



Eco Connections Newsletter August 2016

Welcome!

Below you will find **events** (starting on page 2), **jobs postings** (page 5), **opportunities** (page 5), and **news** (page 12). *Eco Connections* is published on a monthly basis around the middle of each month. To have your submissions included or to receive the *Eco Connections* directly, email: nsenvironmentalnetwork@gmail.com.

Get in touch!

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/NovaScotiaEnvironmentalNetwork

Website: <http://nsenvironmentalnetwork.com/events>

Email: nsenvironmentalnetwork@gmail.com

Membership: Membership Matters!

We look forward to new and renewing members' input on issues of importance to you. We trust that NSEN can be a conduit and resource hub for your concerns and an opportunity to communicate with others in order to create the political will for a healthier environment in Nova Scotia. Please feel free to write to the newsletter in these regards.

STAND UP AND BE COUNTED

Renew your membership, let your fellow organizations know about us! The bigger our numbers, stronger our voice! There is a lot of enthusiasm for re-energizing the network, membership is key. If your membership has lapsed please renew or if you know of other organizations who are new or newly forming please encourage them to renew. **Do you see your events listed below? Then please support the work!** ☺

We would like to reemphasize that numbers count- the number of organizations and number of members per group. Please let us know of your membership numbers since this is a number we can show put a high priority on the environment. There are many opportunities for open dialogue and working in partnership across the province. Help us build our numbers and expertise. JOIN TODAY! See details of benefits and how to join here: <http://nsenvironmentalnetwork.com/how-to-join>.

Looking for board members: We're looking for you! NSEN is looking to expand the board. Having a board is the cornerstone of a strong network and NSEN is obviously a province-wide organization and we would like this province-wide reach of the network to be reflected in the makeup of our board! It's easy to join in via teleconference. We encourage participation from members from all regions of the province. Be in touch with me and I'll send your email to the board: nsenvironmentalnetwork@gmail.com.

Specifically we're looking for those interested in being:

- Note taker
- Membership Coordinator
- Fundraiser

NSEN CAUCUSES

NEW! Climate Change Caucus:

If you would like to get involved in helping to shape Canada's response to climate change, join NSEN's Climate Caucus. We want to get started on this important work now to be ready for the roll out of initiatives expected this fall. Province-wide representation is needed if we are to be successful in meeting our climate commitments. Teleconference is available to facilitate participation from all regions. Contact Heather Johannesen: heatherj@ns.sympatico.ca to sign up!

On June 28th, M.P. Andy Fillmore hosted a town hall on climate change that was the second-best attended in the country, after the one hosted by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change. Check out NSEN's Climate Caucus webpage for feedback on the town hall: <https://nsenvironmentalnetwork.com/about/caucuses/climate-change>

Water Caucus:

The next NSEN Water Caucus meeting will be the Water Policy Working Group conference call on **Thursday August 25th at 1pm**. Please RSVP if you can attend or would like to but are not able to. We will be discussing potential for a "water lens" in the upcoming municipal elections this fall (and other topics brought forward by members). Anna McCarron (SWEPS) will be providing an update on the NS Water Advisory Group status and process. Be in touch for more info: Amy Buckland-Nicks: amy@coastalaction.org and Kelly Schnare kellyb@sierraclub.ca

Environmental and Sustainability Education Caucus: Like the Caucus on Facebook! www.facebook.com/Environmental-and-Sustainability-Education-Caucus-ESEC-215913805454788 ! Once you click the page, you can hit "like" and then it will allow you to 1) post to the page, if you want to share upcoming events/info/etc., and 2) see everything that's posted to the page in your newsfeed.

The purpose of the Facebook page is to further the ESEC's primary mission of raising the profile of environmental education in NS, increasing communication and connecting environmental educators.

See some of the members of the ESE Caucus here: <https://nsenvironmentalnetwork.com/about/caucuses/esec/>

Other Caucuses: Find out how you can get involved: <http://nsenvironmentalnetwork.com/about/caucuses/>

Upcoming Member Events & Events of Interest

August

Environmental Movie Series Topic: An awesome environmental movie to engage and inspire you!

Location: Halifax North Memorial Library, 2285 Gottingen Street

Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Date: 3rd Wednesday of every month

Fusion Halifax's Sustainability Action Team is hosting a monthly Environmental Movie Series to get you over the hump of Wednesday, with an engaging group discussion to follow! Find more event details at facebook.com/FUSIONHalifax, or contact sustainability@fusionhalifax.ca with any questions.

Schedule:

August 17, 2016: No Impact Man

September 21, 2016: The Age of Stupid

October 19, 2016: Blue Gold: World Water Wars

November 16, 2016: The End of the Line

December 21, 2016: White Christmas

Come celebrate **15 years of Helping Nature Heal** this summer. August 13th from 1-5 pm at Freeman's Forest.

<http://helpingnatureheal.com/news/>

August 12-14: Plein air watercolour painting with Roger Savage, RCA. The richness and variety of on-site painting motifs (rugged beach, forest, bog, and ponds) will be our inspiration for this unique weekend workshop. The group will be small to allow for one-on-one painting tips as well as daily critiques and demo paintings by the resource artist. Participants should have drawing skills, know the names of their colours, and have had some previous painting experience. Friday evening there'll be a technical review and hands-on watercolour exercises. We'll paint on location the following two days, and wrap-up the program at 4 pm Sunday. Roger is an experienced watercolour artist having led workshops in Cuba, Bermuda, Germany, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island. His work sparkles with light, energy and is painted directly on location, inspired by sites as familiar as Port Mouton, N.S., and remote as Sable and Ellesmere Islands (www.rogersavage.ca). Enrollment limited to 12 participants.

