

Meeting Note
Department of Environment and Climate Change
Premier's Meeting with Cooke Aquaculture Inc.
December 10, 2024 at 10:00 AM
Virtual Meeting

Attendees:

- Glen Cooke, CEO, Cooke Aquaculture Inc.

Purpose of Meeting:

- Cooke Aquaculture Inc. requested a meeting with the Hon. Dr. Andrew Furey, Premier, to discuss the South Coast Fjords National Marine Conservation Area feasibility assessment.

Background:

- National marine conservation areas (NMCAs) are established and managed by Parks Canada in collaboration with partners.
- NMCAs are established to protect significant examples of Canada's natural and cultural marine heritage and the health of marine ecosystems, and to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation by conserving carbon storage potential and enhancing ecosystem resilience.
- Parks Canada is working towards establishing an NMCA in each of the 29 marine regions, each with a distinct combination of natural and cultural characteristics. There are currently five NMCAs in Canada (Ontario (two), British Columbia, Quebec, and Nunavut), and additional sites are in the feasibility assessment process (e.g., Torngat NMCA).
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Province, Parks Canada, the Town of Burgeo, Miawpukek First Nation, and Qalipu First Nation was signed in June 2023 to undertake a feasibility assessment on establishing a NMCA on the South Coast of Newfoundland and a National Park in and including Sandbanks Provincial Park.
- The NMCA feasibility assessment process is informed by the unique perspectives and priorities of the governments and organizations that make up the steering committee, as well as from engagement and consultation with Indigenous organizations, local communities, industry, and regional stakeholders.
- The completion of the NMCA feasibility assessment will result in recommendations to decision makers on whether the proposal is feasible, and if so, under what terms and conditions. If the feasibility assessment process demonstrates support for an NMCA, establishment agreements with the Provincial Government, First Nations, and municipal governments would be negotiated to set out the terms and conditions under which the NMCA would be established and managed.
- The area for the proposed South Coast Fjords NMCA originated in 1996 and has been supported strongly by the Town of Burgeo.
- The area is characterized by immense granite cliffs; deep, glacially carved fjords; and open ocean, creating habitats for marine species, including leatherback turtles, sharks, fish, invertebrates, seabirds, harbour porpoises, and humpback, fin, blue, right, and killer whales.

- The Steering Committee meets monthly and includes Provincial Government representatives/observers from ECC, FFA, and TCAR. The Committee assesses the socio-economic, cultural, and environmental benefits and impacts of establishing the NMCA using the best available data and information/feedback collected from stakeholders. The Steering Committee has established three subcommittees (Aquaculture; Communications and Engagement; and Sandbanks) to support the consultation process.
- Throughout fall 2024, Steering Committee consultations with interested stakeholders, including with communities and representatives of the aquaculture and fishing industries, were active.
- Parks Canada also hosted an online public survey between September 16 and October 6, 2024. Paper surveys were also provided to communities within the study area. Parks Canada received a total of 595 survey submissions, 230 of which reported residing on the Southwest coast of Newfoundland and 181 of which reported residing in another area of the province. Over 350 of respondents stated full support for the proposal.
- The aquaculture subcommittee has met bi-weekly since September 2024. This includes representatives of the parties to the MOU, Mowi, Cooke, Grieg, and Ocean Trout.
- To date, the aquaculture industry has not supported the establishment of an NMCA. Letters were received from 26 aquaculture and aquaculture supply companies, and eight towns between November 5, 2024 and December 3, 2024 expressing concern regarding the proposed NCMA. For example, in the November 21, 2024 letter to Premier Furey, Cooke Aquaculture Inc. stated: "we urge you and cabinet to withdraw from the proposed federal NMCA and ensure the economic and social well-being of south coast communities and the sustainability of provincial fisheries and aquaculture operations continues to be prioritized." See letter in Annex A.
- The bi-weekly aquaculture subcommittee meeting scheduled for December 6, 2024, as well as community engagement sessions planned for early December, were postponed until the new year so that the Steering Committee can revise the proposed boundaries of the site.

