

# DECISION/DIRECTION NOTE

**Title:** Environment & Sustainability Experts Panel Membership

**Date Prepared:** May 11, 2022

**Report To:** Committee of the Whole

**Councillor and Role:** Councillor Maggie Burton & Councillor Ian Froude, Sustainability

**Ward:** N/A

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## **Decision/Direction Required:**

Approval of Membership for the 2022-2024 Environment & Sustainability Experts Panel (ESEP) based on the recommendations by lead staff.

## **Discussion – Background and Current Status:**

The Environment and Sustainability Experts Panel is responsible for assisting in the progress of environmental and sustainability matters in the City of St. John's. Panel members provide expert opinion on environment and sustainability matters to Council to advance the strategic direction of a sustainable City of St. John's, review environmental requirements for new development or re-development within the City, support the development and implementation of the Resilient St. John's Community Climate Plan, and provide recommendations to Council.

The Term of Appointment is 2 years, as per the Environment and Sustainability Experts Panel Advisory Committee Terms of Reference: "Unless otherwise indicated, the Environment and Sustainability Panel term of appointment is two years. Recognizing the value of experience and the need for continuity, incumbents who are willing to seek reappointment may signify their intent to serve an additional two-year term, for a total of four years. In some cases, members may be encouraged to provide guidance, expertise and participate in a bridging capacity following the end of their term."

Three experts' terms have come to an end as of June 2022.

Due to an early vacancy on the ESEP, a public call was issued in February and extended to March of 2022 looking for one representative with expertise in Sustainable Urban Planning and Economic Growth. The call was advertised in the Telegram, posted on the City's website, shared via social media, and circulated by email to Panel members and the City's Inclusion Network. A total of eleven applications with expertise in Sustainable Urban Planning, Economic Growth, and Natural Environment were received. All applications can be made available at Council's request.

The applications were reviewed by Staff who are recommending two experts are appointed from this applicant pool to cover the expertise gaps in Built Environment, Natural Environment and Sustainable Urban Planning specifically:

# ST. JOHN'S

- Piers Evans, MSc - Sustainable Urban Planning & Natural Environment
- James Blyth, MEng – Sustainable Built Environment & Resilience

#### Summary of Proposed Changes to the ESEP:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Expertise</b>
Joel Finnis, PhD	Renewed (2022-24)	Climate Science & Resilience
Kieran Hanley, MBA	Renewed (2022-24)	Sustainable Economic Growth
Krista Langthorne, BA, SEBT	Renewed (2022-24)	Resilience & Natural Resources
Joseph Daraio, PhD, Peng	Renewed (2022-24)	Sustainable Urban Planning & Resilience
Pablo Navarro	Ending (2020-2022)	Socio-cultural & Quality of Life
Michel Wawrzkow, PEng, PGeo	Ending (2020-2022)	Natural Environment & Resilience
Dennis Knight, MSc, MCIP	Ending (2020-2022)	Sustainable Urban Planning & Economic Growth
Piers Evans, MSc	Beginning (2022-24)	Sustainable Urban Planning & Natural Environment
James Blyth, MEng	Beginning (2022-24)	Sustainable Built Environment & Resilience

An additional has been issued for the remaining opening with the purpose of identifying an expert with a focus on Socio-cultural aspects of sustainability and/or Quality of Life expertise.

#### Key Considerations/Implications:

1. Budget/Financial Implications: N/A
2. Partners or Other Stakeholders: Environment & Sustainability Experts Panel
3. Alignment with Strategic Directions:

An Effective City: Ensure accountability and good governance through transparent and open decision making.

A Sustainable City: Work collaboratively to create a climate-adapted and low-carbon city.

4. Alignment with Adopted Plans:  
Corporate Climate Plan, Resilient St. John's Climate Plan

5. Legal or Policy Implications: N/A
6. Privacy Implications: N/A
7. Engagement and Communications Considerations:  
Calls for new members were advertised and promoted by the City's Communications Division.
8. Human Resource Implications: N/A
9. Procurement Implications: N/A
10. Information Technology Implications: N/A
11. Other Implications: N/A

**Recommendation:**

That Council approve the renewed commitment of the existing experts and the appointment of Piers Evans and James Blyth to the Environment & Sustainability Experts Panel.

**Prepared by:**

**Approved by:**

**Report Approval Details**

Document Title:	Environment and Sustainability Experts Panel - Membership.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Jun 9, 2022

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

**No Signature found**

**Edmundo Fausto - Jun 7, 2022 - 9:54 AM**

**No Signature - Task assigned to Lynnann Winsor was completed by workflow administrator Karen Chafe**

**Lynnann Winsor - Jun 9, 2022 - 4:15 PM**

**Karen Chafe - Jun 9, 2022 - 4:16 PM**