Call for Fall 2016 Guided Hikes by Aug. 15

Once again, Hike NS invites groups across NS to partner with it on delivering fall guided hikes in September and October of 2016. The purpose of the event series is to: 1) get more people in NS hiking; 2) highlight local trails and increase their use; and 3) promote Hike NS and local trail groups. Hike NS will help promote events, provide a how-to guide and provide trail prizes to giveaway.

If you and your local municipality or organization can organize a hike (or already plan to host a hike), please register your event here <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RR2XLQ2> by August 15 for events between Sept. 10 and Oct. 30. Note that one organization may register only up to five hikes.

Good morning,

I would like to formally invite you and your staff to attend my **town hall consultation on climate change**. The consultation will take place on Tuesday August 16th at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 160, located at 703 Main Street, Dartmouth. The time for action on climate change is now. Our government is committed to finding solutions, and we need to hear from Canadians. Your input is needed to help us take the first few steps towards leaving a cleaner, safer earth for future generations.

The consultation will be moderated by Scott Skinner, the Executive Director of the Clean Foundation. Please join us for a discussion that will be lively, engaging and positive. I am eager to hear your thoughts and suggestions.

If you would like to attend, please RSVP with the number of attendees by calling our office at [902-462-6453](tel:902-462-6453) or send us an email at darren.fisher@parl.gc.ca.

Best,

Darren

August 19-21: Chainsaw Skills and Safety, Open Course. A hands-on course with instructor Patrick Allan teaching bucking, directional felling, safe use, and maintenance. Participants come away with knowledge and practice to safely and competently use a saw. Learn the saw from the inside out, safe use, sharpening the chain, proper maintenance, how to buck wood, and the dos and don'ts of working both with downed and standing wood. Sunday participants learn to fell trees, working in a woodlot at the Harrison Lewis Centre. Workshop limited to eight participants. Email HLC@eastlink.ca for more information on workshops or to register.

Hello folks:

On behalf of the Canadian Environmental Law Association and New Brunswick Lung Association, please accept our sincere apologies for the technical difficulties we experienced on the July 20th teleconference call to discuss the **Review of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act**. Many of the people who had RSVPed to participate on the call were unable to connect due to an unexpected limits with CELA's conference call service provider.

We want to thank all those who joined us for the call. We provided additional information for those interested in appearing or preparing a submission on CEPA to contact the Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development (below).

CELA and New Brunswick Lung Association is scheduling another call on the CEPA Review process to provide an opportunity for NGOs (environment, health, labour)/ academia/ public health experts who could not join us on the first call due to the technical challenge or were otherwise not available.

The NEW DATE for the CEPA Review call is scheduled for Wednesday August 24th at 2 p.m. EST/3 p.m. AT/1 p.m. CT/ 12 noon MT/11 am PT.

The dial in number is as follows:

Dial in information:

Toll Free- 1-888-289-4573

Local - 416-645-1179

Participant Code: 1631766#

Please RSVP to Fe de Leon, CELA at deleonf@cela.ca. We will send out an agenda to the list of participants in advance of the call.

We hope you can join us for this call.

Hope for Wildlife Annual Open House

5909 Highway 207, Seaforth, NS B0J 1N0

Sunday, August 28, 2016, 12-4pm

Get a "behind-the-scenes" look at wildlife rescue and rehabilitation with access to bird and mammal nurseries, recovery units, marine unit, and flight cage; there will also be wildlife displays and demonstrations, kids' activities, live music, barbeque, and silent auction, as well as local exhibitors, crafts, and food. All funds raised support Hope for Wildlife's efforts to help injured and orphaned wildlife in Nova Scotia. Rain or shine, FREE ADMISSION. For more information, please visit hopeforwildlife.net

September and onward...

September 9-11: Writing from nature with award-winning poet, naturalist, and environmentalist Harry Thurston, This Friday evening to Sunday afternoon workshop is designed to sharpen observational skills, the foundation not only of nature writing but of all good writing. Focus will be on writing about the natural world. Practical exercises will include the writing of a prose poem – a hybrid and highly flexible form – taking as subject a natural object from the environment surrounding the Harrison Lewis Centre on one of the most protected and beautiful stretches of Nova Scotia's South Shore. Participants are asked to submit a short prose piece or small selection of poems three weeks prior to the workshop date. Workshop gets underway at 7 pm, Friday, September 9 (harrythurston.ca/). Enrollment limited to 12 participants.

On behalf of the **Livable Cities Forum Steering Committee**, we are writing to inform you about our upcoming Forum in Halifax this September. Halifax Regional Municipality, Partners for Action, and ICLEI Canada will be hosting the fifth edition of the **Livable Cities Forum: Changing Climate, Changing Communities** from September 12-14, 2016 at The Westin Nova Scotian. Since 2011, the Livable Cities Forum has drawn in hundreds of delegates to share knowledge, best practices, and lessons learned on adaptation to climate change in Canadian communities.

We invite you to be part of the conversation on building community resilience to extreme weather and climate change. The program will explore themes of preparing, responding, implementation, and measuring progress on climate change adaptation in municipalities. Highlights include three full days of plenaries, sessions, and interactive workshops, as well as local study tours, a gala dinner with Halifax Mayor Mike Savage, and a Partners for Action cocktail reception.

We want to engage as many like-minded people as possible for this Forum and we need your help to spread the word. Please share the attached brochure with your networks, colleagues, and online communities.

More information about the Forum, including [registration](#), [program](#), and pricing, can be found at <http://www.livablecitiesforum.com>. If you have any questions about the Forum, please contact LCF2016@iclei.org.

We hope to see you in Halifax!

Kind regards,

Natalie Heldsinger,

nheldsin@uwaterloo.ca

Communications and Research Coordinator

Partners for Action, University of Waterloo

<https://uwaterloo.ca/partners-for-action/>

Symposium 2016 - Moving Towards Sustainable Energy

October 20-21 | Westin Hotel | Ottawa, ON

Symposium 2016 will bring together distinguished leaders and innovators to address critical sustainable energy issues: the future of the electricity grid, carbon pricing, energy storage, health implications, bioenergy, sustainable transportation, and ways to mobilize Canadians to embrace the greener and cleaner economy of tomorrow.

