

Starting a business in the City of St. John's?

A Guide to Municipal Regulations



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A Guide to Municipal Regulations

October 2022

LEGAL DISCLAIMER

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

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 & 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?

35th Edition

Regulations and Zoning

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

A: The City of St. John's has a <u>Business Information Centre</u> 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 <u>www.stjohns.ca</u>, email <u>business@stjohns.ca</u> or telephone 709-576-8107.

<u>BizPaL</u>is an online service that simplifies the business permit and licence process for entrepreneurs, businesses, and governments. Visit <u>www.bizpal.ca</u>.

Q: Why does City Hall have regulations governing business?

- **A:** 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?

- A: There are several regulations which the City has adopted that apply to all business types:
 - <u>St. John's Municipal Plan</u> and <u>St. John's Development Regulations;</u>
 - <u>St. John's Building By-Law</u>;
 - <u>St. John's Sign-By-Law</u> and <u>Heritage Sign By-Law;</u>
 - <u>St. John's Commercial Maintenance By-Law;</u>
 - <u>St. John's Electrical By-Law;</u>
 - <u>National Building Code of Canada;</u>



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- National Fire Code;
- <u>St. John's Plumbing By-Law</u>, 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. <u>Service NL</u> 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: <u>building accessibility</u>, elevator inspections, and <u>food establishment licencing</u>. (see List of Contacts on page 23 for contact information).

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

A: Yes, the <u>St. John's Development Regulations</u> 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 26) 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 23). 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 <u>St. John's Municipal Plan</u> is also required. You must either be the property owner or have the owner's written permission to seek a rezoning amendment.



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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 <u>St. John's Development Regulations</u> (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 <u>St. John's Municipal Plan</u>. 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?

A: Yes, one very important and useful service available to you is the expert advice of the City's <u>Development Team</u>. 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 <u>Development Team</u> 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 <u>Development Team</u> or to arrange a meeting, please contact the Chief Municipal Planner, Department of Planning, Engineering and Regulatory Services. (see List of Contacts on page 24).



Application Process

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

A: Yes. Anyone who wishes to operate a business in St. John's must first complete and submit either a <u>Planning/Development Application</u>, located in Appendix A or a <u>Building Permit Application</u>, located in Appendix B. New construction projects and home-occupation businesses should complete the Planning/Development Application and the corresponding <u>Development Checklist</u>. 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 <u>Building Permit Application</u> is required.

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

A: 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?

- A: You must submit your application to the <u>Construction Permit Counter</u>, 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 <u>Construction Permit Counter</u>, 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.



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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 24).

Q: Do I need a permit for mobile vending?

A: 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 <u>Mobile Vending Permit</u> Application Form located in Appendix C. The form is also available on the City's website <u>www.stjohns.ca</u> under the heading Living in St. John's > Forms and Applications > Licensing.

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

A: 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 <u>Transient Dealer's</u> license to do so. The license fee is \$517.50. Telephone the Building Inspector-on-Duty at 709-576-8049 or email <u>permits@stjohns.ca</u> for additional information.

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

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

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

Planning and development fees for applications processed under the <u>St. John's</u> <u>Development Regulations</u> 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 Living in St. John's section of <u>www.stjohns.ca</u> under the heading City Services, Planning and Development. Some of the common application processing fees are as follows:

- General Application Fee
- Discretionary Use
- Extension of Non-Conforming Use
- Change of Non-Conforming Use

\$150 \$300 (see Glossary page 26) \$300 (see Glossary page 27)

\$300 (see Glossary page 27)

Inspection Services fees and rates are as follows:

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Journeyman Plumber Contractor\$220/yearElectrical Permits, Minimum Permit Fee\$242For all electrical work the fee is based on the total cost of the electrical work being completed as follows:\$2,000 or less\$2,000 or less\$242	Rhumbing Liconso Foot	¢954
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Electrical Permits, Minimum Permit Fee\$242For all electrical work the fee is based on the total cost of the electrical work being completed as follows:\$2,000 or less\$2,000 or less\$242	•	\$220/year
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cost of the electrical work being completed as follows:\$2,000 or less\$242		
follows: \$2,000 or less \$242		
	• •	
	\$2.000 or less	\$242
	\$2,001 to \$5,000	\$242

