment and the Department of Environment and Conservation operates the sites.
- Implementation of *The National Action Plan for the Control of Ozone Depleting Substances and their Halocarbon Alternatives*. In this case, the two agencies share regulatory responsibility for protecting the ozone layer.
- *The Newfoundland Environment Precipitation Monitoring Network (NEPMon)*. The Department of Environment and Conservation operates the acid rain monitoring program while Environment Canada provides the laboratory analysis.
- *Air Quality Prediction Program*. Environment Canada uses the data generated for the NAPS Network to predict smog episodes.

The Environment Branch administers a number of cost-shared agreements with Environment Canada on water resources management. These include:

- *The Canada-Newfoundland Hydrometric Agreement*,
- *The Canada-Newfoundland Water Quality Monitoring Agreement (WQMA)*, and

- *The Climate Network Expansion Agreement.*

The Environment Branch is also working with Environment Canada on a pilot project to implement a web-based Geographical Information System (GIS) for the water quality data collected under the Canada-Newfoundland WQMA. This is the first such project in the country to bring WQMA data to the public through the use of the Water Quality Index and GIS.

The Department also shares responsibility with the **Pest Management Regulatory Authority (PMRA) of Health Canada** with regards to pesticides. The PMRA approves use of pesticides after testing and the Department of Environment and Conservation is responsible for licensing and enforcement.

The Department participates in various intergovernmental initiatives. The **Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment (CCME)** is the major intergovernmental forum on environmental matters in Canada. All provinces and territories and the federal government sit on the council. CCME operates on the basis of consensus to develop standards and guidelines on various environmental issues. The Province uses the products of CCME as base documents and we participate in their development through several of the council's task groups.

LANDS BRANCH

The **Interdepartmental Land Use Committee (ILUC)** is administered by the Land Management Division. The Committee functions a provincial referral and land use conflict identification and resolution mechanism between the various departments of government for projects involving the use of Crown land. Provincial land use designations that are established under the authority of ILUC are recorded on digital maps in the *Land Use Atlas* which functions as a central registry for Government. The land use designations on the *Atlas* are available to government departments and the general public.

The Lands Branch is the coordinating agency for the provincial referral process for Crown land that is to be allocated. Applications for Crown land are referred to various government departments and agencies that have an interest in the land. Comments are factored into the decisions on whether the land is allocated and the particular conditions that apply to its development.

The Surveys and Mapping Division (SMD) provides the foundational topographic maps and other geomatic products and services that support all Geographic Information Systems (GIS). SMD is the lead provincial agency under the **Canadian Geomatics Accord** and contributes to the building of the Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure (CGDI). SMD partners with federal agencies, provincial departments, municipal governments, utilities and industry in data collection and the creation of products and services.

NATURAL HERITAGE BRANCH

The Inland Fish and Wildlife Division (IFWD) partners with the Forest Resources Branch of the **Department of Natural Resources** to ensure that wildlife values are incorporated in the forest management process. Conservation officers with the Forest Resources Branch provide field and logistic support for all IFWD programs. Conservation officers also provide support through development, implementation and enforcement of legislation related to wildlife management.

Many of the conservation education programs involve the use of firearms or have firearms training as a core theme in the program curriculum. The federal government, through **Justice Canada**, has responsibility for safety training and other aspects of firearm use. By working collaboratively, the Province and Justice Canada ensure successful delivery of safety training initiatives.

The **College of the North Atlantic** assists the IFWD in the delivery of consumptive-based, community-oriented conservation education programs such as the Firearm Safety / Hunter Education programs.

The IFWD has developed many funding partnerships that help to advance the divisional mandate. **Environment Canada** provides funding for habitat stewardship, species at risk, and other wildlife related activities that enhance and support the programs of the Inland Fish & Wildlife Division. The **US Fish & Wildlife Service** provides financial support for wetland stewardship and conservation initiatives. **Wildlife Habitat Canada**, a non-profit foundation, also provides funding for enhancement and delivery of conservation initiatives. This foundation produces Habitat Conservation stamps and limited edition prints. Revenues from sales are committed to acquiring, maintaining, and preserving Canada's varied natural habitats for wildlife and plant species. The **Friends of Salmonier Nature Park** is a local not-for-profit volunteer organization that exists to support Salmonier Nature Park's programs and facilities. The group contributions come from the revenues from the gift shop at the park, which is operated by the group. **Ducks Unlimited Inc.** and **Ducks Unlimited Canada** also provide support to wetlands stewardship initiatives within the Province.

The **Western Newfoundland Model Forest** is a partnership of diverse stakeholders dedicated to sustaining Newfoundland and Labrador's natural forest resources for the benefit and use of all residents. Staff of the Division are members of the Board of Directors, the Management Group, and other committees for the Model Forest.

The IFWD works with both the **Innu Nation** and the **Labrador Inuit Association** to support stewardship initiatives in Labrador.

The Parks and Natural Areas Division works with **Parks Canada** in planning new national parks and national marine conservation areas in the Province.

The Branch receives funding from the federal **Department of National Defense** to carry out

monitoring of impacts on caribou from low-level flying in Labrador. The **Canadian Wildlife Service** also provides the Branch with funding to carry out various programs.

The Province works with other jurisdictions in the protection of endangered species. A recovery plan for wolverine (eastern region) was jointly prepared with the **Province of Quebec** which shares the range of this species. The Province has also formed a Wolverine Recovery Working Group in Labrador consisting of resource managers and researchers, stakeholders and aboriginal groups to help implement the plan.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND PRIORITIES

ENVIRONMENT BRANCH

■ Protecting Water Quality & Improving Water Management

The Department's Water Resources Management Division continues to implement the Multi-Barrier Strategic Action Plan for drinking water. The recent emphasis on operator training and education has yielded significant results. During 2003-04, the Department delivered an operator education program of 75 one-day classroom seminars covering four separate topics in 20 locations throughout the Province. The total attendance at the seminars in 2003-04 was 1237 people representing municipal systems and non-municipal systems such as school boards, industry, parks, campgrounds and government departments. There has been a steady increase in the number of certification exams taken by water distribution system operators in this Province. There are 74 municipalities with certified operators. During 2004, 47 operators appeared for certification.

A real-time water quality monitoring pilot station was installed on Humber River in western Newfoundland to monitor temperature, pH, turbidity, dissolved oxygen and conductivity. This was the third such unit for the Province; the first pilot monitoring station was installed on Leary's Brook in St. John's in 2001-02 and the second at Peter's River in Botwood in 2002-03.



water supply.

A uranium potential risk map was also developed and added to the departmental website. This project involved mapping and testing of the relationship between uranium in lake sediments and

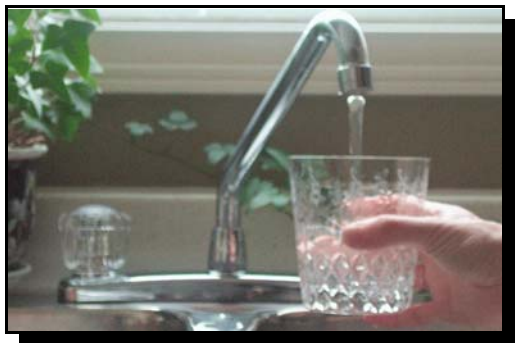
VALUED PUBLIC SERVICE

Water Resources Division's Bob Picco was a member of an interdepartmental team that was awarded a 2003 Public Service Award of Excellence for their actions in responding to the Badger flood of early 2003.

