



# Assessment News

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Municipal Assessment Agency, Newfoundland and Labrador  
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## New Assessment Legislation

*By Sean Martin*

The province has moved to consolidate the legislation governing property assessment for taxation in Newfoundland and Labrador. The new legislation to be known as the *Assessment Act 2006*, consolidates the Assessment Act, 1999 and the St. John's Assessment Act. Of important interest to municipalities:

- Property under construction may be assessed on the annual roll.
- Assessment appeals will be filed directly with the Municipal Assessment Agency, rather than the current practice of filing with the municipality.
- Beginning in 2007, the municipality may file an appeal of an assessed value with the Municipal Assessment Agency. These appeals will be heard by the assessment review commissioner.

Please see *Legislation* on page 3

## Current Municipal Training Initiatives

In 2007, the Municipal Assessment Agency will continue with the success it had in 2006 holding training sessions across the province. Based on the feedback from attendees, these sessions proved extremely beneficial to clients in assisting them in understanding the assessment process.

The agency is currently working on a new initiative in partnership with the College of the North Atlantic and the Municipal Training and Development Corporation. The work is focused on the development of a course for administrators and elected officials in a college format. These sessions will be offered under CNA's Corporate Training and Continuing Education Division.

The Municipal Assessment Agency is continuously exploring ways to enhance its training program to better address the needs of our clients as we move forward together. The Agency would appreciate any ideas for future training sessions to be forwarded to Greg Rumbolt at [grumbolt@maa.nf.ca](mailto:grumbolt@maa.nf.ca).

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*"By offering our clients up to date training we are further developing their understanding of the property assessment services we provide."*

*Adam Miller,  
Special Projects Officer*

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An orientation video on property assessment is also available to assist in training. To obtain a copy of this video in either VHS tape or DVD formats, please contact the Agency toll-free at 877-777-2807 or email, [info@maa.nf.ca](mailto:info@maa.nf.ca).

## Supplemental Assessment Schedule

The Agency has released its schedule for supplemental assessments in 2007. Supplemental assessments allow municipalities to adjust their billing to reflect changes that have occurred since the completion of the annual roll for the year. Municipalities should identify affected properties, often from the permit list, that require a supplemental assessment.

### *What is a supplementary assessment?*

A supplementary assessment is an amended assessment during a taxation year for one of the following reasons:

- New construction
- Renovation
- Demolition
- A property was omitted from the assessment roll
- Change in use occurs
- An exemption no longer applies
- Fire damage

### *Why should I submit properties for supplemental assessments?*

Supplemental assessment requests provide the municipality the opportunity to adjust property taxes to reflect changes in properties. These changes are also reflected on the next annual assessment and help ensure the assessment is fair to all property owners.

The Agency works in partnership with municipalities to keep the assessment information up to date and to contain the costs of providing the assessment service.

### *How do I get a supplementary request form?*

A supplementary request form can be received by calling your regional office at 1-877-777-2807 or emailing us at [info@maa.nf.ca](mailto:info@maa.nf.ca). Forms are also available on our website, [www.maa.nf.ca](http://www.maa.nf.ca).

### *Are there any deadlines for submitting a supplementary request form for 2007?*

<u>Request Date*</u>	<u>Mail Date**</u>
February 2	March 30
May 4	July 6
July 19	October 12
October 19	December 19

\*Request Date - the last day to request a property to appear on the next roll.

\*\*Mail Date - date notices will be mailed to property owner.

Supplementary Request Forms should be received by our offices no later than the dates specified to facilitate your requests on the next supplementary.

### *Who do I contact if I require additional information or assistance regarding my supplementary assessment?*

For information or assistance please call your regional office at 1-877-777-2807, email us at [info@maa.nf.ca](mailto:info@maa.nf.ca), or refer to our website, [www.maa.nf.ca](http://www.maa.nf.ca).

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*Supplementary Request Forms can be mailed, faxed, or emailed and are also available on our website, [www.maa.nf.ca](http://www.maa.nf.ca).*

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*Legislation* from page 1

- The time period for filing appeals is extended from 21 to 30 days.
- There is a duty to report to the municipality any construction or new businesses.
- Name changes must be reported to the municipality.
- The legislation is effective January 1, 2007 but the old legislation applies to any assessment notice delivered prior to January 1, 2007.