Potential Agenda Item #1: NMCA Study Area and Aquaculture

- The MOU states that existing and currently proposed finfish aquaculture sites would not be included within the final NMCA boundary.
- The original study area indicated the general location in which an NMCA might be established. The aquaculture industry expressed concern that this general area included current and proposed aquaculture sites. The study area was never meant to be a boundary line of an actual NMCA but has been interpreted this way. The MOU explicitly states that the final boundary would remove aquaculture sites. The study area has since been changed to remove aquaculture sites and will continue to evolve based on input from stakeholders.
- The Steering Committee and aquaculture companies met on November 14, 2024 to discuss the NMCA and share a revised study area boundary.
- The study area for a proposed NMCA is a starting point for discussion and will continue to evolve based on feedback received during the feasibility assessment.

Potential Speaking Points

- The importance of the aquaculture industry has been a priority from the onset of the feasibility assessment. The Government of Canada committed in the MOU governing the feasibility assessment that existing and currently proposed finfish aquaculture sites would be honoured and not included within a final NMCA boundary.
- The study area for the proposed NMCA is a starting point for discussion and will continue to evolve based on feedback received during the feasibility assessment. I understand that the Steering Committee has revised the boundary to remove all fjords containing existing or proposed finfish aquaculture sites.
- I understand that the Steering Committee is currently revising the study area boundary in light of the feedback received to date from the aquaculture industry. Once they have taken the necessary time and steps to do that, engagement sessions will begin again in the new year.
- I encourage you to table additional, specific changes to the boundary that would address your concerns.

Potential Agenda Item #2: NMCA Regulations and Aquaculture

- Parks Canada is developing general regulations under the **Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act** to support the management of NMCAs. They released an overview document and What We Heard summary in 2024. Parks Canada intends to publish a draft of the general regulations in the Canada Gazette for a 30-day comment period in Spring 2025.

29.1(a)

- Premier Furey wrote to Minister Guilbeault on November 20, 2024, stating that the Province would not support the advancement of the NMCA if it impacts the development or operation of aquaculture sites and that the Province would continue to support the aquaculture industry while balancing protection and conservation efforts of our natural environments.

Potential Speaking Points

- I encourage you to table information you have on aquaculture transportation routes so that the Steering Committee can consider this in the feasibility assessment and revision of the study area boundary.

- I can commit that this initiative will not move past the feasibility stage until the draft regulations are released; and the issues of traversing through the NCMA and legal risk are resolved.

Prepared/Approved by: S. Squires/V. Snow
Ministerial Approval: Received from Hon. Lisa Dempster, MHA

December 5, 2024

Annex A – Correspondence from Cooke Inc.



November 21, 2024

The Office of the Premier
Confederation Building, East Block
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL
A1B 4J6 | premier@gov.nl.ca

Dear Premier Furey,

I am writing to call on the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to withdraw from the Memorandum Of Understanding Respecting An Assessment For The Feasibility Of Establishing A National Marine Conservation Area In The South Coast Fjords Area.

The establishment of a National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA) for the South Coast Fjords area is federal expropriation of approximately 911,000 hectares (9,110 square kilometers) of provincial inshore waters and will eliminate fisheries and aquatic seafood harvesting, processing, and supply services in the entire South Coast region. This has been the case in other areas in Canada where the federal government has taken regulatory control away from provincial governments for NMCAs or Marine Protected Areas. The proposed South Coast Fjords NMCA ocean area is five times the size of Gros Morne National Park which has a land area of 180,500 hectares (1,805 square kilometers).

This initiative, spearheaded by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), Parks Canada and the Department of Fisheries & Oceans, represents an alarming overreach of federal jurisdiction into waters currently under the jurisdiction of the province and will have severe consequences for local rural coastal communities and economy. If the provincial government agrees to this massive NMCA, you are allowing Ottawa to empower ECCC, DFO, Transport Canada and Parks Canada to fully control these NL waters – provincial regulations will no longer matter. NMCAs close off and restrict commercial and recreational fishing and commercial aquaculture through federal marine zoning.

As a seafood company with local and global fishing and aquaculture interests, it is clear that shifts in the distribution of fish stocks and changing marine conditions, including severe weather events, mean that the most responsible way to have a sustainable seafood industry is to provide harvesters and aquaculture producers with flexibility to conduct their work in multiple areas with conservation objectives and regulatory oversight guiding operations. Closing off a massive NL ocean area now to fishing and aquaculture within an exclusion zone such as an NMCA will have devastating long-term negative socioeconomic impacts because it eliminates the flexibility the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and seafood industry needs.

