



# Starting a Business in the City of St. John's

**A Guide to**

**Municipal  
Regulations**

ST. JOHN'S



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Municipal Regulations  
January 2026

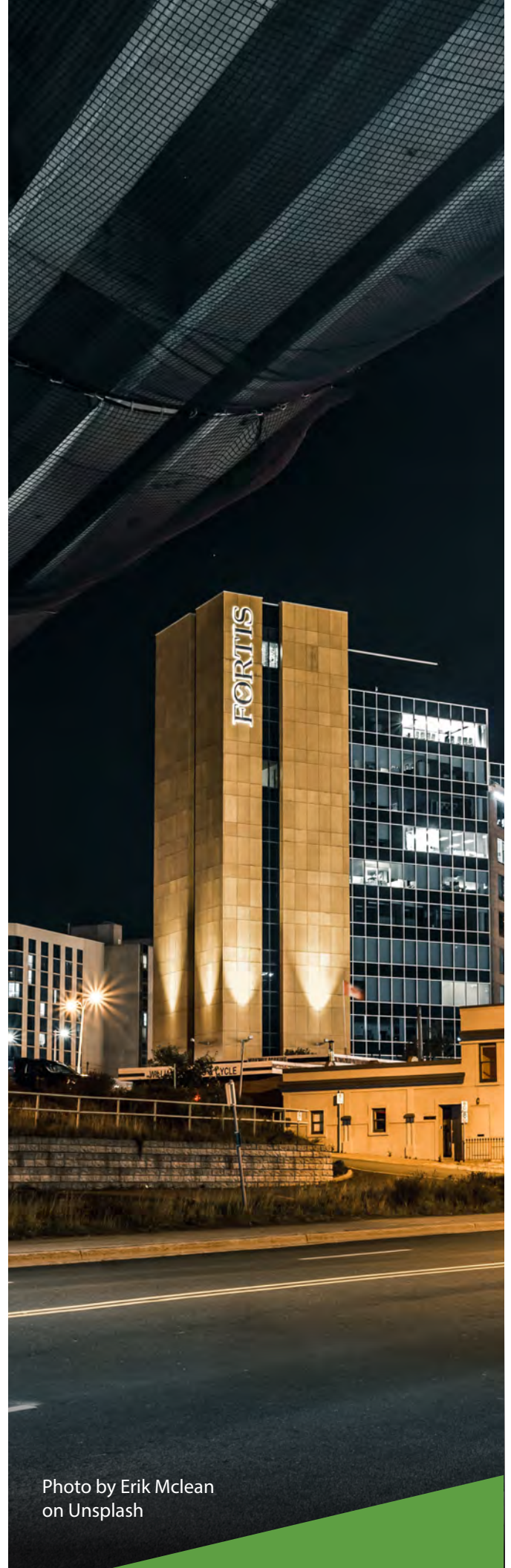


# Legal Disclaimer

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This guide provides a general overview of the regulations, permits, processes, procedures, and taxes as they apply to businesses in the City of St. John's.

The City of St. John's does not guarantee, warrant or make any representations that the information contained herein is the complete authority on regulations, permits, taxes and processes as they apply to business.



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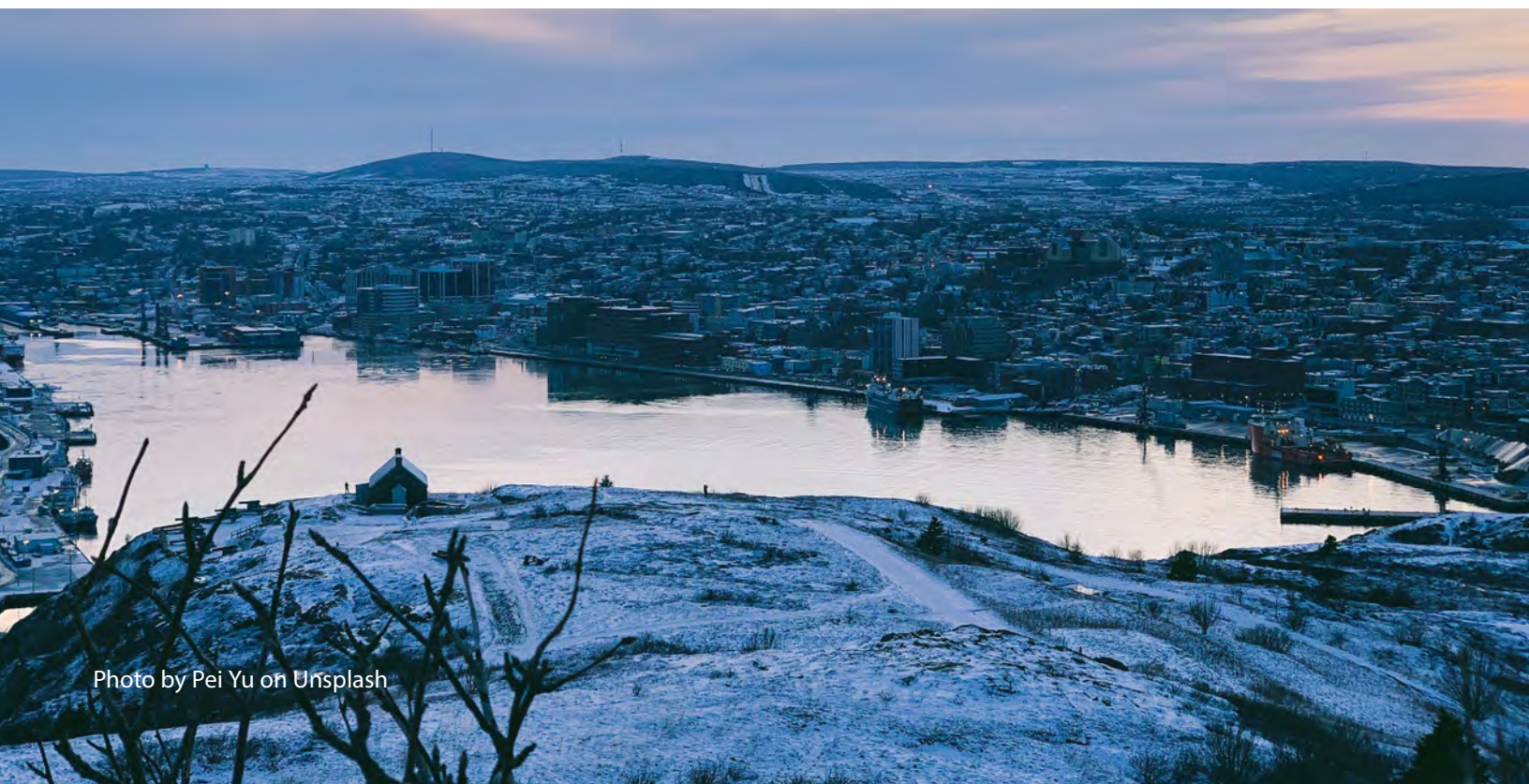
# Introduction

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The City of St. John's is pleased to present the latest edition of the "How to Guide..." Its purpose is to inform you, in a straight-forward manner, about City regulations, permits, taxation and processes respecting the operation of business.

Following an easy-to-use question and answer format, this guide answers the questions:

- What regulations apply to my business?
- What permits do I need to start my business?
- Is my area zoned for my business?
- What will my tax rate be?
- What applications should I fill out to start my business?



# Regulations and Zoning

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## Q: I'm not sure where to start or who to contact about starting a business?

The City of St. John's has a **Business Information Centre** which is located on the 1st floor of 348 Water Street. Individuals can make use of the Centre's walk-in or virtual service from 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday. Staff can guide you to the resources to assist with the preparation of business plans, statistics, market research material and provide information on funding sources. A computer workstation with access to the Internet is available as well as a small reference library. For more information, please consult the City's website at [StJohns.ca](http://StJohns.ca), email [business@stjohns.ca](mailto:business@stjohns.ca) or telephone 709-576-8107.

**BizPaL** is an online service that simplifies the business permit and licence process for entrepreneurs, businesses, and governments. Visit [bizpal.ca](http://bizpal.ca).

## Q: Why does City Hall have regulations governing business?

Regulations are necessary to ensure:

- public safety and health;
- fairness (regulations treat every applicant fairly);
- certainty;
- security.



**Q: What regulations apply to the start-up and operation of my business?**

There are several regulations which the City has adopted that apply to all business types:

- **St. John’s Municipal Plan** and **St. John’s Development Regulations**;
- **St. John’s Building By-Law**;
- **St. John’s Sign-By-Law** and **Heritage Sign By-Law**;
- **Commercial Maintenance By-Law**;
- **St. John’s Electrical By-Law**;
- **National Building Code of Canada**;
- **National Fire Code**;
- **Plumbing By-Law**, and
- the **National Fire Protection Association’s Life Safety Code**.

Depending on the type of business you wish to operate, other jurisdictions at the federal or provincial level may be involved. For example, the Newfoundland and Labrador Liquor Corporation issues **liquor licenses**. **Service NL** processes permits, licences, approvals and conducts inspections on behalf of several provincial government departments. Some of the approvals which fall under the responsibility of Service NL are: **building accessibility**, elevator inspections, and **food establishment licencing**. (see List of Contacts on page 34)

Photo by Jonathan Cooper on Unsplash

**Q: Are there regulations that affect where my business can be located?**

Yes, the **St. John’s Development Regulations** regulate land use and development in St. John’s. Contained in this document are the zoning requirements that govern how a particular land area will be used. Zones (see Glossary page 37) have been established to ensure that only certain land uses or developments can occur in a particular zone.

To establish a business on a particular piece of property, you must be sure that the area is zoned for your business. To find out if the business meets the zoning requirements of your property, you should contact the Department of Planning, Engineering and Regulatory Services (see List of Contacts on page 32). They can assist you in determining the zoning of your property and establish which uses are permitted and which controls apply to the property.



**Q: What do I have to do if my business does not meet the zoning requirements of the property involved?**

A: You may seek an amendment of the pertinent regulation. Before seeking an amendment, however, you should discuss your development with the Department of Planning, Engineering and Regulatory Services.

There are two types of amendments:

**Rezoning:** A change in the zoning of a property to allow a proposed development to proceed. For some rezonings, an amendment to the **St. John’s Municipal Plan** is also required. You must either be the property owner or have the owner’s written permission to seek a rezoning amendment.

**Text Amendment:** A change in the text of the St. John’s Development Regulations to change a standard requirement or regulation.