Copies of the legislation are available on the provincial government website at <http://www.hoa.gov.nl.ca/hoa/bills/Bill0652.htm>.



## NLAMA's 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

Convention 2007 plans are underway for the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention and Trade Show which will take place in St. John's, April 19<sup>th</sup>- 21<sup>st</sup>, 2007. The theme for this year's Convention is, "Striving for a Better Tomorrow."

A committee has been formed including administrators from throughout the Avalon region. The Co-Chairs for this years Convention will be Yvonne Young, Town Clerk/Manager, town of Stephenville Crossing and Edwin Fradsham, Town Manager, Town of Bay Robert's.

Convention Committee meetings took place in December and February. Convention packages have been mailed to both Exhibitors and Delegates. As well, an Education Focus has been sent to all Delegates requesting suggestions for Education Topics. The Committee will work with the Municipal Training and Development Corporation (MTDC) to establish the Education topics and speakers. A Municipal Focus will be sent to all delegates in February outlining the Education Topics. The next Convention Committee meeting will take place in April.

The Committee is looking forward to making this the best Convention to date and celebrating our 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact our office at (709) 726-6405 or email [ex.dir@nlama.ca](mailto:ex.dir@nlama.ca).

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Municipal  
Assessment  
Agency Inc.

## Meet the Board

Here are the current members of the Board of Directors for the Municipal Assessment Agency:

### AVALON REGION

**Councillor Deborah Quilty**, Paradise. Councillor Quilty has been on the Agency's Board since the fall of 2005.

### EASTERN REGION

**Mayor Fred Best**, Clarenville. Mayor Best is also the Chair of the Board and is the senior representative on the Agency's Board having served continuously since 1998.

### CENTRAL REGION

**Councillor Barry Oake**, Grand Falls-Windsor. Councillor Oake has also been on the Agency's Board since the fall of 2005.

### WESTERN REGION

**Mayor Darryl Kelly**, Deer Lake. Mayor Kelly was elected to the Agency's Board in a by-election in February 2006.

### LABRADOR REGION

**Councillor Terry Hancock**, Forteau. Councillor Hancock has served as the Labrador representative of the Agency's Board since 1999.

### URBAN

**Councillor Sterling Willis**, Paradise. Councillor Willis is the newest member to the Agency's Board having been elected in the fall of 2006.

### NLFM DIRECTOR

**Mayor Harry Hallett**, Leading Tickles. Mayor Hallett was appointed by the NLFM for a one year term.

### NLAMA DIRECTOR

**Mr. Rodney Cumby**, CAO, Town of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's. Mr. Cumby, in addition to his role on the Agency's Board, also serves as the Chair of the Audit and Finance Committee.

## Board selects Chairperson

The board of directors of the Municipal Assessment Agency is pleased to announce the re-election of Mayor Fred Best, Clarenville as Chairperson. The election was held during the board's recent meeting in Deer Lake. Also elected was Councillor Barry Oake, Grand Falls-Windsor, as Vice-chair. "I look forward to once again working with the Board and staff to improve the assessment service in the coming year," said Mayor Best. Chairperson Best also welcomed Sterling Willis of Paradise as the newest member of the Agency's Board representing urban municipalities.

## Agency Employees Enroll in SPSS II Course

Eight of the Agency's assessors have enrolled in the SPSS II course. SPSS II is a statistical software application that will advance the employees computer and analytical skills to ensure the highest value of property assessment services to the municipalities of Newfoundland and Labrador.

This course is offered by the Institute of Municipal Assessors (IMA). The IMA is the largest Canadian Professional Association representing members that practice in the field of property assessment and related property taxation functions. This course is a major requirement in pursuing the MIMA designation. This is the highest designation offered by the IMA.



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**"The Agency would appreciate any feedback on the sections covered in this newsletter and welcome all thoughts and ideas for future newsletters"**