A real-time water quality monitoring network of three stations was set up in partnership with Voisey's Bay Nickel Company (VBNC) and Environment Canada to monitor the environmental impact of construction activities in Voisey's Bay.

The CCME Water Quality Index (see Glossary) was tested for reporting drinking water quality to the general public and is currently being implemented into a drinking water quality database. This database stores all available information on the chemical quality of public water supplies and can generate an historical data report for any public

uranium in local groundwater. The website provides useful information to those who live in high risk areas and are concerned about impact of uranium on the quality of their well water.



In February 2004, the Division released a discussion document on standards for institutional and commercial water supplies. Stakeholders were invited to comment on how to implement the same level of drinking water quality standards for the Province's public water supplies to public water systems.

The *Drinking Water Safety Annual Report* was released in early March 2004. This report detailed this Department's activity on the Province's Multi-Barrier Strategic Action Plan during the 2002-03 period.

Work continued on the departmental drinking water quality Geographic Information System (GIS) application. This provides increased access to drinking water quality data to all government departments to allow them to better share, spatially analyse and report drinking water quality data. This is currently an internal application, but will be made accessible to the public in the near future.

In 2003-04 the Division evaluated 89 water use allocation proposals and issued 82 water use licences for a variety of uses, including municipal, aquaculture, water bottling, mining and other commercial and industrial uses. The Division completed its quality check of the existing water use allocation and rights data for the purpose of inclusion in the proposed registry of water rights. In addition to the registry, a special webpage was also completed and will be available online in 2004-05.

The Division completed work on water management and water rights in Labrador for the purpose of concluding the final Inuit land claims agreement which was initiated by the negotiating parties in August 2003 and sent for ratification. The work on the implementation plan for this agreement will be completed in 2004-05. In addition, the Division is involved in the work on water management and water rights in Labrador for the purpose of concluding the final Innu land claims agreement.

In the area of wise and efficient allocation of water for power generation, in 2003-04 the Division collected water power rentals in the amount of \$195,000 compared to \$189,000 in 2002-03. The renewal of expired water rights under various agreements will be addressed in 2004-05.

The Division completed a water use study on aquaculture that was co-supervised with the Faculty of Engineering at Memorial University.

■ Strengthening Air Quality Monitoring

Monitoring outdoor air quality is the responsibility of the Pollution Prevention Division. The Division collects information on the types, quantities and impacts of major emissions in the Province. The Division is also responsible for developing provincial plans for the achievement of national, harmonized standards. Divisional programs that relate to air quality are:

1. Monitoring for various atmospheric pollutants under the National Air Pollution Surveillance (NAPS) program;
2. Monitoring of point source emissions and ensuring industrial compliance with legislation; and
3. Monitoring pollution resulting from non-industrial point sources such as woodstoves or vehicles.



Outdoor air is monitored for various criteria air contaminants (CACs) and evaluated against ambient air standards outlined in the *Air Pollution Control Regulations*. Monitoring of CACs takes place in St. John's, Mount Pearl and Corner Brook. An ozone monitor site was established in Grand Falls.

The Department requires that major industries conduct air monitoring as outlined in their Certificates of Approval and department staff audit these monitoring sites to ensure compliance with regulations. New ambient air monitoring stations were placed near Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro's Holyrood generating station and the Abitibi Consolidated pulp and paper mill in Stephenville. Hydro is monitoring for fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$), Sulphur Dioxide (SO_2) and Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2). The paper mill in Stephenville set up its first ambient air monitoring site. The station has a monitor for SO_2 and two particulate monitors. Wabush Mines installed a second dichot particulate monitor and a SO_2 monitor.

The Industrial Compliance Section of the Pollution Prevention Division is dedicated to the prevention of adverse environmental impacts from industrial facilities in the province and to ensuring compliance of these facilities with applicable environmental legislation. Major activities of the industrial compliance program include: inspection of existing industrial sites; development of environmental monitoring programs in collaboration with industry; analysis of the results of monitoring programs, computer modeling, site assessments, and risk assessments; investigation of complaints from the public; assessment of applications for establishing new industrial operations or modifying existing operations; preparation, issuance, and enforcement of Certificates of Approval for the operations; auditing air and effluent monitoring equipment, analyzers and data; and regulatory interpretation and technical advice to industry and the public. Statistics related to industrial monitoring are included in the appendices of this report.

The Industrial Compliance Section participated in the Technical Environmental Review Committee (TERC) for the proposed Voisey's Bay Mine Site. The first Certificates of Approval for the construction of Voisey's Bay Mine site were issued in 2003-04.

The Department again partnered with Environment Canada and the Newfoundland and Labrador Lung Association in "No Fees / No Fines" vehicle emissions clinics across the Province. This year, clinics were held in St. John's, Gander, Grand Falls, Corner Brook and Stephenville. Three hundred and fifty-one vehicles were voluntarily tested for total hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide and oxygen.

■ **Improving Waste Management**

The Waste Management Section of the Pollution Prevention Division provides services and programs to other sections and divisions of the Department and technical support services to departmental agents at Government Services Centre (GSC). Significant progress has been made in this fiscal year in development of standards and management documents. Partnerships with industry stakeholders and groups have greatly assisted with technical aspects of many of the Section's initiatives. Project management services and projects continue as an integral aspect of the Section's duties and responsibilities.

- Reduction of Waste to Landfills**
- 3.9 million litres of hazardous waste diverted from landfill and exported for treatment and / or disposal.
 - 8 million litres of used oil recovered from generators processed and re-sold as fuel.
 - 350,000 tires collected and 20,000 processed tires exported to market in Nova Scotia.
 - 40,000 tonnes of white metal goods, derelict vehicles and ozone depleting substances recycled.

The Department has two main objectives towards improving waste management in the Province: reducing quantities of select waste directed to landfills and reducing the number of landfills.

With regards to reducing the waste directed to landfills, the Department is responsible for records management of the transport of hazardous waste; licensing and permitting of

treatment facilities for sewage sludge, compost and contaminated soils and other wastes; maintenance of a provincial PCB inventory; and maintenance of a WMIS database.

The Department is actively working towards reducing the number of landfill sites and implementing the Provincial Waste Management Strategy. Six environmental standards documents were developed in 2003 to provide direction for



the future under the Provincial Waste Management Strategy.

Further initiatives continue to establish regional sites and waste management systems for municipal solid waste. Interim actions by municipalities are on-going to close landfills and participate in more Regional Waste Management Sites. Twenty communities in Conception Bay North now use the Robin Hood Bay landfill site (St. John's) on an interim basis until a regional site is established.

A department policy was developed to outline the schedules for closure of incinerators. By April 2004, 15 municipal incinerators had been closed and 38 remained in use. In January 2004, the Province became the first to sign the new Canada-wide Standard for Dioxins and Furans from Conical Waste Incinerators. This Standard calls for the phase-out of municipal solid waste incinerators by 2008 and prohibits such facilities from being built in the future.