There is a \$300 fee for an amendment to the **St. John’s Development Regulations** (rezoning or text change). Where a proposed amendment to the St. John’s Development Regulations requires an amendment to the St. John’s Municipal Plan then the additional fee is \$1,800. Planning staff can review the development and advise you of the procedure to be followed in seeking an amendment. Applications for rezoning are site-specific and are often initiated by the applicant

for a specific development. Applications for a text amendment often have a more general effect throughout the city. They may be initiated by a specific applicant or by the City itself.

Some rezoning applications require an amendment to the **St. John’s Municipal Plan**. This must be adopted by Council, reviewed by a Commissioner, and registered by the Provincial Government for the rezoning to occur. The Department of Planning, Engineering and Regulatory Services will advise you if this applies to your specific application.



## Q: Can I meet with City staff to discuss my proposed business development?

Yes, one very important and useful service available to you is the expert advice of the City's **Development Team**. Whether you are ready to make an application or just want to explore a development idea, the team is available to sit down and discuss it with you in an informal and confidential setting.

The **Development Team** is an inter-departmental committee comprised of staff members from the following City departments: Department of Planning, Engineering and Regulatory Services, Legal, and Public Works. Its primary function is to meet with individuals, firms, and developers who wish to make an application to the City for the development of property. The team can provide information on the issues concerning the development of a specific site and the City's requirements for the proposed development. The team will also meet with people who have already made a formal development application and wish to discuss its status in the approval process. Members of the Development Team have arranged their work schedules to allow for one afternoon each week to meet with interested parties.

For further information about the **Development Team** or to arrange a meeting, please contact the Chief Municipal Planner, Department of Planning, Engineering and Regulatory Services. (see List of Contacts on page 32)

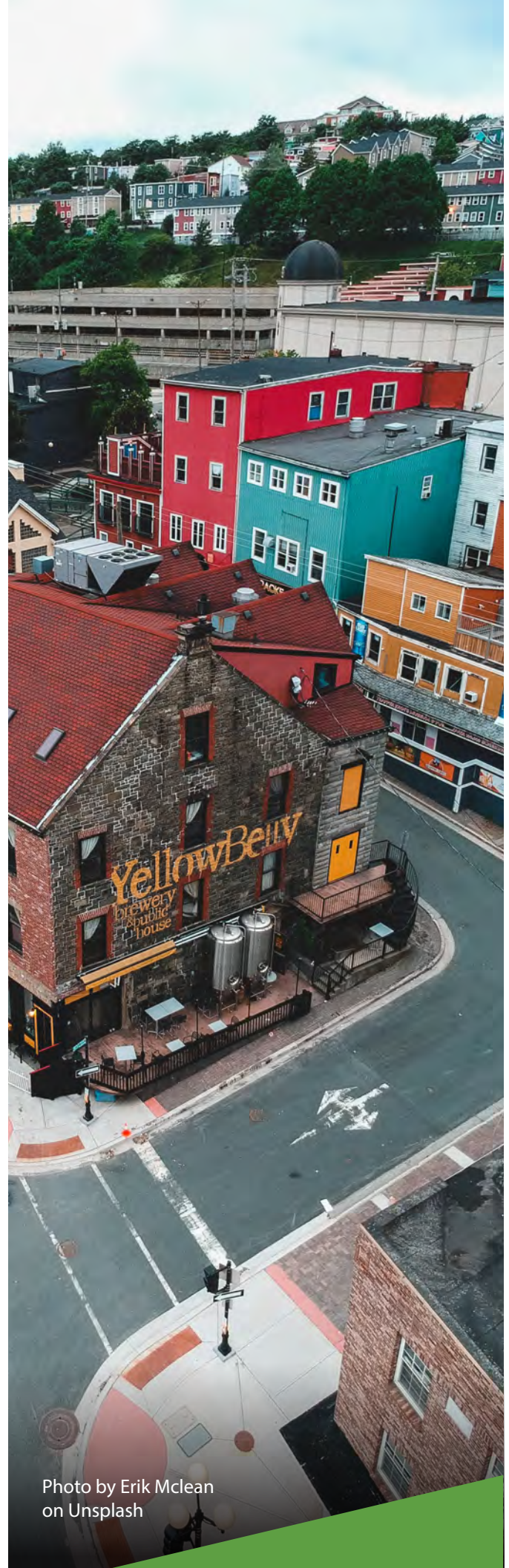


Photo by Erik Mclean  
on Unsplash

# Application Process

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## **Q: Do I have to fill out an application to operate a business in St. John's?**

Yes. Anyone who wishes to operate a business in St. John's must first complete and submit either a **Planning/Development Application**, located in Appendix A or a **Building Permit Application**, located in Appendix B. New construction projects and home occupation businesses should complete the Planning/Development Application and the corresponding **Development Checklist**. For a home office, new business or a change of use in an existing commercial building (referred to as a Change of Occupancy) a completed **Building Permit Application** is required.

## **Q: What documentation must be submitted in addition to my application and Development Checklist?**

You should attach any additional materials, i.e., site drawings, deeds, surveys, floor plans, landscaping, and any other relevant information. Staff can advise you of particular information requirements for individual cases.

## **Q: Where do I submit my applications?**

You must submit your application to the Construction Permit Counter, third floor of the John J. Murphy building (City Hall Annex) for Regulatory Services approval if you are:

- using an existing commercial space or building for business purposes;
- undergoing interior or exterior renovations;
- installing exterior signs;
- erecting accessory buildings or fences or doing other sitework;
- starting a home office.

Prior to making an application to the Construction Permit Counter, the applicant is to contact and discuss the application with City of St. John's Planning Development staff for the following types of applications:

- starting a home-occupation business;
- constructing commercial, industrial or institutional buildings or constructing extensions to these types of buildings;
- changing the type of use of a building if that building is not zoned to allow the proposed use.

If you are unsure which division will process your application a call to either will direct you in the appropriate direction (see List of Contacts on page 32)

**Q: Do I need a permit for mobile vending?**

A permit is required to conduct sales from a table, stand, cart, or vehicle outdoors, on a public street or on private commercial property. Submit to the Building Counter a completed **Mobile Vending Permit Application Form** located in Appendix C. The form is also available on the City’s website [StJohns.ca](http://StJohns.ca) under the heading Business and Investment > Business Licensing.

**Q: Do I need a license to conduct a special sale from a temporary business location?**

Yes. A person or business that does not have a permanent base of operations in St. John’s who wants to sell goods or merchandise temporarily from a premises is required to first obtain a **Transient Dealer’s** license to do so. The license fee is \$517.50. Telephone the Building Inspector-on-Duty at 709-576-8049 or email [permits@stjohns.ca](mailto:permits@stjohns.ca) for additional information.

Examples: Jewelry auctions, hot tub sales or selling of leather goods from a temporary location.

Photo by Jonathan Cooper on Unsplash

**Q: Is there a fee associated with the Planning/Development and Building Permit Applications?**

Yes, the fee is determined by the nature of your application.

Planning and development fees for applications processed under the **St. John’s Development Regulations** range from \$150 to \$300. If a Development Agreement (an application that requires approval from St. John’s Municipal Council) is required, an additional fee of \$200 is payable upon approval. The complete fee schedule can be found in the Building and Development section of [StJohns.ca](http://StJohns.ca) under the heading Planning and Development > Development Regulations. Some of the common application processing fees are as follows:

<b>General Application Fee</b>	\$150
<b>Discretionary Use</b> (see Glossary page 36)	\$300
<b>Extension of Non-Conforming Use</b> (see Glossary page 37)	\$300
<b>Change of Non-Conforming Use</b> (see Glossary page 37)	\$300



Inspection Services fees and rates are as follows:

Permit/License Type	Fee
For all buildings: new construction, additions, alterations, renovations, repairs including accessory buildings and miscellaneous structures	\$9.00 per \$1,000 of construction value (Minimum Permit: \$50.00)
Estimated construction value up to \$100,000 Estimated construction value over \$100,000	\$9.00 per \$1,000 of first \$100,000 \$7.20 per \$1,000 for every \$1,000 after
<b>Permit Renewals</b>	\$50.00
<b>Working without a building permit</b>	Double permit fee
<b>Signs</b> Illuminated Non-illuminated  Mobile signs Mobile sign company license	\$40.00 + 1% of cost of sign \$20.00 + 1% of cost of sign (Minimum Permit: \$50.00) \$48.00 for 6 months \$25 / year
<b>Change of Occupancy Permit</b> (submit Application for Building Permit Form to obtain permit)	\$50.00
Premature Inspection/Call-Back Penalty	\$200.00
<b>Conditional Occupancy Permit</b> (fee will reflect cost of outstanding items)	\$500.00 minimum
<b>Plumbing Permits</b>  For each new fixture installed or roughed-in, include special fixture For each plumbing renovation permit For the connection of existing plumbing system to each City water or sewer service Water Turn On Fee  <b>Plumbing License Fee:</b> Journeyman Plumber Contractor	\$16.80 \$38.40 \$19.20 \$60.00  \$35/year \$220/year

<p><b>Electrical Permits, Minimum Permit Fee</b></p> <p>For all electrical work the fee is based on the total cost of the electrical work being completed as follows:</p> <p>\$2,000 or less</p> <p>\$2,001 to \$5,000 Plus for each \$100 over \$2,000</p> <p>\$5,001 to \$50,000 Plus for each \$100 over \$5,000</p> <p>\$50,000 to \$1,000,000 Plus for each \$100 over \$50,000</p> <p>\$1,000,001 to \$3,000,000 Plus for each \$100 over \$1,000,000</p> <p>Over \$3,000,000 Plus for each \$100 over \$3,000,000</p> <p><b>Electric License Fee:</b> Journeyman Electrician Contractor</p>	<p>\$242</p> <p>\$242</p> <p>\$242 \$2.42</p> <p>\$314.60 \$1.21</p> <p>\$859.10 \$0.94</p> <p>\$9,482 \$0.33</p> <p>\$15,532 \$0.12</p> <p>\$35/year \$220/year</p>
<p><b>Mobile vending Licenses</b> (submit a Mobile Vending Permit application form Appendix C)</p> <p>Table Sales Push Carts/ Motorized Vehicles Bicycles Temporary (1-30 days maximum)</p>	<p>\$250/year \$500/year \$100/year \$250/year (\$200 refundable deposit)</p>
<p><b>Amusement Machine Licenses</b></p> <p>Establishment License (per machine) Operator's License</p>	<p>\$10/year \$500/year</p>
<p><b>Transient Dealers Licenses</b></p>	<p>\$517.50/year</p>
<p><b>Lodging House Licenses</b></p>	<p>\$100/year</p>

**Q: Are permits required to operate a business?**

Various permits are required for the construction, addition, renovation, and repair of commercial buildings. Permits, once issued, allow for the necessary follow-up inspection to ensure that work is undertaken according to the proper code or standard. Pending final approved inspection, you will be issued a certificate of occupancy/permit. For further information visit the **Building and Development** section of [StJohns.ca](http://StJohns.ca).

