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NEWS RELEASE

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### **Provincial Waste Management Continues with Closure of Garden Cove Landfill**

As part of the Provincial Government's ongoing commitment to reduce the number of landfills in the province, an investment of \$165,750 by the Multi-Materials Stewardship Board (MMSB) will facilitate the closure of the Garden Cove landfill. The funding comes from the Waste Management Trust Fund administered by the MMSB.

"This investment is in keeping with our objective of creating a more sustainable approach to waste management in the province, as outlined under the Provincial Waste Management Strategy," said the Honourable Charlene Johnson, Minister of Environment and Conservation. "This closure will be another example of how we are successfully working with municipalities and local service districts to close landfill sites and facilitate the process of moving to an improved and modern approach for waste disposal. We need to continue to work together to achieve all of our waste management strategy goals."

The Garden Cove site services the communities of Garden Cove, Swift Current, North Harbour and Goobies, with a combined population of approximately 660 residents. The Sunnyside waste management site has been selected as the interim waste disposal site for these communities.

"Closure of landfill sites are a critical component as we continue to advance the Provincial Solid Waste Management Strategy," said the Honourable Tom Hedderson, Minister of Municipal Affairs (Acting). "Participating communities should be commended for taking this important step in improving waste disposal and for their commitment to cleaning up the environment."

Leigh Puddester, Chair and Chief Executive Officer of the MMSB, said his organization is committed to doing its part to help achieve the goals outlined in the Provincial Government's waste management strategy.

"Making strategic investments in projects that provide long-term environmental benefits is key to becoming a greener and healthier province," said Mr. Puddester. "The Waste Management Trust Fund plays an important role in this regard, and the MMSB will continue to invest in initiatives that will guide the province to achieve modern waste management and ensure a cleaner environment for the future."

"Our government has been extremely dedicated to implementing a modern waste management system, and this is another important step in improving our province's waste disposal," said Calvin Peach, MHA for Bellevue. "I am very pleased with the cooperation among these communities, resulting in this joint agreement to close this site and protect our environment."

In May 2007, the Provincial Government announced implementation of the \$200-million Provincial Solid Waste Management Strategy, with a goal for full implementation by 2020. The strategy calls for full-service regional waste management facilities in three areas – Eastern, Central and Western – on the island portion of the province, and programs to be developed for the zones in Labrador to meet the provincial waste management goals. The provincial strategy aims to reduce the number of landfill sites in the province by 80 per cent; reduce the amount of garbage going into landfills in the province by 50 per cent, supported by the development of new infrastructure to facilitate the implementation of broad-based recycling activities at the regional level; and focused attention on reducing the amount of waste generated in the province through an aggressive public education campaign.

MMSB is a provincial Crown agency that reports to the Minister of Environment and Conservation. Its mandate is to support progressive waste management practices in the province, with a particular focus on waste diversion, recycling and public education, in order to ensure a clean and healthy environment throughout Newfoundland and Labrador.

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**Media Contacts:**

Cara Pike  
Director Communications  
MMSB  
Tel: (709) 757-3696  
Email: [cpike@mmsb.nl.ca](mailto:cpike@mmsb.nl.ca)

Melony O’Neill  
Director of Communications  
Department of Environment and Conservation  
Tel: (709) 729-2575  
Email: [moneill@gov.nl.ca](mailto:moneill@gov.nl.ca)

Heather MacLean  
Director of Communications  
Department of Municipal Affairs  
709-729-1983, 697-4137  
[heathermaclean@gov.nl.ca](mailto:heathermaclean@gov.nl.ca)

Donna Ivey  
Communications Manager  
Government Members’ Office  
709-729-0898, 697-1424  
[donnaivey@gov.nl.ca](mailto:donnaivey@gov.nl.ca)