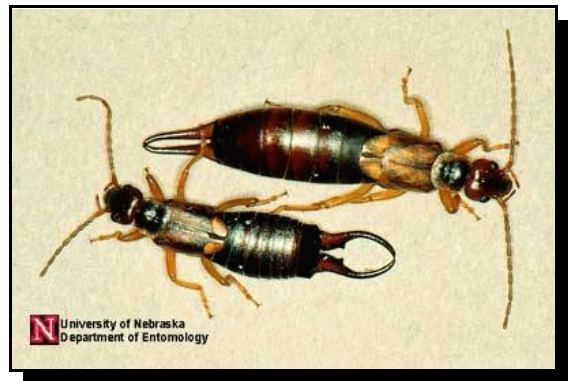
The Waste Management Section manages government and non-government properties to control the release of substances which have an adverse impact on environmental health. Scientifically defensible protocols, program auditing and other inputs are provided by this section for non-government impacted sites. Impacted provincial government property is assessed and remediated for approved projects. In 2003-04, the Section developed a *Contaminated Sites Management* document. The new document is harmonized with the national protocols and included stakeholder input to assure a smooth transition in the implementation stage.

The Department continued its involvement in remediation of contaminated sites. Government approved \$175,000 for environmental assessment at the former military site in St. Anthony and a Physical Hazards Mitigation Project was completed. The report of the site assessment findings was presented to St. Anthony municipal council. Decommissioning of two PCB storage sites in the Baie Verte area was also initiated.

■ Management of Controlled Substances

The Pollution Prevention Division is also responsible for a number of programs that are designed to manage certain regulated substances that have the potential to have adverse impacts on the physical environment or human health.

The Division is responsible for regulation of pesticide use in this province. Pesticides are regulated through education, licensing and compliance monitoring and enforcement activities. The level of monitoring and inspections of pesticide use increased significantly in 2003-04. With the addition of staff to handle licensing and paperwork the enforcement officer was able to devote more time to field work. Investigations were completed on several companies suspected of not being in



compliance and charges were prepared. In terms of information management, work began on converting the Pesticide Information Management System database into a GIS-based system. Also during 2003-04, two pesticide applicator manuals (core and landscape categories) were drafted as part of a joint project among all four Atlantic provinces. Work also began on a manual on the biting fly category in late 2003. These manuals are all expected to be completed by 2005.



The Pollution Prevention Division is responsible for the control, storage, handling and quality of various hydrocarbons in use in the province. The Used Oil Control Regulations took effect on April 1, 2003. Inquiries from the public and industry were handled but most work involved coordinating with other government staff and establishing policies and providing guidance on, and interpretation of, the regulations.

The Heating Oil Storage Tank System Regulations, 2003 (HOST) were amended in September, 2003. The primary change was to eliminate the requirement for Licensed Inspectors to carry additional insurance. While inspectors are still responsible for their work, insurance was prohibitively expensive, particularly for small firms. New and renewed licences were issued and by year end some 130 Licensed Inspectors were operating in the province. A great deal of time continued to be spent responding to questions from the public and industry and providing them with the information that was available including a new brochure on the regulations. Some 130, 000 copies have been distributed so far.



During 2003-04 an additional 8000 HOST registration tags were distributed to these Licensed Inspectors for use in the identification of registered systems.

A number of presentations on both of these regulations and associated topics were made to a variety of interested parties throughout the year.

Work concluded on the National Code of Practice for Aboveground and Underground Storage Tank Systems Containing Petroleum and Allied Petroleum Products which was officially approved this year by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME).

■ Efficient and Effective Environmental Assessment (EA)

The *Environmental Protection Act* requires anyone who plans a project that could have a significant effect on the natural, social or economic environment to present such plans for examination by the Department. The Environmental Assessment Division administers the assessment process by 1) consulting with interested government departments and the public, 2) evaluating submissions by proponents and reviewers, 3) advising the Minister on potential environmental effects prior to decisions and 4) monitoring approved undertakings to ensure compliance and effectiveness of

mitigation.

During 2003-04, 60 projects were registered and reviewed in accordance with the environmental assessment (EA) process. Key projects that have been reviewed included five resort developments, 10 forest harvesting activities, three wind power projects, four golf courses, four sewage treatment systems, three cottage development plans and two mink farms.

The environmental assessment for the proposed Trans Labrador Highway (Phase III) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was completed.

Projects registered under the EA process are reviewed by the various divisions in the Department to determine the environmental impacts of the proposed projects. These reviews constitute a significant amount of work for the Department and help to ensure the success of the EA process.

As a result of federal, provincial and territorial collaboration, a document entitled *Incorporating Climate Change Considerations in Environmental Assessment: General Guidance for Practitioners* has been developed. The purpose of this document is to provide EA practitioners with general guidance for incorporating climate change considerations in project assessments. A link to the document and background material can be found on the EA Division's website.

■ Ensuring Effective Legislation

Departmental staff continued work on updating regulations under the *Environmental Protection Act*. The process to update regulations involves considerable research into similar legislation throughout Canada and consultation with industry, stakeholders and other departments. During 2003-04, the Department continued work on the *Air Pollution Control Regulations*, *Ozone Depleting Substances Regulations* and *Pesticide Control Regulations*. In an effort to seek input into changes to the *Pesticide Control Regulations*, the Department released a discussion paper for public comment in February 2004.

In addition to revising regulations, the Department is constantly reviewing its policies and protocols to reflect legislative, scientific and technological developments.

■ Climate Change Policy and Programs



The Department continued to work on the issues around climate change during 2003-04. The Newfoundland and Labrador Climate Change Discussion Paper was released for public comment in June 2003. The paper highlighted the issues around climate change and to encourage discussion of local implications. All comments and submissions were reviewed for inclusion in a provincial action plan.

Representatives of the Department continued to be involved in education on climate change issues. The Department continued to contribute financially to the Climate Change Education Centre, housed at the Conservation Corps Newfoundland and Labrador, and also sat on the steering committee for the Centre. Early in 2004, the Department added a new section of the website dedicated to climate change with the aim to provide the public with local information. The site can be accessed through the policy and planning section on the departmental website.

As in the previous year, representatives of the Department participated in two workshops of the Canadian Climate Impacts and Adaptation Research Network (C-CIARN). The first was a C-CIARN Atlantic workshop on adaptation to climate change in Atlantic communities held in June 2003. The second workshop in January 2004 was organized by C-CIARN Fisheries.

Departmental staff also participated in a planning committee for the New England Governors / Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG/ECP) Impacts and Adaptation Conference held in Boston, USA in March 2004. The NEG/ECP is a relationship of 11 jurisdictions, six American states and five Canadian provinces that was formed to advance the common interests of the region.

LANDS BRANCH

■ [Optimal Use of Land Resources](#)

The Lands Branch is the coordinating agency for the provincial referral process for Crown land that is to be allocated. Applications for Crown land are referred to various government departments and agencies that have an interest in the land. Comments are factored into the decision on whether the land is allocated and the particular conditions that apply. The Lands Branch is comprised of three divisions: Crown Lands, Land Management and Survey and Mapping.

The Crown Lands Division has five principal lines of business: 1) allocation of Crown land; 2) Crown title preparation, mapping and GIS; 3) registration of Crown lands and records; 4) defending the Crown's interest in Crown land; and 5) management and distribution of air photos, maps and related photos. In its efforts to manage the Crown land resource in a pro-active, co-ordinated and responsible manner, the Division has fulfilled its long term goal to reduce Crown land application processing time by 60 per cent. The average processing time has been reduced to 35 days.