Depending on the type of business you wish to operate, other jurisdictions, at the federal or provincial level, may be involved. For example, the **Newfoundland and Labrador Liquor Corporation** issues liquor licenses. **Service NL** processes permits, licences, approvals and conducts inspections on behalf of several provincial government departments. Some of the approvals which fall under the responsibility of **Service NL** are: **building accessibility**, elevator inspections, and **food establishment licensing**. (see List of Contacts on page 34 for contact information).

For businesses, to help you determine what documents you need for the different levels of government - municipal, provincial, and federal, please use the **BizPal** Online Business Permits and Licenses Service provided at: [bizpal.ca](http://bizpal.ca)

**Q: Does my commercial development require a professional engineer /architect stamp?**

The **National Building Code of Canada** requires that all new construction, renovations or extensions exceeding 600 m<sup>2</sup> in building area or three storeys in building height must bear the seal and signature of a professional engineer or architect registered in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. Other smaller projects may also be deemed to meet this requirement as determined by the building inspector. For further information on permits and regulations, visit the **Building and Development** section of [StJohns.ca](http://StJohns.ca).

**Q: How does the approval process work and how long does it take?**

For an overview of the approval process please see page 16.

Applicants should allow adequate time for the application process, particularly if other agencies/departments are involved. The length of time involved in processing an application can vary depending on the application and legislation requirements.

# Application Approval Process

**Application submitted to Construction Permit Counter for Development Division approval (include all plans and documentation)**

↓  
Internal Staff Review and Referral to Other Agencies where applicable

↓  
Public Notification (if required)

↓  
Conditional Decision by City Council or Staff

↓  
Approved

↓  
Not Approved

↓  
St. John's Local Board of Appeal (see page 11 for process)

**Application submitted to Construction Permit Counter for Inspection Services approval (include all plans and documentation)**

↓  
Plans Reviewed (Plans are reviewed, and applicant notified of any building code deficiencies and other requirements)

↓  
Revised Plans or Permit issued with Conditions

↓  
Initial Required Approvals (depending on nature of application)

↓  
Permits (building, electrical, plumbing, if required). Permits cannot be issued unless initial required approvals in place.

↓  
**Inspections**  
Applicant/owner/contractor notified of building code deficiencies. Must comply or correct prior to final approval or occupancy.

↓  
Final Approval, Occupancy Certificate (final approvals must be in)

**Q: What if Council/staff does not approve my application?**

If Council or authorized staff do not approve your application, you have the right to appeal the decision to the St. John’s Local Board of Appeal. However, an appeal can only be initiated if the rejection of the application is made under the St. John’s Development Regulations. The appeal must be submitted to the Secretary of the Appeal Board within fifteen (15) calendar days from the date on which the decision was made or the date the appropriate staff decision appears in the Council agenda.

The **St. John’s Development Regulations** stipulate that the Appeal Board must meet to hear an appeal no later than 30 calendar days after the appeal has been filed. The regulations also state that the Appeal Board must return a decision, in writing, to both you, as the Appellant, and the City within fourteen (14) calendar days of hearing the appeal. **Appeal Application Forms** can be obtained at [StJohns.ca](http://StJohns.ca) or from the following department:

Office of the City Clerk,  
4th Floor, St. John’s City Hall

There is a \$115 fee for appeals to the St. John’s Local Board of Appeal (refunded where appeal is successful).

**Q: Where can I get additional information about the approval and appeal processes?**

Additional information can be obtained from the **Office of the City Clerk** (see List of Contacts on page 33) or from the Planning division [planning@stjohns.ca](mailto:planning@stjohns.ca).

# Assessment & Taxation

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## **Q: Will my business be taxed?**

If you are leasing the space for your business you will not pay commercial tax to the City of St. John's.

If you are the owner of commercial property in St. John's, you will pay a flat property-based tax called Commercial Realty Tax.

For tax information related to home-based business refer to page 24. Additional information pertaining to assessments and taxation can be obtained from the City of St. John's **Assessment** Division, the **Taxation** Division or at [StJohns.ca](http://StJohns.ca).

## **Q: Are there any special requirements if my commercial property is located in the downtown Business Improvement Area (BIA)?**

If your commercial property is located in the downtown BIA (see Glossary page 36) 0.8 of a mil has been added to the commercial mil-rate (Levy).

## **Q: Are there any special requirements if I plan to operate an accommodation business?**

An Accommodation Tax (known as the **Tourism Marketing Levy**) applies to any person who for a daily charge stays in a room in St. John's which is licensed under the provincial **Tourism Establishment Act**. The Accommodation Tax is 4 per cent of the purchase price of the accommodation before HST. A Quarterly Accommodation Tax report is required to be remitted showing the total room revenue and the amount of the levy being remitted. The report can be **completed and submitted electronically** or the application form (Appendix E) can be found in the Business and Investment section of [StJohns.ca](http://StJohns.ca) under the heading Accommodation Tax. Have any further questions?

Email: [accommodationtax@stjohns.ca](mailto:accommodationtax@stjohns.ca).

## **Q: How is Commercial Realty Tax for commercial properties calculated?**

An assessment process is used to evaluate property for the purpose of calculating taxes. Commercial Realty Taxes are calculated as a percentage of the total assessed value of the property.

## **Q: How does the assessment process work for commercial property owners?**

For assessment and taxation, the City of St. John's must determine the market value of all properties within the City as of a single date, known as the base date. This base date is in effect for two taxation years. The base date for 2024 and 2025 assessment notices is January 1, 2022.

Market Value is the most probable price which would be paid, as of a specified date, for a property that has been exposed in a competitive market with a buyer and seller each acting prudently, knowledgeably and for self-interest, assuming that neither is under duress.

Assessors will determine the market value of every property as of this date. This means your assessment is a retrospective or historical value, not the current value. When reviewing your assessment notice it is important to remember this represents what the property was worth as of January 1, 2022 - not what the property is worth today.

To determine the market value an assessor will use a combination of three different approaches, which are outlined below:

### **The Direct Comparison Approach**

This is the most common valuation approach. We analyze sales of comparable properties near or on the base date.

### **The Income Approach**

An income-producing property's ability to earn revenue is tied to its market value. We do a detailed analysis of a property's income and expenses and then compare that to similar properties. This helps us to determine how much income a property can generate. We analyze the relationship between income and sale prices to calculate the capitalization rate (cap rate) for the property by dividing the income by the sale price.

### **The Cost Approach**

We calculate the cost to replace buildings, structures or other taxable components. We then apply deductions for depreciation due to age, and functional or economic conditions. The value of the land is then determined and added to the depreciated replacement cost to produce an estimate of market value.

**Q: As a commercial property owner, what happens if I have vacant space in my building?**

The City of St. John's has designed a **Commercial Property Tax Allowance Claim** to ensure property owners are not penalized if they have vacant property. Vacancy allowances are based on the leasable area of your property. For example, if an entire property is vacant and being actively marketed you could claim a vacancy allowance for 50 per cent of the total Commercial Realty Tax for the period of the vacancy. To apply for the Commercial Property Tax Allowance Claim commercial property owners must submit the Commercial Property Tax Allowance Claim **form** found in Appendix D. For further information please email [taxation@stjohns.ca](mailto:taxation@stjohns.ca).

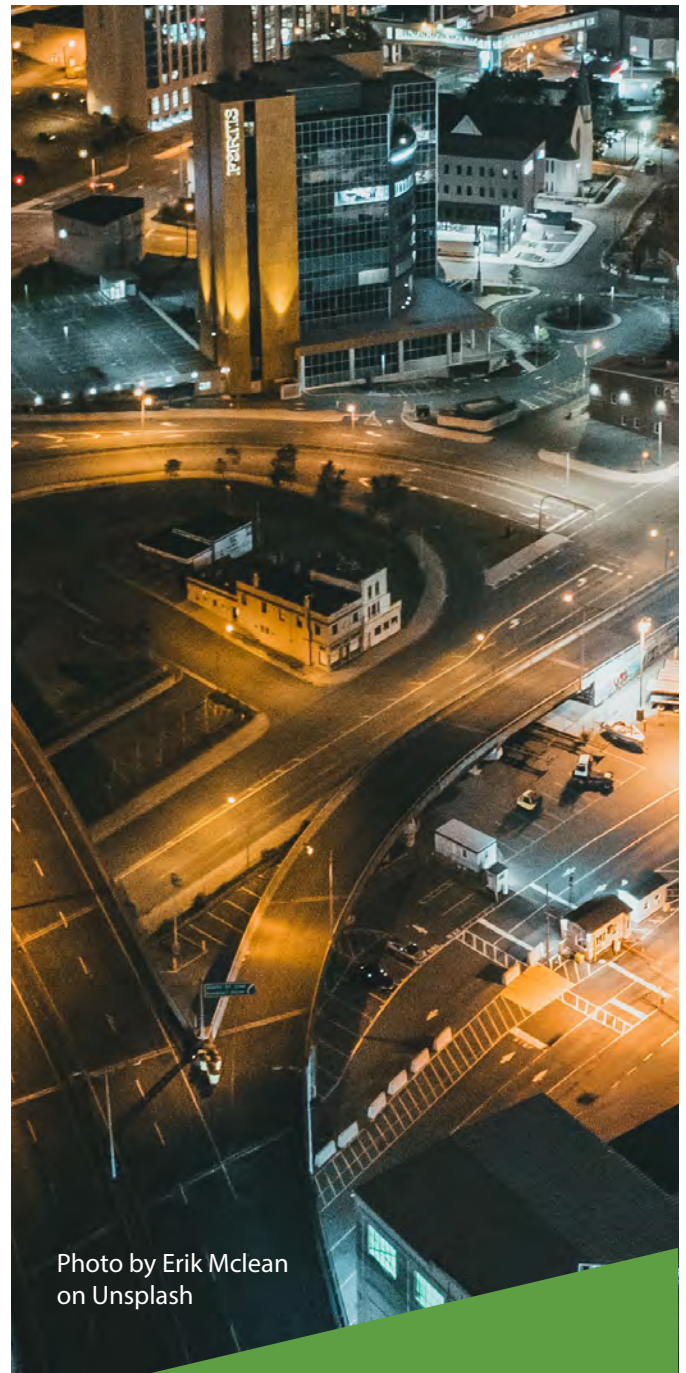
**Q: How often are commercial property assessments conducted for the calculation of the Commercial Realty Tax?**

As of 2022 all property assessments will be in effect for two years, rather than three.

