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From : "Hammond, Vaughn"

To : "Dutton, Sean" , "MacDonald, Sheree P." , "Cooper, Bruce" , "Barnes, Sandra M." , "Rose, Baxter" , "Burrage, Don" , "Parrott, William" , "MacLellan, Heather" , "Pike, Darrin" , "Dalton, Diana" , "Burt, Paula" , "Mullaley, Julia" , "Tom Lawrence" , "Thompson, Robert"

Subject : Information note on social impacts of major project development

Attachment : VH - Social Impact of Major Projects in NL.DOC;

Good afternoon,

Please find attached an information note in advance of tomorrow afternoon's meeting. Initially, the meeting was to focus on the social impacts of major project development in Labrador, but has since expanded to include developments in the St. John's, Bull Arm, Long Harbour and Marystown areas.

Regards,

Vaughn Hammond
Cabinet Officer
Cabinet Secretariat
729-2418
vaughnhammond@gov.nl.ca

**Information Note
Cabinet Secretariat**

Title: Social Impacts of Major Projects and Associated Integrated Planning in Newfoundland and Labrador

Issue: It is possible that significant social impacts will result from the development of major projects in the province. The purpose of this is to give a broad overview of the issues and challenges related to major project development that may place a strain on government services and programs and to describe the current state of planning within Government to address these issues and challenges. The note focuses on six geographic areas in the province: western Labrador, central Labrador, St. John's, Long Harbour, Bull Arm and Marystown.

Background:

- In Newfoundland and Labrador, there are a number of major projects in the mining, hydroelectric power, and oil and gas sectors expected to be developed in the near future (i.e. within the next five years). As experiences in northern Alberta and northern Saskatchewan show, associated with these projects is higher population growth, more employment opportunities and greater wealth. As a result, it is anticipated that there will generally be increased burden placed on the existing social infrastructure in areas where large industrial development projects will be occurring in the province.
- Departmental information indicates that it is expected that there will be increases in crime rates, drug trafficking, and drug use; more violence, including domestic abuse; greater demand for health services, particularly mental health and addiction services; increased homelessness; higher demand for food bank services; and greater need for quality and affordable child care. Some of these issues were raised during the recent environmental assessment of the Lower Churchill Project.
- While there will be increased employment opportunities within the province, there is still potential that people will get left behind, as the gap between rich and poor becomes more evident. Further, there is the potential risk that labour shortages among skilled trade workers may impede Newfoundland and Labrador's capacity to take full advantage of the benefits to be derived from the major projects.

Current Status:

- More detailed information on each social sector is available in Annex A. The annex includes the information provided by departments and agencies which specifically identified a challenge or issue and any planning occurring within the department which may assist in addressing the issue.

Next Steps:

- A meeting scheduled for October 26, 2011 will provide an opportunity to discuss the specific challenges and issues and current state of planning linked to major project development. As

discussions continue on this topic, there will be opportunity for departments and agencies to speak to more detailed concerns and potential responses.

Prepared/Approved by: V. Hammond / P. Burt (in consultation with LAA, JUS, WPO, NLHC, EDU, HRLE, VNPS, NLHC, MA, ENVC, NR and CYFS)

October 25, 2011

Annex A

Social Impacts and Planning

<u>Social Issue</u>	<u>Geographic area</u>	<u>Issue / Challenge</u>	<u>Current State of Planning</u>
Justice	Western Labrador	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing is scarce and expensive in Labrador West and there is a need for construction of housing for members. There is question about whether the holding cells in Labrador West are adequate for future needs and whether Corrections should operate them. Currently, there is capacity to absorb additional referrals in the Probation office. However, the availability of the specialized counseling services will be an issue. Victim Services does not have a permanent presence in Labrador West and is reliant on outreach services from the Happy Valley-Goose Bay regional office. The ability to travel on court circuits may be affected, and there may be additional support needed from other lawyers. Increased caseloads in Labrador West may compromise the judge's ability to provide judicial services on circuit. An increase in family law court cases involving divorce and separation matters requiring mediation and/or counselling will impact their workloads, however this should be manageable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RNC has developed a budget request for the 2012 -2013 Budget Process for five replacement vehicles at a cost of approximately \$200,000. The goal is to increase traffic highway enforcement on the Trans Labrador Highway. Further discussions on holding cells are planned between the RNC and Corrections with a view to assessing the adequacy of the current facilities; the status of standards and training for civilian staff working at the holding cells; and whether Corrections should manage and administer this service. Probation will have all of its Probation Officers trained in the Respectful Relationships program by March 2012 so they can better address the needs of domestic violence offenders. Victim Services has developed a budget submission to establish a permanent Victim Services Office in Labrador West.
	Central Labrador	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquiring suitable housing for RCMP in the area in the future within the context of a mega project development will place further pressures on housing availability. This will be a particularly critical issue if there are new positions approved to address increased 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RCMP has presented to the Minister of Justice and the Executive on this issue and has prepared a budget submission for the 2012-2013 Budget Process to address potential impacts. The Department is awaiting further direction on several issues related to this area. These involve