Plus for each \$100 over \$2,000	\$2.42
\$5,001 to \$50,000	\$314.60
Plus for each \$100 over \$5,000	\$1.21
\$50,000 to \$1,000,000	\$859.10
Plus for each \$100 over \$50,000	\$0.94
\$1,000,001 to \$3,000,000	\$9,482
Plus for each \$100 over \$1,000,000	\$0.33
Over \$3,000,000	\$15,532
Plus for each \$100 over \$3,000,000	\$0.12
Electric License Fee:	
Journeyman Electrician	\$35/year
Contractor	\$220/year
Mobile vending Licenses (submit a Mobile	
Vending Permit application form Appendix B)	
Table Sales	\$250/year
Push Carts/ Motorized Vehicles	\$500/year
Bicycles	\$100/year
Temporary (1-30 days maximum)	\$250/year (\$200 refundable deposit)
Amusement Machine Licenses	
Establishment License (per machine)	\$10/year
Operator's License	\$500/year
Transient Dealers Licenses	\$517.50/year
Lodging House Licenses	\$100/year

Q: Are permits required to operate a business?

A: 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 <u>Permits and Regulations</u> section of Doing Business at <u>www.stjohns.ca</u>.

Depending on the type of business you wish to operate, other jurisdictions, at the federal or provincial level, may be involved. For example, the <u>Newfoundland and Labrador Liquor</u> <u>Corporation</u> issues liquor licenses. <u>Service NL</u> processes permits, licences, approvals and conducts inspections on behalf of several provincial government departments. Some of the approvals which fall under the responsibility of <u>Service NL</u> are: <u>building accessibility</u>, elevator inspections, and <u>food establishment licensing</u>. (see List of Contacts on page 26 for contact information).

Starting a Business in the City of St. John's: A Guide to Municipal Regulations

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

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

A: The <u>National Building Code of Canada</u> requires that all new construction, renovations or extensions exceeding 600 m2 in building area or three storeys in building height must bear the seal and signature of a <u>professional engineer or architect</u> 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 <u>permits</u> and regulations, visit the Doing Business section of <u>www.stjohns.ca</u> under the heading Starting or Operating a Business.

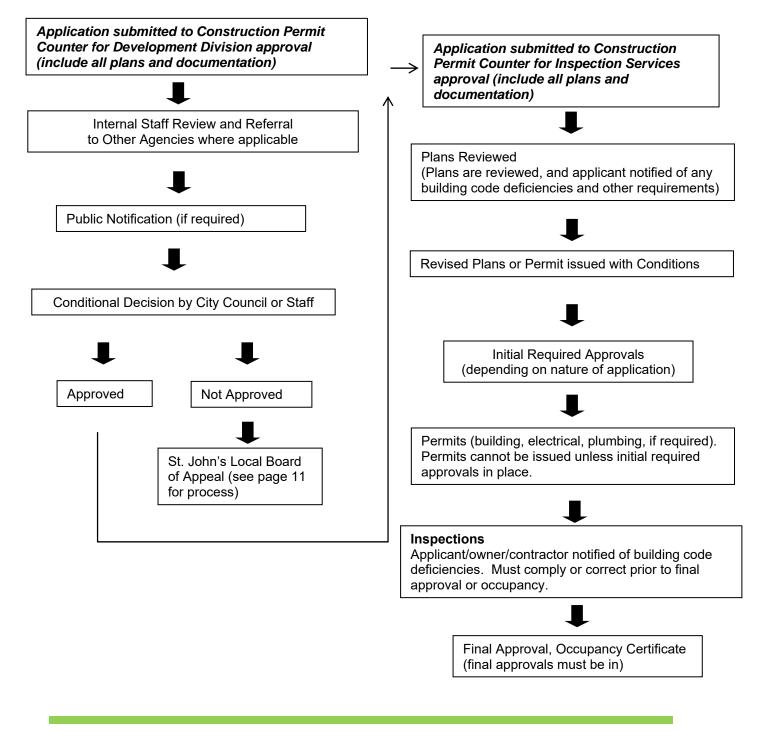
Q: How does the approval process work and how long does it take?