**Q: What are the commercial and realty tax rates that I will have to pay?**

The following table outlines taxes, rates and fees levied by the City of St. John's for 2025.

Tax rates are commonly referred to as mil rates, a mil (see Glossary page 36) is equal to \$1 in property tax levied per \$1,000 of a property's assessed value.



<b>Tax</b>	<b>Rate/Fee</b>
<b>Commercial Realty</b>	
With water & sewer services	29.5 mills
With either water or sewer service	29.0 mills
Without water & sewer services	28.5 mills
Vacant land	14.75 mills
Utility Tax	2.5% - gross revenue
Premature Inspection/Call-Back Penalty	\$200.00
<b>Accommodation Tax</b>	4% of the amount charged on lodging
<b>Business Improvement Area (BIA) levy</b> Downtown Development Area only*	0.8 of a mil added to the commercial mil rate (Levy)
<b>Water Rates</b> (per unit per year)	
Residential	\$700.00
Commercial	\$700.00
<b>Water Meter Rates</b>	
Monthly consumption rates	
Per 1,000 gallons	\$7.07
Per cubic metre	\$1.55
Monthly base charge:	
5/8" meter	\$ 29.30
3/4" meter	\$ 44.02
1" meter	\$ 73.28
1½" meter	\$ 146.47
2" meter	\$ 233.65
3" meter	\$ 467.76
4" meter	\$ 747.72
6" meter	\$1,461.52
8" meter	\$2,337.76
10" meter	\$3,359.44

**Source: Revenue Accounting Division, City of St. John's**

Notes \*A levy collected from commercial property owners located in the downtown area, by the City of St. John's, on behalf of Downtown St. John's. (see Glossary page 36)

# Sample Tax Calculations

(for illustrative purposes only)

## Commercial Realty Tax

Applicable to commercial property owners. Calculated based on a specific formula. For the most general cases the following formula is used:

$$\text{Assessed Value of Property} \times \text{Mil Rate} = \text{Annual Tax Amount}$$

For example, if a property is assessed at a value of \$500,000 and the applicable mil rate is 29.5 or 2.95%, the annual tax amount would be \$14,750.

$$\$500,000 \times .0295 = \$14,750$$

Therefore, a mil rate of 29.5 represents \$29.50 for every \$1,000 of assessed property value.



**Q: How often do I pay commercial realty taxes and is there a penalty for late payment?**

Taxes are payable quarterly in arrears, which means you would pay for January through March in April. There is a late payment interest rate of 1.25% per month, compounded. Commercial water tax is also billed quarterly.

**Q: Can my business be exempt from any taxes?**

Section 8 of the City of St. John’s **Municipal Taxation Act** outlines the properties that are or may be exempt from property taxes. For example, registered charities that own their own building are exempt from Commercial Realty Tax and only pay Water Tax on their property. Commercial property owners that lease to a registered charity can claim a tax allowance for the space occupied by the charity. Additional exemptions are available through the **St. John’s Real Property Tax Exemption By-Law** and include daycares and seasonal businesses. To apply for the allowance commercial property owners must submit the Commercial Property Tax Allowance Claim **form** which can be found in Appendix D.

It should be noted that mobile vendors, e.g., “fish-and-chip” vans and tables operated at a flea market, are not assessed and therefore do not pay taxes. However, they do pay permit fees.

**Q: Where can I get additional information about assessments and taxation?**

Additional information pertaining to assessments and taxation can be obtained from the City of St. John’s **Assessment Division** and the **Taxation Division** (see List of Contacts on pages 32 and 33).



# Home-Based Business

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## Q: Can I operate a business out of my home?

Yes, under certain conditions. City Council has defined two home-based business types: Home Offices and Home Occupations.

### Home Office

A home office means a secondary use of a dwelling unit to conduct a business activity, which is for 'Office Uses Only'. The guiding principles in the designation of a Home Office are as follows:

- does not involve the visitation of clients;
- must be operated by a resident of the dwelling;
- will not employ persons who do not reside in the dwelling;
- will not require signage;
- must be located in the dwelling itself, not an accessory building;
- does not require modifications and is limited to a maximum floor area of 20 m<sup>2</sup> (215 ft<sup>2</sup>);
- does not involve the wholesale or retail sale of goods;
- does not involve interior or exterior storage or display of goods, materials or equipment.

Examples of Home Offices include administration for electrical contractor, cleaning company (no storage of equipment on site), online-only consulting for engineer, designer, architect, etc., and online-only sales of products (no storage of product on site).

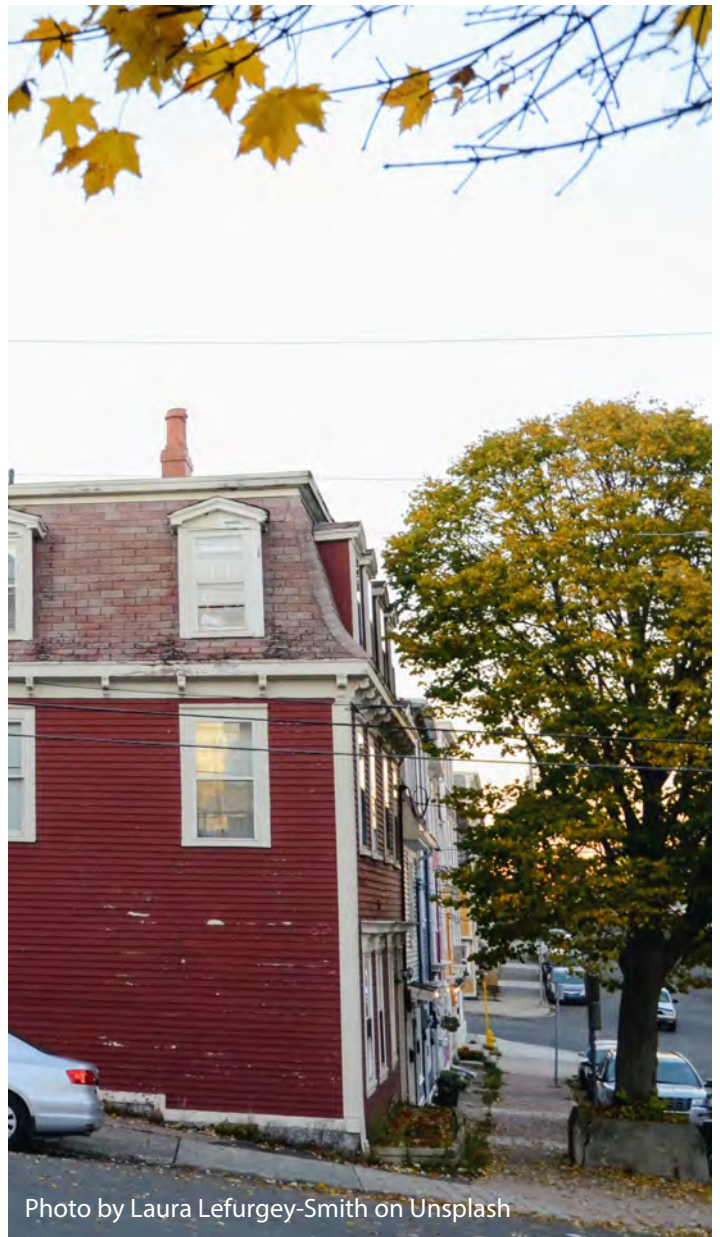


Photo by Laura Lefurgey-Smith on Unsplash

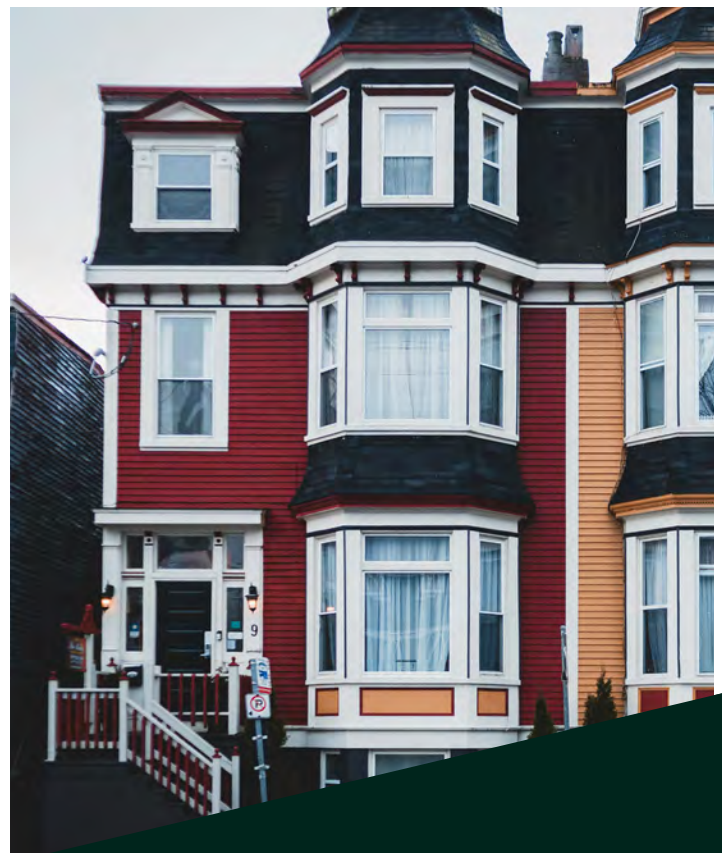
## Home Occupation

A home occupation means a secondary use of a dwelling unit to operate a gainful occupation or business activity that is more intense than the office use of a desk, computer and phone, and can involve clients visiting the home. The guiding principles in the designation of a Home Occupation are as follows:

- is of a size and type that does not conflict with the residential character of an area;
- draws clients/customers to visit the site;
- must be operated by a resident of the dwelling;
- can employ a maximum of two (2) non-resident persons in addition to the resident.
- There are no limits placed on the number of staff employed, provided they reside in the same dwelling as the Home Occupation;
- cannot exceed 25% of the floor area of the dwelling or 45 m<sup>2</sup> (484 ft<sup>2</sup>) whichever is less;
- must be located in the dwelling itself, however, in certain designated rural zones the use of an accessory building may be considered for approval;
- can involve incidental retail sales provided they are subsidiary to the approved use (e.g., the sales of a craft product made on site);
- does not involve the wholesale sale or storage of goods;

- does not involve exterior storage or display of goods;
- allows signage but it is limited to a single non-illuminated sign not to exceed 2800 cm<sup>2</sup> (approximately 18" x 24" or 434 in<sup>2</sup>) in size that is attached to the building;
- requires public notification.

