



Via email: admin@nlgsarinquiry.ca

22 July 2021

Public Inquiry Respecting Ground Search and Rescue for Lost and Missing Persons
 Ground Floor, East Block, Confederation Building
 100 Prince Philip Drive
 St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Attention: Commission Counsel – Geoffrey Budden

Re: June 2021 - Discussion Paper

Dear Mr. Budden:

After reviewing the entirety of the Discussion Paper prepared by Search and Rescue Consultant Mr. Richard Smith, we have identified several takeaways that we wish to bring to your attention. For organization and clarity purposes, we have created a table below that identifies the relevant page from the Discussion Paper that our question / comment pertains to. Please see the table below:

Applicable Page	Question / Comment
v	The paper references a survey provided on the Inquiry website, but we were not able to locate this survey. Is this survey still active?
1	We would respectfully request further elaboration of the benefits of legislative interoperability?
2	Is it standard to treat all cases as search missions unless it is a confirmed rescue where the latter is not determinable? What is the protocol for deciding whether the function of a mission is search or rescue?
2	In circumstances whereby an incident may occur on solid ice-covered terrain in bays, or inland, would this be considered marine or ground search and rescue?
3	Given the number of agencies involved in the process federally, provincially, and municipally as well as numerous volunteer groups, we believe it may be useful to have a clear, defined, pyramid flow chart illustrating interagency relationships.
3	Does the presence of any volunteer ground search and rescue teams affect the deployment of other search and rescue resources?



3	We believe it would be beneficial to have a section in the paper with respect to discussions between interagency communications and lines of authority / decision making as it pertains to search and rescue operations.
4	Is there a specific funding allotment for Newfoundland and Labrador from the New SAR Initiatives Fund, and how much money has Newfoundland and Labrador received from this fund year by year?
5	Is there a formula or tool available if prioritizing risks that inform decisions becomes a factor?
5	What is the difference if someone, or a group, is primary, secondary, or tertiary to the incident and how is this communicated to those involved?
7	Does any other jurisdiction have formal recruitment processes for volunteers to join search and rescue groups?
8	What has or will be the impact from the reduction in NLSARA membership?
8	How are NLSARA teams established? (i.e. by community, geographically, etc.)
8	Is \$75,000 sufficient funding for the requirements of NLSARA? Are there statistics to compare other provincial government's funding to Newfoundland and Labrador's?
11	Is there data available in reference to respectable response times, and how effective Newfoundland and Labrador is at meeting these targets?
12	What are the training requirements to become a search and rescue volunteer? Is this consistent across all volunteer groups?
17	What practices are completed in isolated areas of the province to overcome the need to modify, adapt, and overcome standard training with local education, training, and knowledge?
17	Has there been consideration of international search and rescue systems? Are there similar numbers of groups involved in other provinces or countries, or is there a more simplistic approach?

Overall, after reviewing the Discussion Paper as a whole, we felt that this was an informative, solid overview of issues to be discussed throughout the Public Inquiry Respecting Ground Search and Rescue for Lost and Missing Persons. If you wish to discuss anything further or would like further clarification on any of the above comments and questions, please let us know.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Thomas E. Williams'.

Thomas E. Williams, Q.C.
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 TEW/mtw