A: For an overview of the approval process please see page 10.

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.







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

A: 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 <u>St. John's Development Regulations</u> 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. <u>Appeal Application</u> Forms can be obtained at <u>www.stjohns.ca</u> 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?

A: Additional information can be obtained from the <u>Office of the City Clerk</u> (see List of Contacts on page 24) or from the Planning division <u>planning@stjohns.ca</u>.



Assessment & Taxation

Q: Will my business be taxed?

A: 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 propertybased tax called Commercial Realty Tax.

For tax information related to home-based business refer to page 20. Additional information pertaining to assessments and taxation can be obtained from the City of St. John's <u>Assessment</u> Division, the <u>Taxation</u> Division or at <u>www.stjohns.ca</u>.

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

A: If your commercial property is located in the downtown BIA (see Glossary page 27) 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?

A: 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 Living in St. John's section of www.stjohns.ca under the heading Forms and Applications. Have anv further questions? Email: accommodationtax@stjohns.ca.

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

A: 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?

A: For the purpose of 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. The base date for the 2022 assessments notices is January 1, 2020.

Market Value is the most probable price which would be paid, as of the base 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.

This market value is a retrospective (historical) value, not the current value. When reviewing your assessment notice it is important to remember that value stated on the assessment notice is the market value as of January 1, 2020, 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 commonly known valuation approach. Sales of comparable properties that occurred near or on the base date are analyzed to determine the market value of a property. In considering any sales evidence, we ensure that the property sold has a similar use as the property to be valued.
- 2. The Income Approach An income-producing property's ability to earn revenue is directly tied to its market value. When using the income approach, a detailed analysis of a property's income and expenses is completed and then compared to similar properties to determine how much income a property could be expected to generate. We then analyze the relationship between incomes and sale prices to calculate the capitalization rate (cap rate) for the property by dividing the income by the sale price.
- 3. The Cost Approach The cost as of the base date to replacing buildings, structures or other taxable components on the land are calculated. A deduction for depreciation due to age, functional or economic conditions that could impact the value of the property is then applied to the replacement cost estimate to determine the depreciated replacement cost. The value of the land, as of the base date, is then determined and added to the depreciated replacement cost to produce an overall estimate of market value.

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

A: The City of St. John's has designed a <u>Commercial Property Tax Allowance Claim</u> 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 <u>form</u> found in Appendix D. For further information please email <u>taxation@stjohns.ca</u>.

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

A: 2021 is the final year of the current three-year cycle of property assessments in St. John's. Beginning in 2022 all property assessments will be in effect for two years, rather than three.

Prior to August 31 each year property owners in St. John's receive an assessment notice of the estimated market value of the property. This value is used to determine your property tax bill for the upcoming calendar year. The base date for the 2022 assessment notice is January 1, 2020.

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

A: The following table outlines taxes, rates and fees levied by the City of St. John's for 2022.

Tax rates are commonly referred to as mil rates, a mil (see Glossary page 27) is equal to	
\$1 in property tax levied per \$1,000 of a property's assessed value.	

