



Front cover photos; left to right;  
Inukshuk, Red Bay;  
Alexis Bay, near Port Hope Simpson;  
Buttercups, Nain;  
Traditional Mi'kmaq Regalia, Conne River Pow Wow; and  
McParland House, Churchill Falls



## Message from the Ministers

It is our pleasure to present the Annual Performance Report of the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs for fiscal year 2009-10.

As the Ministers responsible, we are proud of the accomplishments of this Department and anticipate further success as we look forward to 2010-11. Hard work, dedication and teamwork within the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs have enabled the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to meet many important goals over the fiscal years. Two major accomplishments include:

- The release of the *Northern Strategic Plan for Labrador's* mid-term report in March 2010 presented an important snapshot of commitments completed in the first two years of the plan. The plan had an initial investment of \$250 million with 145 commitments. Updated regularly, it is now expected the NSP will see \$587.3 million invested in Labrador, with over 210 commitments.
- Initialing of the formal documents for the New Dawn Agreement (Tshash Petapen Agreement) with the Innu Nation, which represented a major milestone in the relationship between the Provincial Government and the Labrador Innu. The agreement resolves key issues relating to matters between the Province and Innu Nation surrounding the Innu land claims negotiations, the Lower Churchill Impacts and Benefits Agreement (IBA) and Innu redress for the Upper Churchill hydroelectric development.

This report addresses the Department's activities and outcomes from April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010. The report was prepared under our direction, and we are accountable for the actual results reported.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JH'.

**JOHN HICKEY, M.H.A.**  
Lake Melville District  
Minister of Labrador Affairs

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Patty Pottle'.

**PATTY POTTLE, M.H.A.**  
Torngat Mountains District  
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs





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## Introduction

In fulfilling its commitment to being accountable to the citizens of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Provincial Government introduced the *Transparency and Accountability Act* (the *Act*). The *Act* provides the legislative framework for strengthening accountability of Provincial Government entities through multi-year performance-based plans and annual performance reports that are presented in the House of Assembly. The Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs is considered a Category 2 Public Entity within the context of the *Act*. In accordance with the *Act*, the Department's Business Plan outlines the priorities for the 2008-09 to 2010-11 fiscal years. The Department has initiated a process to develop the 2011-2014 Business Plan. This Annual Report identifies the Department's progress during the 2009-10 fiscal year in achieving the objectives set out in the 2008-11 Business Plan

## Departmental Overview

### Mandate

The mandate of the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs is to:

- (a) negotiate and ensure the effective implementation of land claims, self-government and other agreements related to the (i) development of Labrador and (ii) Aboriginal groups/governments;
- (b) co-ordinate and develop policies and programs relating to (i) Aboriginal issues in the province and (ii) significant issues of government interest in Labrador;
- (c) advance social and economic development in Labrador;

- (d) manage intergovernmental relations respecting Labrador and Aboriginal issues;
- (e) monitor and evaluate government programs and services in Labrador;
- (f) provide public information and education in matters related to land claims; and,
- (g) administer Labrador-specific programs as delegated by the Provincial Government.

### Vision

The vision of the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs is the resolution of questions surrounding Aboriginal rights in the province, a cooperative and productive relationship with Labrador and Aboriginal communities, and the achievement of social and economic well-being for Labrador and for Aboriginal people

### Mission

The mission statement identifies the priority focus area of the Ministers. It represents the key longer-term results towards which the Ministers and the Department will be working as they move forward on the strategic directions of the Provincial Government.

The Province recognizes the barriers and challenges faced by Aboriginal people, as well as the importance of developing and maintaining the social and economic factors (e.g. health, housing and education) that support balanced growth and promote healthy and skilled individuals and communities with the capacity to create wealth and participate fully in the economy.

The resolution of issues related to Aboriginal rights is fundamental to the progressive development of Aboriginal people and to the province as a whole.



Labrador's future will be marked by significant change in its social landscape and strong opportunity for economic growth. With changes in governance in Labrador's Aboriginal communities as a result of land claims negotiations, and the expansion of infrastructure and resource based developments, attention needs to be focused on social and economic development in Labrador to ensure advancement.

***Mission Statement:***

*By March 31, 2011, the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs will have advocated for the progression of the social and economic development of Labrador and, with the continuing concurrence and participation of the federal government and/or relevant Aboriginal group(s), will have progressed in the negotiation and implementation of agreements with Aboriginal groups/governments throughout the province.*

The Department continues to work cooperatively with Aboriginal groups/governments within the province to ensure that the perspectives of Aboriginal people are included and recognized in policy and initiatives. Progress has been made on addressing questions of asserted Aboriginal rights; establishing effective Aboriginal relations and improving the social and economic well-being of Aboriginal people. The Department continues to implement the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement as well as negotiating towards a self-government Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) with the Miawpukek First Nation and an AIP with the Innu Nation on its Land Claim.

The Department has worked diligently advocating for the progression of economic and social development in Labrador. This is evident in the creation of

the Northern Strategic Plan (NSP) which outlines the Provincial Government's priorities for Labrador. The Provincial Government continues to fulfill its commitment to consult with Labradorians regarding decisions impacting Labrador. This has been demonstrated through the commitments made in the NSP and the ongoing consultations within Labrador.

Since the launch of the NSP in April 2007, Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs officials have traveled to all regions of Labrador to hold public sessions and targeted private sessions with stakeholders to increase awareness about the benefits of the plan. To ensure the commitments of the NSP are implemented effectively and efficiently, the Department works collaboratively with other Provincial Government departments and entities on a regular basis.

The Department provides input into all policy initiatives that impact Labrador. This is important to ensure that the Labrador perspective is considered before any policy is finalized. The Department also provides advice and assistance to other departments and agencies to ensure that Provincial Government policies and programs are sensitive to the needs and perspectives of Aboriginal people, where the federal government has not assumed responsibility for such programs and services.

**Lines of Business**

The Department undertakes its mandate through the following lines of business:

- ***Policy and Planning***

The Department is responsible for the development, implementation and administration of provincial policies and associated agreements respecting Labrador and Aboriginal issues.

The Department, in collaboration with other provincial public entities, negotiates and/or implements agreements with the federal government and / or Aboriginal groups / governments; liaises with other jurisdictions and National Aboriginal Organizations; and manages intergovernmental relations with respect to Aboriginal issues.

- **Land Claims, Self-Government and Other Agreements**

The Department is responsible for tripartite negotiations between the Provincial Government, Canada and Aboriginal groups / governments in respect of land claims, self-government and other agreements. The Department is responsible for ensuring provincial implementation and management of these agreements.

- **Program Administration and Coordination**

The Department is responsible for the administration of the following:

- Air Foodlift Subsidy;
- Labrador Transportation Grooming Subsidy;
- Suicide and Detrimental Lifestyles Grant Program; and,
- Combined Councils of Labrador operational funding.

The Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs assists and co-ordinates other interdepartmental and regional initiatives. The Department liaises with other northern ministries and assists in the management of intergovernmental relations on Labrador/northern issues.

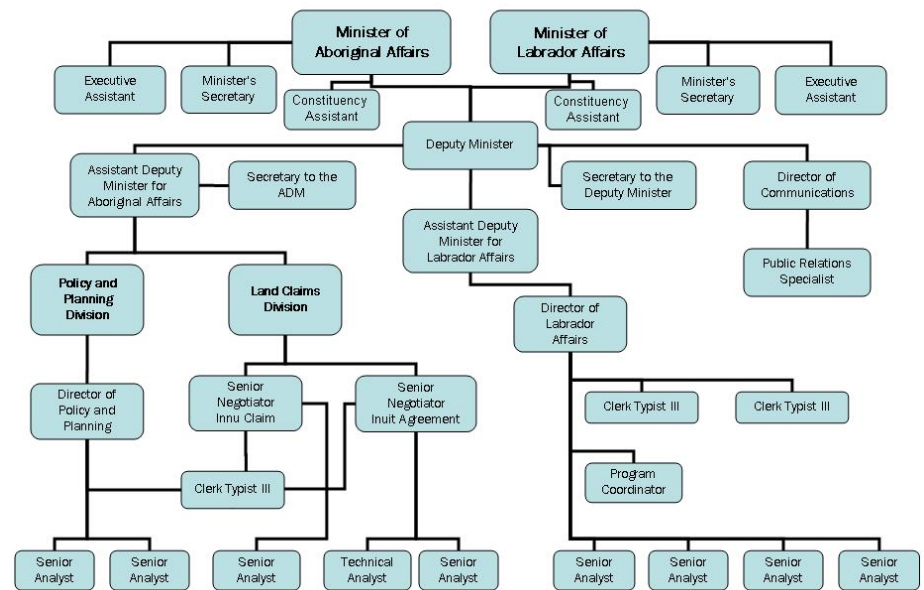
### Organizational Structure and Location

The Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs has two branches each with its own Minister: Labrador Affairs in Happy Valley-Goose Bay and Aboriginal Affairs in St. John's. Labrador Affairs focuses on Provincial Government Policy

and Planning that affects economic and social development initiatives that impact the whole of Labrador, while Aboriginal Affairs focuses on policy and planning related to Aboriginal land claims and self-government policies and negotiations. The Department has a total of 29 employees (11 male and 18 female) with 13 based out of the Labrador Affairs Branch and 16 based out of the Aboriginal Affairs Branch.

The Department leads Aboriginal land claims and self-government negotiations for the Provincial Government, administers designated Labrador-specific programming, and provides analysis and policy advice to other departments on Aboriginal matters and key issues impacting Labrador residents.

Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs



## Financial Statistics

The Department had a gross annual expenditure of \$4,133,698 for the year ending March 31, 2010. For further financial details please refer to the

Financial Statement at the end of this Annual Report. Revenue allocated to the Department was through Budgetary Allocation

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## Shared Commitments

Shared commitments represent those goals and objectives that could not be met without the participation and actions of partners. In much of the Department's work, collaboration is integral to achievement of the objectives identified in the Business Plan. On a daily basis, the Department plays a lead role in co-ordinating among provincial departments and agencies, the federal government and other associated groups on issues pertaining to Labrador and the Aboriginal people of the province.

The federal government has constitutional jurisdiction over and a fiduciary responsibility for Aboriginal people, and offers a variety of funding programs for people of Aboriginal descent. The programs and services provided by the Provincial Government to Aboriginal people are typically delivered by other departments or entities.