Examples of Home Occupations include hair salon, wedding consultant, dance or music lessons, pet grooming, food preparation for delivery or pickup, creation of products in the home for sale (e.g. screen printing, crafts), and selling Epicure, Mary Kay, Scentsy, etc. from your home if there are people visiting your home to pick up products that you've sold, or if you are storing products on site.



**Q: Do I have to fill out an application for a Home Office or Home Occupation?**

Yes, a **Building Permit Application** must be completed and submitted to the Construction Permit Counter for approval of a Home Office. A Home Office is considered a Permitted Use (see Glossary page 36) and can be approved at the staff level. A **Planning/Development Application** must be completed and submitted to the Department of Planning, Engineering and Regulatory Services for approval of a Home Occupation. A Home Occupation is considered a Discretionary Use (see Glossary page 36) and may be permitted by the St. John's Municipal Council subject to special conditions or controls.

If the applicant is not the homeowner, then the homeowner's authorization signature must be obtained before the application can be officially accepted for processing. Along with the completed Applications

the applicant must include the associated Home Office or Home Occupation **Development Checklist**. The Development Checklists can be found in the Living in St. John's section of [StJohns.ca](http://StJohns.ca) under the heading City Services > Planning and Development. The forms must include the following:

- information on the type of Home Office or Home Occupation proposed;
- the amount of space to be occupied;
- the hours of operation;
- the number of employees proposed for the operation of the business;
- a drawing or sketch identifying the portion of the dwelling to be used for the Home Office or Home Occupation must accompany the application.

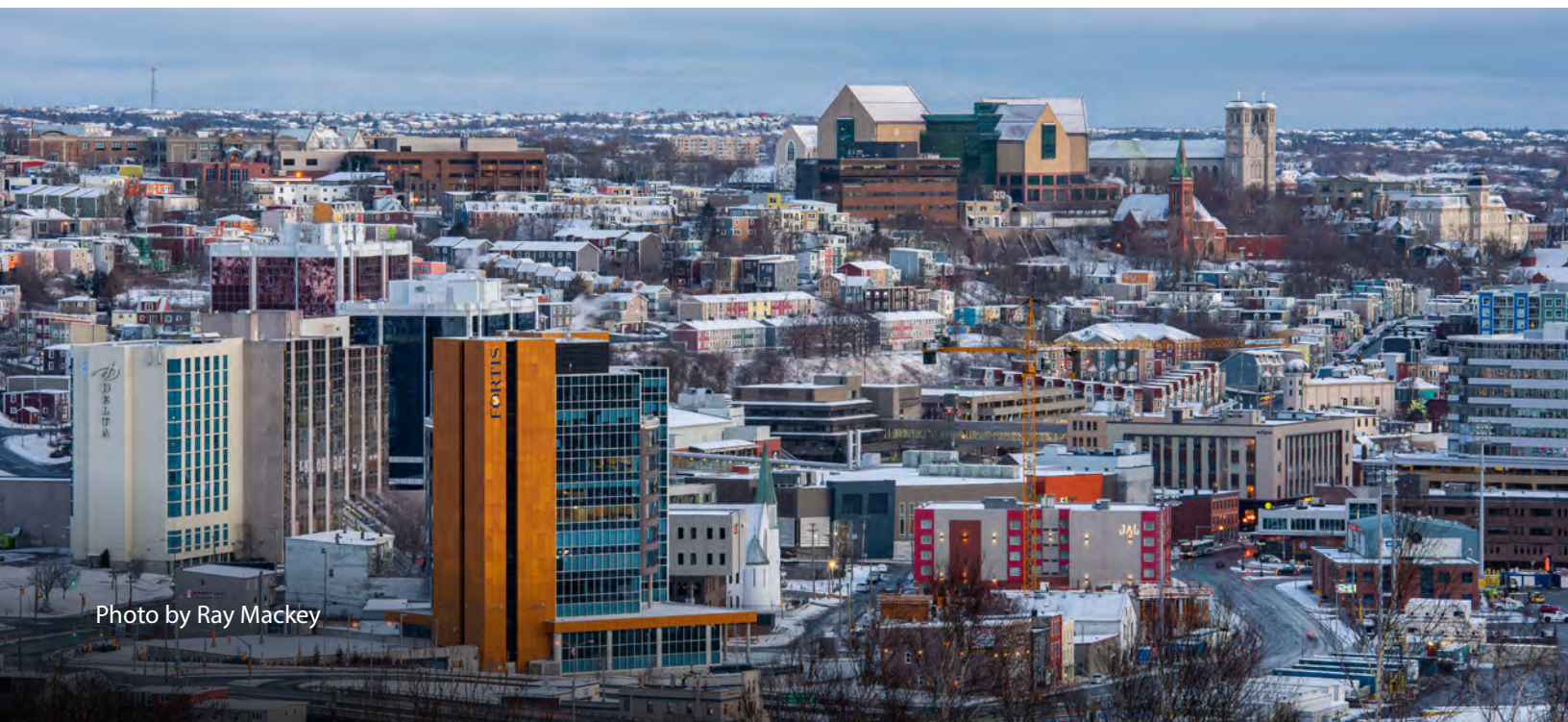


Photo by Ray Mackey

**Q: How is the application for a Home Office processed?**

The application for a Home Office is processed directly with the Inspection Services Division as a Home Office is a Permitted Use in most residential zones and does not require Planning and Development approval. If all requirements have been met, then an occupancy permit (\$50) will be issued for the Home Office. For further information, email [permits@stjohns.ca](mailto:permits@stjohns.ca).

Should an application not be approved, the Applicant has the right to appeal the decision to the St. John’s Local Board of Appeal (see page 17).

**Q: How is the application for a Home Occupation processed?**

After the application for a Home Occupation has been accepted for processing by the Development Division, it will be reviewed against the requirements of the [St. John’s Development Regulations](#). If the application meets these requirements, then staff will proceed with public notification. The City will advertise the application in the local newspaper and distribute written notices to property owners within a minimum 150 metre radius of the application site. The newspaper and written notices are intended to inform the public that an application for a Home Occupation has been received, provide details of the application, and allow an opportunity for public input.

Council has the discretion of calling a Public Meeting to allow for further public input on the application. Should a Public Meeting be required, properties within a 150 metre radius of the application site will again be notified in writing and notification of the Public Meeting will appear in the local daily newspaper.

If the application is approved by Council, the Applicant will be required to enter into a Development Agreement with the City of St. John’s and pay a \$200 registration fee. The Development Agreement establishes the terms of Council’s approval and is to be signed by both the Applicant and the City Clerk within six (6) months of the date of Council’s approval of the application.

Once the Development Agreement is signed, the Application, along with all required plans, will be reviewed by Inspection Services staff at the Construction Permit Counter in reference to the National Building Code and to ensure that all other required approvals are in place.

If an application is not approved by Council, the Applicant has the right to appeal the decision to the St. John’s Local Board of Appeal (see page 17).

**Q: Is there a fee associated with the application for a Home Office or Home Occupation??**

A Home Office application, once approved, has a \$50 Change of Occupancy Permit fee.

A Home Occupation application, requires a \$300 Discretionary Use application fee (non-refundable). If the application is approved by Council, there is an additional \$200 registration fee for the required Development Agreement, in addition, to the final Occupancy Permit fee of \$50 for a total of \$550.

**Q: How long does the approval process take?**

The amount of time involved in processing an application for a Home Office, from acceptance of a completed application form to a decision by staff, is approximately one (1) week. The amount of time involved for processing an application for a Home Occupation, from acceptance of a completed application form, to a decision by Council, is approximately one (1) month.

**Q: Will my tax rates be different if I operate my business out of my home?**

If your business occupies less than 25 per cent of the area of your home then you will not pay any Commercial Realty Tax and will pay 100 per cent Residential Realty Tax. If your business uses more than 25 per cent of the area of your home it will be considered a mixed use property and charged an appropriate percentage of Residential Realty and Commercial Realty Taxes. A Water Tax is also applied at the residential rate of \$670.00 per unit per annum.

**Q: Where can I get additional information about assessment and taxes for Home Based Business?**

Additional information pertaining to assessments and taxation can be obtained from the City of St. John's [Assessment Division](#) and the [Revenue Accounting/ Taxation Division](#) (see List of Contacts on pages 32 and 33).



Photo by Erik Mclean on Unsplash

# Sample Start-Up Scenario

This scenario is provided to demonstrate how municipal processes, regulations and fees apply to business start-up in the City of St. John's. The process followed by the fictional business described below is applicable only under the circumstances outlined. This scenario is therefore not indicative of the requirements for every business. A business owner should refer to the various sections of this Guide to determine which processes, regulations and fees might apply to their business.

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Mr. Smith is establishing a convenience store in the Ropewalk Lane area of St. John's. The store will occupy a 4,000 ft<sup>2</sup> space in a commercial building with 10,000 ft<sup>2</sup> of leaseable area. The space was previously used as a retail shoe store. The commercial building is assessed at a value of \$500,000. Mr. Smith does not own the building but is leasing the space. He is not undertaking any major renovations however, he is installing an illuminated, exterior 3 x 5 sign.

## **Q: Is Mr. Smith required to submit an application to establish his business in the City of St. John's?**

Yes, since Mr. Smith is going to be operating a business in St. John's and undertaking sign changes he is required to submit a **Building Permit Application** for a Change of Occupancy (Appendix B).

## **Q: Where will Mr. Smith's applications be processed and what fees will he pay?**

Mr. Smith's application would be submitted to the Construction Permit Counter, third floor of the John J. Murphy building (City Hall Annex). Included with the application Mr. Smith should attach a drawing of the sign. The sign permit cost, as per fee schedule on page 13, will be \$40 plus 1% of the cost of the sign (minimum permit fee is \$50). In addition, a \$50 Change of Occupancy permit fee applies.

Since Mr. Smith is leasing the space, he will not pay taxes to the City of St. John's.