Тах	Rate/Fee
Commercial Realty	
With water & sewer services	26.9 mils
With either water or sewer service	26.4 mils
Without water & sewer services	25.9 mils
Vacant land	13.45 mills
Utility Tax	2.5% - gross revenue
Accommodation Tax	4% of the amount charged on lodging
Business Improvement Area (BIA) Downtown Development Area only*	0.8 of a mil added to the commercial mil rate (Levy)
Water Rates (per unit per year)	
Residential	\$625.00
Commercial	\$625.00

Starting a Business in the City of St. John's: A Guide to Municipal Regulations

Water Meter Rates	
Monthly consumption rates	
Per 1,000 gallons	\$6.31
Per cubic metre	\$1.39
Monthly base charge:	
5/8" meter	\$ 29.30
3/4" meter	\$ 44.02
1" meter	\$ 73.28
1 ¹ / ₂ " 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 27).	

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:

Assessed Value of Property x Mil Rate = Annual Tax Amount

For example, if a property is assessed at a value of \$500,000 and the applicable mil rate is 26.9 or 2.69%, the annual tax amount would be \$13,450.

Therefore, a mil rate of 26.9 represents \$26.90 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?

A: 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?

A: Section 8 of the City of St. John's <u>Municipal Taxation Act</u> 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 <u>St.</u> <u>John's Real Property Tax Exemption By-Law</u> and include daycares and seasonal businesses. To apply for the allowance commercial property owners must submit the Commercial Property Tax Allowance Claim <u>form</u> 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?

A: Additional information pertaining to assessments and taxation can be obtained from the City of St. John's <u>Assessment Division</u> and the <u>Taxation Division</u> (see List of Contacts on pages 24 and 25).

Home-Based Business

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

A: Yes, under certain conditions. City Council has defined two homebased 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 m² (215 ft²);
- 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).

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 m2 (484 ft2) 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 cm² (approximately 18" x 24" or 434 in²) 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 <u>Building Permit Application</u> 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 27) and can be approved at the staff level. A <u>Planning/Development</u> 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 26) 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 <u>Development Checklists</u> can be found in the Living in St. John's section of <u>www.stjohns.ca</u> 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.

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

A: 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 <u>permits@stjohns.ca</u>.

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 11).

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

A: 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 <u>St. John's</u> <u>Development Regulations</u>. 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 11).

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 \$300.00 **non-refundable** fee must accompany the application for a Home Occupation. If the application for a Home Occupation is approved by Council, there is an additional \$200 registration fee for the required Development Agreement, in addition, to the \$50 Occupancy Permit fee.

Q: How long does the approval process take?

A: 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?

A: 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 \$625.00 per unit per annum.

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

A: Additional information pertaining to assessments and taxation can be obtained from the City of St. John's <u>Assessment</u> Division and the <u>Revenue Accounting/Taxation</u> Division (see List of Contacts on pages 24 and 25).



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.

Mr. Smith is establishing a convenience store in the Ropewalk Lane area of St. John's. The store will occupy a 4,000 ft² space in a commercial building with 10,000 ft² 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?

A: 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 <u>Building Permit Application</u> for a Change of Occupancy (Appendix B).

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

A: Mr. Smith's application would be submitted to the Construction Permit Counter, third floor of the John J. Murphy building (City Hall Annex) City. Included with the application Mr. Smith should attach a drawing of the sign. The sign permit cost, as per fee schedule on page 7, 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 <u>bizpal.ca</u> 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/revenue-agency.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 <u>www.fin.gov.nl.ca/fin</u>
- Industry, Energy and Technology <u>www.gov.nl.ca/iet</u>
- Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation www.gov.nl.ca/tcar
- Commercial Registrations Division, Service NL <u>www.gov.nl.ca/dgsnl/registries/companies-2/</u>
- Digital Government and Service NL www.gov.nl.ca/dgsnl
- Workplace NL <u>www.workplacenl.ca</u>



Additional Information

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

A: 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?

- A: 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 <u>www.stjohns.ca</u>, email <u>business@stjohns.ca</u> or telephone 709-576-8107.