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		<p>policing needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any additional volume of offenders sentenced to secure custody will place further burden on this system, and may place renewed focus on the need for services specific to female offenders. An increase in criminal activity in the region will undoubtedly place pressure on the Probation office. As with Labrador West, the availability of specialized counseling services is lacking in the area. An increased population base may result in increased referrals as more family law cases go before the courts. This will create increased pressure on this program; however this should be manageable in the foreseeable future. An increase in RCMP enforcement activity resulting from any increase criminal activity will clearly place greater burdens on the court. This will be especially true if the judge in Labrador West experiences an increased volume in that region and cannot provide the same level of assistance for circuit courts. 	<p>infrastructure for correctional facilities which includes potential discussion with the federal government about an expansion to the Labrador Correction Centre. Additionally there has been a focus on establishing an appropriate response and approach for female offenders in Labrador. The Department requires further direction on a women's healing facility as well as a consultative process with the Mokami Status of Women Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Probation Officers will be trained in the Respectful Relationships Program by March 2012 so they can better address the needs of domestic violence offenders. The Department is currently in discussions with the Sheshatshiu Innu First Nation about developing community-based justice projects that focus on Aboriginal-specific healing approaches for those involved in the justice system. Preliminary discussions have begun with the federal government about its interest in expanding its Aboriginal Court Work program to cover family law. This would alleviate some of the potential pressure on this office in the future.
	St. John's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In addition to population growth and prosperity, there is an increasingly sophisticated criminal element in the area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Necessary and sustained investments in the RNC over the past seven years, including a major redevelopment of RNC Headquarters and enhanced specialized investigative capacity. Future budget requests may come forward.
	Bull Arm / Long Harbour / Marystown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased traffic flows with a consequent concern for increased motor vehicle accidents, incidents of drinking and driving and other moving violations. It is also reasonably anticipated, based on previous projects and experiences elsewhere, that police-requested calls for service will increase. Incidents of illegal drug use, domestic violence and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RCMP has identified the need for additional resources in the following areas: Traffic Services, General Investigation Section/ Street Level Drug Enforcement, General Duty Constables, and administrative assistance.

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		property crimes may result.	
Housing	Western Labrador / Central Labrador / St. John's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of modest housing in an affordable price range for the target clientele may be limited. It is possible that there will be many who would like to avail of programs but may be unable due to credit worthiness. • There is limited funding for investment in social housing and attempts to engage the private sector and non-profit sector to partner in developing housing options has proven difficult. • Necessity for more supportive living options. • Need for construction of new social housing/conversion of old social housing to meet the needs of the population [large units in the portfolio, small one and two bedroom units required]. • Condition of the social housing stock and partner managed housing stock. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research is currently being conducted and a proposal being developed to clarify how a down-payment assistance program would unfold. • NL Housing is investigating the possibility of increasing the housing income threshold for program eligibility in Labrador (from the current level of \$32,500 to \$55,000-\$65,000). • Currently there are affordable housing proposals being reviewed for these regions. • Modernization and improvement dollars are being spent in the region annually.
Municipalities	Western Labrador	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the biggest issues is available space to expand should additional developable land be required. • Funding requirements to support infrastructure upgrades to existing water and systems from a capacity perspective may become an issue. Specifically, related to the water supply and treatment and wastewater treatment. • Other community infrastructure such as recreational facilities may also need expansion and upgrades. • A significantly larger community will put pressure on the existing landfill site that has a limited life expectancy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been no long term planning to identify the issues and challenges for this area or to develop a strategy in conjunction with the municipalities to address them. However, the Department does work with any municipality when it brings issues forward.
	Central Labrador	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay does not have the same level of financial stability as the Town of Labrador City. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As above.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No anticipated impact on Town water and wastewater systems, though there is potential negative impact on the Town's landfill by increased volume of waste. 	
	St. John's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Street network is old with significant rehabilitation required. Municipalities' abilities to generate sufficient revenue to deal with infrastructure needs and services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As above.
	Marystown / Bull Arm / Long Harbour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It appears that issues and challenges are not as significant in these regions as those faced by St. John's, central Labrador and western Labrador. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As above.
Child, Youth and Family Services	Western Labrador / Central Labrador	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The two biggest risk areas requiring CYFS intervention include domestic violence and drug and alcohol addiction. Given the estimated increase in population in Labrador based on economic developments, a corresponding increase in CYFS caseloads could be expected based on current population data. The availability of suitable housing has an impact on foster home recruitment as well as staff recruitment. Families, particularly in aboriginal communities, are often under increased pressures when two or more families occupy a home and the ability to remove children from intergenerational behaviors and immediate risks is impacted by lack of alternative housing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Steering Committee comprised of Ministers of the Provincial Government and leaders from Innu Nation, the Innu First Nations, Nunatsiavut Government and NunatuKavut was formed to ensure that the cultural and geographic considerations are addressed. A Working Group comprised of representatives from the entities represented on the Steering Committee will support this work. With respect to child care, several projects are underway involving Aboriginal partners, including the Nunatsiavut Government. These partnerships support overall community capacity building as the community is responsible for developing, implementing and managing the facilities. The 10-Year Child Care Strategy will have a focus on seeking out employers and community support groups who have the capacity to establish child care services. An assessment of a pilot program for training foster parents which takes into account culture and plans developed as appropriate to expand its application.