With the exception of the Department's specific programs, the same is true for provincial programs, services and jurisdictions in which Labradorians have an interest. Virtually all the Department's activities, including those for which it is the designated lead such as land claims negotiations and implementation, and monitoring and implementation of the NSP, involve close collaboration with one or more provincial public entities. Many also involve Aboriginal groups/governments and the federal government. These collaborative efforts supported the Department's strategic direction to advance the well-being of Aboriginal communities. The Department works closely with other Provincial Government departments and agencies to promote positive communications with Labrador partners. Examples are referenced further in this section as per the strategic directions outlined in the Business Plan.

Also, by working closely with other provincial departments and agencies, the Department contributed to fulfilling the strategic direction to ensure the perspective of Aboriginal people was reflected in provincial social policy and programming by participating in horizontal committees such as the Poverty Reduction Strategy and the Violence Prevention Initiative. The Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs also worked with other departments that lead major economic developments in Labrador to ensure that Aboriginal land claims and treaty rights were respected. This supported the departmental strategic direction to ensure authorized developments in areas in which Aboriginal rights have been asserted or land claim rights have been established appropriately reflect Aboriginal interests.

In light of these realities, the Department plays a role more akin to a central agency, as a co-ordinating and advisory body rather than a delivery agent. Some of our shared commitments include:

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### ***Northern Strategic Plan***

The NSP was launched on April 20, 2007, in Happy Valley-Goose Bay by Premier Williams and the Minister of Labrador Affairs. Upon its release, the NSP included 145 Provincial Government commitments focusing on eight underlying themes including: Transportation; Natural Resources and Environment; Tourism and Cultural Development; Education and Employment; Health; Access to Programming and Services; Aboriginal Partnerships; and Working Together. The Department, through collaboration with Provincial Government departments and Labrador stakeholders continues to move forward on Labrador's economic and social development incentives.

The Provincial Government is entering the second half of the planning period of the NSP and is very optimistic that its established goals will continue to progress into the future.

The Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs is responsible for ensuring that the NSP is implemented in an effective and timely manner. This is done in collaboration with line departments to monitor the progress of each individual commitment that supports the goals and

objectives of the NSP. Outcomes of the plan strongly support the Department's strategic direction to enhance social and economic development in Labrador.

### ***Environmental Management and Planning Consultative Committee***

The Environmental Management and Planning Consultative Committee (EMPCC) was established by the Provincial Government and the Innu Nation. The role of the EMPCC is to identify potential environmental effects as a result of construction of Phase III of the Trans Labrador Highway (TLH III), discuss existing applicable resource management and planning processes, and recommend additional measures which may be required to address environmental issues. Committee representation includes appropriate provincial regulatory and resource management entities, the Innu Nation and relevant departments and agencies of the federal government.

The EMPCC is chaired by the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs which also co-ordinates and facilitates committee activity. Issues and recommendations regarding environmental impacts during construction and operation of TLH III are identified and relevant

departments/agencies are informed through formalized reports.



Trans Labrador Highway, Phase I

### ***Labour Market Development Agreement***

On September 5, 2008, the Provincial Government announced the devolution of the Labour Market Development Agreement from the Government of Canada to the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. On October 29, 2009, the Provincial Government, through Human Resources, Labour and Employment, assumed responsibility of the Agreement. The Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs continued to participate in the Labrador Labour

Market Development Agreement Management Committee up to the transfer of the program. Labour Market Development Agreement programs and services are available to Employment Insurance-eligible individuals and include programs such as self-employment assistance, wage subsidies and job creation partnerships.

#### ***Lawrence O'Brien Auditorium***

The Lawrence O'Brien Auditorium was officially named in June 2, 2009 in a ceremony attended by Premier Williams and was subsequently opened on September 25, 2009. Operated by the Eastern Labrador Arts Alliance (ELAA), with an operational funding grant from the Provincial Government, this facility provides a state of the art performance venue to showcase artists in Labrador. The Department was instrumental in facilitating and co-ordinating collaborative efforts with the Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation, the Department of Education, ELAA, the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay and the Labrador School Board to ensure successful operation of the facility.

#### ***Northern Development Ministers Forum***

The Northern Development Ministers' Forum (NDMF) was established in 2001 to advance the diverse and common interests of Northerners in Canada while raising awareness among decision-makers and the public about the accomplishments, contributions and potential of the North.

At the 2008 NDMF, held in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, the Minister of Labrador Affairs proposed Northern Infrastructure as a priority project. Led by the Department, a report on Northern Infrastructure has been completed and is scheduled to be presented at the 2010 Forum in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

NDMF member jurisdictions include northern representatives from the governments of British Columbia, Alberta, Yukon, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Nunavut, Ontario, Québec, Newfoundland and Labrador, the Northwest Territories and Canada. The Department also serves on the NDMF Senior Officials Working Group.

#### ***Mealy Mountains and Torngat Mountains National Park Committees***

The Department sits on the Torngat Mountains Cooperative Management Board in an ex-officio capacity. This Board assists Parks Canada in an advisory capacity regarding the management of the Torngat Mountains National Park, including the development of policy for visitor use of the park.

On February 5, 2010, Canada and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador announced the commitment to create a new national park reserve in the Mealy Mountain area of Labrador. The boundary for the national park reserve has been established. The provincial and

federal minister responsible accepted the consensus recommendations of the Steering Committee for the National Park Feasibility Study, and signed a memorandum of understanding outlining the next steps the two governments will take to establish the national park reserve, including the negotiation of a federal-provincial land transfer agreement. The Department continues to participate on an intergovernmental advisory committee for the negotiation of a federal-provincial land transfer agreement.

#### ***Eagle River Waterway Provincial Park***

In conjunction with the Mealy Mountain National Park announcement, the Provincial Government also announced its intent to establish a waterway provincial park to protect the Eagle River which is adjacent to the proposed national park reserve. A conceptual boundary for an adjacent waterway provincial park was identified which will include almost the entire length of the Eagle River from the headwaters to the sea. The Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs continues to be involved in the planning for the establishment of this park.

#### ***Violence Prevention Labrador***

Violence Prevention Labrador (VPL) is the Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Labrador region under the umbrella of the Violence Prevention Initiative of the Province.

Key objectives of the VPL include:

- Establishing a communication network among organizations that provide advocacy, service and education on issues of violence;
- 
- Distributing successful strategies and information to overcome the problem of violence;
- 
- Identifying and rectifying gaps in violence prevention services in Labrador communities;
- 
- Identifying resources within VPL and in communities to improve the response to the problem of violence; and,
- Encouraging public awareness of the problem of violence.

Some of the accomplishments of VPL from the 2009-2010 fiscal year include:

- In conjunction with Labrador-Grenfell Regional Health Authority's Primary Health and Health Promotion, and the Rural Secretariat, hosted the conference "Innovation and Collaboration: *Learning and Changing Together*" that examined the role that policies, programs, and services such as social housing, education, health, income security and social services play in community health and looked to identify gaps in these services in Labrador

- VPL hosted a series of public presentations, in addition to an all day workshop, with Dr. Michael Kaufman, co-founder of the White Ribbon Campaign, which focused on men working to end violence against women
- Delivery of educational and awareness activities throughout the region including the ongoing partnership with the Labrador Silent Witness Campaign, worked with NunatuKavut (formerly Labrador Metis Nation) to develop a Violence Prevention Newsletter, developed media pieces and co-ordinated activities for Violence Prevention Month
- Provided outreach funds to community based organizations including the Especially For GIRLS program (Community Youth Network / L'Anse Au Loup), Family Fun Night (Non Violent Art and Awareness Project), Violence - "Who Needs It!" (Pier Youth Centre / Mary's Harbour), Lunch and Learn - "Women Gaining Knowledge" (Labrador Straits Women's Institute, Anti-Violence Night - Gap Centre / Community Youth Network / Port Hope Simpson) and "Real Men Respect Women" (Mokami Status of Women / Happy Valley-Goose Bay).

The Provincial Government, through the Department, participates on the VPL Board, in support of the Violence Prevention Initiative (VPI). The Minister of Aboriginal Affairs serves on the

Ministerial Committee for the VPI, while the Deputy Minister serves on the Deputy Ministers Committee. The provincial Violence Prevention Initiative Stakeholders' Conference was held November 17-18, 2009 in St John's.

### ***Labrador Regional Economic Development Boards***

The Department continues to work with staff and board members of the regional economic development boards in Labrador. Senior Analysts within Labrador Affairs work with respective Labrador Boards to promote communication on regional economic development issues. The Labrador Boards include Hyron Regional Economic Development Corporation, Central Labrador Economic Development Board, Southeastern Aurora Development Corporation and Labrador Straits Development Corporation.



Red Bay, Labrador

### ***Destination Labrador***

Destination Labrador is a non-profit organization whose primary role is to develop a tourism marketing strategy for Labrador. Destination Labrador collaborates with industry stakeholders and various government department/agencies in developing this marketing strategy. An initial stakeholders forum was held in January 2010 to discuss a strategy in the Lake Melville area. The Department continues its role as an ex-officio member of Destination Labrador's Advisory Board.

### ***Labrador Aboriginal Training Partnership***

Created in 2009, the Labrador Aboriginal Training Partnership Inc. (LATP) is mandated to develop and oversee a comprehensive *training to employment* plan to prepare Labrador Innu, Inuit and members of the NunatuKavut for employment opportunities resulting from resource development in Labrador. The \$30 million initiative is co-funded by the Provincial Government and the federal government, in partnership with the Nunatsiavut Government (NG), Innu Nation, NunatuKavut and Nalcor Energy.

The Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs is a non-voting member on the LATP Board. The Board is comprised of the following voting members: the NG, Innu Nation, NunatuKavut and Nalcor Energy. Federal Government and Provincial

Government departments' representatives are non-voting board members.

### ***Labrador Winter Games Board***

The Labrador Winter Games held its 10<sup>th</sup> games in March 2010. The Games provide an opportunity for Labradorians to come together to celebrate Labrador sports and culture. More than 400 participants from 25 communities throughout Labrador competed in contemporary sport and traditional skill competition such as dog sledding and snowshoeing in this year's event.

