

# NEWSLETTER - April 2024

*"Working Together for Social and Economic Betterment in Labrador Straits"*



## A Message from SLDA Executive Director...

Dear Community Members,

As the Executive Director of the Southern Labrador Development Association (SLDA) since 2018, I am delighted, through this newsletter, to share a glimpse of our progress and collaboration as we move forward with social and economic betterment in the Labrador Straits. Our collective efforts, through input from all communities, have transformed challenges into opportunities, making SLDA a resounding voice for the Labrador Straits.

Our once nearly empty offices at the E.M. Taylor Resource Centre now buzz with activity. All spaces within the building are now being utilized. This exemplifies what can be achieved when we unite our strengths and work together toward shared goals.

Our **commitment** to addressing social and economic issues has yielded tangible results such as:

- SLDA Seniors Services Office: Providing various essential supports to our seniors.
- Labrador Pioneer Footpath Project: Preserving heritage and enhancing recreational experiences.
- SLDA Regional Community Garden: Cultivating community bonds and sustainable gardening practices.
- SLDA Labrador Straits Welcoming Communities Project: Fostering inclusivity for local people, newcomers, and returning residents.
- Website Project: Empowering local communities and businesses online.
- Memorial University/SLDA Community Hub - Labrador Straits: A hub for education and collaboration.
- SLDA Volunteer Age-Friendly Community Committee: Advocating for all age groups.
- SLDA Employment Connections Program: Bridging job opportunities and economic growth.



A **STRONG** membership is extremely important.

SLDA can only be as strong as the collective efforts of its members. There are different levels of membership:

1. **INDIVIDUAL Residents:** For just \$10/year, any resident of the Labrador Straits can become an SLDA member.
2. **BUSINESSES/ORGANIZATIONS:** Support SLDA with an annual fee of \$100 and contribute to our vibrant community.
3. **MUNICIPALITIES:** Annual fees are determined by population—your investment in progress.

As the sole regional organization for social and economic development, a robust SLDA, bolstered by a strong membership, is pivotal for Labrador Straits' growth. Whether you're an individual, a business, an organization, or a municipality, your participation matters.

## Let's WELCOME our *Newest* Members!

### Municipalities

Town of Red Bay

### Businesses

Buckle's Woodwork & Cabinetry  
Cal LeGrow Insurance  
Cohen's, Forteau  
Diversified Supply & Rental  
H&F Designs/Penny Pinchers

### Organizations

Community Youth Network Labrador Straits

**5 New Individual Members**

Thank you all for being part of SLDA!

Warm regards,  
Russell Hancock, Executive Director, SLDA

Visit our website for more information and sign up online...  
[www.slda.ca](http://www.slda.ca)

## SLDA Initiatives



### Regional Community Garden

Major work on the garden has been completed but this is an ongoing project. Garden signage is now being prepared for the site and more work is being planned to more clearly designate plot occupants. Use of the garden is restricted to SLDA members. There are 42 plots 15 ft by 60 ft and 20 raised garden boxes 12 ft by 4 ft. Each member is restricted to either one (1) plot or one (1) garden box.

With exception of fertilizer, boxes are ready for planting. Potting soil and lime were added last fall. Some lime was added to all plots last fall but more may be necessary. Garden plots will be tilled by SLDA tractor again this year. Tilling will be done lengthwise to ensure adjoining plots are not disturbed.

\*\*\*All those now using the garden are reminded to renew SLDA membership to retain their plot for this year.

Learn more, connect with Russ Hancock, Executive Director, SLDA



## Labrador Pioneer Footpath

SLDA is now preparing to continue with phase 2 of the project as soon as ground conditions and weather permit. While a significant amount of work was completed last year, we do expect to work throughout the construction season this year. One of the bigger challenges for the Footpath this year is the Battery Trail which we intend to be a priority for this year's start.

Anyone who may have concerns or suggestions for improvement on any section of the Footpath are invited to contact our office.

