



Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs

St. John's Urban Region Regional Plan, 1976

Amendment No. 3, 2014

What We Heard Document

October 21, 2014

Background

The Department of Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs (MIGA) is responsible for regional land use plans in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador. Land use planning in the northeast Avalon region is currently guided by the St. John's Urban Region Regional Plan, 1976 (SJURRP). Municipal plans prepared by municipalities within the St. John's Urban Region must conform to the SJURRP and all of the 15 municipalities in the urban region have implemented municipal plans.

The St. John's Urban Region Regional Plan Amendment No. 3, 2014 consists of a new digitally based SJURRP map that reflects the long term vision of the 15 municipalities within the region and is intended to reflect municipal plans that are currently in legal effect throughout the region. Additionally, several amendments to the SJURRP that the Minister had previously agreed to initiate were incorporated into the new SJURRP map.

What We Did: The Public Consultation Process

In order to inform the preparation of this amendment the Department of Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs undertook a public and stakeholder consultation process in accordance with section 14 of the *Urban and Rural Planning Act, 2000*. The process included the following:

- Letters were sent to the 15 municipal councils that are subject to the SJURRP soliciting input on the draft amendment;
- Public notification and invitation for comment on the proposed amendment was facilitated through an ad in the *Telegram* published on September 24, 2014;
- Notices were published on the department's website and linked from government's consultation page;
- A news release was issued on September 23, 2014 to signal the launch of the consultation process;
- Internal consultation with government departments took place via the Interdepartmental Land Use Committee; and,
- The deadline for submissions was October 10, 2014.

A full copy of the proposed amendment was available on the department's website including detailed mapping for the SJURRP amendment. Paper copies of the amendment and mapping were available for viewing at the Department of Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs office.

What We Heard

Seven municipalities provided input to refine the mapping to reflect the appropriate regional land use designation with respect to their municipal plans.

The remaining eight municipalities confirmed that the proposed map amendment accurately reflected the current vision of their municipality as depicted in their municipal plans.

There were a few comments/questions from the general public which focused on the following:

- Clarification of the status of the initiative to develop a new North East Avalon Regional Plan to update the SJURRP;
- Questions on how the regional plan works with the municipal planning process; and
- Concerns were expressed regarding a proposed quarry expansion at Black Mountain in the Butterpot Witless Bay Development Control Area.

Where We Go From Here

The amendment process set out in the *Urban and Regional Planning Act, 2000* requires another opportunity for the public and stakeholders to review and provide feedback on the proposed SJURRP Amendment No. 3, 2014.

Comments from municipalities and the public will be considered as part of the next phase of the amendment process.

If adopted by the Minister, the updated documents and map will be released for review prior to the next phase of the process. The amendment (with possible revisions) will be provided on the departmental website and a further opportunity for public input will be offered at a public hearing which will be chaired by an independent Commissioner.

The Commissioner will prepare a report on the submissions received at the Public Hearing and submit it to the Minister of Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs for consideration. The minister will consider recommendations of the independent Commissioner and may choose to approve, modify or reject the amendment. If approved or modified, the amendment comes into legal effect upon publication of a "Notice of Registration" in the NL Gazette.