A sample of confirmed speakers include:

- Hon. Jim Carr, Minister of Natural Resources Canada
- Merran Smith, Director, Clean Energy Canada
- Mark Jaccard, Energy Economist / Professor of Sustainable Energy, Simon Fraser University
- Andrea Reimer, Vancouver City Councillor / Lead Councillor on award-winning "Greenest City Action Plan"
- Linda Coady, Chief Sustainability Officer, Enbridge
- Annette Verschuren, Chair and CEO, NRStor Inc.
- Hon. Sergio Marchi, President and CEO, Canadian Electricity Association
- Celine Bak, Founder and CEO, Analytica Advisors
- Paul Crowley, Director, WWF-Canada's Arctic Program

We are pleased to announce iPolitics as the event's official media partner.

Symposium 2016 will also include a special Hill Times Live Event on energy policy on Day 1 - October 20. For details and registration, visit our [site](#).

ClimaCon 2016: October 24 - 26 / Ottawa, ON

As the Canadian climate movement greets a defining moment in the history of Canada's action on climate change and environmental justice, Climate Action Network - Réseau action climat Canada (<http://climateactionnetwork.ca/>) is thrilled to launch ClimaCon, an annual event for people from every corner of the climate movement to come together, learn, share stories, build relationships, and have fun.

ClimaCon 2016 will take place in Ottawa, Ontario on Monday, October 24th and Tuesday, October 25th, with a lobby day organized for Wednesday, October 26th. CAN-Rac's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place on one of these days.

ClimaCon 2016 is FREE to attend. All are welcome. Register here: <https://climacon-2016.ticketbud.com/climacon-2016-4548e9145a49> or by following the links at www.climacon.info

We are in the process of building our agenda and need your input! Take 8 minutes to fill out this quick survey so we know what topics you're most interested in learning about and which skills you're most interest in building at ClimaCon 2016: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2R5LTKV>. We're so excited to see you there!

Nature Trust 19th Annual Dinner & Auction

A visual exploration of nature raising critical funds to help us protect Conservation Lands Nova Scotia

Hear renowned environmental conservationist Peter Forbes speak about the unique relationship between people and land.

Thursday, November 3rd, 2016

Tickets: visit nsnt.ca, or call (902) 425-5263

Details and updates: nsnt.ca/newsevents/dinner

Job Postings:

COINAtlantic/ ACZISC is currently advertising for a one term position for the position of **Project Officer**. Applications are due on 2 September 2016. Please see one of the links below for the full job posting, and consider distributing widely to your networks. [COINAtlantic Website](#)

Come join the EAC's Coastal and Water team in the position of **Coastal Adaptation Coordinator**. The listing for the job can be found on our website or here: <https://www.ecologyaction.ca/sites/ecologyaction.ca/files/images-documents/CoastalAdaptationJobPostingJuly2016External.pdf>. Deadline for applications is 9am on August 22nd, 2016.

[Engagement Officers](#), f/t, Thinkwell Shift, Halifax, Nova Scotia

[Eco-friendly housekeepers](#), f/t, Cabot Shores Wilderness Resort & Retreat Centre, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia

[Guest Services/Front Desk](#), f/t, Cabot Shores Wilderness Resort & Retreat Centre, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia

[Garden-to-Table Internships](#), work-stay, Cabot Shores Wilderness Resort and Retreat Centre, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia

GIS Conservation Planner—Contract Position

Position: GIS Conservation Planner

Type: 12-month contract (see below)

Organization: [Nova Scotia Nature Trust](#)

Location: [Halifax](#), Nova Scotia

Remuneration/Term: Compensation will be commensurate with experience. The contract is to begin as soon as possible and will extend for 12 months (potentially more depending on funding)

Application Process:

Application deadline: Applications will be accepted until such time as the position is filled. Interviews will be ongoing.

See full details here: www.goodwork.ca/job=35510

Environmental Opportunities:

We're looking for YOUTH! Interested in world issues? Passionate about human rights? Want to learn more about how you can take action for global change? **Register today!**

What: ACT 4 Global Change Youth Conference

When: October 7-10, 2016

Where: Brigadoon Village, Lake Aylesford, Nova Scotia

Cost: Free!

Who: Atlantic Canadian youth, ages 15-18

Why: Share and learn with a diverse group working to make the world a better place! Explore local and global issues, climate change, gender equity, poverty and food security, and other issues that matter to YOU. Be part of a safe community and develop skills and knowledge to tackle these issues in your own communities.

Apply: <https://form.jotform.com/60665337730962>

Deadline: Friday, September 16th, 2016

Inviting Garden Volunteers to Windhorse!

We are a sustainable farm and hosting facility on the South Shore of Nova Scotia with 3 acres of gardens. We're in need of willing hands to weed, water, mulch, transplant, prune, make compost AND you might want to swim in the lake, take a sauna, canoe, enjoy the view from the upper hay meadow, nap in the sweet cool mosses of the forest, and join community meditation Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Beyond that, we can offer cabin accommodations, laundry, hot shower, small stipend and a "learning by doing" experience in a great community that will live on. Available now until November. Please email margaret@windhorsefarm.org.

Call for Nominations for the Board of Directors, Sierra Club Canada Foundation

Sierra Club Canada Foundation and its Mission

Sierra Club Canada Foundation (SCCF) is a Canada Revenue Agency registered charity whose mission is to advance the preservation and protection of the natural environment in Canada and across the globe. Since 1972, the SCCF has funded tens of millions of dollars' worth of important work, from small local projects to large, multi-year campaigns with tens of volunteers, organizers and scientists.