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

A: <u>BizPaL</u> 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. http://bizpal.ca





List of Contacts

City of St. John's

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. Metrobus Several 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 Economic Development, Culture & Partnerships, 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 E-Mail: <u>business@stjohns.ca</u> Web: <u>www.stjohns.ca</u> 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 E-Mail: <u>assessment@stjohns.ca</u> 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 E-mail: <u>access@stjohns.ca</u> 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 E-Mail: <u>permits@stjohns.ca</u> 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 E-Mail: <u>planning@stjohns.ca</u> 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 E-Mail: <u>cityclerk@stjohns.ca</u>



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 E-Mail: <u>taxation@stjohns.ca</u> 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 E-Mail: <u>legal@stjohns.ca</u> Contact: City Solicitor

Other Agencies

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: <u>www.canada.ca/en/atlanticcanada-opportunities</u>

ACOA Business Information Services

Telephone: 1-888-576-4444 Email: <u>acoa.nl.bis-sie.tn.apeca@canada.ca</u> Web: <u>www.canada.ca/en/atlantic-canada-opportunities/services/bis</u>

Business Development Bank of Canada

Atlantic Place, 215 Water Street St. John's, NL A1C 5K4 Telephone: 709-772-4398 Web: <u>www.bdc.ca</u>

Department of Industry, Energy and Technology

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

Canada Revenue Agency

Sir Humphrey Gilbert Building 165 Duckworth Street P.O. Box 12075 St. John's, NL A1B 4R5 Telephone: 1-800-959-5525 Web: www.canada.ca/en/services/taxes

FuturPreneur

Telephone:709-769-1205Toll free:1-800-464-2923Email:sandrews@futurpreneur.caWeb:www.futurpreneur.ca

Genesis Innovation Hub

100 Signal Hill Road, Suite 0100 St. John's, NL A1A 1B3 Telephone: 709-864-2625 Email: <u>genesis@mun.ca</u> Web: <u>www.genesiscentre.ca</u>

Metro Business Opportunities (MBO)

Suite C, Redwood Place 961 Topsail Road Mount Pearl, NL A1N 3K1 Telephone: 709-738-1626 Web: www.mboc.ca

Newfoundland Labrador Liquor Corporation

85 O'Leary Avenue St. John's, NL A1B 3V1 Telephone: 709-724-2238 Web: <u>www.nlliquor.com</u>

Newfoundland and Labrador Organization of Women Entrepreneurs 2nd Floor, Regatta Plaza II, 84-86 Elizabeth

Avenue St. John's, NL A1C 1Y7 Telephone: (709) 754-5555 Web: <u>www.nlowe.org</u>

Horizon TNL -Bilingual Economic Development Network of NL

65, Ridge Road, Bureau 245 St. John's, NL A1B 4P5 Telephone: 709-757-2858 Web: 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: <u>snlregistryofdeeds@gov.nl.ca</u> Web: <u>www.servicenl.gov.nl.ca/registries</u>

Service NL

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: www.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: <u>https://workplacenl.ca</u>

YMCA Employment and Enterprise Services

35 Ridge Road P.O. Box 21291 St. John's, NL A1A 5G6 Telephone: 709-726-9662 Email: <u>enterprise@nl.ymca.ca</u> Web: <u>www.ymcanl.com</u>



GLOSSARY

In 1989 the City passed the <u>BIA By-Law</u> 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).
Municipal tax applied to the owner of property in which commercial operations exist.
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.
A use which may be permitted at Council's discretion, subject to special conditions or controls.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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 <i>Urban and Rural Planning Act</i> .

	The St. John's Development Regulations implement the policies of the <i>St. John's Municipal Plan</i> .
Non-Conforming Use:	A use of land or a building which existed before the coming into force of the <i>St. John's Development Regulations</i> 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 <i>St. John's Development Regulations</i> , 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 <u>*St. John's Development Regulations*</u> and associated documents.

This guide was prepared by the City's <u>Economic Development, Culture and Partnerships</u> division with the assistance of the Department of <u>Planning, Engineering and Regulatory Services</u>, the <u>Department of Finance and Administration</u>, and the <u>Office of the City Solicitor</u>.