The livelihoods of countless families depend on seafood harvesting and production, and the NMCA will directly threaten the jobs that sustain them. Rural coastal jobs are already under pressure; this federal intervention will only exacerbate the situation, leading to greater economic hardship for NL outpost communities.



Learn about our family of companies at
cookeseafood.com

For two decades my family company and our local NL service supply company partners have made major financial investments in the South Coast region with the commitment from the provincial government that salmon farming aquaculture was a top economic and social development priority to support families by creating full-time year-round jobs stabilizing working waterfronts.

The NMCA contradicts the provincial government's "Way Forward" plan, which aims to promote sustainable finfish growth west of Hermitage. The introduction of an NMCA will eliminate any potential for growth in this sector; hampering both current operations and future investments. Additionally, the NMCA will prohibit our ability to establish a wild Atlantic salmon marine conservation farm in partnership with local First Nations. This facility is crucial to aid the recovery of river stocks, and the NMCA will eliminate any opportunity to collaborate.

Marine aquaculture farming is one of the healthiest and most efficient ways to feed the population with minimal environmental impact, the lowest freshwater use and the lowest carbon footprint of any animal protein. We've been operating sustainably for over 40 years in Atlantic Canada. Our NL Atlantic salmon farms are routinely inspected by provincial regulators, are subject to regular monitoring reports and are also routinely audited and certified by third-party sustainability organizations. These activities and more are designed to protect NL waters, wild salmon, and traditional fisheries.

In June of 2021, former Newfoundland and Labrador Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture Minister Derrick Bragg signed a new memorandum of understanding with the other ministers responsible for aquaculture in the Atlantic provinces to continue collaborating on the responsible development and growth of the sector. Minister Bragg stated that, "Sustainable aquaculture development has created economic opportunities that have revitalized rural communities within Newfoundland and Labrador."

The ministers signed the memorandum with the intent of helping to ensure the long-term sustainability and growth of the aquaculture sector in Atlantic Canada and of the many rural, coastal and Indigenous communities the industry supports. Co-operation between the Atlantic provinces and the aquaculture industry has led to improvements in pest management, more environmentally sustainable aquaculture practices, improved aquatic animal health, and enhanced policies to support the use of marine and freshwater resources.

The provincial ministers agreed on the importance of using science-based evidence to make management decisions in the aquaculture sector; thereby increasing public and investor confidence in the Atlantic Canadian aquaculture industry.

It is disgraceful that Ottawa is now ignoring the Atlantic ministers and trying to close off a huge area of the ocean to marine aquaculture farming, completely ignoring provincial jurisdiction of aquaculture regulation, when clearly Newfoundland residents are working in the most sustainable and responsible form of animal protein farming.

I join many others calling on the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to withdraw from the Memorandum Of Understanding Respecting An Assessment For The Feasibility Of Establishing A National Marine Conservation Area In The South Coast Fjords Area.

We are not opposed to a National Park being established near Burgeo – perhaps to replace the existing Sandbanks Provincial Park and including a smaller scale marine conservation area like Fathom Five National Marine Park adjacent to Bruce Peninsula National Park on Lake Huron in Ontario.

However, we urge you and cabinet to withdraw from the proposed federal NMCA and ensure the economic and social well-being of south coast communities and the sustainability of provincial fisheries and aquaculture operations continues to be prioritized. Your government must protect local industries and the families that rely on them rather than impose restrictive measures that will lead to their demise.

Please contact me anytime to discuss this further at (506) 694-4900. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



40.1

Glenn Cooke
CEO, Cooke Inc.

Cc: Hon. Gerry Byrne, Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture
Hon. Elvis Loveless, Minister of Minister of Digital Government and Service NL
Hon. Lisa Dempster, Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Hon. Fred Hutton, Minister of Rural Economic Development
Hon. Andrew Parsons, Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology
Hon. Dr. Scott Reid, Minister Responsible for Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation
Sheldon George, President – Board of Directors, NALA
All service suppliers to the NL fisheries and aquaculture sector

**Meeting Note
Department of Environment and Climate Change
Meeting with the Town of Port aux Basques
December 10, 2024, at 10:15 AM**

Attendees: Hon. Lisa Dempster, Minister of Environment and Climate Change; Brian Button, Mayor of Port Aux Basques (the Town); Officials from the Port Aux Basques Town Council and Department of Environment and Climate Change.