We are funded by individual donors, local grassroots membership, foundations and others who recognize that we all have a right to a safe and healthy environment: clean air, clean water, open space, wildlands and a healthy and diverse ecosystem. We are unique in the environmental movement because we enable average citizens to organize activities that improve our local, national and global environments. For more information, see www.sierraclub.ca

Board and Committee Positions

The Foundation Board of Directors has 12 elected members: 6 members –at-large, five regional representatives, and a Youth representative. In addition, the elected board may appoint as directors individuals who will hold the office of Treasurer and/or Secretary. Directors are elected for two-year terms. If appointed to the board as Secretary or Treasurer, the term is 1 year. Currently we seek the following:

Three member-at-large positions. All members may vote for these candidates.

Four of the six representative positions – Atlantic, Prairie, BC, and Ontario. Only members within the constituency elect these positions.

Persons seeking appointment as either Secretary or Treasurer.

We are also seeking individuals interested in serving in a volunteer capacity on our board committees including: Membership, Finance, Communications, Conservation Policies and National Development Committee.

Eligibility Requirements for Directorships

Individuals must be of age 18 or older and be members of Sierra Club Canada Foundation at the time of election.

Skills and Time Commitment

We are looking for individuals with the time and commitment to serve as an active board member and willing to serve on one or more committees of the Board. We seek those who work well in a team setting and have excellent communication and listening skills. Previous experience with charities and/or non-profit boards of directors is helpful. Proficiency in English is required, bilingualism is an asset. Diversity of backgrounds, experience and geography is valued.

Directors must have time to meet monthly for two-hour teleconference board meetings and be available to do committee work as needed. Representatives must actively liaise with the member constituencies and where active chapters are present, with the chapters they are members of.

Special skills we are seeking include fundraising, membership development, social media and communications, and environmental policy development. We are also seeking a Chartered Public Accountant willing to serve as Treasurer.

Nomination Process

If you are nominating yourself for a position on the Board of Directors, please provide a biography, cover letter detailing your interest and areas of expertise plus a CV.

If you are nominating someone else, please provide us with the name and contact information of that individual, and a brief biography of the person you are nominating.

Nominations for Directors are also accepted from the floor at the AGM on November 19, 2016, Ottawa, ON.

Similarly, if you are interested in serving on one of our national committees, please submit your cover letter and CV.

Volunteer members of committees may be added at the discretion of the Chair of each committee and as approved by the Board of Directors.

Please send your nominations or address your inquiries to: Peter Smith, Nominations Committee Chair
petersmith777@bell.net

Professors Mahfooz Ansari, Daya Gaur, and I at the University of Lethbridge, Canada need your help. We are conducting a study on workplace behaviors and opinions among Canadian nonprofit organizations. Specifically, the project focuses on supervisor-subordinate relationships and some important work outcomes (e.g., satisfaction, commitment, performance). We would like to administer surveys (takes approx. 20 minutes) in your organization where we will ask supervisors and subordinates to fill a confidential online survey. Our analysis is based on dyads (what supervisor talks about subordinate and vice-versa). The supervisor-subordinate pair can belong to any department and hierarchy. Our study has been approved by the ethics department of our university.

No compensation is offered for participation, but you will receive the survey findings.

The online supervisor questionnaire is split into questions relating to them and to the subordinates. The supervisor will fill the self-questions once and the subordinate questions as many times as he/she has subordinates. The subordinate fills the questionnaire only once.

Once you allow your colleagues to participate in the survey, we would like your HR executive to send us a list of emails of corresponding pairs of supervisors and their subordinates filled in the attached word document. We will then send each potential respondent a survey link from Qualtrics survey website. We need email addresses only to directly contact them and to know the names of dyads. Once the data is collected, we will replace actual individual names with code names and destroy names of respondents.

If you can help or if you have questions, please contact Sameer Deshpande at sameer.deshpande@uleth.ca.

Let me know if you have questions. Thanks for helping us with data collection,

Sameer Deshpande

Associate Professor, Marketing

Faculty of Management, University of Lethbridge

The Growing Green Festival is celebrating its 8th anniversary. We are excited the year to introduce the Earth Savers of Tomorrow program on Friday September 16th. This is an opportunity for students in Grades 3 - 6 from South Shore Regional School board to attend the Growing Green Festival. We will be hosting between 1200 - 1700 students in total. They will be visiting in 2 hour time blocks and we are looking for local community groups, organizations and businesses that are interested in providing 15 minute info/workshop sessions with students in this age group. It is a very exciting opportunity and each vendor will see approximately 400 students during the process.

The Sustainability Fair is open to the public on Saturday September 17th from 1pm to 7 pm. This event is a showcase of all things sustainable and green in our community. We hosted between 700 - 1000 people at last year's event.

I am happy to share more details if this is something you think you would be interested in attending.

Thanks for your consideration.

Bernice

Bernice Theriault
Growing Green Festival Coordinator
Town of Bridgewater
60 Pleasant Street
Bridgewater, NS B4V 3X9
t. [902.543.0434](tel:902.543.0434)
f. [902.543.6876](tel:902.543.6876)
website. www.growinggreenfest.com
twitter. @GrowingGreenNS

Free online non-profit resources from Dalhousie University - sample policies and governance guides such as chairing board meetings and board self-evaluation. Check it out [HERE](#).

Nonprofit Leadership Program

This is a demanding program prepares you with knowledge and skills in strategic leadership, finances, marketing, human resource management, partnerships and fundraising. Nonprofits play a key role in improving our communities and our quality of life. [Click here for more.](#)

News release from the **Campaign to Protect Offshore Nova Scotia** (CPONS): CPONS is urging Nova Scotians, and anyone else who supports our concerns, to endorse our campaign by simply sending an affirmative statement to southshore.cpons@gmail.com; printing the petition (found [here](#) under ACTIONS), collecting signatures, and mailing it to us; and/or liking our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ProtectOffshoreNS>. Also welcome is a letter of support which can also be sent to southshore.cpons@gmail.com.