The Division's electronic Application Management and Tracking System (TRACTS) is now fully operational in a real-time environment and all targeted enhancements to the System were completed in 2003-04.

The Division is undertaking a unique initiative to integrate its real-time Application Management System (TRACTS), with a real-time GIS and a real-time database of scanned Crown titles which will be made available to all internal users of the Department, government and the general public in both an intranet and internet environment. This project will streamline the decision-making process at all branch offices and eliminate expensive paper flows and delays. It will also enhance

client service delivery, and allow for a more effective and efficient method to manage and administer the Crown land resource.

All Crown grant, lease, easement and amendment documents, conditions and schedules have been revised and reformatted in conjunction with revisions to the Department's land tenure policies and procedures.

The Division has electronically scanned 30,000 of its 72,000 active Crown titles. It is the Division's objective to make these scanned titles available in an intranet environment for Land Branch users in 2004-05 and to the public in 2005-06.



The Air Photo and Map Library has been improving the indexing system which identifies the aerial photography coverage of Newfoundland and Labrador. This work consists of identifying missing flight reports and photography, replotting photo centres, redrafting flight line indices and compiling statistical information for data entry into the Flight Roll Directory. This project, when completed, will ensure a consistent standard is maintained throughout the entire indexing system, plus assist to develop a foundation on which a web page catalogue or data base can be built. All indices for the island portion of the Province have been completed and are ready for scanning to be integrated into the Lands Branch GIS.

The Land Management Division is responsible for the development of provincial land use policies, plans and strategies which guide the use and allocation of Crown land for purposes such as resource/economic development, housing or recreational activities. The Division seeks to coordinate multiple land use activities in a sustainable manner and to resolve and mitigate conflicts between land users. Beginning in 2000, the *Lands Branch Policy Manual* was revised and converted to an electronic format. In 2003-04, the conversion was completed and the *Policy Manual* is now available to Lands Branch users via intranet.

The Division is responsible for determining the market value of Crown land to ensure that Government receives a fair return from the sale of the resource. In 2003-04 in-house assessments were conducted for approximately 650 parcels of Crown land with a value of \$5 million.

Provincial land use designations are recorded as layers on digital maps in the Land Use Atlas which functions as a central registry of such information for government. In 2003-04, the *Land Use Atlas* was fully digitized and is now accessible by intranet to the Lands Branch Regional Offices and on CD format to other users. Efforts are underway to make the *Atlas* available on-line to all government departments. Land use designations are added to the *Atlas* as required.

The Land Management Division develops planned cottage lot subdivisions on an annual basis and allocates the lots through public draws. As with all Crown land, the lots are sold at market value. The Division also prepares large scale cottage management strategies for remote areas to provide recreational cottage opportunities to the public on a sustainable basis. In 2003-04 the Division developed 71 cottage lots with a total value of \$813,000. The Division also completed a multi-department review of the Gambo-Port Blandford Cottage Management Plan.

The Surveys and Mapping Division of the Lands Branch is responsible for topographic mapping, geodesy, aerial photography, geographical naming and providing geomatic support services. The Division operates the central topographic mapping service for the provincial government that provides standard digital base mapping for all users in government, industry and the public. The Newfoundland and Labrador provincial mapping program works collaboratively with the federal mapping agency in Natural Resources Canada to provide integrated base mapping from the large to small scale. Topographic mapping continues to be cost-shared with federal and provincial government departments, agencies, utility companies and municipalities.



The Aerial Photography program is a central provincial government service for acquiring, storing and making reproductions from very precise, large format (10" wide) film negatives. The program is an essential adjunct to Topographic Mapping and Geomatic Support Services programs. The repository of over 50 years of periodic image coverage is an extremely important historic record that is constantly referenced to validate land use and occupation claims.

In 2003-04, the Division worked towards implementation of the Provincial Geomatics Strategy. Geomatics is an applied science which comprises the acquisition, analysis, management and distribution of spatially referenced information. Geomatics includes such activities as surveying, topographic mapping, marine charting, remote sensing and geographic information systems (GIS).

The objective of the Strategy is to establish Newfoundland & Labrador as a leader in Geomatics by means of public/private partnerships to facilitate open access to georeferenced data, information, value-added data products and applications.

NATURAL HERITAGE BRANCH

- [Protecting and Conserving Biodiversity](#)

The mandate of the Inland Fish & Wildlife Division (IFWD) is to protect and conserve the Province's biodiversity and manage its wildlife and inland fish resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

The Division administers, coordinates and develops the licencing processes for resident and non-resident hunting licences for moose, caribou, black bear and small game, fishing licences for trout and salmon and other miscellaneous licences.

The IFWD is responsible for the assessment, listing and recovery of species at risk. The Division is working on how to effectively implement the new provincial *Endangered Species Act* consistent with public expectations and obligations under the federal *Species at Risk Act* and the *National Accord for the Conservation of Species at Risk*. Listing of species at risk and development of recovery plans have proceeded with the assistance of local, national and international groups. The Division developed draft critical habitat maps for Marten, Piping Plover, Barrens Willow, Long's Braya and Fernald's Braya. Recovery strategies were completed for Barrens Willow and Wolverine and released in January 2004.

Salmonier Nature Park strives to increase environmental awareness and to educate the general public about the need to protect and conserve our wildlife populations and habitat. The Park also rehabilitates injured wildlife for release back into the wild. During the 2003 season, there were over 30,000 visitors to the Park and more than 5,000 participants in school and community programs. The Wildlife Discovery Center Steering

25th Anniversary Celebrations at Salmonier Nature Park

Salmonier Nature Park opened on June 28, 2003 with a celebration of its 25 Anniversary. Since 1978, it has served as a provincial center for environmental education and wildlife rehabilitation and also as a major tourist destination.

Committee finalized a Concept and Operations Plan and submitted it to Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency for review. The infrastructure development program continued with completion of woodchuck and moose enclosures. Other highlights for the Park included the planning and delivery of the *Becoming an Outdoors Woman* program in St. John's and the completion of a new interpretive sign program for animal enclosures. Ongoing efforts to secure additional funding for park programming and infrastructure were successful in raising \$39,000 through funding partnerships with non-governmental organizations.

The Enhancement, Stewardship and Partnership program develops cooperative agreements with international, national, provincial, and municipal governments, non-government organizations, industry, and others for the delivery of stewardship initiatives related to the conservation of our natural heritage. Stewardship programs continue to develop and be delivered under the auspices of

the Eastern Habitat Joint Venture and the Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk. Stewardship agreements have been signed between the province and municipalities.

- [Managing Wildlife and Inland Fish Resources](#)

The IFWD also plans, develops, manages and implements educational programs and public awareness initiatives directed at consumptive wildlife users. The objective is to promote the safe, responsible, knowledgeable and humane harvest of wildlife. Significant effort has been directed towards maintaining, and expanding where possible, consumptive based education and awareness programs.



There has been a four fold increase in the number of youth participating in firearms / hunter training programs as a result of the youth hunting / fishing exchange program. In 2003-04, there were approximately 4000 participants in firearms and hunter education training workshops. The Division adapted and delivered conservation education programs to Labrador aboriginal groups.