Purpose of Meeting:

- Port Aux Basques' Mayor Button and Town officials request a meeting with Minister Dempster to discuss the impacts of Hurricane Fiona on private sewers in the Town, climate change mitigation, garbage and recycling programs, and electric vehicles and charging stations.

Background:

- The Mayor and Town of Port Aux Basques most recently met with Minister Davis in December 2023 at their request to discuss flood impact areas in the Town following Hurricane Fiona.

Agenda Item #1: Hurricane Fiona's Impacts on Private Sewers

- ECC is aware that Hurricane Fiona destroyed private sewer systems of some Town residents.
- The Town has put out a request for quotes which was due in June 2024 for their Sewer Outfall Project, seeking robust replacement sewer outfalls that will ensure longevity of the system.
- There are some outfalls in Port Aux Basques that were likely considered private wastewater outfalls for which Water Resources Management Division understands the Town has taken over operation and maintenance.
- If the Town has taken over ownership and maintenance of these systems then a Permit to Construct under Section 36 of the **Water Resources Act** would be required from Water Resource Management Division. Further, the designs would have to adhere to ECC design guidelines and policies.
- Under ECC policies, these systems would require at a minimum primary treatment. There are some locations where this will not be practicable. The department has indicated those would be dealt with on a site-specific basis and possibly exempt them from treatment requirements.
- WRMD has yet to discuss these requirements with the Town and has only received updates from Digital Government and Service NL who are currently supporting the work.

Potential Speaking Points

- ECC will continue to work with the Town as requested to complete their sewer outfall work.
- The Town should reach out to Water Resources Management Division officials to discuss any issues or questions with this project.

Agenda Item #2: Climate Change Mitigation

- ECC funded the following two projects in the Town through the Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund (LCELf) to improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by transitioning from oil furnaces to heat pumps:
 - The first project was to upgrade the Bruce Sports Complex. The LCELf provided \$1.1 million toward total project costs of \$1.5 million. The project is completed and paid out.
 - The second project was to upgrade the Central Fire Hall, the Town's primary emergency response center. This project was cancelled after Hurricane Fiona due to cost overruns and an increase scope of work due to identified structural issues. The revised project cost was just over \$270,000 of which the LCELf was providing about \$200,000. At the time of cancellation, the LCELf had paid out about \$113,000 (\$73,000 in federal monies, \$40,000 in provincial monies). If the LCELf requires this to be reimbursed, ECC will absorb the cost within the provincial allotment to the LCELf and not seek reimbursement from the Town.
- There is currently no successor ECC program in place for the Town to access. If a new program is launched in the future for which the Town would be eligible, ECC will contact the Town at that time.
- Under the Federal-Provincial Climate Change Adaptation Agreement, the Water Resources Management Division will develop a cost-benefit analysis tool that can be used by the Town and other municipalities to evaluate various coastal flood adaptation options under future climate change scenarios.

Potential Speaking Points

- The Department of Environment and Climate Change is pleased to support the climate change mitigation measures currently being undertaken in Port aux Basques and surrounding areas.
- As we continue to see trends of extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and coastal and in-land flooding in the province, there is an urgent need to invest in climate change adaptation measures to prepare for these events, reduce damage, and minimize future risks.
- I encourage the Town to continue to seek opportunities to reduce your greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the changing climate.

Agenda Item #3: Garbage and Recycling Programs

- The Provincial Solid Waste Management Strategy is in place in the Western region of Newfoundland and includes Port Aux Basques. Waste transported to Western Regional Waste Management is processed and residuals are transported on to the Norris Arm Regional Waste Management Facility for final disposal.
- The Town provides "sub-regional" waste collection services for southwest coast communities. The Town has aging waste collection vehicles and have been provided funding for new waste collection vehicles in the past through Canada Community-Building Funding.

- ECC is aware that there has been discussion at the regional waste management board level around seeking a transportation subsidy to offset some of the transportation costs to move waste from Western to the regional waste management facility in Central.

Potential Speaking Points

- ECC can discuss the transportation subsidy matter with the Multi-Materials Stewardship Board, or the Town Council may wish to reach out to the Board Chair directly.