The Outdoor Network Launch

We had a successful launch of the Nova Scotia Outdoor Network on June 14 in Truro with about 50 people in attendance from across the outdoor sector. We're looking forward to connecting with you as we "*facilitate more communication, sharing, collaboration and celebration in the outdoor community.*" View the event [news release](#) and coverage on [Global TV](#). Check our social media feeds below for photos from the event.

Become a Member

Please sign up to [become a member of the Outdoor Network](#). This is how you can stay connected to the network through our monthly e-news and through invitations to special events and other opportunities. While membership in the Network is free, please consider showing your support financially by becoming a paid [member of Recreation Nova Scotia](#).

Add Your Events & Skill Building Opportunities to The Website

We had to work through a few glitches recently, but the <http://nsoutdoornetwork.ca> is ready and waiting for you to login to post your outdoor events or skill building opportunities. Simply [create a login](#), click on the events or skill building (courses) tabs at the top and click on add a new event or course. The website is a work in progress, so if you encounter issues or have suggestions, please let me know. You can also "Get the inside on the outside" by searching for events and opportunities.

Join a Working Group

Consider becoming an active member of one of the Outdoor Network's [working groups](#). The six working groups will take aspects of the strategic plan and create action plans. View the [strategic plan](#) and the [notes from the working group discussions](#) at the launch.

Follow & Engage with us on Social Media

Be sure to follow us on social media:

<https://www.facebook.com/nsoutdoornetwork/>

<https://twitter.com/nsoutdoornet>

<https://www.instagram.com/nsoutdoornet/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/recreation-nova-scotia>

Promising Practices

Please add to our database of promising practices for the Shared Strategy for Advancing Recreation in Nova Scotia found here <http://www.recreationns.ns.ca/resources-3/promising-practices/>. Please click on "add to database" at the bottom of the page to start sharing. This is not yet "live" but will be launched at the Recreation Nova Scotia Conference on September 28/29 in New Glasgow. We want this to be an easy process for you, so if you need assistance or if it would be easier for someone to help you, please contact our summer student, Michelle, by reply email (student@recreationns.ns.ca) or call [902-425-1128 ext. 4](tel:902-425-1128). She can also answer questions you may have. Thanks and we hope to have you participate!

Position: Volunteer on a Greenpeace ship this summer

Organization: [Greenpeace Canada](#)

Location: [Halifax](#), Nova Scotia

Dates: late July (see below)

This summer, one of Greenpeace's flagships, the Esperanza, will sail up to Clyde River, Nunavut to amplify the voices of the community, support their struggle against seismic blasting and deliver their first solar energy system. For more information on Clyde River, visit: <https://www.savethearctic.org/en-CA/clyde-river/>

Before sailing up, we will be in Halifax with the ship for several days of public events, including Open Boat tours, campaign presentations and many other fun activities! Would you like to get involved? We need lots of volunteers to make this a successful project!

The Esperanza will be in Halifax September. Please fill out this short form if you are interested in getting involved or learning more:

<http://goo.gl/forms/EvsAFhYztsosPTCP2>

AVIVA Community Fund

First launched in October 2009, the Aviva Community Fund asked Canadians to submit their ideas and vote for causes on the competition's online portal. Canadians overwhelmingly answered the call, proposing over 2,000 ideas, casting more than two million votes in support of causes from every province and territory. It's back! Click [HERE](#).

nim-bē

(Not In My Back Yard)

A documentary. A story about environmental activists who never meant to become activists, and the problems they're fighting in Nova Scotia

Hello Everyone,

Stacey Rudderham and friends (Fall River) are filming a documentary entitled "Not in My Backyard" (NIMBY). The documentary focuses on environmental activists in the province who never meant to become activists. Please see information (below) about the documentary that Stacey sent me and contact her if you are interested in being interviewed for the film.

She is looking for community members of diverse races, ethnicities, and cultures who are/have recently become environmental activists and are willing to share their stories and experiences on film.

Please note that the documentary team will come to you to film the interview.

Stacey Rudderham

slrudderham@bellaliant.net

What is the documentary about?

Communities across Nova Scotia are fighting not only big corporations but also our own government, to protect our land, air and water. It shouldn't be that way. These are the three things we need to live. Some of us are fighting decades' long battles to end the poisoning and sickness, while the rest of us are fighting to prevent the same thing from happening where we live. We have heard from the corporations and the government for many years. They make promises or provide spin. But they never fix anything. They never fix what they broke. They move into our communities with exaggerated promises of jobs, economic spin-off and responsible stewardship. But quickly and indefinitely, we watch it go very bad.

On the other side, we are ignored, coddled, patronized and treated many times like the enemy. The companies supply inaccurate, best case scenarios, they assure everyone it'll be fine, the neighbors are wrong, but provide no proof. The proof follows after the damage is already done and then decades later we still have to fight to get effects stopped and corrected. Government treats us (us! the "good guys"!) as adversaries, extremists, and call us NIMBYs. They say we don't want change, advancement, development. What we actually do say is, we want responsible decision-making and regard for our lives and the environment around us.

How will we gather information?

We are seeking individuals who are willing and able to shed light on their fight.

We are seeking individuals directly affected by environmental racism, environmental injustice, and most especially a lack of political will to do right by the communities facing these disasters that make us the sickest province in Canada. We seek those who are currently or have experienced personal, social and health effects, caused by industrial pollution combined with political pandering.

Our interview process will be in the form of a conversation, much like sitting around your kitchen table, asking questions, but mostly letting you tell your side of the story. We want people to feel free to express themselves, honestly, openly, and without trying to be polite or politically correct. Just plain simple honest truth, with the freedom to convey whatever emotions you wish to express, sadness, anger, frustration. Most of the time, we are incredulous. And we are not wrong.

How will we do interviews?

