



## LECU's Annual Lighthouse Relay, Race to the Sea

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The Annual Lighthouse Relay Race, "Race to the Sea", is an initiative that was developed by the Marine and Mountain Zone Corporation in 2003. The race is designed to integrate fitness and the tourism sector in a fun and interactive way. The race begins at Cape Anguille and ends in Rose Blanche. The route consists of 11 individual legs which encompasses approximately 120 kilometres. The Race travels through some of the most beautiful scenery in the Province and incorporates four lighthouses along its path: Cape Anguille Lighthouse; Cape Ray Lighthouse; Channel Head Lighthouse; and Rose Blanche Lighthouse. The first race began with only 8 teams (88 athletes) and since then, the race has grown to 15 teams (165 athletes). There have been some changes to the route over the years to enhance safety for the runners and participants.

The Marine and Mountain Zone Corporation have developed this initiative and, through the Race to the Sea Committee, continued to run it successfully for the first five years. The Board was then prepared to outsource this initiative and solicited Expressions of Interest from a community and/or organization who would like to take over this event. Leading Edge Credit Union (then Codroy Valley Credit Union) stepped up to the plate and undertook this event partnering with the local Chamber of Commerce.

In 2009, the Credit Union was undergoing an amalgamation and its leadership determined it was an appropriate time to pass responsibility for coordinating and staging the Race to another community organization. The Port aux Basques & Area Chamber of Commerce ran with it so to speak and successfully managed the event for the past three years.

In 2012, the Port aux Basques and Area Chamber of Commerce passed up ownership as they could no longer facilitate this event due to staffing and it falling outside their mandate. For the 11th year, the committee worked hard after hours and organized the race for that year, operating under the Chamber's name due to deadlines and timing, however, it was put back out for tender that year.

Leading Edge Credit Union, having staff part of the event since inception through various aspects, took ownership of this Race in late 2013. Leading Edge Credit Union mission and values are centered not only around being the financial provider of choice, but being focused on their communities, team oriented, professional, credible and actively involved. With this project Leading Edge Credit Union will be offering financial services to the members of their communities, but they will also increase their presence by providing this project and illustrating how they care for their community by taking it over instead of seeing it falter.

This project was a good one for the Credit Union to overtake when considering social responsibility and getting into large community events because it has run successfully in the past 11 years. The project is focused around healthy living and having fun which is a growing concern now, and incorporates participants from all areas that Leading Edge Credit Union services