Agenda Item #4: Electric Vehicles and Charging Stations

- The Town has indicated that they wish to discuss the purchase of an electric garbage truck.
- There is currently one fast charging EV station in the Doyles/ Port aux Basques area (62.5 KW speed). At present there are 33 high speed chargers in the province.
- In the coming months, Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro will be installing an ultra-fast charger in the Doyles/Port aux Basques area (175 KW speed). NLHydro is finalizing procurement processes at this time (Annex A).

29.1(a)

- The provincial EV incentive program started in Summer 2021, and funding is in place through 2025-26. The program includes both battery and plug-in hybrid (PHEV) vehicles. To date, over 1,800 EVs have received a rebate.

Potential Speaking Points

- The provincial government continues to invest in initiatives to support electric vehicle uptake in Newfoundland and Labrador.
- I commend the Town of Port aux Basques for embracing electric vehicles as part of your municipal fleet.
- Since 2021, the number of high-speed charging level 3 stations in the province has increased from 14 to 33 stations, and we are working to install an ultra-fast chargers.

Prepared/Approved by: H. Byrne/ E. Thompson/ S. Squires/ T. Kelly/ V. Snow
Ministerial Approval: Received from the Hon. Lisa Dempster, MHA

December 9, 2024

Annex A

NL Hydro Phase 2 Ultra-Fast Charging Stations Map



Environment and Climate Change (ECC) Information Note

Title: Sharing of Costs for Norris Arm Landfill

Issue: To provide an update on the dispute between Central Regional Service Board (CRSB) and Western Regional Service Board (WRSB) on sharing of costs for operation of the Norris Arm landfill.

Background / Current Status:

- CRSB owns and operates a regional Waste Management Facility (WMF) inclusive of a regional landfill located in Norris Arm North in Central Region. WRSB has been transporting Western Region's waste to the regional landfill in Central since 2018.
- There has been an ongoing disagreement between the two boards around the expenses to be shared among the two boards.
- The affected boards generally agree that the cost-share should only include those costs related to the operation and replacement of the landfill and exclude other operational and capital replacement costs specific to the Central region such as the transfer stations and materials recovery facility which are not currently utilized by WRSB. The two boards entered into an interim agreement, which expired on December 31, 2020.
- In 2020, a consultant, MNP (formerly, White & Abbott), was retained by the two boards to review the actual costs of operating the Central landfill, following the 2019-year end. An operational tipping fee of \$28.77/tonne was recommended for 2019. MNP recommended that, until long-term agreement is reached, a special engagement by an independent CPA firm should be performed annually.
- It has been agreed by both boards that a yearly independent audit of all expenditures line-by-line is not sustainable. MNP was recently engaged to develop a simplified process or template to calculate the operational tipping fee to be charged to WRSB. The goal of this simplified process is to ensure both boards can clearly understand the tipping fee structure and calculate a fair and reasonable tipping fee on a yearly basis.
- MNP has provided a draft report to both boards for their review, which includes the proposed simplified model. The proposed method uses the annual change in CRSB's relevant and applicable landfill expenses to determine the overall increase/decrease as a percentage, which would then be applied to the operational tipping fee.
- ECC, Multimaterial Stewardship Board (MMSB) and Department of Municipal and Provincial Affairs (MAPA) officials met with members of each board to explain and discuss the MNP findings.

Analysis:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] All are concerned with what they perceive to be a high cost of waste management in their region. Some are focused on comparing the WRSB tipping fee with the CRSB tipping fee even though the services offered and cost drivers in each area are not identical. A more fulsome analysis of the issues raised by WRSB members is attached in Annex A.

- ECC has no legislative authority to direct the operations of the RSBs. As such, the department does not have a role in setting fees. [REDACTED]

- There are several ways GNL could respond to address the waste management cost differences between these two regions:

- [REDACTED]
- Any resolution to waste management difficulties across the regions would require an interdepartmental approach and likely legislative changes. MAPA has announced a review of the **Regional Services Board Act**. However, ECC is not aware of the associated timeline with this initiative, and it is not clear how this review would impact the PSWMS.

Actions:

- ECC will continue to work with WRSB and CRSB to explain the MNP findings and advise on funding available through the Canada Community Building Fund.