The IFWD was involved in the development of strategies for coyote harvest in Newfoundland for the first shooting season. The Division delivered workshops on the management, biology and harvesting techniques for coyotes. Policies on cancellation of beaver traplines and hunting area closures were reviewed and revised as necessary.

The Division is responsible for a wildlife land use planning process that maintains sufficient habitat for all species. During 2003-04 there was extensive upgrading of computer systems and GIS capabilities were developed to produce high quality maps to assist in delineation of wildlife habitat. The Marten Habitat Suitability Model was used to evaluate impacts of forestry operations on marten habitat. Landscape level planning was initiated to assist in forestry planning process.

The Inland Fish program ensures that inland fish resources are managed based on sound biological principles and on a sustainable basis while providing opportunity for recreational, social, and cultural benefits to the residents of the province. Efforts have been directed towards increased public awareness of recreation fishing opportunities and to developing monitoring programs to assess the potential impacts of recreational fishing on fish populations and demographics. Participation has continued in development of management plans for various salmonid species in Newfoundland and Labrador. Development of National Recreational Fishing Week was completed. Partnerships were secured for and field work initiated on six projects associated with assessing salmonid populations and demographics in Newfoundland and Labrador.

In 2003-04, the Division continued its work to modernize and improve administration and delivery

of various licensing systems. There was continued investment in development of the on-line system allowing government agencies involved in wildlife management and individual hunters to access information concerning hunter status and big game draw results. Hunters and government officials can now check on hunter status via the internet.

There was also continued investment in the development of on-line capabilities, as well as e-commerce to allow users to apply for and purchase licenses via the internet. In 2003-04, the Division developed an online application process for Island Black Bear hunting and for general trapping.

• [Preserving our Natural Heritage](#)

The Parks and Natural Areas Division works to protect and preserve representative and rare examples of the Province's natural heritage. The Division also provides a diverse range of outdoor recreational opportunities throughout the Province which encourage visitors to explore, understand and appreciate our natural heritage. The Division operated 14 camping parks, six scenic parks and the Newfoundland T'Railway. The Division is also responsible for two wilderness reserves and 17 ecological reserves. A map of the provincial park system is attached as an Appendix. In 2003-04, visitor usage of provincial parks increased by 13 percent. Revenue collected from the park and reserve system increased to over \$617,000 from approximately \$569,000 the previous year.



Under the Natural Areas Program, staff research, plan, establish and manage a system of wilderness and ecological reserves; coordinate scientific research and monitoring in provincial parks; and assist with the establishment of new national parks.



During 2003-04, work continued to finalize a management plan for the proposed Little Grand Lake ecological reserve. Public consultations were conducted in February 2004.

Progress continued in 2003-04 on the development of the proposed Main River waterway provincial park. Staff continue to monitor river activities, conduct biological surveys, and finalize details of the park management plan. The boundary description has also been completed for the proposed waterway park.

Work continued on the assessment of candidate areas for the Natural Areas Systems Plan and on the protected areas strategy.

Data for global positioning systems (GPS) were collected for four provincial parks and are currently being processed for updating of the provincial park maps.

- **Promoting Environmental Stewardship**

Through the Environmental Education and Promotion Program, the Parks and Natural Areas Division promotes environmental stewardship, fosters awareness of the need for protected areas and develops information and educational materials for use in the Province's parks and reserves.

Various new information and educational materials were published in 2003-04. These include:

- Limestone Barrens educational brochure;
- Limestone Barrens eco-stops interpretation displays;
- Burnt Cape Ecological Reserve interpretation display panels;
- Burnt Cape guide booklet;
- Cape St. Mary's interpretative display depicting the fishery; and
- site brochures for ecological reserves at Gannet Island, Grand Bay West, Kapitagon and Hare Bay Islands.

The Division is responsible for coordinating the interpretation programs at parks and reserves. Seasonal training of interpreters continued. Six new seasonal interpreters were hired in 2003-04. The Division also delivered training to "green teams" in J. T. Cheeseman Provincial Park on Piping Plover Stewardship and a workshop in Witless Bay for tour boat operators.

Other Departmental Activities

Green Committee

The Department has an active Green Committee whose mission it is to identify, advance and promote strategies, policies and practices within the Department's operations aimed at minimizing negative environmental impact and maximizing benefits to the environment. The Committee is made up of volunteers from various Divisions of the Department. A representative of the Committee is also active on the Inter-Departmental Recycling Committee. The Department of Environment and Conservation Green Committee is responsible for organizing the annual Environment Week programme for departmental employees. Environment Week 2003 took place from June 2 to 8 and included activities such as the presentation of environmental awards, a nature walk, a gardening workshop, a photo contest, and talks on municipal solid waste, alternative energy and the Badger flood. The Committee also organized the distribution of seedlings to staff at the Confederation Complex.

Fourteenth Annual Environmental Awards

The Newfoundland and Labrador Environmental Awards Program is a partnership of the Department of Environment and Conservation, the Newfoundland and Labrador Women's Institutes and the Multi-Materials Stewardship Board. Over the past 14 years, the award has recognized those who have made an outstanding contribution to the conservation, protection and restoration of our environment. Nominations may be made in various categories including: individual, community group or organization, educator, youth or youth group, school, business and municipality.

The June 2003 winners were:

Individual	Sheldon Peddle, Corner Brook (Honourable Mention: Mike Kehoe, St. John's)
Community Group/ Organization	Stephenville Crossing Conservation Committee
Educator	Karen Moore and Deborah Smith, St. John's
Youth	Newfoundland and Labrador Royal Army Cadets (Honourable Mention: Ascension Collegiate Gaia Environmental Group, Bay Roberts)
School	Holy Trinity High and Elementary Schools Torbay (Honourable Mention: Stephenville Middle School)
Municipality	Green Bay Waste Management Authority (Honourable Mention: Conception Bay South)
Business	Fairmont Newfoundland, St. John's

Opportunities and Challenges

The creation of the new Department of Environment and Conservation in early 2004 presents an opportunity for the Province in developing a holistic, sustainable approach to management of the environment, our natural heritage and our parks. However, the development of a common vision and strategic plan for the consolidated department is a major next step. The Department intends to re-write its strategic plan in early 2005.

One challenge associated with the restructuring of the Department is the clarification of roles and responsibilities of the provincial wildlife program. This program is currently being shared between the Department of Environment and Conservation, which is responsible for stewardship and consumptive resources, and the Department of Natural Resources, which is responsible for enforcement of related wildlife legislation.

There are exciting opportunities for the Department as well, especially with Government's intent to develop a *Sustainable Development Act*. The Department expects to play an important role in this new direction. The new focus on sustainable development also bodes well for other emerging files and responsibilities of the Department, including climate change, the marine environment and coastal zone management, and biodiversity. These important issues are cross-cutting in nature and therefore in the past it has been difficult to address them due to a lack of a more comprehensive framework. Government's new focus on sustainability should provide this framework.

Financial Statement 2003-2004 (Unaudited)

Net expenditure figures included in this document are based on the Public Accounts. Certain executive and support services associated with the Lands and Natural Heritage Branches that were transferred from other departments are not reflected in this statement.

EXECUTIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICES	\$
Minister's Office	199,503.00
General Administration	
• Executive Support	470,122.00
• Administrative Support	609,110.00
• Policy Development and Planning	428,005.00
Total Executive and Support Services	1,706,740.00
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL	
Environmental Management (Pollution Prevention)	1,574,685.00
Water Resources Management	
• Water Resources Management	1,872,978.00
• Water Quality Agreement	238,931.00
Environmental Assessment	
• Environmental Assessment	511,872.00
• Voisey's Bay Environmental Management Board	316,143.00
Total Environmental Management and Control	4,514,609.00
LANDS	
Crown Land	2,983,753.00
Land Management and Development	(2,489,094.00)
Surveying and Mapping	697,168.00
• Geomatics Agreements	143,618.00
Total Lands	1,335,445.00

PARKS AND NATURAL AREAS

Provincial and National Parks and Natural Areas	3,357,577.00
Park Development	249,343.00
Total Parks and Natural Areas	3,606,920.00

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Administration - Endangered Species and Conservation Services	1,821,299.00
Salmonier Nature Park	421,935.00
Management Planning	557,784.00
Wildlife and Natural Heritage Research (Science)	2,886,934.00
Wildlife Ecosystems Monitoring	175,865.00
Total Wildlife and Natural Heritage	5,863,817.00

Total Net Expenditure (Current and Capital) 17,027,531.00

Appendices

Statistics 2003-2004

POLLUTION PREVENTION DIVISION

Industrial Certificates of Approval issued	18
Industry site inspections	67
Technical meetings with industry	71
Responses to public complaints concerning industry	2
Requests for information on industry	77
Hazardous waste generators registered	300
PCB storage sites	8
Tonnes (metric) of hazardous waste diverted (excl. used oil waste)	3900
Review of consultant environmental reports	150
Licensed pesticide operators	57
Vehicles tested at vehicle emissions testing clinics	351
Heating oil storage tank inspector licenses issued	130

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DIVISION

Referrals (presentation of project to the Department)	315
Registrations (initiation of review process)	60
Releases by Minister (after initial review, project may be cleared by the Minister)	54
Environmental Preview Reports ordered (assessment based on existing data)	0
Environmental Impact Statements ordered (additional studies, original research, study of alternatives and mitigation measures)	0
Withdrawn by proponent (proponent's decision not to continue with project)	3
Active (project EIS/EPR currently in review process)	1
Rejected	1

WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Water use allocation proposals evaluated	99
Water use authorizations and licenses issued	94
Permits for alteration to bodies of water	419
Investigations of complaints	42
Technical review of projects registered under environmental assessment process	57
Review of referrals from Crown Lands	159
Review of referrals from municipalities	25
Review of referrals from municipalities (development in flood plain areas)	4
Training seminars for water supply system operators	210
Source to tap chemical samples	2760
Source water testing of communities	371
Source water testing of serviced areas	531
Water and Wastewater Operator Certificates issued	94

CROWN LANDS DIVISION

Crown land applications accepted	3365
Crown titles issued	2687
Hectares granted in Crown titles	3086
Applications reviewed under the <i>Quieting of Title Act</i>	30
Adverse claims awarded on behalf of the Crown	1
Transfers/ assignments of Crown titles	629
Legal surveys of Crown titles reviewed for conformance to Crown Land Survey Standards	1136
Crown titles incorporated into Crown Lands digital mapping	3000
Crown titles scanned and indexed	1890
Customers served	24041

SURVEYS AND MAPPING DIVISION

Topographic mapping	
• Community mapping	43 sheets
• Strip mapping for new Labrador Highway	60 km
• Ortho-mapping, DEM & Water Vectors	7060 km ²
Aerial Photography	
• New film 1:40,000 - Coastal mapping Labrador	5876 km ²
• New film 1:12,500 - Forest inventory	6860 km ²
• Contact prints produced (number of frames)	13850
• Photo enlargements	111

LAND MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Number of parcels of Crown land assessed (estimated)	650
Value of assessed land	\$5 million
Number of cottage lots developed	71

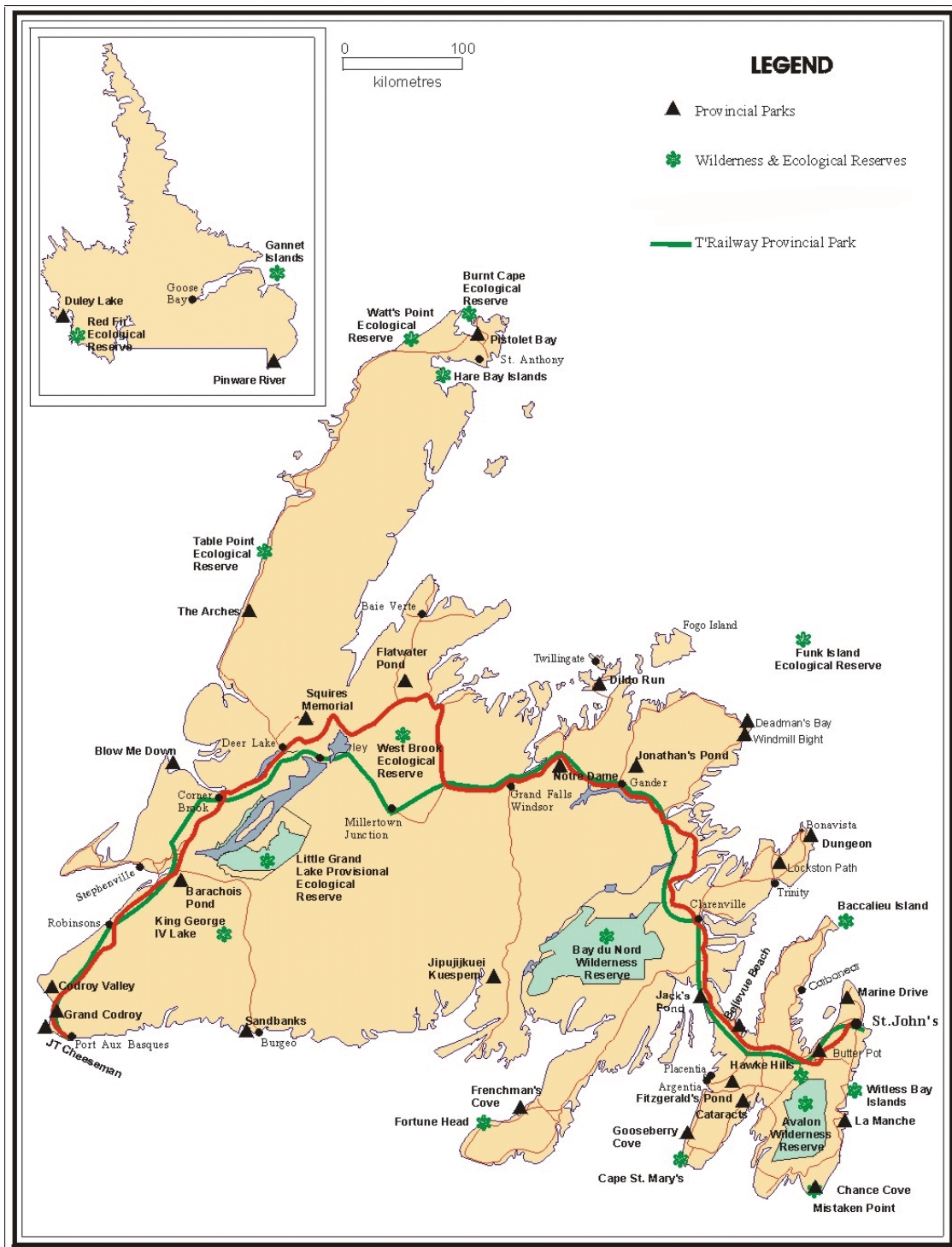
INLAND FISH AND WILDLIFE DIVISION

Participants in firearms and hunter training workshops	>4000
Visitors to Salmonier Nature Park	>30000
Participants in school and community programs	>5000
Non-toxic shot workshops	4
EA registration documents evaluated	>75
Caribou licenses available	7180
Moose licenses available	27205