From a City perspective, Mr. Smith has completed all requirements of establishing a business in St. John's. However, there may be provincial and federal regulations which Mr. Smith must comply with. He should visit [bizpal.ca](http://bizpal.ca) or contact the following:

### **Government of Canada (Federal)**

For federal government taxation policy and tax related business information regarding such topics as corporate income tax for small business, HST, payroll deductions, sole proprietorships and partnerships, and tax credits please visit:

[www.canada.ca/en/services/taxes.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/services/taxes.html)

### **Government of Newfoundland and Labrador (Provincial)**

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador administers a number of taxes and offers several tax credits, incentives and benefit programs for business:

- Department of Finance  
[fin.gov.nl.ca/fin](http://fin.gov.nl.ca/fin)
- Industry, Energy and Technology  
[gov.nl.ca/iet](http://gov.nl.ca/iet)
- Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation  
[gov.nl.ca/tcar](http://gov.nl.ca/tcar)
- Commercial Registrations Division, Service NL [www.gov.nl.ca/dgsnl/registries/companies/](http://www.gov.nl.ca/dgsnl/registries/companies/)
- Digital Government and Service NL  
[gov.nl.ca/dgsnl](http://gov.nl.ca/dgsnl)
- Workplace NL [workplacenl.ca](http://workplacenl.ca)



# Additional Information

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## **Q: Does City Hall provide any financial assistance for business start-up?**

The City does not provide any form of financial assistance for business start up. However, staff at the St. John's Business Information Centre (contact information located below) can help identify funding programs offered by other agencies.

## **Q: Does the City of St. John's provide any assistance to businesses?**

Yes, Business Information Centre staff can assist you in navigating the regulatory process and connect you to the right programs, resources and contacts through email, virtual appointment or in person at 348 Water Street. Individuals can make use of the Centres' walk-in service from 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday. Some of the business services available include:

- Monthly **Economic Snapshot** newsletter;
- Connections to business and financing resources;
- Research, economic data, and customized demographic profiles;
- Introductions to the right partners in the ecosystem;
- Business directories;
- Regulatory / permit / tax information.

For more information please consult the City's website at [StJohns.ca](http://StJohns.ca), email [business@stjohns.ca](mailto:business@stjohns.ca) or telephone 709-576-8107.

## **Q: Where can I find permit and licence information at the municipal, provincial and federal levels?**

**BizPaL** is an online service that simplifies the business permit and licence process for entrepreneurs, businesses, governments, and third-party business service providers. Users simply answer a series of questions on their type of business and BizPaL will automatically generate a list of permits and licences from all levels of government (federal, provincial, territorial and municipal), with basic information on each, as well as links to government sites where users can learn more and, in some cases, apply online at [bizpal.ca](http://bizpal.ca).

# List of Contacts

## City of St. John's

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### **City Hall**

St. John's City Hall is located at 10 New Gower Street in downtown St. John's. The John J. Murphy building (City Hall Annex) is located at 30 George Street. The St. John's Business Information Centre is located nearby at 348 Water Street next to the Post Office. Free visitor parking for a one-hour period is available in the City Hall parking garage off New Gower Street. Paid parking is available on many surrounding streets. Several Metrobus routes serve the downtown and stop near City Hall. City Hall is wheelchair accessible. It is open weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except on public holidays.

### **St. John's Business Information Centre, Tourism, Culture and Business Growth Department of Community Services**

City of St. John's  
348 Water Street  
P.O. Box 908  
St. John's, NL A1C 5M2  
Telephone: 709-576-8107  
Email: [business@stjohns.ca](mailto:business@stjohns.ca)  
Web: [StJohns.ca](http://StJohns.ca)  
Contact: Business & Research Officer

### **Assessment Division, Finance and Administration**

City of St. John's  
244 Freshwater Road  
P.O. Box 908  
St. John's, NL A1C 5M2  
Telephone: 709-576-8929  
Email: [assessment@stjohns.ca](mailto:assessment@stjohns.ca)  
Contact: Manager of Assessments

### **Access St. John's**

City of St. John's  
City Hall, 10 New Gower Street  
P.O. Box 908  
St. John's, NL A1C 5M2  
Telephone: 311 or 709-754-2489  
Email: [access@stjohns.ca](mailto:access@stjohns.ca)  
Contact: Manager, Citizen Services

### **Regulatory Services Division, Department of Planning, Engineering and Regulatory Services**

City of St. John's  
Third Floor, City Hall Annex  
30 George St., P.O. Box 908  
St. John's, NL A1C 5M2  
Telephone: 709-576-8049  
Email: [permits@stjohns.ca](mailto:permits@stjohns.ca)  
Contact: Building Inspector on Duty

**Development Division, Department of Planning, Engineering and Regulatory Services**

City of St. John's  
Fourth Floor, City Hall Annex  
P.O. Box 908  
St. John's, NL A1C 5M2  
Telephone: 709-576-6192 / 8220  
Email: [planning@stjohns.ca](mailto:planning@stjohns.ca)  
Contact: Development Officer  
(or) Chief Municipal Planner

**Secretary of St. John's Local Board of Appeal, Office of the City Clerk**

City of St. John's  
Fourth Floor, City Hall  
P.O. Box 908  
St. John's, NL A1C 5M2  
Telephone: 709-576-8429  
Email: [cityclerk@stjohns.ca](mailto:cityclerk@stjohns.ca)

**Revenue Accounting/Taxation Division, Finance and Administration**

City of St. John's  
City Hall  
P.O. Box 908  
St. John's, NL A1C 5M2  
Telephone: 709-576-8251  
Email: [taxation@stjohns.ca](mailto:taxation@stjohns.ca)  
Contact: Manager, Revenue Accounting

**Legal Services, Office of the City Solicitor**

City of St. John's  
City Hall  
30 George St., P. O. Box 908  
St. John's, NL A1C 5M2  
Telephone: 709-576-6107  
Facsimile: 709-576-8561  
Email: [legal@stjohns.ca](mailto:legal@stjohns.ca)  
Contact: City Solicitor

# List of Contacts

## Other Agencies

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**Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA)**

John Cabot Building, 10 Barter's Hill  
P.O. Box 1060, Station C  
St. John's, NL A1C 5M5  
Telephone: 1-800-668-1010  
Web: [www.canada.ca/en/atlantic-canada-opportunities.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/atlantic-canada-opportunities.html)

**ACOA Business Information Services**

Telephone: 1-888-576-4444  
Email: [bis-sie@acoa-apeca.gc.ca](mailto:bis-sie@acoa-apeca.gc.ca)  
Web: [canada.ca/en/atlantic-canada-opportunities/services/business-information-services.html](http://canada.ca/en/atlantic-canada-opportunities/services/business-information-services.html)

**Business Development Bank of Canada**

Atlantic Place, 215 Water Street  
St. John's, NL A1C 5K4  
Telephone: 709-772-4398  
Web: [bdc.ca](http://bdc.ca)

**Department of Mines and Energy**

Government of Newfoundland & Labrador  
West Block, Confederation Building,  
P. O. Box 8700  
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6  
Telephone: 709-729-5600  
Web: [gov.nl.ca/iet](http://gov.nl.ca/iet)

### **Canada Revenue Agency**

P.O. Box 12075  
St. John's, NL A1B 4R5  
Telephone: 1-800-959-5525  
Web: [canada.ca/en/services/taxes](http://canada.ca/en/services/taxes)

### **FuturPreneur**

Telephone: 709-769-1205  
Toll free: 1-800-464-2923  
Email: [sandrews@futurpreneur.ca](mailto:sandrews@futurpreneur.ca)  
Web: [futurpreneur.ca](http://futurpreneur.ca)

### **Genesis Innovation Hub**

100 Signal Hill Road, Suite 0100  
St. John's, NL A1A 1B3  
Email: [info@genesiscentre.ca](mailto:info@genesiscentre.ca)  
Web: [genesiscentre.ca](http://genesiscentre.ca)

### **Metro Business Opportunities (MBO)**

151 Crosbie Rd Suite 401,  
St. John's, NL A1B 4B4  
Telephone: 709-738-1626  
Web: [mboc.ca](http://mboc.ca)

### **Newfoundland Labrador Liquor Corporation**

85 O'Leary Avenue  
St. John's, NL A1B 3V1  
Telephone: 709-724-2238  
Web: [nliquor.com](http://nliquor.com)

### **Newfoundland and Labrador Organization of Women Entrepreneurs**

58 Glencoe Drive, suite 102  
Mount Pearl, NL A1N 4S9  
Telephone: 709-754-5555  
Web: [www.nlowe.org](http://www.nlowe.org)

### **Horizon TNL - Bilingual Economic Development Network of NL**

151 Crosbie Rd Suite 402  
St. John's (TNL) A1B 4B4  
Telephone: 709-757-2858  
Web: [www.horizontnl.ca](http://www.horizontnl.ca)

### **Registry of Companies**

Government of Newfoundland & Labrador  
59 Elizabeth Avenue  
P. O. Box 8700  
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6  
Telephone: 709-729-3317  
Facsimile: 709-729-0232  
Email: [snlregistryofdeeds@gov.nl.ca](mailto:snlregistryofdeeds@gov.nl.ca)  
Web: [servicenl.gov.nl.ca/registries](http://servicenl.gov.nl.ca/registries)

### **Government Services**

Government of Newfoundland & Labrador  
149 Smallwood Drive, Mount Pearl  
P. O. Box 8700  
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6  
Telephone: 709-729-3699  
Facsimile: 709-729-2071  
Web: [gov.nl.ca/dgsnl](http://gov.nl.ca/dgsnl)

## **Workplace NL**

146 -148 Forest Road

P.O. Box 9000

St. John's, NL A1A 3B8

Telephone: 709-778-1000

Web: [workplacnl.ca](http://workplacnl.ca)

## **YMCA Employment and Enterprise Services**

35 Ridge Road

P.O. Box 21291

St. John's, NL A1A 5G6

Telephone: 709-726-9662

Email: [enterprise@nl.ymca.ca](mailto:enterprise@nl.ymca.ca)

Web: [ymcanl.com](http://ymcanl.com)



# Glossary

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## **Business Improvement Area:**

In 1989 the City passed the **BIA By-Law** establishing the Downtown St. John's Business Improvement Area (BIA). This area is bounded by Temperance Street in the east to Springdale Street in the west; the Waterfront to New Gower Street; Queen's Road and Duckworth Street. For commercial property owners located in the BIA 0.8 of a mill will be added to the commercial mil-rate (Levy).

## **Commercial Realty Tax:**

Municipal tax applied to the owner of property in which commercial operations exist.

## **Development:**

The carrying out of any building, engineering, mining, or other operation in, on, over or under land, as well as the making of any material change in the use or the intensity of use of any land, building or premises.