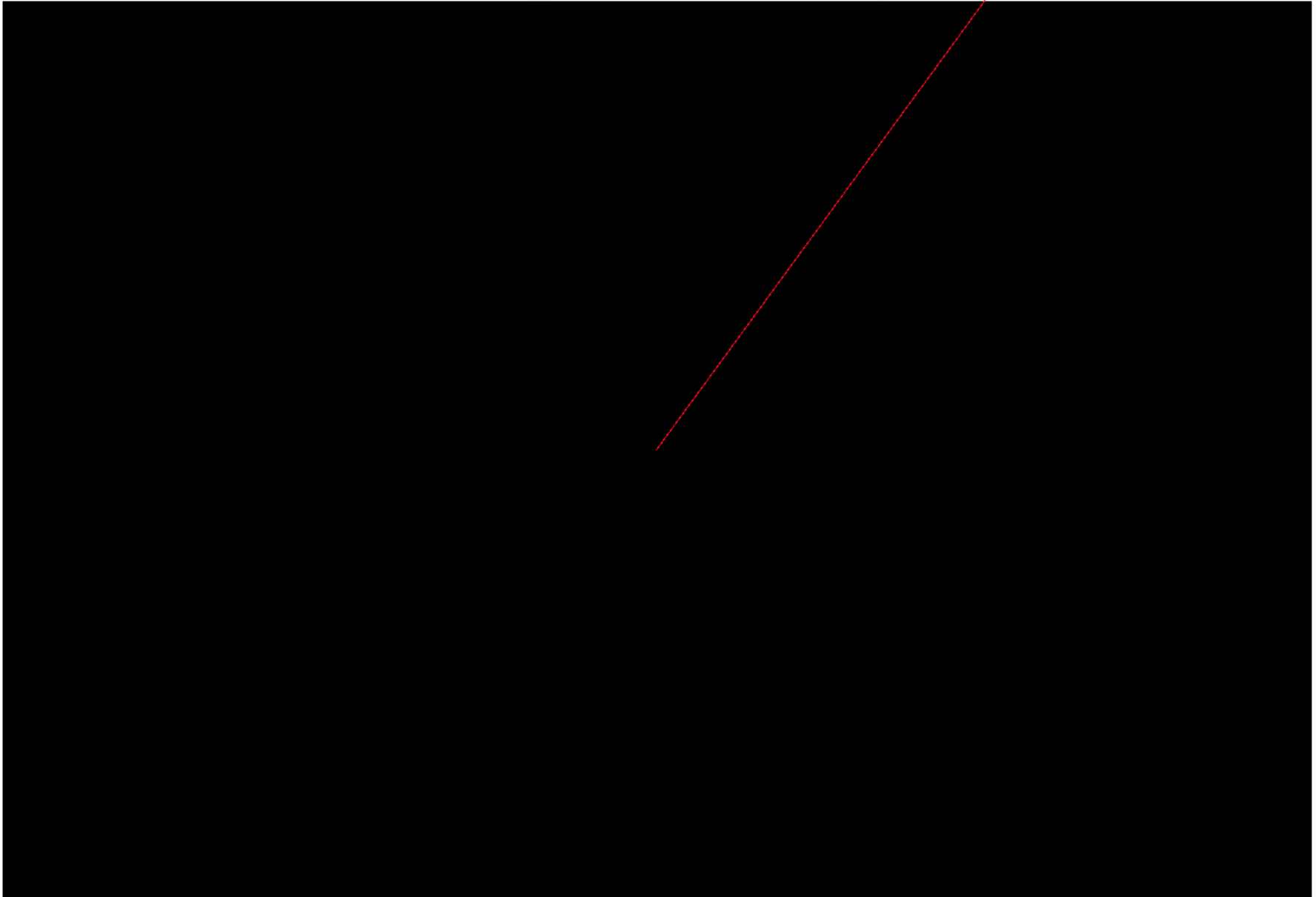
Prepared by / Approved by: C. Curnew, T. Kelly / V. Snow