Connect with Russ Hancock, Executive Director, SLDA  
709-931-2010 | slda@mylabrador.ca



## SLDA's Seniors Services Office

*We extend our warm wishes to Aimee as she embarks on her maternity leave. We are excited to introduce Bonnie Goudie, who will be stepping in during Aimee's absence.*

Our office is committed to improving the lives of seniors in our communities. We help with medical travel claims, drivers' medical examination reimbursements, home heating supplement applications, provincial home repair applications, registration for the Canadian Dental Care Program, etc.

We also organize a variety of events for seniors, including exercise programs, crafting events, social programs and more. Keep watch for upcoming events on Facebook and [www.slda.ca/calendar](http://www.slda.ca/calendar).

**We will be visiting Town of Red Bay at the Town Hall, Thursday, April 25 from 1-4pm. Drop by to learn about *SLDA Seniors Services***

*Learn more*, connect with Bonnie Goudie, SLDA Seniors Services Officer  
709-931-2675 | [seniorservices.slda@gmail.com](mailto:seniorservices.slda@gmail.com)

*\*\*\*\*Note: If you have received a letter inviting you to register for the Canadian Dental Care Program by phone, the deadline to register is April 30, 2024. Beginning May 1, 2024 enrollment in the program will be voluntary with an online application.*



### Regional Community Mural Project

A stunning mural created by individuals of all ages from the Labrador Straits region has been generously gifted to the local long-term care facility. This inspiring project was made possible thanks to the support and sponsorship of SLDA's Seniors Service Office and the Community Youth Network Labrador Straits.



### SLDA's Senior's Line (Seniors Centre Without Walls)... *Starting Soon*

A telephone-based program that reaches out to seniors in connecting them with their peers through interactive telephone conversation. No computer technology required. *Stay tuned for more details.*

## Paying-it Forward



## ***VOLUNTEER* Age-Friendly Community Committee**

SLDA has collaborated with volunteers from diverse organizations and community groups within the Labrador Straits region to create an advisory committee. The goal is to promote an "Age-Friendly Community" that caters to the needs of all ages. The Committee hosts regular recreation and wellness events open to everyone! Our "Pay-it-Forward" initiative allows our Volunteer members to make a positive impact and influence on the lives of others by spreading kindness to everyone.

If you would like to volunteer for any of our activities, please contact Bonnie, SLDA Seniors Services Officer  
709-931-2675 | seniorservices.slda@gmail.com

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**We are thrilled to share a heartfelt THANK YOU from The Gathering Place for the generous clothing donation received. Your donations are truly appreciated!**



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# Welcoming Communities



*Working together with communities, businesses, organizations and stakeholders for social and economic betterment. Addressing the concerning demographics and working towards strengthening the labour pool to build and maintain a strong local economy here in the Labrador Straits.*

Exciting partnership for social and economic growth in the Labrador Straits Region. Our team is proud to announce that this project is a collaborative effort, with support from the International Grenfell Association, Government of Newfoundland & Labrador, Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, local partners, and the Southern Labrador Development Association.

We are organizing discussion groups and creating focus groups to brainstorm innovative solutions and strategies for addressing various regional challenges. We welcome your input and support.

As we look ahead, the path to social and economic betterment in the Labrador Straits has challenges, yet it is our collective resolve and collaborative efforts that will carry us forward. Let us continue to support each other, embrace our diversity, and invest in the sustainable development of our regional community. Together, we can build a future that honors our past while boldly stepping into the possibilities of tomorrow.

**MONTHLY PHOTO THEME CONTEST**

**April 2024**  
theme:  
**People's Choice**

Capture and share a photo of a local landmark or scenic spot that represents "Why You Live Here"

Share your photo on Facebook  
Include the location and use hashtag **#sldaApril24**

Contest ends April 30, 2024  
\*Submitted photos may be used in upcoming marketing campaigns.