PARKS AND NATURAL AREAS DIVISION

Park	Campsites Occupied
• Barachois Pond	10673
• Blow Me Down	1087
• Butter Pot	15135
• J. T. Cheeseman	3418
• Dildo Run	2129
• Frenchman's Cove	3242
• LaManche	4972
• Lockston Path	3988
• Notre Dame	7227
• Pinware River	667
• Pistolet Bay	1964
• Sandbanks	1319
• Squires Memorial	2537
Reserve	Visitors
• Cape St. Mary's	22177
• Burnt Cape	1603

Parks and Reserves in Newfoundland and Labrador



Committee Involvement

Employees of the Department of Environment and Conservation are active on a variety of issues on the provincial, national and even international stages. The following list outlines some of the many committees in which our employees participate on behalf of the Department.

Executive

- Environmental Planning and Priorities Committee of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME)
- CCME Deputy Ministers Committee
- New England Governors / Eastern Canadian Premiers committees (various)
- Legacy Nature Trust
- Multi-Materials Stewardship Board (MMSB)

Environment Branch

- Air Quality Index (AQI) Management Committee
- Association of Professional Engineers Environment Committee
- Atlantic PIRI
- Atlantic Canada Water Works Association - Small Systems Committee
- Atlantic Water and Wastewater Operators Certification Board
- Aquaculture Inter-Agency Committee
- Buffer Zone Working Group
- CCME Development Committee for National Municipal Wastewater Management Strategy
- CCME Environment Hazardous Waste Task Group
- CCME National Task Force on Storage Tanks
- CCME Petroleum Hydrocarbons Committee
- CCME Task Team on Contaminated Sites Management
- CCME Water Quality Task Group
- Canada Standards Association Technical Committee on Installation Code for Oil-burning Equipment
- Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA) National Advisory Committee Municipal Wastewater Subgroup
- Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA) National Advisory Committee
- Canadian Water and Wastewater Associations Technical Committees
- Canadian Water Resources Association Committees (various)
- Classification Implementation Working Group
- Climate Change Education Centre Steering Committee
- Departmental GIS Working Committee
- Dioxins and Furans Canada Wide Standards Development Committee
- Federal Provincial Groundwater Working Group
- Federal Provincial Territorial Canada Food Inspection Agency - Task Team on Disposal
- Federal Provincial Territorial Committee on Drinking Water
- Federal Provincial Territorial Committee on Health and Environment

- Federal Provincial Territorial Committee on Pest Management and Pesticides
- Federal Provincial Territorial Committee on Recreational Water Quality Guidelines
- Federal Provincial Working Group for Controls Harmonization - Ozone Depleting Substances
- Government of Newfoundland and Labrador GIS Technical Committee
- Healthy Lawns Working Group
- Joint Initial Actions Coordinating Committee (JAICC)
- Labrador Contaminants Database Working Group
- Mealy Mountains National Park Feasibility Study Interdepartmental Committee
- Mercury Canada-wide Standards Development Committee
- National Air Issues Coordinating Committee
- National Air Pollution Surveillance (NAPS) Managers
- National Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Committee
- National Environmental Assessment Directors Committee
- National Framework for Petroleum Refinery Emission Reductions Steering Committee (various subgroups)
- National Hydrometric Administrators
- National Research Council Guide Project
- National Water Survey of Canada Federal Provincial Web Task Group
- New England Governors / Eastern Canadian Premiers Acid Rain Task Force
- New England Governors / Eastern Canadian Premiers Environmental Sub-Committee on Climate Change
- New England Governors / Eastern Canadian Premiers Mercury Task Force
- Petroleum Hydrocarbons Canada-wide Standards Development Committee
- Provincial Territorial Committee on Climate Change
- Provincial Wellness Advisory Council
- Safe Drinking Water Technical Working Group
- Trans Labrador Highway Consultative Committee
- Technical Committee for Climate and Deer Lake Power Agreements
- Technical Committee for Climate and DLP Agents
- TransLabrador Highway Environmental Management Committee
- Underwriters Laboratories of Canada Committees (various)
- Voisey's Bay Technical Environmental Review Committee
- Voisey's Bay Environmental Management Board

Lands Branch

- Advisory Committee on College of the North Atlantic - Geomatics Engineering
- Agricultural Land Tenure Review Committee
- Association of Newfoundland Land Surveyors
- Baie Verte Watershed Committee
- Canadian Council on Geomatics (CCOG)
- Canadian Institute of Geomatics
- Canadian Land Directors Committee
- Central Regional Council

- District 1 Five Year Forest Harvesting Planning Team
- Forest Resources Ecosystem Planning Committees (4)
- Gander Lake Watershed Committee and subcommittees
- Geographical Names Board of Canada
- Inter-Departmental Land Use Committee
- Labrador Regional Council
- Labrador Training Initiatives Committee
- Lands Branch GIS Working Group
- Northern Arm Lake Monitoring Committee
- Steady Brook Watershed Planning Committee
- Voisey's Bay Technical Environmental Review Committee
- Western Newfoundland Model Forest Management Team

Natural Heritage Branch

- Access and Benefit Sharing Working Group
- Atlantic Wildlife Directors Committee
- Atlantic Canada Habitat Species at Risk Stewardship Advisory Committee
- Atlantic Flyway Committee
- Atlantic Provinces Hunter Education Committee
- Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre Scientific Advisory Committee
- Atlantic Game Bird Technical Committee
- Biodiversity Assessment Project Group and Technical Sub-committee
- Burnt Cape Steering Committee
- Buffer Zone Working Group
- Canada's Stewardship Portal Working Group
- Canada's Stewardship Communities Network
- Canadian Fur Managers Committee
- Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre Board of Directors
- Canadian Council of Ecological Areas
- Canadian Heritage River Board
- Canadian Parks Council
- Canadian Wildlife Directors Committee
- Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada
- Connectivity Working Group
- Criteria and Indicators Working Group
- Eastern Habitat Joint Venture Board of Directors, Provincial Steering Committee, Working Group
- Endangered Species Recovery Teams and Working Groups (various)
- Environmental Education committee with Canadian Wildlife Federation
- Federal, Provincial, Territorial Stewardship Working Group
- Forestry and Wildlife Liaison Committee
- Fur Institute of Canada
- Hospitality Newfoundland and Labrador
- Innu Land Claims Negotiating Team (Wildlife and Protected Areas Chapters)