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

Economic Development, Culture & Partnerships

Department of Community Services 348 Water Street City of St. John's P. O. Box 908 St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador A1C 5M2

Telephone: 709-576-8107

E-Mail: <u>business@stjohns.ca</u> Web Site: <u>www.stjohns.ca</u>



APPENDIX A

	PERS – Plan	ning/Development Application	Planning, Engineering & Regulatory Services
ST. J@HN'S	PLA	NNING/DEVELOPMENT	APPLICATION
Internal Use			SECTION 1
Application Number		PID #	
Staff Signature		Date Received	
Property Information			SECTION 2
Civic Number/Street Name			
			0-0-1011
Property Owner Contact Info	ormation		SECTION 3
Name			
Address		Postal Cc	de
Phone	Email	Address	
Note: Name of property	owner must m	natch that listed on the City of St. J	lohn's Assessment Roll
Application Type			SECTION 4
Commercial (or other D with a parking lot)	evelopment	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 L	ot/Rebuild	Rezoning (Municipal Plan/Development Regulations)	Other (No checklist required)
Checklist for each application type must be submitted.			
		tion is not required. The Home Office hit to the Building Counter.	checklist must be submitted



PERS – Planning/Development Application	Planning Engineering & Regulatory Services
Description of Application	SECTION 5
Description of Application:	
Estimated cost of land/site development (\$)	
Estimated cost of work on structure (\$)	
Applicant Information	SECTION 6
Applicant is: Owner Authorized Agent	
Name	
Company Name	
Address	Postal Code
Phone Email Address	
Other Contacts (Contractor/Consultant/Lawyer)	SECTION 7
Name	
Title	
Company Name	
Phone Email A	ddress
	-



PERS – Planning/Development	Application Planning E	ngineering & Regulatory Services
Applicant Signature of Agreement		SECTION 8
	nply with all City Regulations of ed by the City of St. John's an al and permits from the City of on and agree to provide any a n the City's fee schedule (<u>ww</u>	& By-Laws, agree to develop in nd not to commence development St. John's. In addition, I acknowledge additional information requested and to
Planning and Development Fee S	chedule	
Note: Where the applicant and prise required before the application of		e, the signature of the property owner ng.
Applicant Signature		Date (yyyy-mm-dd)
Property Owner Signature		Date (yyyy-mm-dd)
Privacy Statement		SECTION 9
	nd is needed to process your F d use of the information may b nail: <u>planning@stjohns.ca</u> or b	der the Access to Information and Planning/Development Application. be directed to the Supervisor of y phone 709-576-8220.
Please send completed form to:	Inspection Services 3 rd Floor Annex 10 New Gower Street P.O. Box 908 St. John's NL A1C 5M2	Email: <u>permits@stjohns.ca</u> Fax: 709-576-8160 Call: 709-576-8565

APPENDIX B

	PERS – Application for Building Permit	Planning, Engineering & Regulatory Services
<u>ST. J@HN'S</u>	APPLICATION FOR BUILDI	NG PERMIT
Internal Use Only		SECTION 1
Application Number	Property Class Struc	ctural Type
Application Set Up Informa	tion	
Project Information		SECTION 2
Civic Address	L	.ot #
Business Name (if applicable)	Project Value Estimate (\$) _	
Purpose of Application		SECTION 3
New Construction	Extension/Addition Renovat	ion/Alteration
Demolition	Change of Occupancy Repair	
Application Type		SECTION 4
Dwelling	Apartment/Secondary Suite C	Commercial Building
Patio/Deck	Fence A	ccessory Building
Pool/Hot Tub	Site Work/Driveway S	Sign
Wood Stove/Fireplac	ce Home Office C	Other (describe below)
Detailed Description of Pro	posed work:	
		-



