

Labrador Regional Council Vision Development



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Rural Secretariat

Regions & Government

Working Together



Point Amour Lighthouse

What is a Vision?

This document represents a vision that has been created by the Labrador regional council. It is intended to be a dynamic working document that will be adapted as priorities are achieved, new priorities are identified, community engagement discussions prescribe and as the regions of the province continue to grow and change. Today that time frame is 2022-2027. In five years time, that time frame will be 2027-2032.

As priorities are accomplished new priorities will be identified. This will provide an opportunity for us to be informed about what is moving and changing in our regions, where the next opportunity will be and where the next challenge will be.

Our Guiding Principles

As members of the regional council for Labrador and as stewards of this document, we commit ourselves to the process of positioning our communities and its people to fully participate in the region's economic and social development.

This objective will be achieved by creating a climate for investment; unlocking Labrador's great resource potential through policy direction that impacts on programs to be designed with the flexibility to effectively bridge the gap between Labrador of 2006 and Labrador of 2020.

We are aware of the great task ahead of us and commit ourselves to this challenge through a process of meaningful engagement between community and government; resulting in the development and implementation of a targeted action plan, supported through government policies and the strategic delivery of programs and investment.

Success shall be measured by tangible outcomes, whereby our communities and its people are the primary benefactors and have the ability, regardless of income, age, gender, spiritual or cultural background or geographic location, to contribute and to fully participate in community and economic opportunities throughout the region. This vision reflects the work of the regional council and will be updated and reflected throughout the Rural Secretariat process.

Our Vision for 2020 “The Future is North”

As the regional council of Labrador we accept responsibility for making decisions that lead to a healthy, sustainable future. We celebrate our strengths as a vibrant, diverse area of natural beauty carved out of the mountains and fiords of Labrador. We are able to achieve our full potential through the development of our resources and ensuring education, employment, spirituality and culture are valued in all we do. We weigh social, cultural, economic and environmental costs, benefits and risks equally when making decisions.

The spirit and energy of each community and its people is the cornerstone of our region. Our connections with the rest of the world show we are strong and determined. The sense of community trust and belonging promote the health and well being of our citizens. We have the ability to fully participate in economic and social development through equal access to employment and health care. Sustainability is a key concern for our rural communities and understanding what it is to be sustainable is the underlying message of the long term thinking of the regional council.

Sustainability is a function of long term planning and taking into care and consideration such things as the environment, balanced population, public services and the management of raw resources.

Innovation and creativity are a part of our heritage and is seen throughout our tourism and craft development sectors as we promote ourselves to the world. Education, entrepreneurship, research and development have expanded commercialization and broadened our economic base. Together, community and government have created the climate for investment.

Our strong, healthy and sustainable region provides stability and flexibility in its **programs and services**. Investments in infrastructure ensure we are positioned to take advantage of local and international economic opportunities. The five components; road, air, rail, marine, and winter trails

has played a major role in economic progress. The 1385 km of highway from L'anse Au Clair to Labrador City is complete and hard surfaced. The Quebec North Shore and Labrador railway is continuing to provide a “niche” product for travelers visiting this distinctive part of the province.

The people who live, work and play here are engaged with Provincial Government in planning their future and add valuable input to programs and services. Many forms of technology are utilized to provide coordinated, accurate and consistent information to citizens in all communities. Facilities are shared in communities that are linked by road and in commuting distance. Broadband is well invested in to support health, education and training needs thereby minimizing the need for youth to leave and keeping professionals trained and linked with their peers.

Arts and culture are part of the fabric of everyday life and the community cherishes and celebrates its rich and diverse cultural heritage within our education system. Children enjoy sports and recreation and a healthy lifestyle. There is a vibrant theatre program enjoyed by many groups across Labrador. Our community celebrations draw people from all over to watch dog team races and sports alike. Community members come out to events and frequent events and celebrations in other communities. Our youth take pride in our heritage, ecotourism and sporting events that are second to none.

Tourism is linked through all levels government and community. This united front on tourism development links business, community groups and government together so that we promote Labrador to the world at every opportunity. We are the “destination of choice”. Our products are well developed, researched and marketed. There is a comprehensive *Labrador Tourism Development Strategy* and each area of Labrador's tourism has reached a minimum standard.

Skills development is on-going and a commitment to education and training is strong and in accordance with industry needs. We build an understanding of the labour market through our youth at both the secondary and post-secondary education levels. This link with youth, education and the job market allows us

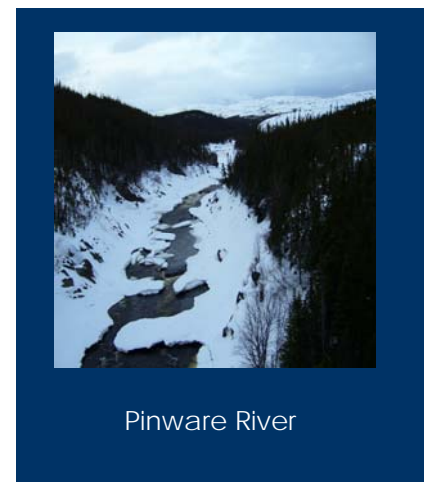
to keep our young in our province. The trades are growing and skilled labour, second to none, enter the job market from Labrador. We no longer have a culture of leaving as employers' value employees and incentives exist to retain the workers we have and entice new entrants. We are a centre of excellence for training and education and we market these facilities to the world.

With few people spread over so many communities funding formulas are revised to have a basic minimum cost to service and then cost associated per person. Ensuring equal treatment of smaller communities compared to larger more densely populated areas.

Public programs and services are meeting the needs of the people through consistent programming which is flexible enough to account for regional differences.

The four governments, Aboriginal, Federal, Provincial, and Municipal work together to provide programs and services that do not duplicate one another and do not compete for financial resources.

All levels of government encourage active public involvement; is responsive to the needs of its citizens; is transparent in its decision making; is responsible and accountable; and is honest. Community engagement continues and citizens are engaged with government in enhancing public input on policy and planning to ensure positive impacts on the region. In closing, we are a region made up of vibrant communities, which build on existing strengths and attracts business to ensure diversity in employment and a sustainable economy.



Rural Secretariat

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**For additional
information on the
Rural Secretariat
please visit our
website at**

www.gov.nl.ca/rural



North West River

The Regional Council:

The Regional Council is comprised of members from larger and smaller communities, males and females who bring a diverse background in experience and expertise.

To view a current list of the members, please visit our membership list on our website at:

<http://www.exec.gov.nl.ca/rural/RSR1.asp>

Photo Credits:

Cover Photo of Children – Tourism, Culture & Recreation

North West River – Taracetta Butt

Pinware River – Mary Snow

Lighthouse - Point Amour – Tourism, Culture & Recreation

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