- Inter-Departmental Land Use Committee
- International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
- International Hunter Education Association (Canadian VP)
- Interpretation Canada
- Labrador Trout working group
- Labrador Salmonid working group
- Limestone Barrens Stewardship Education Committee
- Main River Advisory Committee
- National Task Group on Freshwater Fisheries
- National General Status Working Group
- National Stewardship Conference 2006 Steering Committee
- National Task Group on Recreational Fishing
- National Biodiversity Working Group
- Newfoundland Marten Modelling Working Group and Technical Sub-committee
- Newfoundland and Labrador Forestry Research Advisory Committee
- Newfoundland Marten Research Committee
- Newfoundland Marten East Coast Working Group
- Newfoundland Marten Education Committee
- Newfoundland and Labrador Federal/Provincial Working Group (Species at Risk)
- Newfoundland Salmonid working group
- Newfoundland Trout working group
- Nordic Trail Association
- North American Bird Conservation Initiative Board of Directors
- North American Wetlands Conservation Council
- Northeast Fur Resource Technical Committee
- Partners in Adaptive Management
- Planning and Applied Science Committee of the Western Newfoundland Model Forest - Chair
- Provincial GIS Technical Committee
- Salmonid Council of Newfoundland and Labrador
- Scientific Advisor to the CITES
- Sea Duck Joint Venture Board of Directors
- Seabird Ecological Reserves Advisory Committee (SERAC)
- Secretariat to the Species Status Advisory Committee
- Stewardship Association of Municipalities
- T'Railway Council and associated committees
- Vegetation Classification Working Group
- Western Newfoundland Model Forest Board of Directors and Management Group
- Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Advisory Committee (WERAC)
- Wood Supply Committee

Glossary of Useful Terms

- **Acid Rain** – Rain that has a pH lower than 5. Acid rain is caused primarily by two common air pollutants-sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x)-that are produced by the burning of fossil fuels.
- **Ambient Air Standards** – Standards against which Criteria Air Contaminants are measured; standards are set based on risk to human health and/or environmental degradation.
- **CCME Water Quality Index (WQI)** - The CCME Water Quality Index (CCME WQI) is a means to provide consistent procedures for Canadian jurisdictions to report water quality information to both management and the public. There are three parts to the CCME WQI: 1) a technical report describing how the index was developed; 2) a user's manual outlining how to use the index and 3) a user-friendly program that calculates index values based on information input by the user.
- **Certificate of Approval** - An approval issued by the Department of Environment to industry outlining required environmental operating conditions.
- **Climate Change** - A change in the average weather; the rate and magnitude of global climate change may have many impacts on the Earth's ecosystems. It is thought that human activities are altering the chemical composition of the atmosphere through the build-up of greenhouse gases, which is resulting in changes to the global climate, including a rise in temperatures and more frequent extreme weather events.
- **Compost** - The controlled decomposition or breakdown of organic materials such as kitchen or garden waste.
- **Conductivity** - A measurement of how well water conducts an electrical current. Conductivity increases with an increase in the amount and mobility of ions.
- **Conical Waste Incinerator** - Used for the burning of municipal waste. Due to the design of these incinerators, emissions controls are not possible. The government of Newfoundland and Labrador has committed to phase out existing conical waste incinerators in the Province by 2008.
- **Criteria Air Contaminants** - Air pollutants including Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂), Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x), Carbon Monoxide (CO), Particulate Matter (PM) and Ozone (O₃). There are health concerns associated with these pollutants.
- **Crown land** - defined under the *Lands Act* as any land including land which is underwater that has not been lawfully alienated from the Crown for private or public use.
- **Ecosystem** - A self-sustaining system formed by the dynamic and complex interactions of a community of organisms with their non-living environment.
- **Emission** - Pollution discharged into the atmosphere by any means.
- **Environmental Assessment** - A process by which the environmental effects of a project are predicted and evaluated before the project has begun.
- **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** - A report that presents the results of an environmental assessment.
- **Environmental Preview Report (EPR)** - a report presenting the results of an investigation based on readily available information that supplements the information provided by a proponent upon registration of a project. This report assists the minister in determining whether or not an environmental impact statement is required.
- **Geodesy** - scientific discipline concerned with the precise figure of the Earth and its determination and significance.
- **Geographical Information System** - Computer software that allows the user to analyse a combination of layers of geographical information.

- **Greenhouse Gases (GHGs)**- Gases that trap solar heat within the Earth's atmosphere. These are primarily Carbon Dioxide (CO₂), Methane, Nitrous Oxide (N₂O), and water vapour. These gases ensure that the Earth is warm enough to support life but an increase in these atmospheric gases is thought to be a primary cause of climate change.
- **Groundwater** - All water that exists beneath the surface in the zone of saturation and includes springs.
- **Hazardous Material** - Any material that poses a threat to human health and/or the environment. Typical hazardous substances are toxic, corrosive, ignitable, explosive, or chemically reactive.
- **Landfill (Containment)** - A site for the disposal of waste material which is lined with one or more layers of a suitable material (often a flexible HDPE plastic material) as to contain any leachate generated from the waste.
- **Landfill (Non-containment)** - A site for the disposal of waste material which does not use any type of liner system.
- **Mitigation** - Actions that are intended to prevent or minimize harmful environmental effects associated with a proposed project or activity.
- **Pesticide** - A substance or mixture of substances used for the destruction or control of insects, birds, rodents, fungi or other pests and micro-organisms or for the destruction or control of vegetation.
- **pH** - A measurement of the acidity in water.
- **Proponent** - A person (individual, group or government) who carries out or proposes to carry out an undertaking, or is the owner or person having charge, control or management of an undertaking.
- **Stakeholder** - Any party that has an interest in the subject at hand or may be impacted by a policy, program, project or legislation.
- **Smog** - The mixture of air pollutants that can often be seen as a haze in the air. The mixture of pollutants is made up Ozone (O₃), fine particulates, Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂), Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂), Carbon Monoxide (CO) and Ammonia.
- **Solid Waste** - Non-liquid, non-soluble materials that contain complex and sometimes hazardous substances. Solid wastes include municipal and industrial waste, sewage sludge, agricultural refuse, demolition wastes and mining residues.
- **Stewardship** - The process whereby individuals or organizations assume responsibility for the protection and enhancement of the environment or any of its constituent components.
- **Sustainable Development** - According to the World Commission on Environment and Development (the Brundtland Commission - 1987), sustainable development is "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."
- **Reclamation Plan** - A plan outlining the activities or process to improve or restore land or other material as close as is reasonably possible to its former use or condition.
- **Remediation** - Methods used to remove or contain a toxic spill or hazardous materials from a site.
- **Topography** - graphic delineation in detail usually on maps or charts of natural and man-made features of a place or region especially in a way to show their relative positions and elevations.
- **Turbidity** - Muddiness or cloudiness of water created by suspended particles; measurement of water quality.
- **Undertaking** - A project that must be registered for environmental assessment. An undertaking is defined in the *Environmental Protection Act* as "an enterprise, activity, project, structure, work or proposal and a modification, abandonment, demolition, decommissioning, rehabilitation and an extension of them that may, in the opinion of the minister, have a significant environmental effect."
- **Waste management** - the collection, transportation, handling, storage, treatment, utilization, diversion, recycling, reuse, recovery, reduction and disposal of waste material