We will come to you. If you have a site to show us, or we just meet you on your front porch, you decide. The interviews should not take more than 20 minutes, but we will let you talk as long as you wish to. That is how we learn. We hope to have all interviews completed before the end of summer.

How will people see the film?

Plans have not been finalized for release, but we expect the film to be about 90 minutes long. Our goal is to screen to diverse audiences throughout the province to various groups including government, the general public who are not aware of these issues and most especially the various community members themselves. We hope to compel people to act, to seek answers, and talk about what's really going on in Nova Scotia.

Who are we?

We are neighbors, in Fall River Nova Scotia, who have been fighting for the last 4.5 years to keep a quarry out of our area, our watershed, our game sanctuary, our neighborhood. We are moms and dads; some are retired or working full time. We represent various walks of life. None of us were activists or environmentalists, and yet we are compelled to continue this fight because it's become a matter of social justice. The media only tells a small part of our battle; it is complex and full of so many details that scream "corruption." We cry in the wind to our government, completely unheard. We thought if our fight has been this difficult, what is going on elsewhere in Nova Scotia? We have connected with groups all over the province, and the more we learn about their fights, the more we understand the ugly truth about this "pristine" province we are living in.

Context

Nova Scotia is known worldwide for the beauty of our coastlines, our quaint fishing villages, and the fall colours on the Cabot Trail. But Nova Scotia has terrible secrets, hidden from view of mainstream media and tourism. Because they are fragmented stories, disparate situations, and people separated by miles, the people of Nova Scotia impacted by environmental harm and contamination feel as if they are small groups with a problem that is distinctly theirs. It's in their backyard only. The feel alone. And developers and corporations use this to their advantage to keep the peoples' voices

silenced and small. "You're being selfish," they say, "It has to go somewhere, and we need jobs," cry the politicians, "Don't cause worse harm to the economy," the government heeds. By examining these problems together, we see a pattern of the government choosing wealth over health, a few hundred jobs over massive amounts of forested lands, and either ignoring or prolonging the cleanup of environmental contamination. When looked at under a magnifying glass, these decisions no longer make sense. The decisions our government is making today, in 2016, do not protect the people of Nova Scotia, do not protect the environment from harm, do not plan for the future of the people, financially or otherwise, and ultimately fulfills only corporate greed. There is a real and urgent need to talk about the pain we have seen inflicted on our environment, and on us. When these stories are viewed together, it will become obvious that no one in Nova Scotia is safe from these ill-advised actions by government-funded, government-approved and government-assisted entities.

FARMING OPPORTUNITY

<http://FoodWork.ca/961353>

Position: Farming Opportunity

Location: near Antigonish, Nova Scotia

I need young energy to keep up with the farm. I'd still like to live here (there is an extra house on the property) but I don't have the energy to do it on my own. It's in Antigonish County, some 23 km from town. It's a nice place to live if you like rural and are interested in some form of agriculture.

If interested, call or email:

Marty

[902-863-5496](tel:902-863-5496)

alperlectric@gmail.com

Hello,

I am writing to you today to encourage your organization and its members to **take advantage of wage subsidies** of up to \$15,000 for interns in environmental and clean technology fields. The wage subsidies are available from the [Environmental Youth Corps \(EYC\) Internship Program](#) and the [Clean Tech Internship Program](#) which are supported by Environment and Climate Change Canada's *Science Horizons*. To be eligible, interns must be recent graduates in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM). These programs support the creation of new green jobs for youth, to help young Canadians gain valuable work experience, learn about our natural environment and contribute to economic growth in environmental sectors.

I encourage you to share this information at your convenience. Furthermore, I invite you to visit the embedded links for more information and to apply.

Regards,

Geoff

I.R. Geoffrey Mercer

Regional Director General - Acting

Regional Director General's Office - Atlantic and Quebec Regions

Environment and Climate Change Canada

geoff.mercer@canada.ca / Tel: [902-426-6700](tel:902-426-6700)

McGill University Understanding Game-Based Approaches for Improving Sustainable Water Governance

Dear sir or madam,

Is the protection of Canada's freshwater resources a concern for you? If you were in charge would you do things differently?

McGill University is planning an event in Halifax where interested stakeholders can participate in a simulation gaming event that puts them in charge. Participants will play a game called Aqua Republica developed by the United Nations Environmental Program in partnership with DHI. This event will be part of the UpSWinG (Understanding Game-Based Approaches for Improving Sustainable Water Governance) initiative, a partnership between McGill, the University of Waterloo, Wageningen University (The Netherlands), the DHI group and Signature Games. For more information please refer to this website: www.gamingthewatersystem.org

Players act as members of the planning committee for the fictional country of Aqua Republica. They must manage their resources and their development goals while still maintaining the ecosystem. The game is powered by scientific models and is updated after every turn based on your choices.

This event will give you an opportunity to connect with other interested stakeholders in the area and will give you further insight into the difficulties of managing a watershed. It's also a lot of fun!

The event will take roughly 3 hours and we will likely hold two sessions throughout the day in order to accommodate as many people as are interested. We will provide snacks during the event and do everything we can to ensure a pleasant, enjoyable and insightful event.

We are currently looking for interested parties to join in this event. The event will be taking place in downtown Halifax in a location that is still to be determined. A room will be booked once we see that there is enough interest in such an event. We will work with the interested parties to schedule the event on a date where as many people as possible can attend. Currently we are looking at holding the event in either July or early August.

We thank you for your time and if you have any questions about this event, feel free to contact Steven at steven.jean@mail.mcgill.ca. We look forward to hearing from you!

Thanks again,

Steven

[1-514-795-6121](tel:1-514-795-6121)

Hello,

Hope all is well. I am pleased to invite you to participate in **Canada's new Energy Leaders Panel**. The panel will bring together university experts and key decision-makers from industry, government, Indigenous communities, local communities and environmental organizations to determine how energy resources can be developed in a way that garners acceptance and benefits society at large.