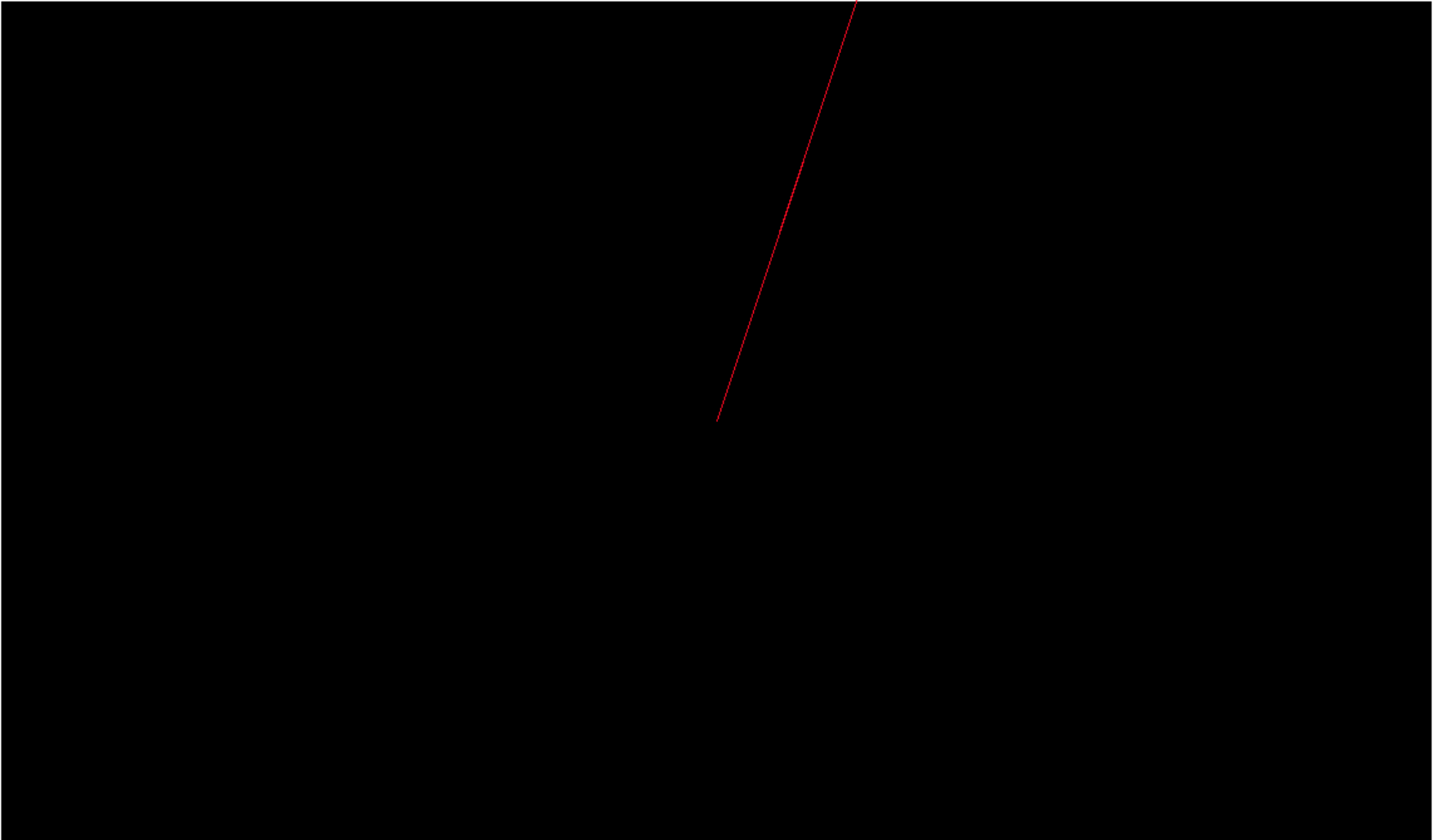
Ministerial Approval Received From: The Honourable Lisa Dempster, MHA

December 10, 2024

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

JAN 03 2025

Annex A - Analysis of Issues in the RSB Fee Dispute**29.1(a)**



Meeting Note
Department of Environment and Climate Change
Newfoundland and Labrador Prospectors Association (NLPA)
Date and Time TO BE SCHEDULED
Location Pending

Attendees: Minister Lisa Dempster, Valerie Snow (DM) and representatives from the Newfoundland and Labrador Prospectors Association (NLPA).

Purpose of Meeting:

- This meeting was requested by the NLPA to discuss the Protected Areas Plan, wind energy projects, and the consultation processes for these projects.