PERS – Application for Building Per			•	Engineering tory Services
Owner Contact Information				SECTION 5
Name				
Address		_Postal Code		
Phone: (Home)	_ (Work)	(Ce	ell)	
Email Address		_		
Note: Name of property owner mus	at match that li	sted on the City of St.	John's Asses	sment Roll
Applicant Contact Information (if different	ent from owne	r)		SECTION 6
Name		_		
Address		_ Postal Code		
Phone: (Home)	_ (Work)	(C	ell)	
Email Address				
Contractor/Consultant Contact Informa	ation (Optional)		SECTION 7
Name		_		
Address		_Postal Code		
Phone: (Home)	_ (Work)	(C	ell)	
Email Address		_		



PERS – Application for Building	Permit	Planning, Engineering & Regulatory Services
Applicant Signature of Agreement		SECTION 8
knowledge, correct. I agree to comp accordance with the plans approve without applicable written approval that I have reviewed this application pay all applicable fees as noted on please click on the link below that p Inspection Services Fees and Rate Note: Where the applicant and pr	ý	ws, agree to develop in o commence development n's. In addition, I acknowledge al information requested and to <u>is.ca</u>). To view these fees, ne signature of the property
	Date (yyyy-mm-	-
	Date (yyyy-mm-	
Staff Signature	Date (yyyy-mm-	dd)
Privacy Statement		SECTION 9
Protection of Privacy Act, 2015 and Application. Questions about the co	via this form is authorized under the l is needed to process your Permit to ollection and use of the information r , by email: building@stjohns.ca or b	o Construct of Demolish nay be directed to the Manager
Please submit completed form to:	Inspection Services 3 rd Floor Annex 10 New Gower Street P.O. Box 908 St. John's, NL A1C 5M2	Email: <u>permits@stjohns.ca</u> Fax: 709-576-8160 Call: 709-576-8565
Form last updated: October 2021	ST. J@HN'S	Page 3 of 3

APPENDIX C

ONE STOP CIL	PER - 3223	Department of Planning, Engineering and Regulatory Services		
access 311 stjohns.ca	MOBIL	E VENDING PERMIT APPLICATION		
Contact Information (to be	completed by the a	section 1		
Trade Name				
Mailing Address		Postal Code		
Owner's Name (if different	than applicant)			
Telephone (Daytime)		(Fax)		
Vending Unit Information		SECTION 2		
Number of vending unit(s) a	applied for at this ti	me		
Type: Annual Tem	nporary Trans	ient Dealer's License		
Include duration				
Description of mobile vending unit(s) (e.g. cart, stand. motor vehicle) A detailed description indicating exact dimensions and/or photograph(s) must be attached				
Proposed location of vending business				
Proposed storage location etc.)	(approved commer	cial storage space is available for carts, bikes, vehicles,		
Permit Details		SECTION 3		
Is this a renewal of a previo	ous Permit?	-		
Yes Last permit #				
No				



PER - 3223	Department of F	Planning, Engineering and Regu	latory Services
Attachments	•		SECTION 4
ApprovApprovApprovCertification	al from the Provine al from the Regior ation from a recog	accompany this application: cial Department of Health (for all fon al Fire Department (for all machin nized Propane Agency (for all propes es (licensing period: May 1 st – Apr	es containing a cooking apparatus) pane installations)
Privacy Notice			SECTION 5
Protection of F collection and	Privacy Act, 2015 a use of the information	on via this form is authorized unde and is needed to process your app ation may be directed to Randy Ca ohns.ca or by phone 709-576-8565	lication. Questions about the rew, Manager, Regulatory Services
Declaration of	Applicant		SECTION 6
I hereby ackno correct.	owledge that I read	d this application and state that the	e information contained herein is
Signature of Applicant Date (yyyy-mm-dd)			
Please mail co	ompleted form to:	Access St. John's 10 New Gower Street P.O. Box 908	Email: <u>service@stjohns.ca</u> Fax: 709-576-7688 Call: 311 or 709-754-2489