The Provincial Government provided \$500,000 to support the 2010 Labrador Winter Games. A Labrador Winter Games Board of Directors is responsible to oversee and manage operations of all aspects of the Games. The Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs is a member of the Board.

### ***5 Wing Goose Bay***

In cooperation with other departments and municipal governments, the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs continues to support efforts to sustain and diversify operations at 5 Wing Goose Bay.

The Department is a member of the Goose Bay Airport Development Committee, which is

comprised of stakeholders interested in the sustainability of future aerospace developments, and other potential opportunities at 5 Wing Goose Bay.

The Department also represents the Province as an ex-officio member on the Board for the Institute for Environmental Monitoring and Research. The Institute conducts and provides insightful, comprehensive, scientific research in Labrador and northeastern Quebec ecosystems affected by the low-level flying program. The Institute offers scientifically supported recommendations to the federal Ministers of Environment and National Defence on policy issues relating to the impacts of low-level flying.

### ***Youth Retention and Attraction Strategy***

On November 5, 2009 the Provincial Government launched *Creating a Province of Choice: A Youth Retention and Attraction Strategy for Newfoundland and Labrador*. The strategy was developed in collaboration with youth with the intent of countering the impacts of out-migration, strengthening the labour market and supporting the economic development of the Province. Led by the Department of Human Resources, Labour and Employment, the development of the Strategy was facilitated by an interdepartmental working group. The Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs participated in this working group in an effort to provide Labrador and Aboriginal lenses on provincial labour market development.

### ***Office of Immigration and Multiculturalism***

The Office of Immigration and Multiculturalism leads the Immigration and Multiculturalism Working Group in support of Provincial Government's *Diversity – Opportunity and Growth: an Immigration Strategy for Newfoundland and Labrador* and Multiculturalism Policy. The Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs participates on this Working Group and meets regularly on immigration and multiculturalism issues related to Labrador.

### ***Business Continuity Plan***

In an effort to minimize the impacts of disasters and emergencies, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has embarked on a process to develop a modern and robust all-hazards approach to emergency management for the Province. Fire and Emergency Services NL leads the development of this system which will help prepare for, mitigate impacts of, respond to and recover from disruptions, emergencies and disasters. All departments and related agencies are to prepare a departmental Business Continuity Plan which will be integrated into an overall Provincial Business Continuity Plan for the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.

### ***Food Security Network***

Building Capacity for Food Security in Northern Labrador Coastal Communities is funded through the Public Health Agency of Canada and is lead by Food Security Network of Newfoundland and Labrador (FSN). The project combines the

expertise and experiences of the FSN with a variety of partners to work together on an Advisory Steering Committee in achieving community-based solutions on food security through a participatory process in Hopedale. The Department is represented on the Committee in an advisory capacity.

### ***Newfoundland & Labrador Geographical Names Board***

The Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs is represented on the Newfoundland and Labrador Geographical Names Board led by the Department of Environment and Conservation. Under the Geographical Names Board Act, the Department of Environment and Conservation has the authority to officially name all geographical features and places in the province. Provincial, territorial and federal naming authorities have representation on the Geographical Names Board of Canada (GNBC) which is responsible for the establishment and the maintenance of national standards in toponomy.

### ***Poverty Reduction Strategy***

\$134M was announced in Budget 2010 in support of the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS). The Minister of Labrador Affairs and the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs serve on the Ministerial Committee and the Department is represented on the Deputy Ministers Committee and the Officials Committee.

There has been a focus on ensuring that people of Aboriginal descent and communities are aware of

provincial programs and services that benefit them. Aboriginal people in the province are eligible for all provincial programs and services of general application. Thus the benefits of the PRS initiatives also benefit Aboriginal people. Examples of initiatives that have been particularly beneficial to Aboriginal people have been identified in the Poverty Reduction Strategy's mid-term report.



Moravian Church, Nain

Discussions with Aboriginal communities on provincial initiatives, including the Poverty Reduction Strategy, are taking place through the Senior Officials Working Group on the National Aboriginal Women's Summit Recommendations. This committee involves officials from Aboriginal Affairs, Women's Policy Office (WPO), as well as representatives from Aboriginal groups in the province. The feedback from these discussions



will help the Department address concerns about existing initiatives and potentially develop new ones that will improve the quality of life for Aboriginal people.

The Department worked with the WPO to advance two initiatives for Aboriginal women under the PRS approved in Budget 2010; these initiatives will be pursued by the Department and the WPO in 2010-11:

- 1) \$125,000 to help Aboriginal women in Labrador develop and deliver a series of capacity-building workshops in the five Inuit communities on the North Coast. These workshops will empower Aboriginal women to access programs and services that will result in real differences in their lives and allow them to share in available social and economic benefits.
- 2) \$100,000 in operational funding for the Newfoundland Aboriginal Women's Network to address issues in their communities such as poverty and violence, in ways that are culturally-sensitive.

### ***Healthy Aging Strategy***

The Healthy Aging Policy Framework outlines the key issues and strategic directions which will prepare our Province to respond to the needs of seniors now and in the future. *The Provincial*

*Healthy Aging Policy Framework and Implementation Plan* is a priority for the Provincial Government with extensive public consultations contributing to its development. The Strategy's vision is *for individuals, families, communities and society as a whole to foster healthy aging in order to achieve optimal health and well-being.*

The Minister of Aboriginal Affairs serves on the Ministerial Healthy Aging Strategy Committee. The Department is also represented on the Deputy Ministers Committee and the Officials Committee. The Department worked with the Department of Health and Community Services to develop criteria for the Age-Friendly Newfoundland and Labrador (AFNL) Grants Program to ensure Inuit Community Governments and First Nations Reserves were eligible. This program was released on February 10, 2010.

### ***Skills Task Force***

The Skills Task Force was established by the Provincial Government to gather expertise and insight of people across business, labour, education and other key sectors to provide strategies to build the Province's skilled work force.

The actions identified by the Task Force are guided by key themes that emerged during consultations. The Task Force's report provides a strategic direction, an objective and recommended actions in the following areas:

- Changing attitudes and opening doors;
- Improving access, performance and outcomes;
- Improving apprenticeship programs and journey person opportunities;
- Supporting access for under-represented groups including those of Aboriginal descent;
- Retaining and recruiting skilled workers;
- Assessing and responding to industry needs; and,
- Ensuring strong partnerships.

The Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs is represented on the Skills Task Force to help ensure Aboriginal and Labrador residents' perspectives are considered.

### ***Air Transportation Committee***

The report, titled *Setting Direction: Study of Air Transportation, Newfoundland and Labrador*, was released in February 2009 by the Department of Business. The purpose of the report is to identify potential opportunities to encourage greater air transportation capacity and enhanced levels of service for passengers and cargo to and from the province. The Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs is represented on the Air

Transportation Committee that was developed to consider recommendations.

***Committee on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities***

The Provincial Advisory Council for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities advises and informs the Minister Responsible for the Status of Persons with Disabilities on matters concerning persons with disabilities in Newfoundland and Labrador. The opening of the Disability Policy Office was announced April 30, 2009. The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs represents the Department on the Ministers Committee and the Deputy Minister represents the Department on the Deputy Ministers Committee.

***Department of Child, Youth and Family Services Transition Advisory Committee***

The Department serves on the Department of Child, Youth and Family Services Transition Advisory Deputy Ministers Committee and the Officials Working Group. The Department provided advice to CYFS on how to proceed with issues affecting Aboriginal people. The Department also works with other departments in the provision of advice respecting the strengthening of the Province's child protection system, in response to the recommendations of the 2006 Turner Review and Investigation.



Pow Wow, Conne River  
Minister Pottle, Chief Misel Joe, Tracey Perry, MHA  
Fortune Bay Cape La Hune

## Highlights and Accomplishments

In addition to accomplishments on its strategic issues, the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs worked on a number of other initiatives to effectively carry out its mandate.

### ***Newfoundland and Labrador – Innu Nation “New Dawn” Agreement***

On 16 February 2010, the Grand Chief and Deputy Grand Chief of the Innu Nation, the Chiefs of the Sheshatshiu Innu First Nation and the Mushuau Innu First Nation, the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, and Nalcor Energy initialed three documents stemming from the 2008 New Dawn Agreement: A Bilateral (Innu-NL) AIP on the Innu Land Claim, the Lower Churchill Impacts and Benefits Agreement, and the Churchill Falls Hydro-electric Development Redress Agreement. The signing of these documents represented a significant milestone in Provincial Government’s relationship with the Labrador Innu. All Parties are committed to undertaking the necessary work to prepare for ratification of the three Agreements.

### ***Labrador Transportation Grooming Subsidy***

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador continues to provide the Labrador Transportation Grooming Subsidy to coastal communities that do not have year round road connections to other areas of Labrador. This subsidy (\$390,000) supports the departmental strategic direction to

improve economic and social development in Labrador. The Provincial Government provides support to regions along the north and south coasts of Labrador for maintenance of the winter trail systems. The Inuit Community Governments of Hopedale, Postville, Makkovik, and Rigolet, as well as the Eagle River Development Association, Labrador White Bear Development Association, Town of North West River and Grand River Snowmobile Club, receive funding from this program. In 2009-2010, the Provincial Government provided an additional \$100,000 for trail enhancements. Departmental staff supports the program through trail inspections, meeting coordination and program management and administration. Government is investing \$200,000 in 2010-2011 for winter trail grooming: \$120,000 to construct a groomer garage in North West River, \$60,000 to continue trail cutting and re-routing and \$20,000 for new signage along the Labrador transportation trail system.

### ***Air Foodlift Subsidy (AFS)***

The Air Foodlift Subsidy (AFS) program was established by the Provincial Government in 1997

to ensure that nutritious, perishable items such as fruit, vegetables and dairy products are available to Labrador’s coastal communities. The subsidy supports the Department’s strategic direction to improve economic and social development in Labrador. In 2009 the Department, in collaboration with Newfoundland and Labrador Statistics Agency (NLSA), increased the air freight rate subsidy to 80% of the air freight cost to ensure equitable rates for all eligible communities in the regular AFS program. NLSA assisted in determining the new subsidy rate. In the past year, the Department organized an interdepartmental evaluation committee to review the AFS program. This review is continuing into 2010. The AFS program is co-ordinated, managed and administered by the Department through the Labrador Affairs Branch.

