

Transition Year

Activity Plan

For the Timber Scalers Board

April 1, 2007, to March 31, 2008



Chair Message

The Timber Scalers Board members have not been appointed for many years and therefore have no chairperson. In the unlikely event that the Board's status should change in the future, the Department will present the required Activity Plan.

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Overview

In accordance with section 123 (1) of the Forestry Act the Minister of Natural Resources may appoint a Board to be known as the Timber Scalers Board consisting of 3 persons, who may be appointed from among persons employed in the public service of the province.

The Minister shall designate the Chairperson of the Board and the Secretary of the Board from among the members and may prescribe the duties of each.

The Board has not been appointed or active for many years. The duties of the Board are currently being carried out by the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency's Chief Scaler.

Mandate

Under section 124 of the Forestry Act, the duties of the Timber Scalers Board are:

- (a) to examine the ability and knowledge of persons who apply to be certified to scale timber;
- (b) to hear appeals to scaling disputes;
- (c) to recommend to the Minister new scaling methods before they are used.

Values of the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency

The Timber Scalers Board performs its duties within the core values established by the Department of Natural Resources, Forestry and Agrifoods Agency:

Integrity - Each individual will be honest, dependable, fair, credible and trustworthy. They will openly acknowledge mistakes, seek to correct them and learn from them.

Respect and Professionalism - Each individual will apply departmental legislation and policies equitably to stakeholders. They will serve our client groups to the fullest extent possible.

Timeliness - Each individual will meet specified deadlines in accordance with departmental priorities and follow through on their commitments.

Collaboration - Each individual will seek the opinions and ideas of others in the application of departmental legislation and policies.

Innovation - Each individual will demonstrate initiative and flexibility in responding to challenges and change.

Primary Clients

The clients of the Timber Scalers Board, participants in the forestry industry in Newfoundland and Labrador, require a consistent measure of the volume of wood upon which to base timber transactions. Primary examples include pulp and paper companies, and saw mill operators.

Vision and Mission

Given its primary clients, the Timber Scalers Board contributes to the vision and mission of the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency by ensuring the consistent measurement of wood volume. This provides the basis for fibre transactions and is also very important in the accurate determination of the timber harvested in Newfoundland and Labrador, thereby contributing to sustainable resource monitoring and development.

Vision of the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency

The vision of the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency is of a province that is realizing the full benefit from its forestry and agrifoods resources in a sustainable manner.

Mission of the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency

The Forestry and Agrifoods Agency promotes and facilitates the sustainable development of the province's forestry and agrifoods resources through sustainable resource development and development activities for the overall benefit of the citizens and Newfoundland and Labrador.

The mission of the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency is as follows:

By 2011, the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency will have:

- (i) implemented programs necessary to sustain the province's forest ecosystems
- (ii) identified and facilitated further opportunities for sustainable agriculture and agrifoods resource development
- (iii) optimized the benefits received from these resources.

Goal

Issue One: Forest Sector Economy/Healthy Forest Ecosystems

Goal One: By March 31, 2008, Timber Scalers Board * will have enforced government standards for timber scaling in the Province.

Measure: Enforced government standards

Indicators:

- Provided basis for unbiased timber transactions in NL.
- Provided basis for assessment of timber royalty in NL.
- Provide a basis (both other factors) for determining forest drain
- Ensure new scalers have required credentials through training and licensing
- Heard disputes concerning scaling practices as required
- Made appropriate recommendations on scaling practices.

Conclusion

The Timber Scalers Board is committed to supporting the mandate of the Minister of Natural Resources and will continue to do its part to further the vision and mission of the department by ensuring that scaling that the quality of timber scaling is maintained.

* Formally the Timber Scalers Board is inactive. However, since two of the 3 individuals who would be members of the Board are employees of the Department i.e., the Chief Scaler and the Director of Forest Engineering and Industry Services, the role of the Board is being essentially fulfilled internally.

Appendix A

Strategic Directions

Strategic directions are the articulation of desired physical, social or economic outcomes and normally require action by more than one government entity. These directions are generally communicated by government through platform documents, Throne and Budget Speeches, policy documents and other communiqués. The *Transparency and Accountability Act* requires departments and public bodies to take into account these strategic directions in the preparation of their performance-based plans. This action will facilitate the integration of planning practices across government and will ensure that all entities are moving forward on key commitments.

Title: Sustainable Resource Development

Strategic Direction: From the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency’s strategic plan

Outcome:

Effective and efficient management of our natural resources to ensure that they are utilized in a sustainable manner such that the resources and the economic benefits from these resources are optimized. The outcome supports government direction as outlined in Government’s 2003 Policy Document and the 2004 and 2005 Speech from the Throne.

Components of Strategic Direction

Focus Areas of the Strategic Direction	This Direction is addressed in the Agency’s			
	strategic plan	activity plan	operational plan	branch/ divisional work-plans
5. Forestry Silviculture Forest Protection Value-added Forest Industry Forest Sector Economy Enhance Forest Inventory Healthy Forest Ecosystems	*			

Continued

Relevance of Timber Scalers Board to Components of Strategic Direction
Forest Sector Economy/Healthy Forest Ecosystems

1. Timber scaling provides the fundamental basis of unbiased timber measurement for all commercial timber transactions in NL.
2. Timber scaling is one of several major components used to determine timber drain from the Province's forests.

NB Any additional information on the Timber Scalers Board or the filling of the role of the Board can be obtained from the Forest Engineering and Industry Services Division of the Department of Natural Resources.