Nanos is designing, implementing and overseeing this initiative on behalf of the University of Ottawa's Positive Energy Project, a three year project that began in 2015. As part of the initiative, research studies are developed in close consultation with stakeholders to inform solution-oriented events, dialogues and workshops. Over the course of three years, Positive Energy aims to move the needle on these critical issues, identifying not only what needs to be done, but how it should be done and who should do it.

How it works

Over the course of two years, you may be randomly selected to share your views on a series of policy topics and issues related to energy in Canada (environment, community engagement, Indigenous involvement, etc.).

You will decide which issues you want to engage in.

All projects will be run by Nanos Research and any views you share will be confidential.

Everyone who shares their views will receive a summary of the research findings which will be prepared and sent to you by Nanos Research.

You will also be invited to attend Positive Energy events (conferences, panels, workshops) from time to time and receive research reports and materials as appropriate.

To start the process and join the Leaders Panel please select this link to share your

views: <http://go.nanosresearch.com/s/rul477fdv/?lang=en&code=wxz2n5nsrk>

If you have any questions or feedback, please don't hesitate to contact me directly at nnanos@nanosresearch.com.

Thank you, in advance, for sharing your time.

Free Home Upgrades for Your Clients and Participants

Help your program participants save money on heating bills this winter, be healthier and feel more comfortable in their homes year-round – find out if they are eligible for HomeWarming. HomeWarming offers a free home energy assessments and energy efficiency upgrades to income-qualified homeowners. For more information and application forms, visit [www.HomeWarming.ca](http://homewarming.ca). If you would like to have materials to promote <http://homewarming.ca/>, get in touch with Michael at mmackay@clean.ns.ca.

For the first time, **Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) Canada will have lobbyists from Atlantic Canada--Nova Scotia** specifically (Andy Blair and Joanne Light, volunteers with the not for profit CCL Halifax) who will attend the June 5-8 lobbying days with MPs on Parliament Hill. They will meet with as many Nova Scotian MPs as respond to their request. Over the last six months they have travelled around Nova Scotia meeting with all the MPs except for Rodger Cuzner and Mark Eyking promoting a fair price on carbon and support for the transition to a low carbon economy. They have been doing this work on a volunteer basis using their own funds for four years. If you believe in their work to slow global warming and can donate to help defray costs for this trip please send your cheque or m.o. to Joanne Light 6339 Young Street, Halifax, N.S. B3L 2A2 For the legitimacy of this appeal please email Cathy Orlando c.o cathy@citizensclimate.org or visit the CCL Canada website. To join CCL Halifax or start your own CCL group in your community, please contact Joanne Light Group Leader Citizens' Climate Lobby Halifax *Creating the political will for a more liveable world* [902-429-1571](tel:902-429-1571) 6339 Young Street, Halifax, N.S. B3L2A2

Do you have shredded sneakers, torn trousers or holey socks ready for trashing? **Since 2013, all worn or unusable textiles and fabrics of any material and in any condition (except chemically contaminated) can be reused/ recycled.** Collection

sites are all over HRM and Nova Scotia. AFTeR began in 2013 as a group of six organizations that collect used clothing to fund social causes such as helping children at risk, combatting disease, and supporting marginalized citizens and those facing crisis. This is accomplished with the added benefit of keeping the textile materials out of our landfills. AFTeR member charities are experts in the collection and repurposing of used textiles and footwear. <http://afterwear.ca/wp/donate/>

Environmental News:

Extreme measures being taken by province during this fire ban and very dry period. -

"Natural Resources Minister Lloyd Hines announced that beginning at noon on Tuesday, Aug. 9, all travel and activities within the woods is restricted. This includes hiking, camping, fishing, and the use of off-highway vehicles. People can still access beaches and provincial parks, but trail systems will be restricted."

See this link for more detail - <http://novascotia.ca/nsfire/>

Please act accordingly,

Best Regards, Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust

August 2016 **Halifax North West Trails Newsletter** can be found [here](#). Also, a schedule of **HNWTA hikes** is available [here](#).

FUNDY TIDINGS The Quarterly Newsletter of the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP) July 2016 Summer Issue: www.bofep.org/wpbofep/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/2016_summer.htm

Here's info on the legal case undertaken by **Sierra Club and East Coast Environment Law** to defend the 2007 decision by Canada's Minister of Environment and Nova Scotia's Minister of Environment to not permit the **Bilcon quarry against the NAFTA Tribunal's** subsequent decision to call it an unfair trade practise. The Tribunal ordered \$130 million in compensation to Bilcon. Winning this case is important for upholding Canadian environmental law. The Tribunal decision indicates something about the potential havoc the TPP agreement will create for Canadian environmental regs and our autonomy in up-holding them.

Thirteen years ago, I was hired as a consultant to provide expert advice on the impacts of the Digby Quarry. The local community had become alarmed about the quarry when they heard about plans to build a marine terminal at the site. Clearly, the quarry, which was originally 3.9 hectares –the size of quarry that eludes environmental assessment in Nova Scotia –was going to be much larger than they had thought. Turned out, a 120 hectare quarry was planned, located 50 metres from the shoreline. Basalt rock from the quarry was to be exported in large bulk carriers that would transit the Bay of Fundy.

As with most work on environmental issues, my job was not just to cover the impacts of the quarry – with particular emphasis on invasive species in this case – but also its impacts on the people in the area and the communities they create together. Participants in Environmental Assessments are supported for the very reason that they can bring this type of detailed and place-based information to the assessment process.

One of my first forays as a participant involved a beautiful lunch hosted by Carol and Ashraf Mahtab at their home in Sandy Cove. The home they had created encapsulated the peace and purpose that made the area so special. Carol's artwork hung on the walls, abstract images that somehow conveyed sea, sand, and air.