### ***Combined Councils of Labrador***

The Combined Councils of Labrador (CCL), established in 1972, provides an opportunity for municipal leaders throughout Labrador to gather and discuss issues of mutual concern and to engage government in meaningful deliberations. The Department provides annual operating funding to the Council to support community collaboration in Labrador. In February 2010, the CCL held its 38<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting in the community of Wabush. The Department continues to work closely with the CCL by co-ordinating and facilitating discussion on major issues in Labrador. This involvement supports the departmental strategic direction to reflect Labrador interests in provincial policy.

### ***Labrador Regional Senior Management Council***

The Labrador Regional Senior Management Council serves as a forum within the Provincial Government to discuss and consider means for improved service delivery within the region. The Council also provides an opportunity for senior management to meet and provide updates on respective department / agency initiatives.

The Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs has chaired the Council since 2001 and continues to co-ordinate communications between the region and Provincial Government.

### ***Provincial - Nunatsiavut Government Relations***

Since December 1, 2005, when the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement came into effect, the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs has worked actively with the Nunatsiavut Government and the Government of Canada on the implementation of the Agreement and consults the Nunatsiavut Government on all major government initiatives related to the Labrador Inuit. The Department continues to make significant progress in establishing mechanisms by which provincial departments and agencies are advised of obligations under the Agreement.

### ***Amendments to Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement Act***

In 2009 the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador introduced legislation in the House of Assembly that will assist in the resolution of land claims in northern Labrador and offshore areas adjacent to northern Labrador and northern Quebec. These amendments provide increased clarity and certainty for the future economic development of the region. The legislation was passed by the House of Assembly and received Royal Assent in December 2009. Once overlapping agreements are resolved by Aboriginal groups, they are able to come into effect when incorporated into the land claims agreements of each Aboriginal group. The Overlap Agreement between Labrador Inuit and Nunavik Inuit was incorporated into the Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement in 2008.



**Ice flows near Northwest River, Labrador**

### ***Innu Healing Initiatives***

The Department continues to work cooperatively with the Innu Nation, the Mushuau Innu First Nation, the Sheshatshiu Innu First Nation and the federal government on the Labrador Innu Comprehensive Healing Strategy. The Main Table provides a forum for discussions and resolution of community challenges and acts as a mechanism for the devolution of programs and services to Band control. The Province, federal government, Innu Nation and Band Councils have worked together to create Band schools in Sheshatshiu and Natuashish. The Province delivered education on the two reserves, under an agreement with the federal government, up to June 2009. In July 2009, the two First Nations took responsibility for the operations of these schools, while continuing to follow provincial curriculum. This governance

model is a first in Canada, as the Innu school board is responsible for both schools and is comprised of representatives from both communities to provide oversight and co-ordinate shared services. The Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs continues to work with the Innu Nation and the two First Nations on the devolution of child, youth and family services and income support programming to the Innu. These programs and services are currently delivered by the Provincial Government on behalf of the federal government.

### ***Miawpukek First Nation Self-Government Negotiations***

The Province, federal government and Miawpukek First Nation continue to negotiate an AIP on Miawpukek First Nation self-government. The Miawpukek First Nation is consulting with members on and off-reserve on its self-government proposal. When completed, a final Agreement is expected to provide the Miawpukek First Nation with the jurisdiction to effectively regulate and manage the programs and services it delivers to its members.

### ***Aboriginal Women's Issues***

The Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs continues to co-ordinate the National Aboriginal Women's Summit (NAWS) working group, consisting of representatives of Aboriginal women within the province, to review and analyze national recommendations, as well as priorities within the province. To support this initiative, the

Department has a Policy Analyst dedicated to assist in the analysis and implementation of these recommendations.

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador provided funding to assist this working group as it examines ways to implement the NAWS recommendations. One working group meeting and three bilateral meetings between the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and individual representatives for Aboriginal Women's groups took place during 2009-10. Individual representative meetings and completion of a draft document outlining provincial recommendations will continue in 2010-11.

### ***Addressing Suicide and Detrimental Lifestyles***

The Department provides support to address the high instances of suicide and detrimental lifestyles within the Province's Aboriginal youth population. The Suicide and Detrimental Lifestyles Grant Program provides funding to organizations to develop innovative programs that are targeted at improving the health, circumstances and well being of Aboriginal youth throughout the province. The Program provides a means whereby culturally-appropriate approaches are used to address issues such as drug and alcohol abuse, suicide, delinquency and other detrimental lifestyles. During 2009-10 six initiatives/projects across the Province were funded. The Program will continue during the 2010-2011 fiscal year. Other supports provided by the Department to address detrimental lifestyles included supporting the *Fight*

*Against Drugs Campaign*, where Canadian boxer George Chuvalo spoke to students in Conne River and the Labrador communities of Hopedale and North West River to share his personal experience of the tragic consequences of drug abuse.



**Premier Williams, Hebron Memorial Ceremony, Hebron**

### ***Hebron Memorial***

In 1956 and 1959 the Inuit communities of Nutak and Hebron in Northern Labrador were closed and all residents relocated to other communities on the Labrador North Coast. They endured considerable hardship and suffering for many years. At the January 22, 2005 signing of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement, the Provincial Government made an Apology for the way the relocations were carried out and the resulting hardship. The Apology was given to the Inuit by the Premier, the Honourable Danny

Williams, during the signing ceremonies in Nain. The Apology was emotionally and meaningfully received by those who were part of the relocation. The Apology was acknowledged and graciously accepted on behalf of the Hebron Relocation Committee (“the Committee”) by Andrea Webb.

2009 was the 50th anniversary of the relocation of Inuit from Hebron. In the Apology Premier Williams committed the Province to assist the Nunatsiavut Government to erect a monument at the site of the abandoned community. Accordingly, in co-operation with the Committee

and the Nunatsiavut Government, the Province commissioned the casting of three large bronze plaques for the monument. The first contains the names of the 249 Inuit who were re-located, the second the Apology and the third the Acceptance. The Apology and the Acceptance are in both Inuktitut and English. The plaques are mounted on large blocks of Labradorite stone and together form a monument near the heritage site of the Moravian Church building. The Labrador Inuit Development Corporation provided the stone blocks and erected them at Hebron. The Nunatsiavut Government and Parks Canada made

substantial contributions by arranging the transportation and lodging of participants attending the ceremony.

On 10 August 2009 approximately 20 relocatees and other Inuit were joined by members and officials of the Nunatsiavut Government, Premier Williams, Minister Pottle and provincial officials in an official unveiling of the new monument.



Island outside Saglek Bay

## Report on Performance

In the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Business Plan for 2008-09 to 2010-11, the Minister of Labrador Affairs and the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs identified key strategic issues applicable to their portfolios. These key strategic issues consider the Provincial Government's strategic directions and the mandate and financial resources of the Department.

The following areas were identified as the key priorities for the Department

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### Issue 1 Northern Strategic Plan

In the March 2005 Speech from the Throne, the Provincial Government mandated the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs to develop the Northern Strategic Plan (NSP) to address progression of social and economic development in Labrador. The NSP was launched on April 20, 2007, with Government's commitment to follow through on the implementation of the initiatives outlined in the Plan. The Department continues to work with line departments to support the realization of the commitments and continues to inform the public of the progress achieved throughout the implementation of the NSP. Detailed information on the commitments outlined in the NSP can be found at the Provincial Government's web site ([www.gov.nl.ca](http://www.gov.nl.ca)) under the "Northern Strategic Plan for Labrador" icon. On March 25, 2010 the Provincial Government announced the release of the *Northern Strategic Plan for Labrador Progress Report*. This report provides an update on the status of all Provincial Government commitments covered under the plan. At the midway point of the NSP approximately 73 percent of the commitments scheduled for completion have been accomplished, five percent have not been completed, and 22 percent are continuous commitments that remain ongoing. The NSP is in its third year, with a total of 201 commitments, an increase of 56 commitments since its release. The NSP is directly linked to the Department's strategic

direction to enhance economic and social development in Labrador since all of the plan commitments support economic and social development.



Northern Strategic Plan Session, L'Anse Au Loup

**Goal:** By 2011, the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs will have led the implementation of the Northern Strategic Plan.

<b>Measures</b>	<b>Led implementation of the NSP</b>
<b>Indicator</b>	<p>Progress of NSP implementation is monitored</p> <p>Public and House of Assembly are provided information on the progress of the implementation of the NSP</p> <p>Annual budgets reflect NSP commitments</p> <p>Departments are supported in fulfilling their NSP obligations</p> <p>Future NSP initiatives are evaluated and presented for Government's consideration</p>

**2009/10**

**Objective:** By March 31, 2010, the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs will have continued to lead the implementation of the NSP by monitoring the approved 2009-10 initiatives.

<b>Measures</b>	<b>Continue to lead implementation of the NSP</b>
<b>Indicator</b>	Progress of the NSP implementation is monitored
<b>Performance</b>	A monitoring framework continues to track progression of the NSP. The monitoring process provides updated progress on the NSP, by regularly engaging department representatives to keep current and accurate account of all commitments, and by regularly inserting NSP progress into the monitoring framework.



The Department continues to further NSP goals and objectives by working closely with Provincial Government departments / agencies on existing and new NSP commitments and monitoring all monies spent to support NSP initiatives.

On September 17, 2009 all designates attended a NSP planning session where progress on commitments from each department was summarized and discussed on each NSP theme.

Executive meetings were held in October 2009 to discuss the status of the NSP and any potential new initiatives that could be considered to support its goals and objectives.

Indicator

Public and House of Assembly are provided information on progress of the implementation of the NSP

Performance

On March 25, 2010 the Minister of Labrador Affairs informed the House of Assembly and the public of the release of the NSP progress report. The report outlines the performance of all Provincial Government commitments in the first two years of the NSP.

Public information sessions on the NSP progress report are planned for Spring 2010 in communities across Labrador.

An ongoing communications strategy is in place to ensure that all relevant Provincial Government press releases include NSP goals, objectives or commitments.

Indicator

Annual budgets reflect NSP commitments

Performance

LAA officials work closely with the Department of Finance to ensure accurate financial records are maintained with respect to the NSP. New commitments identified from the budget process are inputted into the NSP framework and progress is monitored.

An additional \$137million was budgeted from the Provincial Government process in 2009-2010 under the NSP. Further, Budget 2010 indicated an investment of \$158 million through the NSP for the 2010-2011 fiscal year.