St. John's NL A1C 5M2

APPENDIX D

ONE STOP CH	FIN - 1004	Department of Finance & Administra	ation
access 311 PLEASE PRINT stjohns.ca	COMMERCIAL PROPERTY TAX ALLOW CLAIM (complete all fillable areas)		WANCE
Property Details			SECTION 1
 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 <u>entire</u> calendar quarter. 			
Civic Address of Property			
Account #			
Owner's Name Mailing Address			
		Postal Code	
Contact Information			SECTION 2
Telephone 1Telephone 2E-mail Mailing Address			
CityPostal Code			
Note: If the Authorized Representative is different from the property owner, this form must be signed by both parties.			
Commercial Property Tax Allowand			SECTION 3
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.			

FIN-1004	Finance and Administration		
Allowance Claim Information (com	mercial leasable area only)	SECTION 4	
PLEASE INDICATE THE QUARTER BEING CLAIMED 1 st Quarter – January 1 to March 31 3 rd Quarter – July 1 to September 30 4 th 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) Include documentation showing it was marketed for rent or being made ready to rent. Examples: copy of advertisement, copy of real-estate listing agreement, active building permit 		
Delinquency – Claim permitted for one quarter only	 Tenant Bankruptcy (must submit copy of bankruptcy claim) Tenant Not Paying any Rent – Provide documentation showing collection efforts made to recover rent. 		
Seasonal	which could include: print media, brochure or website information are required.		
Exemption	 Day Care – Copy of Daycare License Required City of St. John's Tenant Provincial Government Tenant – Copy of Lease Required Charitable Organization Charity Reg. # Required 		

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.

FIN-1004	Fir	ance and Administration	
Declaration			SECTION 5
 Claim submitted by author property owner mandatory f 	orized representative for the first claim subn owner the City will acc	e of property owner <u>mandatory</u> . – signature of authorized repres nission. Once an authorized repr ept the signature of the authorize the property owner.	esentative is
I hereby submit this claim and con correct. In addition, I acknowledge information as requested by the Ci	e that I have reviewed		•
Property Owner Name/Title S (please print)	Signature	Date (yyyy-mm-dd)	
Authorized Representative S Name/Title (please print)	Signature	Date (yyyy-mm-dd)	
Are you selling your commercial the immediately preceding quarter owner to adjust for vacancy allowa for current quarter <u>must</u> be claimed was adjusted at sale closing.	are up to date. In the ance upon closing with	e event of a sale, it is the respons the purchaser for the current qu	bibility of the arter. Claims
Privacy Notice			SECTION 6
Collection of personal information Protection of Privacy Act, 2015 an about the collection and use of the Accounting Division by phone at 7	d is needed for the pu e information may be o	rpose of processing your claim.	Questions
Please send completed form to: Revenue Accounting, 1 st Floor City Hall, PO Box 908 10 New Gower Street St. John's, NL A1C 5M2	Return by fax: 709-576-8162 Return by email: <u>taxation@stjohns.ca</u>	Telephone: 709-5	76-8251

APPENDIX E



access 311 stjohns.ca	Quarterly Accom	nodation Tax Report			
Reporting Period		SECTION 1			
	to				
(yyyy-mm-dd)		(yyyy-mm-dd)			
Registrant Information		SECTION 2			
		Postal Code			
	Email				
f different from above:					
Corp	orate Name				
	act Name				
	phone				
Tax Report Details		SECTION 3			
Total room revenue for peric	od				
Less revenue not subject to	tax				
Room revenue subject to tax	Room revenue subject to tax				
Accommodation tax collected					
Accommodation tax remitted					
(Should equal the amount co	ollected)				
Collection Notice		SECTION 4			
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	F&A – Quarterly Accommodation Tax Report	Finance and Administration
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City of St. John's Municipal Taxation Act (as amended)

SECTION 5

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:	Send completed forms to:
Email: accommodationtax@stjohns.ca	accommodationtax@stjohns.ca
Telephone: 709-576-1022 Financial Services	

