

Trail Development Information for Project Sponsors

The Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation (DTCR) recognizes the valuable contribution of walking and hiking trails to the tourism experience and towards active living for residents. In consultation with other departments and agencies, this information sheet has been drafted to inform trail stakeholders of the regulations and other requirements related to trail development activities in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

- **Crown Land** – As per the *Lands Act* all trails that use crown land require a Licence to Occupy (LTO). This includes trails within a municipality. Contact your Regional Lands office to discuss registration requirements.
- **Provincial Archaeology Office** – As per the *Historic Resources Act* any plans for any new trails or upgrades to existing trails that have not had prior approval from the Provincial Archaeology Office are to be referred to that office for review. As part of the LTO application, your trail will also be reviewed by archaeology.
- **Liability** – Your organization or committee is liable for issues related to any trails you construct or enhance. Municipally owned trails have liability insurance however most unincorporated towns and non profit groups who manage trails do not. It is recommended that trail owners / managers assess their trails and consider their responsibility to the public before promoting the trail(s).
- **Signage Policy** – Fingerboard signs permitted through the Department of Transportation and Works can provide direction to trail heads (i.e. parking areas). These signs are issued through a permit system and include the manufacturing, installation and maintenance of the sign at an annual fee of \$141.25. Other permitted signs along provincial highways include off-site promotional signage, issued through a permit system by the Department of Government Services. Applicants are advised that the offsite promotional signage is under review and changes may occur in the future. Applications for both fingerboards and off-site promotional signs are available at Government Services Centres.
- **Trail Standards** – While no safety or construction standards exist provincially, it is recommended that groups engage professional expertise in planning and design, and project management during construction. The technical skills obtained by trail workers as a result of professional expertise will contribute to sustainable trail development and maintenance in the future. A well designed and built trail with expertise requires less maintenance.
- **Trails developed as a Tourism Product should consider:**
 - A commitment to ownership, planning and long-term maintenance
 - Regional and/or local visitor information (for example, trail maps)
 - Trailhead facilities (parking, trail and route information, washrooms)
 - Safety services and communications (local emergency contacts)
 - Regular inspections (risk assessment plans)
- **Environmental Assessments** – As per Section 48 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations, 2003, under the *Environmental Protection Act*, trails more than 10 kilometres in length are required to be registered. Registration may also be required for trails that occur near sensitive areas or, as per Section 28 of the Regulations, for trails that will occur within 2000 metres of a scheduled salmon river. Contact information attached.
- **Water Permit** – As per Section 48 of the *Water Resources Act*, a permit is required from the Department of Environment and Conservation's Water Investigations Section when construction is within 15 meters of a body of water (including wetland). A permit will also be required under Section 39 for any work within a Protected Water Supply Area. Contact information attached.

**Department of Environment and Conservation
Regional Lands Offices**

Crown Lands (Administration Division)

Howley Building

P.O. Box 8700

St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Telephone: (709) 729-2654 Fax: (709) 729-0726

Eastern Regional Lands Office

8 Myers Avenue

Clareville, A5A 1T5

Telephone: (709) 466-4074/4073 Fax: (709) 466-4070

Central Regional Lands Office

Fraser Mall, P.O. Box 2222

Gander, NL A1V 2N9

Telephone: (709) 256-1400 Fax: (709) 256-1095

Government Service Centres (Signage Inquiries)

Avalon Government Services Centre

5 Mews Place, P.O. Box 8700

St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Telephone: (709) 729-3699 Fax: 709-729-7253

Central Government Service Centre

230 Airport Blvd. Fraser Mall,

P.O. Box 2222

Gander, NL A1V 2N9

Telephone (709) 256-1420 Fax (709) 256-1438

Western Regional Lands Office

133 Riverside Drive,

P. O. Box 2006, Noton Building

Corner Brook, NL A2H 6J8

Telephone: (709) 637-2392 Fax: (709) 637-2905

Labrador Regional Lands Office

13 Churchill Street, Thomas Building

P. O. Box 3014, Stn. "B"

Happy Valley-Goose Bay, NL A0P 1E0

Telephone: (709) 896-2488 Fax: (709) 896-9566

Labrador Government Services Centre

13 Churchill Street, Thomas Building

P. O. Box 3014, Stn. "B"

Happy Valley-Goose Bay, NL A0P 1E0

Telephone: (709) 896-5428/5430 Fax: (709) 896-9566

Environmental Assessment Contacts

St. John's (Headquarters)

P.O. Box 8700

St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Telephone (toll-free): 1-800-563-6181

Telephone: (709) 729-4211

Fax: (709) 729-5518

Corner Brook Regional Office

P.O. Box 2006

3rd Floor, Noton Building

133 Riverside Drive

Corner Brook, NL A2H 6J8

Telephone: (709) 637-2375 Fax: 709-637-2541

Provincial Archaeology Office

St. John's (Headquarters)

P.O. Box 8700

St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Telephone (toll-free): 1-800-563-6181

Telephone: (709) 729-2462 Fax: (709) 729- 0870

Water Resources Management Contacts

St. John's (Headquarters)

Confederation Building, 4th Floor, West Block

P.O. Box 8700

St. John's NL A1B 4J6

Telephone: (709) 729-2563

Fax: (709) 729-0320

Corner Brook Regional Office

133 Riverside Drive

P.O. Box 2006, Noton Building

Corner Brook, NL A2H 6J8

Telephone: (709) 637- 2542, Fax: (709) 637-2541

Grand Falls-Windsor Regional Office

(Protected Water Supplies Only)

Provincial Building

3 Cromer Avenue

Grand Falls-Windsor NL A2A 1W9

Telephone: (709) 292-4220, Fax: (709) 292-4365