

Coordinators Report

Board of Directors Meeting

August 10, 2022

The last report to date was given to the given to the Board of Directors meeting on May 25th, 2022,

Labrador Pioneer Footpath Project Phase 1

Phase 1 includes construction of the Gateway Trail, signage/ branding/marketing concepts, signage fabrication, and engineering. Due to difficulties with hiring, the restart of construction on the new Gateway Trail was delayed. A full crew has now been hired with work beginning today. We have released the RFP for the fabrication of signage for the L'Anse au Clair to Pinware section.

A funding proposal for Phase 2 has been submitted to ACOA, Regional Development Program (IET), and TransCanada Trail. The proposal will call for the trail upgrading from L'Anse au Clair to Pinware for a total of \$535 000. A meeting to discuss the funding was held with ACOA and IET on Tuesday, July 26th. Given that Phase 1 is not yet complete, and it is unlikely that Phase 2 can be started this year, both funders have agreed that, while the project can be approved, no funding will be released until next fiscal year. Phase 3 will be the Pinware to Red Bay section.

Seniors Services Office/Age Friendly Committee

The office continues to be busy with clients for various services. With the financial support of the New Horizons for Seniors Program, community outreach has commenced. Abigail Linstead has been hired under the provincial summer student program as an assistant with the on-going work of the Office. Under the present funding arrangement, and unless other funding is arranged, the program will conclude in October 2023. An application will be submitted to International Grenfell Association for additional funding as soon as their online application portal is open.

SLDA Website/Organizational Review/Governance

Labrador Data has begun work on the SLDA website. Some of the conceptual design and the framework for the website has been completed. Also, a rebranding of SLDA logo is underway. Input from directors on the logo design would be appreciated. The new logo will also require approval from the Board of Directors.

The organizational review and governance piece of the project has been awarded to KDP Consulting Inc. The new by-laws, Memorandum of association, and policy manual have been reviewed by the consultant, Keith Publicover.

Regional Community Garden

Our proposal to ACOA under the Canada Community Revitalization Program for improvements and expansion to the regional community garden is still under consideration.

Farmers & Crafts Market

An application for funding to ACOA under the new Rediscover Main Streets Program has been approved for \$52 000. The purpose of the new program is to get people out and about again following the 2 years

of pandemic. SLDA is proposing a series of three Farmers and Craft Markets to be held in different communities over the period of August to October of this year. Roseann Linstead has been hired to manage the program with duties commencing on July 4th. Plans are now underway for three farmers and craft markets to be held at L'Anse au Clair (August 27th), West St. Modeste (September 24th), and L'Anse au Loup (late October)

Community Hub

A meeting with the program managers of the Community Hub program took place in June. As indicated earlier, the funding support for the hub is \$9500/year for the 2-year pilot. Apparently, there will not be any further activity towards the program during the summer months.

Youth Mental Health Program

In late 2019, SLDA was successful in obtaining a \$4000 grant under the Community Addictions Prevention and Mental Health Promotion Fund for a mental health awareness project for Labrador Straits Youth. Unfortunately, due to the covid pandemic, the funds were never used, and the original planned activities required amendments. Last year we joined forces with the Community Youth Network and arranged for a mental health awareness workshop. After two postponements, the workshop was held on the weekend of May 27, 2022. Consultant Ms. Lisa Sheppard of Lamaline NL conducted the activity. The workshop was well attended by youth and an evening session for parents went very well.

The Southern Labrador Economic Enhancement Project

A proposal to address the demographic and economic situation in the Labrador Straits has been submitted to ACOA. The following is the project description of the proposal:

The proposed Southern Labrador Economic Enhancement Project intends to strategically address the demographic and economic problem being experienced in the Labrador Straits through a collaborative process involving the business community, municipalities, and all other stakeholders. The proposal objectives can be achieved by program delivery in three main areas:

1. **Engaging with the business community for the purpose of attracting, recruiting, and retaining new Canadians to the Labrador Straits.** The business community may need to be more aware of resources and opportunities that may be available, and individual employers could be assisted with process of recruiting capable and suitable candidates for job opportunities.
2. **Collaborating with municipalities, the existing Age Friendly Community Committee and Seniors Services Office, Association of New Canadians, and other groups to work towards a higher level of welcoming and age friendly community structure in the Labrador Straits.** Promoting the strengths of our communities, encouraging inclusiveness for all people of all ages, and building on areas of community that need improvement will be a major starting point towards a more welcoming and age friendly community that can attract and retain workers and visitors.
3. **Consultations with agencies and groups to explore ways of building on and expanding the existing tourism industry.** For example, creating an improved visitor experience through further promotion and development of the tourism assets of the Labrador Straits would make a significant impact on tourism visitations. Also, the winter and spring seasons provide many opportunities to expand the tourism industry.

The proposal has been submitted to ACOA as a 3-year pilot with a total estimated cost of \$535 000.

Green Depot

The Green Depot operation located in L'Anse au Loup will be closed for business at the end of August 2022. The Multi Materials Stewardship Board have been trying to maintain the operation, but to-date have not found another operator. A Request for Proposals closed on May 12, 2022. SLDA was contacted by Gordon Wall of MMSB for SLDA as a possible operator and I did look at the potential revenues and costs involved. With annual revenues approximately 60K vs. the cost of a facility, salaries, and other expenses, it would appear that there is little room for profits. Nevertheless, the loss of the operation may well be detrimental to the area in terms of environment impact and to the existing land fill site capacity.

Cost of Petroleum Products in Labrador Straits

On August 4, 2022, I sent the following email to the Public Utilities Board with copies to all Labrador Straits municipalities, SLDA Directors, all Labrador MHAs, and our MP Yvonne Jones:

"I would like some information and clarification of how petroleum prices are set in Labrador and especially Zone 10. First of all, who determines and how is it determined that prices are set on a seasonal basis? Secondly, are there any other occasions when prices have been set on any other basis? For example, the last adjustment that occurred in zone 10 saw an increase from \$1.20/L to \$2.35/L. even though, according to information I have received, there was no new tanker supplied fuel. I do understand there would be additional distribution costs due to oil being delivered from one area of Labrador to another, but if that is the case, the increase seems a bit extreme. Whatever the case, there needs to be some transparency and the public should be made more aware of what is happening with respect to the regulation of petroleum prices in Labrador.

While prices are gradually declining in other areas, Labrador residents and businesses are still paying the highest prices in Canada. These high petroleum prices, along with all the other higher costs of goods and services are crippling the economy and the cost of living of all Labradorians.

It is time that a thorough review of this situation is undertaken and without any undue delay."

The PUB acknowledged receipt of the email but has not yet made any response.

R. Hancock

SLDA Coordinator