Indicator	Departments are supported in fulfilling their NSP obligations
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Performance	<p>Senior Analysts are assigned by the Department to support department/agency designates on an on-going basis to ensure accurate financial information and status of commitments are maintained in the NSP framework. In September 2009, representatives of all relevant departments/agencies gathered in St. John's and were provided an opportunity to discuss all aspects of NSP reporting as well as an update on status of the NSP.</p> <p>All provincial departments/agencies that have commitments in the NSP are contacted regularly to provide updates on their specific commitments</p> <p>Reporting on the progress of NSP commitments requires Deputy Minister approval of reported commitments by respective departments/agencies.</p>
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Indicator	New initiatives for the NSP are added, identified and evaluated
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Performance	<p>Previous NSP Initiatives and commitments were evaluated through NSP planning sessions and executive meetings held in the fall of 2009. The purpose of the sessions/meetings is to review commitments identified in the monitoring framework and to explore options to support NSP goals and objectives in the coming year. New initiatives introduced in 2009-2010 were included in the monitoring framework and evaluated throughout the year in consultation with relevant departments/agencies. In addition, previous commitments continued to be evaluated in 2009-2010.</p> <p>As of March 31, 2010 there are a total of 203 commitments identified in the NSP; an increase of 25 new commitments for 2009-2010.</p>
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**Discussion of Results:**

The Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs continues to lead the NSP. To date, the Department has been successful in establishing mechanisms by which to monitor the NSP. Progress continues with total commitments increasing from 145 in April 2007 to over 200 by March 31, 2010 with a total investment of over \$430 million to support Labrador's economic and social development.

## 2010/11

**Objective:** By March 31, 2011, the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs will have continued to lead the implementation of the NSP including commencing evaluation mechanisms in preparation for conclusion of the existing NSP's mandate on March 31, 2012.

**Measure:** Continue to lead implementation of the NSP

### Indicators:

- Progress of the NSP implementation is monitored;
- Public and House of Assembly are provided information on the progress of the NSP;
- NSP commitments are reflected in annual budgets;
- Departments are supported in fulfilling their NSP obligations;
- New initiatives for the NSP are added, identified and evaluated; and,
- Mechanisms to evaluate the five-year NSP are developed in preparation for the NSP's final report.

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## Issue 2 Public Awareness

The Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs continues to communicate its mandate and accomplishments to the public through formalized processes such as news releases, ministerial statements and speeches. Public awareness continues to be a priority. Many of the activities of the Department require a collaborative effort with other departments, such as addressing the needs of Aboriginal women and communities and implementation of the NSP.

Public awareness is directly linked to the Department's strategic directions and progress is supported through consultations, where and as appropriate, with Aboriginal people with respect to Aboriginal interests on social policy and by encouraging communications and partnerships to enhance economic and social development throughout Labrador.



**Goal:** By March 31, 2011, the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs will have better informed the Province of Government's contributions to Labrador and the Aboriginal community.

Measure	Better informed province
Indicator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Increased consultations with the public on Labrador and Aboriginal initiatives</li><li>Data collection methods are enhanced to assist the Department in better informing the public</li><li>Increased public communications activities</li><li>Public informed of progress on Labrador and Aboriginal initiatives</li><li>Processes are enhanced to effectively communicate the programs and services of the Department</li><li>Departments are supported to enable Labrador and Aboriginal interests to be accurately reflected in Provincial Government media communications</li></ul>

**2009/10**

**Objective:** By March 31, 2010, the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs will have implemented strategies to better inform the province of Government's contributions to Labrador and the Aboriginal community, including development of a database on Labrador and Aboriginal issues.

Measure	Better informed province
Indicator	Continue to implement recommendations of the National Aboriginal Women’s Summit and prepare a report on the work of the Senior Advisory Committee and Government’s ongoing response to the needs of Aboriginal women and their families
Performance	<p>Consultation and review of National Aboriginal Women’s Summit recommendations with Senior Advisory Committee and Provincial Government are ongoing. A draft report outlining priorities identified by the Senior Advisory Committee is being reviewed by committee members. Work is ongoing. Violence against Aboriginal women and children has been identified as a key concern for all Aboriginal groups / governments within the Province. In 2009 the Rigolet Partnership Against Violence received funding through the Northern Strategic Plan - Violence Prevention Initiative and the Women’s Policy Office totaling \$90,000.00 to establish a shelter in the community. Budget 2010, through the Poverty Reduction Strategy, provided operational funding for the Women’s Shelter in Rigolet, as well as additional funding for the shelter in Nain to operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. During 2009-2010, through the Violence Prevention Initiative, grants totaling \$110,000 have been distributed to five Aboriginal groups and organizations for initiatives in their communities, Funding in the amount of \$378,000 has been provided for three additional RCMP officers, two of whom will enhance the Relief Unit in Happy Valley-Goose Bay to increase regular patrols to Postville.</p> <p>A key theme surfacing through consultations with Aboriginal women’s groups is the need for Aboriginal women-specific capacity building within aboriginal communities. Budget 2010 provided \$100,000 in sustaining funding through the Poverty Reduction Strategy to the Newfoundland Aboriginal Women’s Network (NAWN). As well, \$125,000 was been provided for community-based supports for Inuit women in Labrador to receive guidance on how to make the most of the Poverty Reduction Strategy, the Aboriginal Training Initiative, Victim Services and emerging economic activities. The Department has advised other departments on the need for Aboriginal promotion and information campaigns for Aboriginal people. The Department continues to identify Aboriginal-specific needs to reach target audiences.</p>



Indicator	Mandate of the Department communicated to other Provincial Government departments through direct feedback on policy development and departmental initiatives
Performance	<p>The Department continues to work on numerous interdepartmental working groups, providing input on and ensuring Labrador and Aboriginal perspectives are included in any policy direction or action being developed. The Department continues to communicate with designates on the NSP.</p> <p>Labrador Affairs chairs the Labrador Regional Council, which meets quarterly.</p> <p>Senior Officials regularly participate in scheduled Assistant Deputy Minister and Deputy Minister meetings.</p> <p>The Department provides comments on Provincial Government proposals from a Labrador and Aboriginal perspective.</p> <p>An interdepartmental evaluation team was established in June 2009 consisting of representatives from Human Resources Labor and Employment (HRLE), Health and Community Services (HCS), Newfoundland Labrador Statistics Agency (NLSA), Rural Secretariat, Deputy Minister of Government Programs, Cabinet Secretariat and Poverty Reduction Strategy to examine AFS program options for future delivery.</p> <p>For the first time the Department assisted the Department of Health and Community Services in conducting food surveys in Labrador communities to better assess the cost of groceries in these communities. Previous to this, data on Labrador food costs was not adequately collected.</p> <p>The Department continues to work with other Provincial Government departments to ensure Aboriginal and Labrador perspectives are considered when developing policy, programs and initiatives. To do this department officials actively participate in a number of horizontal initiatives / interdepartmental working groups including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Innu Land Claim Steering Committee;</li><li>• Labrador Regional Senior Management Council;</li><li>• Cabinet sub-Committee on Turner Review;</li><li>• Violence Prevention Initiative;</li><li>• Poverty Reduction Strategy;</li><li>• Youth Retention and Attraction Strategy;</li><li>• Healthy Aging Strategy;</li></ul>

- Skills Task Force Interdepartmental Working Group;
- Immigration and Multiculturalism Committee;
- Committee on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities;
- Department of Child Youth and Family Services Transition Committee;
- Business Continuity Planning;
- Early Childhood Learning Strategy;
- Air Transportation Committee;
- Food Security Network (Happy Valley Goose Bay), Nikigijavut Hopedalimi (Our Food in Hopedale) Committee;
- Newfoundland and Labrador Geographical Names Board;
- Monitoring and Evaluation Committee on Provincial Government Programs; and,
- Transportation Steering Committee through the Poverty Reduction Strategy.

Indicator	Increased consultations and communications with public on Labrador and Aboriginal initiatives
Performance	<p>Since this is a new indicator we are unable to provide a definitive comparison between the 2009-2010 year and the 2008-2009 year. However when reviewing the performance report of the 2008-2009 reporting year more incidences have been reported in 2009-2010 versus the previous year. The following demonstrates this activity.</p> <p>The Department is committed to conducting two visits per year to all communities involved in the Air Foodlift Subsidy Program (AFS). In 2009 a householder pamphlet was developed and distributed by postal service to each community member within AFS eligible communities with the purpose to better inform the public of the AFS program and retailer responsibility.</p> <p>The Department holds regular face-to-face meetings with Labrador Transportation Grooming Subsidy clients. A pre-season planning session with proponents took place on December 17, 2009 in Happy Valley – Goose Bay to reiterate the administration process and to discuss innovative ways to enhance grooming operations for the coming season. There is also regular contact with Inuit Community Governments and Development Associations by the Trail Inspector and Program Coordinator.</p> <p>The Department developed and mailed out a brochure to all Labrador residents in Fall 2009 outlining major expenditures in the region.</p> <p>The Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs participated in and/or attended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Combined Councils of Labrador AGM;</li> </ul>

- Central Labrador Economic Development Board AGM;
- Labrador West Community Advisory Panel;
- Cartwright Tourism/Economic Summit;
- Destination Labrador meetings;
- Labrador Salmonid Advisory Committee;
- Pre-Budget Consultations;
- Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement Regional Planning Authority public meetings;
- Michelin Project Opportunities, Aurora Energy presentation;
- 5 Wing Search and Rescue Briefing;
- Institute for Environmental Monitoring and Research;
- Environmental Management and Planning Consultative Committee meetings;
- Technical Environmental Review Committee under the Voisey's Bay Environmental Management Agreement;
- Torngat Wildlife, Plants and Fisheries Secretariat presentation;
- Poverty Reduction Round Table;
- Joint Review Panel for Environmental Assessment of Proposed Lower Churchill Hydroelectric Generation Project Public Information Session; and,
- Nalcor Energy presentation on the Lower Churchill Project.

The Department made a presentation to the Combined Councils of Labrador during its Annual General Meeting. The Presentation included:

- Overview of Department's roles and responsibilities;
- Update on the progress of the NSP 5 year plan; and,
- Expenditures by Provincial Government departments in Labrador since 2003.