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	St. John's / Long Harbour / Bull Arm / Marystown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With increased economic development, drug and alcohol abuse often increase along with domestic violence and this will have an impact on our caseloads. • Child Care and access to court time for protection cases are serious issues. 	
Education	All regions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labour shortages among skilled trade workers. • Attracting and retaining support staff and bus drivers may be difficult in western Labrador and central Labrador. A shortage of housing may also have an impact on teacher recruitment. • Increased demands on post-secondary institutions for training in various disciplines, as well as student services and affordable housing. • Some municipalities in the St. John's area (e.g. Conception Bay South and Portugal Cove-St. Philip's) have student capacity issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work continues on the identification of responsive programs and infrastructure. • A priority focus on immediate-term initiatives to increase access to work experience opportunities for those in the early stages of their apprenticeship • The Department of Education is coordinating with various departments and agencies to provide updates on Labrador Aboriginal Training Partnership's (LATP) intentions and requests for assistance in the provision of current links and resource data to populate its proposal. The Department of Education is also preparing a related paper for Cabinet consideration of continuation of the LATP. • Consultants were appointed in July 2011 to assess K-12 infrastructure needs in the St. John's areas and their assessments are currently underway. • There is no specific planning underway as it relates to development in Bull Arm, Long Harbour and Marystown.
Health	Western Labrador / Central Labrador	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The increase in demands for the various health services has not been quantified. • The timing of increases in demands is unknown. • To continue to meet or improve upon service expectations, additional resources (human, infrastructure and financial) will be required. • Labrador-Grenfell Health currently has recruitment needs for health professionals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the Lower Churchill Generation Project environmental assessment public hearings, the Department of Health and Community Services (HCS) committed to having a health services needs assessment carried out given the influx of workers into the region during the construction phase of the project. To date, planning for the needs assessment has not started. The needs should be assessed for Western Labrador and the

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bed capacity is cyclically at or above 100%. • Labrador-Grenfell Health does not have intensive care or mental health units. 	Upper Lake Melville areas separately and for the region as a whole.
Voluntary and Non-Profit Sector	All regions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer recruitment / retention and an increased need for service delivery programs are common throughout rural Newfoundland and Labrador. • Efforts may be hindered to move forward on government strategies that will rely on the volunteer and non-profit sector. • The Town of Labrador City is experiencing the pressure of supporting industry workers who reside in the community on a casual basis without attaching and contributing to the community from a residential and family perspective. • Increased competition within the labour market may frustrate efforts to obtain experienced and capable staff. • Many workers have opted to commute to Long Harbour from the metro St. John's region, which may result in a need for more after school programming, child care and home care that caters to such needs. • Significant delays in completing projects and municipal governance may be affected due to a lack of volunteers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are currently ongoing exploratory discussions with various stakeholders (federal government, College of the North Atlantic, Department of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development, Department of Human Resources, Labour and Employment, Community Sector Council) in the Clarenville area regarding establishing a hub to support volunteer and non-profit organizations. • A community stakeholder day is being planned in the coming months to discuss options for a provincial model for voluntary resource sharing. • VNPS, along with the NL Statistics Agency, is forging a partnership with community agencies to conduct a census of the sector. This census will provide reliable government owned data which will allow for the generation of a complete profile of the sector. From this, volunteer and non-profit sector's training needs, training providers and opportunities within the province can be identified.

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Labour	All regions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant increase in the cost of living, particularly affordable housing. • Cost and availability of suitable housing for temporary foreign workers. • Employment is expected to decline after major project activities wind down. • Barriers to persons with disabilities taking advantage of employment opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of initiatives are being implemented to increase participation in the labour market, particularly amongst marginalized groups, under-represented groups and older workers. • A Provincial Strategy for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities will be announced and implementation commenced in 2011-12.
Women's Issues	All regions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community social infrastructure supports are necessary to achieve the goals outlined in the women's employment plans for major projects already in progress. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no planning currently being undertaken to address the social impacts as they affect women.