Labrador Straits  
*Welcoming*  
**COMMUNITIES STRATEGY**

*home*

L'ANSE AU CLAIR-FORTEAU-ENGLISH POINT-L'ANSE AMOUR-L'ANSE AU LOUP-CAPSTAN ISLAND-WEST ST. MODESTE-PINWARE-RED BAY



December Theme:  
**'Scenic'**  
Winner:  
Sandra Cabot-O'Dell



February Theme:  
**'Community in Winter'**  
Winner:  
Amanda Fowler



March Theme:  
**'Labrador Swag'**  
Winner:  
Donna O'Brien

# Welcome Baskets/Kits

TO DATE 40 KITS HAVE BEEN DELIVERED TO NEWCOMERS AND RETURNING RESIDENTS



## 'Welcome Baskets/Kits' ready for delivery!

We hope these little welcome kits will help newcomers feel more connected to their new home, reunite with folks returning home and also foster a sense of community and hospitality that connects everyone

Our Welcoming Communities strategy project, in collaboration with the SLDA's Volunteer Age-Friendly Communities Committee, has expanded this initiative. We invite you to contribute your promotional/informational items or discount offers, which we will gladly include in the kits. Also, Kindly let us know of any newcomers or returning residents in the Labrador Straits region.

*'These little kits include welcoming and wayfinding information, promotional items from businesses, municipalities, organizations, along with tourism brochures, and a little token 'made in Labrador'.*

**We are eager to showcase your promotional information in our exclusive Welcome Kits! Connect to learn how you can!**

### **Learn more, connect with:**

Roseann Linstead, Program Manager  
709-699-5665 | rlinstead.slda@outlook.com



## Community 'PARTNERS'

We have been actively engaging with businesses and organizations, discussing the Welcoming Communities Strategy and the benefits of SLDA membership, while creating inclusive and welcoming environments and sparking meaningful conversations and collaborations within the community.







## SLDA - MUN Community Hub Labrador Straits

The Community Hub project offers high-speed internet technology and equipment to individuals and groups. This exciting development provides a wide range of opportunities for continuing education, such as courses in ESL for new Canadians, online safety and protocol, computer software, arts & crafts, and more.

One of the most significant benefits of the Hub is that it's available for students to continue their studies through coursework, research studies, and other college or university-required work. Businesses, organizations, and other groups can also take advantage of virtual meetings and training sessions via the Hub.

*Learn more*, connect with Bonnie Goudie, our Seniors Services Program Officer:  
709-931-2675 | [seniorservices.slda@gmail.com](mailto:seniorservices.slda@gmail.com)



Connecting with our neighbors at the Coasters Association in St. Paul's River, Quebec. Exchanging ideas, and fostering stronger relationships.

## Upcoming Events

**Coffee break**  
 'Grounds for Discussions'  
**Topic:**  
**HEALTHCARE AND TRANSPORTATION**  
 Exploring Creative Solutions  
 Limited spaces available, registration is required  
**Register...**  
 call 709-699-5665  
 or email  
 rlinstead.slda@outlook.com  
**Wednesday**  
**April 24, 2024**  
**10:30am - 12pm**

**April 24, 2024**

**Coffee Break "Grounds for Discussion"**

*Healthcare and Transportation -Exploring Creative Solutions*

E.M. Taylor Resource Centre, Forteau

10:30 am - 12:00 pm

**April 25, 2024**

**SLDA Visit to Town of Red Bay**

*SLDA's Seniors Services AND SLDA Employment Connections & Development staff will be visiting to share about services available.*

Town Hall, 1:00-4:00 pm

**MUSIC AND FRIENDS** EVENT  
 \$2 TICKET \*includes BBQ  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024**  
 TRADITIONAL MUSIC FOR CHILDREN  
 1:30 - 2:30 PM  
 TRADITIONAL DANCE & MUSIC  
 3-5:00 PM  
**BBQ**  
 Location:  
 Lawrence D. O'Brien Town Hall  
 L'Anse Au Loup

**April 27, 2024**

**Music and Friends - Daniel & Stephanie Payne**

Lawrence D. O'Brien Town Hall, L'Anse Au Loup

11:00 am - 12:00 pm



**May 5, 2024**  
**Spring Information Expo**  
AMG Town Hall, L'Anse Au Clair  
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm | Free Event



Southern Labrador Development Association (SLDA) | 32 Main Street, E.M. Taylor Resource Centre, Forteau, A0K 2P0 Canada 709.931.2010

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