Agenda Item #1 – Protected Areas Plan

- The NLPA wishes to discuss the Protected Areas Plan, including a perceived lack of public consultation on the Plan and proposed sites.
- In May 2020, the Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Advisory Council (WERAC) released *A Home for Nature: Protected Areas Plan for the Island of Newfoundland*, which proposes 26 new protected areas on the Island.
- In October 2023, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change (ECC) announced the launch of the public engagement process for ten proposed protected areas.
- As of December 2024, in person engagement activities have been conducted for Indian Arm Brook, Ripple Pond, and Halls Gullies. Representatives from NLPA attended engagement sessions regarding Indian Arm Brook in Lewisporte and Norris Arm.
- New mineral claims are not permitted in wilderness or ecological reserves, per the Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Act (WER Act). However, provisions can be made for exploration to occur on existing claims that were skated prior to the release date of the Plan.
- Six of the new protected areas proposed by the Plan are transitional reserves, which allow the staking of new mineral claims for four years from the time of establishment. Following a further six years (ten years total from the time of establishment), these areas will be converted into reserves unless there is a mineral or petroleum resource discovery.

Analysis

- During public consultation for the Protected Areas Plan, the NLPA provided a written submission opposing the draft Plan and stating that the province could be a world leader on sustainable development only with “unrestricted access” to mineral resources. The submission advocated for a multiple land use framework, providing “access for all adhering to the rules and regulations” and opposing the “ideology of removing tracks (sic) of ground from everyone’s use.” The submission also referred to protected areas being established “without sufficient due process.”
- Transitional reserves were proposed for sites with known mineral conflicts in order to protect ecological features that could not be identified for protection elsewhere. This approach acknowledges the interests of mining exploration and development and the need to protect sensitive and representative areas.

Potential Speaking Points

- My Department is continuing to work with all stakeholders, including other departments, industry, and the public, to minimize land use conflicts in protected areas.
- Protected areas provide a number of essential health and economic benefits to Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, including climate change resilience, maintenance of water quality, and recreation and tourism opportunities.
- The reserves proposed in the Natural Areas Plan were chosen partly because they have a low potential for resource development compared to other parts of the province.
- Consultation on protected areas occurs in two stages. Consultations on the Natural Areas Plan were conducted in 2020. Each individual proposed site also undergoes public engagement. In the past, these engagements have directly impact protected area boundaries and management. The WER Act is seen as one of the best pieces of protected areas legislation because a reserve cannot be created, changed or terminated without public engagement.
- In the Association's submission to the Protected Areas Plan consultation, you note that world-leading jurisdictions are using a multiple land use framework to balance the interests of conservation and mineral development. What jurisdictions do you see as leaders in this area?

Agenda item #2 – Wind Energy Development

- The NLPA wishes to discuss wind energy developments in Newfoundland and Labrador, including a perceived lack of public consultation.
- In August 2023, four companies (ABO Energy, EverWind NL Company, Exploits Valley Renewable Energy Corporation, and World Energy GH2) were approved through Government's Crown Lands Call for Bids process. A fifth company, Patter Energy, is pursuing a wind energy project on private land.

Analysis

- During the Call for Bids process, lands nominated by industry as having wind energy development potential were screened by the Interdepartmental Land Use Committee (ILUC). ILUC identified land use conflicts, including mineral potential, and excluded lands with a low likelihood of conflict mitigation from the area available for bid.
- As of December 2024, no proponent has been awarded a Crown Lands lease for their project. All projects except for ABO Energy have registered for Environmental Assessment (EA). Only one project, World Energy GH2, has been released from the EA process.
- EverWind and EVREC's projects have both been determined to require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). EIS Guidelines are due to be issued in February 2025 for EverWind and in April 2025 for EVREC. Pattern Energy's project was determined to require an Environmental Preview Report (EPR), which is due to be submitted by September 2027.

Potential Speaking Points

- Any wind project that produces more than one megawatt of energy is required to undergo an Environmental Assessment. Environmental Assessment is a robust process that provides

multiple opportunities for public input, as well as review by 23 other provincial and federal agencies.

- Throughout the Environmental Assessment process, the impacts of a development on existing activities in an area, including prospecting activities, may be evaluated.
- All public comments are considered prior to making decisions through the Environmental Assessment process.

Prepared/Approved by: S. Mathews / E. Thompson/ S. Squires/ V.Snow [pending]
Ministerial Approval: Received from the Honourable Lisa Dempster [pending]

December 19, 2024