The Department conducted an AFS survey to gauge awareness and identify options for program improvements.

The NSP mid-term progress report was released on March 25, 2010 to better inform residents of Labrador of the NSP's progression to date.

The Department is planning to hold public sessions to present the NSP progress report in Spring 2010.

The Department continues to consult with and communicate to the public on issues affecting the people of Labrador and the Aboriginal people of the province. Meetings were held in numerous locations to obtain perspectives and to gain insight into conditions and issues affecting both Labrador and the Island. The role and mandate of the Department were reiterated through meetings and speeches by the Ministers of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs.



Examples / locations of meetings include:

- Towns of Labrador City, Wabush, Happy Valley-Goose Bay and North West River;
- Community of Mud Lake;
- Newfoundland Aboriginal Women's Network; and,
- Ministerial meetings were held with officials from the Nunatsiavut Government, the Mushuau Innu Band Council, community leaders and residents in six communities on the North Coast of Labrador: Rigolet, Makkovik, Postville, Hopedale, Natuashish and Nain.

Examples of speeches include:

- Labrador North Chamber of Commerce in May 2009;
- Paving of Phase I of the Trans-Labrador Highway in summer 2009;
- The Flat Bay and Conne River Powwows in July 2009;
- Sheshatshiu School Opening in October 2009;
- Coastal Stewardship Agreement events on the south coast of Labrador in November 2009; and,
- Olympic Torch Relay in November 2009.

In October 2009, the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs attended the first meeting of the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group (AAWG), initiated by Premiers at the pre-Council of the Federation meeting in August 2009, to provide a mechanism by which provinces, territories and National Aboriginal Organizations could work together to develop recommendations and identify strategies to improve the quality of life for Aboriginal people in Canada. The AAWG has focused its work on three areas: (i) Education, (ii) Economic Development and (iii) Violence against Aboriginal women and girls. Information outlining the outcomes and recommendations of this meeting was forwarded to Aboriginal groups / governments within the province to obtain feedback and input into this national process.

Discussions with Aboriginal communities on provincial initiatives continue to take place with the Senior Officials Working Group on the National Aboriginal Women's Summit recommendations. Feedback from these discussions assisted the Department in addressing concerns about existing and potential new initiatives that could improve the quality of life for Aboriginal people.

On October 19, 2009 a revised Departmental web site was launched. The layout and design was aligned with other Provincial Government web sites thus providing the public with a consistent and easy way to access Departmental information.



Indicator	Provide public information on the Agreement in Principle when finalized with the Labrador Innu
Performance	<p>Negotiators participated in accelerated land claims negotiations following the signing of the New Dawn Agreement with the objective of achieving a trilateral Agreement in Principle (AIP). On September 26, 2008, the Honourable Danny Williams, Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador, and Mark Nui, Grand Chief of Innu Nation, announced the signing of a milestone agreement. The Tshash Petapen Agreement (jash pey-taah-ben), which translates as the New Dawn Agreement, marked a new beginning for the Innu of Labrador and their relationship with the province. The agreement resolved key issues relating to matters between the province and Innu Nation surrounding the Innu land claim negotiations (in particular, it sets out the land selections and quantum for the Innu treaty area), the Lower Churchill Impacts and Benefits Agreement (IBA) and Innu redress for the Upper Churchill hydroelectric development. Ongoing negotiations resulted in the conclusion of the Innu-Newfoundland and Labrador Bilateral AIP which was initialed on February 16, 2010. The bilateral agreement addressed provincial issues in the AIP.</p> <p>Ongoing trilateral negotiations continue with the participation of the federal government in order to achieve a trilateral, Innu-federal-provincial, AIP. The Department has provided proposals and counter proposals to the tri-lateral Innu Land Claims Negotiations Main Table to achieve agreement on issues in the 30 chapters of the AIP. As AIP negotiations are ongoing and the Framework Agreement for negotiations prohibits dissemination of information regarding ongoing negotiations, there can be no public disclosure of AIP-related information until negotiations initial the AIP and the Parties are ready to ratify the AIP.</p>
Indicator	To create mechanisms to track information on Labrador and Aboriginal issues
Performance	<p>The Department created a Labrador spending database to monitor Provincial Government spending in Labrador by department/agency. The spending database is updated regularly. \$2.4 Billion will have been spent from the first Williams' Government Budget in 2004 to the end of 2010-2011.</p> <p>A preliminary public announcement database of Labrador Issues was developed in Fall 2009. Further work is required on the database to maximize its utility.</p>

Indicator	<p>Stakeholders are consulted regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Labrador Transportation Grooming Subsidy</li> <li>• Air Foodlift Subsidy</li> </ul>
Performance	<p>Labrador Transportation Grooming Subsidy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seasonal Trail Inspector hired in November 2009 to assist Communities and Associations in winter trail development and inspect any trail construction and check safety conditions.</li> <li>• Monthly claims submitted by communities and Development Associations to the Program Coordinator.</li> <li>• Meeting held with representatives from Inuit Community Governments and Development Associations in December 2009 to discuss the upcoming grooming season.</li> <li>• Bi-weekly telephone calls to respective Inuit Community Governments and Development Associations for trail issues and claim submissions.</li> <li>• Monthly inspections of the groomed winter trail by Inspector and the groomer operators.</li> <li>• Trail Inspector meets with Communities and Development Associations to develop year end recommendations which are submitted to the Department for future trail improvements.</li> </ul> <p>Air Foodlift Subsidy (AFS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retailer and consumer surveys were conducted by NLSA via telephone in November and December 2009 to AFS eligible communities.</li> <li>• Meetings were held with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada in Happy Valley-Goose Bay in July 2009 and in Ottawa in October 2009 as part of the federal Food Mail program review.</li> <li>• Food basket surveys were conducted in select Labrador communities to gauge food costs.</li> <li>• Meetings were held with community retailers in March / April 2009.</li> <li>• Department officials and the Minister of Labrador Affairs met with the Mushuau Innu Band Council and the Nunatsiavut Government to discuss the costs of food in their communities.</li> <li>• An updated AFS brochure was released in August 2009.</li> <li>• The Department prepares and distributes AFS information packages to retailers.</li> <li>• Program Coordinator communicates with retailers and community residents about the AFS program and concerns over pricing.</li> </ul>

  
**Discussion of Results:**

Excellent progress has been made towards implementing strategies to better inform the province of Government's contributions to Labrador and the Aboriginal community

**2010/11**

**Objective:** By March 31, 2011, the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs will have better informed the province of Government's contributions to Labrador and the Aboriginal community by continuing to implement priority strategies.

**Measure:** Better informed the province

**Indicator(s):**

- Descriptive profiles of all communities throughout Labrador developed by Labrador Affairs Branch;
- Finalized an announcement database that tracks information on Labrador and Aboriginal issues;
- Continued engagement with stakeholders regarding:
  - Labrador Transportation Grooming Subsidy
  - Air Foodlift Subsidy
- Continued public awareness of departmental programs;
- Continued to consult and communicate with the public on initiatives affecting Labrador and Aboriginal people of the province; and,
- Completed a draft report to the National Aboriginal Women's Summit Working Group's Senior Advisory Committee that will address provincial recommendations that reflect the priorities of Aboriginal women within the Province.

### Issue 3 Labrador and Aboriginal Interests Reflected in Provincial Government Policy and Programs

Residents of Labrador and Aboriginal people throughout the province have unique social and economic needs resulting from historic, social, cultural and geographic factors. The Department continues to play a key role in ensuring that information and advice regarding these factors inform Provincial Government policy. The Department addresses Aboriginal women's interests and works with the federal government and Aboriginal groups to ensure they benefit from federal programs and services. The Department leads the Labrador Regional Senior Management Council and continues to provide updates on the

Department's mandate and role and how its interests are reflected in Provincial Government policy and programs.

The Department's Business Plan identifies the importance of reflecting Labrador and Aboriginal interests in Provincial Government policy. The Plan's strategic directions outlined under Labrador interests and Aboriginal interests in social policy complement the 2009-2010 objectives through the accomplishments as presented.

**Goal:** By 2011, the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs will have provided input to support the consideration of Labrador and Aboriginal interests in Provincial Government policy and programs.

Measure:	Provided input
<b>Indicators:</b>	<p>Advocated for the Labrador and Aboriginal perspectives in the development of Provincial Government policy and programs</p> <p>Provincial government consultations are supported to enable Labrador and Aboriginal perspectives to be considered</p> <p>Provincial government policy and programs are evaluated to determine potential impacts on Labrador and the Aboriginal community</p> <p>Aboriginal interests respected regarding resource development in Labrador</p>

2009/10

**Objective:** By March 31, 2010, the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs will have provided input to support the consideration of Labrador and Aboriginal interests in Provincial Government policy and programs, including mechanisms to support Provincial Government's major policy initiatives.

Measure	Provided input
Indicator	Provide mechanisms that support the interests of Aboriginal people and communities through Provincial Government policy initiatives
Performance	<p>The Department reviews policy and program development papers that contain initiatives of other departments / agencies. The Department brings the interests of Aboriginal people to the attention of the requesting departments to ensure that Aboriginal specific issues, concerns and needs are considered.</p> <p>By actively participating in interdepartmental working groups and horizontal initiatives, the Department provides input on issues affecting Aboriginal people of the province.</p> <p>Other input is provided through working with other departments to provide input and assessment of processes, such as the review of resource development and environmental assessment applications to ensure Aboriginal perspectives and treaty rights are considered and ensuring that, where and as appropriate, Aboriginal governments / organizations affected by a proposed development are provided ample time to provide their perspectives.</p>
Indicator	Support initiatives aimed at addressing Aboriginal suicide and detrimental lifestyles within the province
Performance	The Department provided funding for six Aboriginal community-based initiatives totaling \$100,000 to address suicide and detrimental lifestyles in Aboriginal communities across the province.