## **Discretionary Use:**

A use which may be permitted at Council's discretion, subject to special conditions or controls.

## **Home Occupation:**

A secondary use of a Dwelling Unit and/or its Accessory Buildings by at least one of the residents of such Dwelling Unit to conduct a gainful occupation or business activity.

## **Home Office:**

A secondary use of a Dwelling Unit by at least one of its residents to conduct a gainful occupation or business activity restricted to office uses which do not involve visitation of clients to the site and no employment of non-residents.

## **Incidental Retail Sales:**

Retail sales of a product from the place where the product is made. A retail shop is not permitted as a Home Occupation; however, limited retail sales of a product are permitted as long as they are incidental and subsidiary to the approved use.

## **Mil:**

This represents \$1 for every \$1,000 of assessed value on property. It is used to calculate the property tax rate for residential and commercial properties. For example, a tax rate of 10 mils is equal to 1% of the property value.

## **St. John's Municipal Plan:**

A formal Council document setting out policies on land use and development. It is adopted and approved by Council and registered by the Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs under authority of the Urban and Rural Planning Act. The **St. John's Development Regulations** implement the policies of the St. John's Municipal Plan.

**Non-Conforming Use:**

A use of land or a building which existed before the coming into force of the St. John's Development Regulations though such use is not now permitted in the zone in which it is located.

**Permitted Use:**

The legal use of land or buildings in conformity with the St. John's Development Regulations, as set forth in the schedule of "Permitted Uses and Zone Requirements" under Section 10.

**Zone (or Land-use Zone) :**

A geographic area of land including buildings and water, drawn on the zoning map, within which there are particular permitted uses, discretionary uses, and development standards. There are residential, commercial, industrial, rural and other zones.

These definitions are provided for information purposes only. The legally binding definitions are set out in the **St. John's Development Regulations** and associated documents.

This guide was prepared by the City's **Tourism, Culture and Business Growth** division with the assistance of the **Department of Planning, Engineering and Regulatory Services**, the **Department of Finance and Administration**, and the **Legal Department**.

To ensure the highest quality information, we welcome your comments or suggestions regarding the guide. Please forward any comments to:

**Tourism, Culture & Business Growth,  
Community Services****City of St. John's**

348 Water Street

City of St. John's

P. O. Box 908

St. John's, NL A1C 5M2

Telephone: 709-576-8107

Email: [business@stjohns.ca](mailto:business@stjohns.ca)Web: [StJohns.ca](http://StJohns.ca)

ST. JOHN'S

## **Appendix A**

<b>ST. JOHN'S</b>	<b>PERS – Planning/Development Application</b>	<b>Planning, Engineering &amp; Regulatory Services</b>
	Planning/Development Application	

Internal Use	<b>SECTION 1</b>
--------------	------------------

Application Number \_\_\_\_\_ PID # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Staff Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date Received \_\_\_\_\_

Property Information	<b>SECTION 2</b>
----------------------	------------------

Civic Number/Street Name \_\_\_\_\_

Property Owner Contact Information	<b>SECTION 3</b>
------------------------------------	------------------

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Name of property owner must match that listed on the City of St. John's Assessment Roll

Application Type	<b>SECTION 4</b>
------------------	------------------

Commercial (or other Development with a parking lot)	Discretionary Use	Non-Conforming
Daycare Centre	Home Office*	Subdivision (extension of infrastructure - roads/services)
Daycare (Dwelling)	Home Occupation	Lot Approval / Subdivision / Consolidation
New Dwelling/Vacant Lot/Rebuild	Rezoning (Municipal Plan/Development Regulations)	Other (No checklist required)

**Checklist for each application type must be submitted.**

\* Home Office – Development Application is not required. The Home Office checklist must be submitted with the Application for Building Permit to the Building Counter.



Multi-Purpose Built Rentals Incentives:

- The City of St. John's entered a Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) Agreement with the commitment to provide incentives to encourage the development of, or conversion to, Multi-Unit Purpose Built Rentals housing projects (PBR). PBR projects are defined as: "Attached multi-unit housing of at least four (4) private dwelling units (with private kitchen, bathroom, and living area[s] for each dwelling unit) built specifically for long-term rental tenure." This will apply to redevelopment projects.
- Eligible applicants/projects include approved projects between August 01, 2024, and December 31, 2026, with at least 75% of the dwelling units designated for long-term residential rental accommodation. This incentive will allow for the exemption of permit fees that include: Building Permit, Plumbing Permit, Electrical Permit, and Development Application and Development Permit Fees. \*\*\*Development Agreement and Appeal Fees are not subject to exemption. Eligible fee exemptions apply only to projects approved. Approved projects must be completed with an occupancy permit issued by December 31, 2027, failing which any exempted fees will become immediately payable by the applicant.
- Applicants are advised that applications will be assessed on a first come first serve basis until December 31, 2026, or until funds have been exhausted, whichever occurs first.

I would like to apply for the HAF Waiver of Fee Program for my Approved Building Project

I hereby submit this application and confirm that the information supplied is, to the best of my knowledge, correct. I agree to comply with all City Regulations & By-Laws, agree to develop in accordance with the plans approved by the City of St. John's and not to commence development without applicable written approval and permits from the City of St. John's. In addition, I acknowledge that I have reviewed this application and agree to provide any additional information requested and to pay all applicable fees as noted on the City's fee schedule ([www.stjohns.ca](http://www.stjohns.ca)). To view these fees, please click on the link below that pertains to your application:

[Planning and Development Fee Schedule](#)

**Note:** Where the applicant and property owner are not the same, the signature of the property owner is required before the application can be accepted for processing.

Applicant Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date (yyyy-mm-dd) \_\_\_\_\_

Property Owner Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date (yyyy-mm-dd) \_\_\_\_\_



Collection of Personal information via this form is authorized under the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015 and is needed to process your Planning/Development Application. Questions about the collection and use of the information may be directed to the Supervisor of Planning and Development by email: [planning@stjohns.ca](mailto:planning@stjohns.ca) or by phone 709-576-8220.

Please send completed form to:

Inspection Services  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Annex  
10 New Gower Street  
P.O. Box 908  
St. John's NL A1C 5M2

Email: [permits@stjohns.ca](mailto:permits@stjohns.ca)  
Fax: 709-576-8160  
Call: 709-576-8565

ST. JOHN'S

## **Appendix B**

<b>ST. JOHN'S</b>	<b>PERS – Application for Building Permit</b>	<b>Planning, Engineering &amp; Regulatory Services</b>
Application for Building Permit		

Internal Use Only	<b>SECTION 1</b>
-------------------	------------------

Application Number _____ Property Class _____ Structural Type _____
Application Set Up Information _____

Project Information	<b>SECTION 2</b>
---------------------	------------------

Civic Address _____ Lot # _____
Business Name _____ Project Value Estimate (\$) _____ (if applicable)

Purpose of Application	<b>SECTION 3</b>
------------------------	------------------

New Construction	Extension/Addition	Renovation/Alteration
Demolition	Change of Occupancy	Repair
<b>Each new construction project requires the submission of a separate application form</b>		

Application Type	<b>SECTION 4</b>
------------------	------------------

Dwelling	Apartment/Secondary Suite	Commercial Building
Patio/Deck	Fence	Accessory Building
Pool/Hot Tub	Site Work/Driveway	Sign
Wood Stove/Fireplace	Home Office	Other (describe below)

Detailed Description of Proposed work:

Owner Contact Information	<b>SECTION 5</b>
---------------------------	------------------

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: Name of property owner must match that listed on the City of St. John’s Assessment Roll**

Applicant Contact Information (if different from owner)	<b>SECTION 6</b>
---	------------------

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Contractor/Consultant Contact Information (Optional)	<b>SECTION 7</b>
--	------------------

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF)	<b>SECTION 8</b>
--------------------------------	------------------

**Multi-Purpose Built Rentals Incentives:**

- The City of St. John's entered a Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) Agreement with the commitment to provide incentives to encourage the development of, or conversion to, Multi-Unit Purpose Built Rentals housing projects (PBR). PBR projects are defined as: “Attached multi-unit housing of at least four (4) private dwelling units (with private kitchen, bathroom, and living area[s] for each dwelling unit) built specifically for long-term rental tenure.” This will apply to redevelopment projects.
- Eligible applicants/projects include approved projects between August 01, 2024, and December 31, 2026, with at least 75% of the dwelling units designated for long-term residential rental accommodation. This incentive will allow for the exemption of permit fees that include: Building Permit, Plumbing Permit, Electrical Permit, and Development Application and Development Permit Fees. \*\*\*Development Agreement and Appeal Fees are not subject to exemption. Eligible fee exemptions apply only to projects approved. Approved projects must be completed with an occupancy permit issued by December 31, 2027, failing which any exempted fees will become immediately payable by the applicant.

- Applicants are advised that applications will be assessed on a first come first serve basis until December 31, 2026, or until funds have been exhausted, whichever occurs first.

I would like to apply for the Multi-Purpose Built Rental for my Approved Building Project.

I hereby submit this application and confirm that the information supplied is, to the best of my knowledge, correct. I agree to comply with all City Regulations & By-Laws, agree to develop in accordance with the plans approved by the City of St. John's and not to commence development without applicable written approval and permits from the City of St. John's. In addition, I acknowledge that I have reviewed this application and agree to provide any additional information requested and to pay all applicable fees as noted on the City's fee schedule ([www.stjohns.ca](http://www.stjohns.ca)). To view these fees, please click on the link below that pertains to your application:

[Inspection Services Fees and Rates](#)

**Note: Where the applicant and property owner are not the same, the signature of the property owner is required before the application can be accepted for processing.**

Applicant Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date (yyyy-mm-dd) \_\_\_\_\_

Property Owner Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date (yyyy-mm-dd) \_\_\_\_\_

Staff Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date (yyyy-mm-dd) \_\_\_\_\_

Collection of Personal information via this form is authorized under the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015 and is needed to process your Permit Application. Questions about the collection and use of the information may be directed to the Manager of the Regulatory Services Division, by email: [building@stjohns.ca](mailto:building@stjohns.ca) or by phone 709-576-8565.