Indicator	Work with the Women’s Policy Office to provide support mechanisms in the prevention of violence against Aboriginal women
Performance	<p>The Department, and the Women’s Policy Office (WPO), along with an advisory committee consisting of representatives from all Aboriginal women’s groups within the province, collaborated on the delivery of the fifth Provincial Aboriginal Women’s conference which took place in St. John’s. The theme was “Evolving Opportunities for Aboriginal Women”. The Department worked closely with the WPO on the development of the theme and agenda with direct input from Aboriginal women’s groups on what they identified as their needs. WPO administers the Aboriginal Women’s Violence Prevention Grants program. The Department provides input to WPO for consideration in determining which grant applications to fund.</p>
Indicator	Provincial government consultations are supported to enable Labrador and Aboriginal perspectives to be considered
Performance	<p>The Department advocated the perspectives of both Labrador and Aboriginal people through the development and sharing of departmental papers, attending committee meetings and providing input into interdepartmental working groups. On a regular basis, Provincial Government Departments engage Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs for advice on how to effectively consult Labrador and Aboriginal communities.</p> <p>Some consultations the Labrador Affairs branch supported were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Happy Valley – Goose Bay Homelessness Committee; and,</li> <li>• Pre-Budget consultations during the winter of 2009 in Labrador West and Central Labrador.</li> </ul> <p>The Department reviews all resource development applications and environmental assessment processes to ensure Labrador and Aboriginal perspectives are considered and that Aboriginal governments / organizations are consulted appropriately.</p>
Indicator	Provincial government policy and programs are evaluated to determine potential impacts on Labrador and Aboriginal communities
Performance	<p>The Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs reviews all relevant policy and program-related documents. Documents are reviewed and evaluated to identify any potential impacts on Labrador and Aboriginal communities.</p>



The Department reviews Provincial Government Business Plans and reports to ensure Labrador and Aboriginal perspectives are accurately reflected.

The Department continues to provide input into interdepartmental initiatives when relevant.

AFS review committee is evaluating the current AFS program. Impending changes to the federal Food Mail Program will impact the provincial AFS program. Review of implications will proceed when the federal program changes are publicly released.

Indicator	Develop a template for departments to assess Aboriginal consideration when drafting policy documents.
Performance	<p>Policy documents prepared by provincial departments and agencies are reviewed by Aboriginal Affairs officials to ensure the perspectives of Aboriginal people are taken into consideration. The Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs guides policy development by providing advice on implications for ongoing land claims and self-government negotiations, negotiating land claims agreements, and developing legislation. Cultural and geographic considerations are also considered when providing advice to other departments and agencies. This advice also includes ensuring that the appropriate Aboriginal governments and organizations are consulted. This process is followed by all departmental staff responsible for policy analysis and is used to advise other departments when requested.</p> <p>Upon further reflection, no template was developed as the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs felt that the process described above was more effective in addressing questions posed by other Departments, thereby allowing a more focused approach to each query. The Department will consider the creation of a template should the need present itself.</p>

**Discussion of Results:**

The Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs understands the unique social and economic needs of the people of Labrador and the Aboriginal people of the Province. The Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs works with other Provincial Government departments and agencies to communicate the perspectives on issues facing Aboriginal people and residents of Labrador.



**2010/11**

**Objective:** By March 31, 2011, the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs will have provided input to support the consideration of Labrador and Aboriginal interests in Provincial Government policy and programs.

**Measure:** Provided Input

**Indicators:**

- Completed an evaluation of the AFS Program;
- Developed mechanisms to evaluate the Labrador Transportation Grooming Subsidy Program;
- Provincial Government consultations were supported to ensure Labrador and Aboriginal perspectives were considered;
- Worked with Aboriginal governments/organizations on addressing Aboriginal suicide and detrimental lifestyles within the province;
- Worked with other departments to provide support for initiatives affecting the health and well being of Aboriginal people – including the prevention of violence against women; and,
- Continued to ensure the perspectives of Aboriginal people and Labrador residents are incorporated or considered by evaluating Provincial Government policy and programs.



Saglék, Labrador

## Issue 4 Effective Relations with Aboriginal Peoples

The Department plays the lead role in negotiating land claims agreements on behalf of the Provincial Government. Successful settlement of land claim agreements foster social and economic development while taking into consideration the historic, cultural, social and economic circumstances of Aboriginal people. Negotiating and implementing land claims agreements can help Aboriginal people attain increased self-reliance and autonomy. Successful land claims benefit all residents of the province.

***Note to Reader:** It is important to note that due to the nature of tripartite negotiations that it may be difficult to establish and meet specific milestones. Further, land claims negotiations are confidential; accordingly, it is not possible to report in detail on specific aspects of those negotiations. Moreover, while there may be agreement amongst the Parties on particular aspects of an Agreement, none of this is final until agreement is reached on all aspects of the proposed Agreement.*



Hebron Memorial Ceremony, Hebron

**Goal:** By 2011, the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs will have made all reasonable efforts to negotiate and implement agreements with Aboriginal people.

Measure	Made all reasonable efforts to negotiate land claims and self-government agreements
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participated in negotiation sessions</li> <li>Provided proposals and counter proposals</li> <li>Consulted with Provincial Government departments</li> <li>Strived to achieve Agreement in Principle with the Innu Nation</li> <li>Prepared for self-government agreements</li> <li>Met Province's obligations under the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement</li> <li>Negotiated funding agreements</li> <li>Participated in Nunatsiavut Government-federal-provincial meetings</li> </ul>

**2009/10**

**Objective:** By March 31, 2010, the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs will have taken steps towards achieving milestones in the Innu land claim, and supported provincial departments and agencies in refining mechanisms to implement the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement.



Measure	Made all reasonable efforts to negotiate and implement land claims and self-government agreements
Indicator	Provide advice to departments and agencies on Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement (LILCA) obligations.
Performance	<p>The Department provided advice and assistance to departments and agencies on the Provincial Government’s obligations under the LILCA.</p> <p>The Department reviewed draft Provincial Government policy documents, initiatives and legislation to ensure consideration of and compliance with LILCA obligations.</p> <p>The Department also kept departments and agencies informed on issues related to implementation of the LILCA. This included the provision of information to relevant departments / agencies detailing the structure of the Nunatsiavut Government and Inuit Community Governments.</p> <p>The Department worked with the Department of Municipal Affairs and other provincial departments in the Province’s review of and comments on the draft Land Use Plan.</p> <p>The Department led the process to amend the <i>Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement Act</i> to incorporate the Labrador Inuit / Nunavik Inuit Overlap Agreement.</p> <p>The Department advised other departments / agencies of current and upcoming obligations, including the appointment of provincial members to the Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-management Board and the Torngat Joint Fisheries Board, and appointment of members to the Regional Planning Authority.</p>
Indicator	Facilitate communications respecting LILCA between the Province and Nunatsiavut Government
Performance	<p>In consultation with departments and agencies, the Department co-ordinated and prepared Provincial Government input into the LILCA Annual Report, which is a shared responsibility of the Provincial Government, federal government and Nunatsiavut Government. The LILCA Annual Report details progress made in the implementation of the LILCA.</p>

	<p>The Department assisted in facilitating the commencement of discussions between the Province, the Nunatsiavut Government and the federal government on standards for the safekeeping of Archaeological Materials and Inuit Cultural Materials. The obligation to negotiate these standards is set out in Part 15.13 of the LILCA.</p> <p>The Province also participated in three implementation committee meetings with the federal government and the Nunatsiavut Government. The implementation committee, which was established in accordance with the LILCA, is responsible for overseeing and directing the implementation of the LILCA.</p> <p>The Department co-ordinated the assembly of all departmental comments in respect of the draft Land Use Plan, and submitted those comments on behalf of the Province to the Regional Planning Authority.</p>
Indicator	<p>Participate in discussions with the federal government and Nunatsiavut Government on the renewal of the fiscal financing agreement under the LILCA and negotiate funding agreements for the continuing operations of boards and committees under the LILCA.</p>
Performance	<p>The Department was invited to participate as an observer to discussions between the federal government and the Nunatsiavut Government respecting the renewal of the federal schedules included within the fiscal financing agreement, and, as an observer, the Department participated in some initial meetings and conference calls and was otherwise generally kept informed on the progress of the discussions between the federal government and the Nunatsiavut Government.</p> <p>The Department completed negotiations on tripartite funding agreements for the Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-management Board and the Torngat Joint Fisheries Board.</p> <p>The Department and the Nunatsiavut Government also continued to fund the Regional Planning Authority which was established under the LILCA to direct preparation of a land use plan for the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area.</p> <p>The Province and the Nunatsiavut Government worked together to nominate individuals for the Dispute Resolution Board. The Dispute Resolution Board is mandated to deal with disputes under the LILCA and will consist of five individuals. The Board is not yet operational, but the process of identifying individuals and nominating individuals has begun.</p>



Indicators	Work with Nunatsiavut Government to establish a memorial monument at Hebron and arrange an appropriate dedication ceremony. Continue discussions with Nunatsiavut Government regarding a memorial monument at Hebron.
Performance	<p>The Department partnered with the Nunatsiavut Government, Parks Canada and the Labrador Inuit Development Corporation to ensure an appropriate memorial monument and dedication ceremony was held at the Hebron site.</p> <p>On August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Premier Williams, along with the Ministers of Labrador Affairs and Aboriginal Affairs, officials from the Nunatsiavut Government and approximately 20 Inuit, who were themselves relocated from Hebron, participated in a dedication ceremony that unveiled a new monument at Hebron. Three bronze plaques were erected at the Hebron site.</p>
Indicator	In consultation with other departments, continue to participate in Land Claims negotiation sessions to make progress towards an Agreement in Principle with the Innu Nation.
Performance	The Department provided ongoing communication regarding progress on Innu Land Claim negotiations, in particular, the implications of the New Dawn Agreement, to public and private individuals, organizations, and Provincial Government departments. The Province and the Innu Nation initialed the bilateral "New Dawn" Agreement, Churchill Falls Hydro-electric Development Redress Agreement and Lower Churchill Impacts and Benefits Agreements. Accelerated negotiations involving bi-monthly negotiation sessions and conference calls resulted in the conclusion of the Innu-Newfoundland and Labrador Bilateral Agreement in Principle (AIP) which was initialed on February 16, 2010. The bilateral agreement addressed provincial issues in the AIP. Ongoing trilateral negotiations continue with the participation of the federal government in order to achieve a trilateral, ( Innu Nation - federal government -provincial government ) AIP.
Indicator	Participate in negotiation of self-government agreements with the Miawpukek First Nation and the Innu Nation.
Performance	The Department continues to participate with the Miawpukek First Nation (MFN) and the federal government to negotiate a self-government agreement with the MFN. The parties met four times during 2009-2010 fiscal year and have agreed to meet more frequently in the upcoming fiscal year to progress the AIP. The Department has consulted with various departments on respective chapters of the AIP and continues to consult as additional chapters are negotiated. The Department participated in trilateral negotiations with the Innu Nation on the self-government chapters of the AIP, including the formation of specific working groups for such chapters as Taxation and Fiscal Financing.

**Discussion of Results:**

The concerns of Aboriginal people are taken into consideration through the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs by actively reviewing and consulting with other Departments on issues affecting Aboriginal people of the province through participation in interdepartmental working groups and the provision of policy support in initiatives that impact Aboriginal people.

**2010/11**

**Objective:** By March 31, 2010, the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs will have taken measures to prepare for initialing of the Innu land Claims Agreement in Principle, and developed strategies in preparation for transfer of programs (*e.g.*, education) to the Nunatsiavut Government.

**Measures:**

- Made all reasonable efforts to negotiate and complete land claims and self-government AIP in preparation for initialing of AIP; and,
- Made all reasonable efforts to implement land claims and self-government agreements and develop strategies in preparation for transfer of programs.

**Indicators:**

- Provided advice to departments and agencies on obligations in the LILCA;
- Facilitated communications respecting implementation of the LILCA among the Provincial Government, federal government and Nunatsiavut Government;
- Negotiated funding agreements for the continuing operations of boards and committees established in accordance with the LILCA
- Participated in tripartite Implementation Committee meetings respecting implementation of the LILCA in 2010/11;
- Facilitated Provincial-Nunatsiavut Government relations; and,
- Continued to negotiate trilateral AIP with Innu Nation, including self-government chapters, with participation of other departments / entities.



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## The Year Ahead

The Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs is aware that there may be potential challenges and opportunities that will require further consideration as the Department proceeds with implementing its mandate. These opportunities will require negotiation, collaboration, coordination, facilitation and analytical expertise to ensure the mandate of the Department is met.

The opening of Phase III of the Trans Labrador Highway (TLH III) in December 2009 linked Labrador West with the Labrador Straits. In 2009 a year-round ferry service from Labrador to the Island was put in place by the Provincial Government. Much of Labrador is now more accessible - recreationally, socially and economically - than ever before and there are new opportunities in many sectors of the economy (*e.g.*, tourism, hunting and fishing, forestry, transportation, mining exploration), all of which provides great potential for the region. However, with progress the Provincial Government must be mindful of environmental sustainability.

During 2010-2011 the Department will continue to lead the Environmental Management and Planning Consultative Committee to address environmental impacts resulting from opening of the TLH III.

The Northern Strategic Plan (NSP) will continue to be a major collaborative economic and social Provincial Government initiative. The NSP entered the third year of its five-year program in 2009. The Department will meet with the general public during 2010 to provide status updates on all Provincial Government commitments in the NSP. The number of commitments in the plan continues to grow since it was launched in 2007. Meetings will be facilitated by

the Department with designates and officials in Provincial Government departments that have commitments in the NSP to determine if program goals and objectives are being met. A further challenge will be identifying new initiatives to further strengthen the goals of the plan. The Department will continue to ensure all commitments are updated on a regular basis.

The Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs will continue to work cooperatively with Aboriginal groups/governments to improve the social and economic well-being of the Aboriginal people in the province. The Department will continue to ensure the unique social, cultural, and linguistic attributes of the Aboriginal people of the province are appropriately taken into consideration in policy formulation, and the delivery of programs and services. This will be accomplished through the provision of departmental advice, insights, and participation in horizontal policy/program processes.

Resource developments within the province must respect land claims agreements and may trigger Provincial Government commitments to Aboriginal consultation. Working in conjunction with other departments and agencies, and, where appropriate, with the federal government, the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs will continue to implement mechanisms to consult appropriately with Aboriginal people on developments that may impact upon their asserted Aboriginal or established land claims agreement rights.

The Air Foodlift Subsidy Program (AFS), the Labrador Transportation Grooming Subsidy Program, the NSP and the Suicide and Detrimental Lifestyles Program will continue to be managed by the Department. Eligible proponents / applicants will be dealt with in a fair and consistent manner. Timelines and budgetary constraints of each program will be taken into consideration.



Continued review of the AFS will proceed, with further consideration of evaluation requirements for the Department's other programs for the future.

The Department will continue to hold seats on many Aboriginal, intergovernmental and interdepartmental committees and boards. The Department will continue to meet, consult and communicate with all those committees / boards to ensure Aboriginal and Labrador interests and concerns are being considered.

In addressing questions of Aboriginal rights, the Department will strive towards expanding the bilateral NL-Innu New Dawn Agreement into a trilateral AIP which includes the federal government, as well as continue to implement the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement with the Nunatsiavut Government and the federal government.

The Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs will continue to advance Aboriginal relations by concluding a self-government Agreement in Principle with the Miawpukek First Nation and the federal government, as well as continuing to participate in the Labrador Innu Comprehensive Healing Strategy with the Innu Nation, Sheshatshiu Innu First Nation, Mushuau Innu First Nation, and the federal government.

Improving the social and economic well-being of Aboriginal people is critical for healthy and vibrant Aboriginal communities and their people. The Department will continue to advance the interests of Aboriginal people in the province through such actions as continuing to implement the recommendations of the National Aboriginal Women's Summit and administering departmental Aboriginal initiatives such as the Suicide and Detrimental Lifestyle Grants Program.

The Provincial Government is prepared to ensure that Aboriginal people benefit from provincial programs and services to the same extent as other residents of the province, especially where the federal government has not exercised its responsibility for programs and services. The Department will advocate for the full provision of federal Aboriginal programs and services to the Aboriginal

people of the province, including the provision of applicable federal programs and services to the members of NunatuKavut.



Pinware River, Labrador



Although many major economic development initiatives have occurred in Labrador since the Williams Government came to power in 2003 there are additional development possibilities in the near future. With the strong demand for base metals and other mineral products, several mining opportunities are being developed and others are close to being put into operation. Labrador West continues to lead the Province in mineral development which is likely to continue into the near future. Preparation for the development of the Lower Churchill Hydro Project will continue into 2010-11 and the Labrador Aboriginal Training Partnership is in place to help ensure Aboriginal people are ready for employment opportunities when the Project commences. The Department continues to work closely with the Intergovernmental Affairs Secretariat to advocate for foreign military training and to promote diversification opportunities in the aerospace sector at 5 Wing Goose Bay.

As a Category Two entity, the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs is required to submit a three-year Business Plan by June 30, 2011. In preparation of that Business Plan, the Department will evaluate opportunities and develop goals and objectives to satisfy the strategic directions of the Business Plan.

The Northern Development Ministers' Forum will be held in Newfoundland and Labrador in 2011. The Department will lead this initiative on behalf of the

Provincial Government. Officials will co-ordinate and collaborate with all northern jurisdictions in 2010 during the planning of this conference.

In February 2010 an announcement was made to establish a Mealy Mountain National Park Reserve and a Provincial Waterway Park in central Labrador. In 2010-11, the Department will maintain a collaborative negotiating role on pertinent boards / committees to help establish these two parks.

The NSP will remain an important part of the Department's mandate to advance the social and economic development of Labrador. In preparation for the end of the NSP, the Department will begin to develop mechanisms to evaluate the NSP during 2010-2011.

The Department will continue to ensure that all Aboriginal and Labrador issues are considered during the development of Provincial Government policy. The Department will continue to advise groups in Labrador and the Aboriginal community of provincial opportunities. Ultimately, the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs strives to progress the well being of all Labrador and Aboriginal communities, and remains optimistic about the opportunities that lay ahead.

# Financial Statements

For the Year ending 31 March 2010 (unaudited)

	Actual (\$)	Estimates	
		Amended (\$)	Original (\$)
<b>Ministers' Office</b>			
Salaries	492,239	501,100	523,700
Employee Benefits	2,793	3,500	2,000
Transportation and Communications	120,859	122,000	120,000
Supplies	5,553	6,000	6,000
Purchased Services	60,134	62,500	8,000
Property, Furnishings & Equipment	2,067	2,100	0
<b>Total Minister's Offices</b>	<b>683,645</b>	<b>697,200</b>	<b>659,700</b>
<b>Executive Support</b>			
Salaries	510,055	536,700	667,700
Employee Benefits	5,487	5,500	4,000
Transportation and Communications	100,426	115,000	115,000
Supplies	1,394	4,000	4,000
Professional Services	401	10,000	10,000
Purchased Services	5,841	10,000	10,000
Property, Furnishings and Equipment	2,115	3,000	3,000
<b>Total Executive Support</b>	<b>625,719</b>	<b>684,200</b>	<b>813,700</b>
<b>Aboriginal Affairs</b>			
Salaries	684,240	826,600	894,100
Employee Benefits	513	1,000	1,000
Transportation and Communications	87,220	200,000	200,000
Supplies	12,107	13,900	10,400
Professional Services	12,947	35,000	35,000

Purchased Services	35,736	76,000	83,500
Grants and Subsidies	531,571	562,500	562,500
	<b>1,364,334</b>	<b>1,715,000</b>	<b>1,786,500</b>
Revenue – Provincial	(135,770)	0	0
<b>Total Aboriginal Affairs</b>	<b>1,228,564</b>	<b>1,715,000</b>	<b>1,786,500</b>
<b>Labrador Affairs</b>			
Salaries	497,167	517,200	528,600
Employee Benefits	2,313	3,500	3,500
Transportation and Communications	75,851	115,000	115,000
Supplies	14,898	17,700	7,300
Professional Services	57,607	58,500	10,000
Purchased Services	129,722	136,000	120,000
Property, Furnishings and Equipment	6,305	10,000	10,000
Grants and Subsidies	811,907	1,169,000	1,069,000
<b>Total Labrador Affairs</b>	<b>1,595,770</b>	<b>2,026,900</b>	<b>1,863,400</b>
<b>Total Department</b>	<b>4,133,698</b>	<b>5,123,300</b>	<b>5,123,300</b>

\*Report on the Program Expenditure and Revenue of the Consolidated Revenue Fund - year ended 31 March 2010.

\*\*Audited financial statements are a requirement at the government level and are made public through the Public Accounts process; however LAA is not required to provide a separate audited financial statement.

To obtain a copy of this report:

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

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