Please send completed form to:


Inspection Services  
 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Annex  
 10 New Gower Street  
 P.O. Box 908  
 St. John's, NL A1C 5M2

For further information:

Phone: 709-576-8565  
 Fax: 709-576-8160  
 Email: [permits@stjohns.ca](mailto:permits@stjohns.ca)

ST. JOHN'S

## **Appendix C**

	<b>PERS – Mobile Vending License Application</b>	<b>Planning, Engineering &amp; Regulatory Services</b>
	Mobile Vending License Application	

Contact Information (to be completed by the applicant)	SECTION 1
Trade Name _____	
Legal Business Name _____	
Applicant Name _____	
Mailing Address _____ Postal Code _____	
Owner's Name (if different than applicant) _____	
Telephone (Daytime) _____ Email _____	

Vending Unit Information	SECTION 2
<p><b><u>Note: one application required per vending unit.</u></b></p> <p>Is this a renewal of a previous License?:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes      <input type="checkbox"/> No      If yes, provide license number _____         </p> <p>Type:      Annual      Temporary      Transient Dealer's License</p> <p>Description of mobile vending unit (e.g. cart, stand, motor vehicle)          (A detailed description indicating exact dimensions and/or photograph(s) must be attached.)</p> <p>Proposed location of vending business</p> <p>Propose storage location (approved commercial storage space is available for carts, bikes, vehicles, etc.)</p>	

<b>PERS – Mobile Vending License Application</b>	<b>Planning, Engineering &amp; Regulatory Services</b>			
Attachments	<b>SECTION 3</b>			
<p>The following information must accompany this application (missing information may result in delays):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provincial Food Preparation Licence issued by the Government of NL</li> <li>Approval from the St. John's Regional Fire Department (units containing a cooking apparatus)</li> <li>Proof of insurance</li> <li>Vehicle registration if applicable</li> <li>Permission letter from property owner if operating on private property</li> </ul> <p>Applicable fees (licensing period: May 1<sup>st</sup> - April 30<sup>th</sup>) must be paid prior to issuing the license.</p> <p>For additional information please see the St. John's Mobile Vending By-Law:  <a href="http://stjohns.ca">By-Laws And Regulations (stjohns.ca)</a></p>				
Privacy Statement	<b>SECTION 4</b>			
<p>Collection of Personal information via this form is authorized under the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015 and is needed to process your Mobile Vending License Application. Questions about the collection and use of the information may be directed to the Manager of the Regulatory Services Division, by email: <a href="mailto:building@stjohns.ca">building@stjohns.ca</a> or by phone 709-576-8565.</p>				
Declaration of Applicant	<b>SECTION 5</b>			
<p>I hereby acknowledge that I read this application and state that the information contained herein is correct.</p> <p>Signature of Applicant _____ Date(yyyy-mm-dd) _____</p> <p>Signature of Business Owner _____ Date(yyyy-mm-dd) _____</p>				
<table border="0"> <tr> <td data-bbox="66 1564 568 1837">Please submit completed application to:</td> <td data-bbox="568 1564 1104 1837">           Access St. John's            10 New Gower Street            P.O. Box 908            St. John's, NL A1C 5M2 or            Email: <a href="mailto:access@stjohns.ca">access@stjohns.ca</a> </td> <td data-bbox="1104 1564 1567 1837">           For more information, contact:            Email: <a href="mailto:access@stjohns.ca">access@stjohns.ca</a>            Fax: 709-576-8160            Call: 709-576-8565         </td> </tr> </table>		Please submit completed application to:	Access St. John's 10 New Gower Street P.O. Box 908 St. John's, NL A1C 5M2 or Email: <a href="mailto:access@stjohns.ca">access@stjohns.ca</a>	For more information, contact: Email: <a href="mailto:access@stjohns.ca">access@stjohns.ca</a> Fax: 709-576-8160 Call: 709-576-8565
Please submit completed application to:	Access St. John's 10 New Gower Street P.O. Box 908 St. John's, NL A1C 5M2 or Email: <a href="mailto:access@stjohns.ca">access@stjohns.ca</a>	For more information, contact: Email: <a href="mailto:access@stjohns.ca">access@stjohns.ca</a> Fax: 709-576-8160 Call: 709-576-8565		

ST. JOHN'S

## **Appendix D**

<b>ST. JOHN'S</b>	<b>FCS – Commercial Property Tax Allowance Claim</b>	<b>Finance and Corporate Services</b>
	Commercial Property Tax Allowance Claim	

<b>Property Details</b>	<b>SECTION 1</b>
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- If a property has more than one allowance claim, each claim must be submitted separately.
- Claims will only be accepted for the current quarter and the quarter immediately preceding.
- Each claim must be for the entire calendar quarter.

Civic Address of Property \_\_\_\_\_

Account # \_\_\_\_\_

Owner's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Contact Information</b>	<b>SECTION 2</b>
----------------------------	------------------

Authorized Representative Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone 2 \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Note: If the Authorized Representative is different from the property owner, this form must be signed by both parties.

<b>Commercial Property Tax Allowance Claim Periods</b>	<b>SECTION 3</b>
--	------------------

Commercial Property Tax Allowance claims are accepted 4 times per year:

1st Quarter – January 1 to March 31 - Commercial Property Tax Allowance Claim Period  
Forms and Documentation are accepted from April 1 – 30.

2nd Quarter – April 1 to June 30 - Commercial Property Tax Allowance Claim Period  
Forms and Documentation are accepted from July 1 – 31.

3rd Quarter – July 1 to September 30 - Commercial Property Tax Allowance Claim Period  
Forms and Documentation are accepted from October 1 – 31.

4th Quarter – October 1 to December 31 - Commercial Property Tax Allowance Claim Period  
Forms and Documentation are accepted from January 1 – 31.

Claims for current quarter not submitted during the claim period must be submitted the following claim period.

Claims will only be accepted for the current quarter and the quarter immediately preceding.

Please Indicate the Quarter Being Claimed

1st Quarter – January 1 to March 31

2nd Quarter – April 1 to June 30

3rd Quarter – July 1 to September 30

4th Quarter – October 1 to December 31

Unit/Suite Number (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Total Leasable Area \_\_\_\_\_ sq. feet      sq. meters      Area Claimed \_\_\_\_\_

Occupant Name (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Allowance Type	Sub-Type
Unoccupied Space	No Tenant (must be actively seeking tenant) <b>Include documentation showing it was marketed for rent or being made ready to rent.</b> Examples: copy of advertisement, copy of real-estate listing agreement, active building permit.
Delinquency – Claim permitted for one quarter only	Tenant Bankruptcy ( <b>must submit copy of bankruptcy claim</b> )  Tenant Not Paying any Rent – <b>Provide documentation showing collection efforts made to recover rent.</b>
Seasonal	Annual Closing of a Seasonal Business (maximum six months). <b>Documentation indicating the operating dates of the business which could include: print media, brochure or website information are required.</b>
Exemption	Day Care – <b>Copy of Daycare License Required</b>  City of St. John’s Tenant  Provincial Government Tenant – <b>Copy of Lease Required</b>  Charitable Organization <b>Charity Reg. # Required</b>

All required information must be attached to the allowance claim form. If not, paperwork which has been submitted will not be processed and will be returned to the property owner or the authorized representative. Claim forms will have to be re-submitted before the claim period closes with required information in order to be processed.

Commercial Property Tax Allowance Claims are governed by the City of St. John’s Municipal Taxation Act, SNL 2006 c.C-17.1, as amended and the Commercial Property Tax By-Law. It is the property owner’s responsibility to review the applicable legislation and review all claim submissions for accuracy and completeness.



As per the Commercial Property Tax By-Law, the application for vacancy relief shall be submitted to the City within 30 days of the last day of each quarter of the taxation year. A taxpayer who fails to file an application for vacancy relief within the time specified shall be deemed to have filed a nil vacancy relief claim for such quarter. Claims for current quarter not submitted during the claim period must be submitted the following claim period. Claims will only be accepted for the current quarter and the quarter immediately preceding.

**Declaration**

**SECTION 5**

**NOTE – Required Signatures**

- Claim submitted by property owner – signature of property owner mandatory.
- Claim submitted by authorized representative – signature of authorized representative AND property owner mandatory for the first claim submission. Once an authorized representative is appointed by the property owner the City will accept the signature of the authorized representative only, unless otherwise notified by the property owner.

I hereby submit this claim and confirm that the information supplied is, to the best of my knowledge, correct. In addition, I acknowledge that I have reviewed this claim and agree to provide any additional information as requested by the City of St. John’s.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Property Owner Name/Title  
(please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date (yyyy-mm-dd)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Representative  
Name/Title (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date (yyyy-mm-dd)

Are you selling your commercial property? If so, please ensure claims for vacancy allowance for the immediately preceding quarter are up to date. In the event of a sale, it is the responsibility of the owner to adjust for vacancy allowance upon closing with the purchaser for the current quarter. Claims for current quarter must be claimed by purchaser with written confirmation from Lawyers that the claim was adjusted at sale closing.

**Privacy Notice**

**SECTION 6**

Collection of personal information via this form is authorized under the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015 and is needed for the purpose of processing your claim. Questions about the collection and use of the information may be directed to the Manager of the Revenue Accounting Division by phone at 709-576-8251.

Please send completed form to:

Revenue Accounting  
1<sup>st</sup> floor city Hall, P.O. Box 908  
10 New Gower Street  
St. John’s, NL A1C 5M2

For further information:  
Phone: 709-576-8251  
Email: [taxation@stjohns.ca](mailto:taxation@stjohns.ca)  
Fax: 709-576-8162



NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR, CANADA

ST. JOHN'S

## **Appendix E**



**ACCOMMODATION TAX:**

20.(1) The Council may impose a tax to be known as the “accommodation tax” upon a person who, for a daily charge, fee or remuneration is accommodated, lodges or stays in a room in a building in the city which is

- (a) Licensed under the Tourist Establishments Act; or
  - (b) Owned by the Memorial University of Newfoundland.
- (2) A tax imposed under subsection (1) shall be not more than 4% of the amount charged for the accommodation, lodging or stay referred to in that subsection.
- (3) Subsections (1) and (2) shall not apply to
- (a) A person who pays for accommodation, lodging or a stay in a room for which the daily charge or remuneration is not more than \$20;
  - (b) A student who is accommodated, lodges or stays in a room in a building referred to in paragraph (1)(b) or (c) while he or she is registered at and attending a post-secondary educational institution; and
  - (c) A person who is accommodated, lodges or stays in a room for more than 30 consecutive days

For more information:

Email: [accommodationtax@stjohns.ca](mailto:accommodationtax@stjohns.ca)

Telephone: 709-576-1022 Financial Services

Send completed forms to:

[accommodationtax@stjohns.ca](mailto:accommodationtax@stjohns.ca)

**ST. JOHN'S**

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ST. JOHN'S