The conversation was full of laughter, information, and strategies to "**Stop the Quarry.**" I still have the right whale magnet given to me that day, created by a local artist to support the cause. Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter's Conservation Chair, Mark Dittrick, was also there, sharing detailed knowledge about the project, which was literally happening on his doorstep, and his expertise on how blasting at the quarry and ship traffic would harm the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale. After an intensive environmental assessment process, Canada's and Nova Scotia's Ministers of Environment rejected the quarry in 2007. Community members, who had spent the last five years bringing expertise to the assessment – not to mention organizing public events, lobster suppers, community fundraisers, and even hosting a joint Sierra Club US and Canada meeting on the Neck – breathed a sigh of relief.

Now, all these years later we are in court with our colleagues from East Coast Environmental Law, with the help of lawyers from Ecojustice, trying to defend the decision to reject the quarry. Bilcon, a US-based quarry company, turned to a NAFTA Tribunal, to seek compensation for the decision to reject the quarry, on the basis that it was an unfair trade practice – and is asking for compensation of 101 million USD (\$130 million CDN).

It's frustrating, to say the least, that the expertise and voices of the community were questioned by a NAFTA Tribunal. But not surprising. Our trade expert, Janet Eaton, warned the Panel assessing the quarry that investor-state provisions in NAFTA could threaten Canadians' ability to make a decision about this project. Unfortunately, she has proved to be all too correct. It's alarming that the majority members of the three-person Tribunal found in favour of Bilcon last year. To quote environmental assessment guru, Meinhard Doelle, the fact that a trade tribunal could be used to overturn the result of an

environmental assessment is "frightening."

We really had no choice but to join in this case, given our long history fighting to stop the quarry and our role as an organization in defending the environmental assessment law it threatens. We can't let this case prove that free trade deals rob citizens of their freedom to choose when it comes to projects that would damage the environment and the society on which it relies.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Fitzgerald
National Program Director
Sierra Club Canada Foundation

Warming ocean water kills kelp off Nova Scotia's coast

The loss of the kelp beds has caused a 'catastrophic' shift to algae turf that carpets the ocean floor, according to new research out of Dalhousie University.

<https://www.localxpress.ca/local-news/warming-ocean-water-kills-kelp-off-nova-scotias-coast-336705>

This is to advise that on August 5, 2016, **Celtic Current Limited Partnership registered the New Victoria Community Wind Power Project for environmental assessment**, in accordance with Part IV of the Environment Act.

The purpose of the proposed undertaking is to develop one wind turbine, and to generate up to 2.35 megawatt of power on private lands. The undertaking is located approximately 1.5 kilometers from New Victoria, Cape Breton Regional Municipality. The project is scheduled to commence in fall 2016, with operation expected in spring 2017.

On August 5, 2016, all project information including the Registration Document will be available on Nova Scotia Environment website at <http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/ea/>.

Please note that comments must be provided by **September 8, 2016**, to be considered in this environmental assessment.

Comments are requested to be provided via e-mail if possible.

On or before September 24, 2016, the Minister of Environment will decide if the project can be granted conditional environmental assessment approval. All submissions received, including personal information, will be made available for public review upon request.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

Helen Yeh

Environmental Assessment Officer

Nova Scotia Environment

1903 Barrington Street, Suite 2085

PO Box 442

B3J 2P8

Phone: [\(902\) 424-1514](tel:9024241514)

Fax: [\(902\) 424-6925](tel:9024246925)

e-mail: Helen.Yeh@novascotia.ca

A proposal by **Alton Natural Gas Storage** to extract water from the **Shubenacadie River** to form underground storage caverns in the salt formation beneath a small Colchester County community and return the resulting brine to the river has united First Nations people, commercial and recreational fishermen, environmentalists, scientists, and local residents in their opposition to the project and its approval by the provincial government.

In his latest documentary, "Saving the Shubenacadie: The Battle Over Alton Gas," award-winning film-maker Jerry Lockett gives voice to the many concerns shared by the project's opponents.

Saving the Shubenacadie: The Battle Over Alton Gas <https://youtu.be/A865GqhFTTw>

Keeping Up to Date with Alton: www.facebook.com/groups/367128616772242/

<http://aptn.ca/news/2016/06/24/mikmaq-say-bay-of-fundy-developments-could-harm-endangered-fish/>

SIPEKNE'KATIK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 6, 2016

Clarification Regarding Alton Natural Gas Storage Project

(INDIAN BROOK FIRST NATION, NS) – On July 4, 2016 Alton posted two media releases on its website.

Sipekne'katik is providing the following to clarify any misperceptions.

Sipekne'katik was in court on June 22, 2016 to appeal the Minister of Environment's decision to deny the Band's appeal of the Industrial Approval granted by Brad Skinner in January 2016. Simply stated, the issue on June 22 was regarding a stay application (to prevent brining) until the appeal of the Minister's decision was determined regarding the release of brine. Correspondingly there was no request before Justice Wood to consider other aspects of the Alton Natural Gas Storage Project other than the release of salted water (brine) into the Shubenacadie River System and the potential for irreparable harm from this questionable and controversial operation.

Although the construction was not covered by the appeal, Sipekne'katik wishes to make it clear that the Band does not want Alton to proceed with the construction until the decision of the Court on our appeal is made. If the Band is successful in its appeal, the approval of the brining operation will be cancelled. Alton should wait until that decision is made.

Sipekne'katik's appeal hearing on this matter is scheduled for August 17 and 18, 2016 at the Nova Scotia Supreme Court in Halifax.

Sipekne'katik remains committed to the protection and preservation of resources within the Shubenacadie River System.

On June 28, 2016 the Band submitted a petition for an emergency order under Section 80 of the Species at Risk Act to the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard to protect the Inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic Salmon (iBoF Salmon). The petition seeks to legally protect the migration corridor of the iBoF Salmon by a Critical Habitat Order. The critical habitat sought for the iBoF Salmon is the Stewiacke and Shubenacadie Rivers, including the tidal portion of the Shubenacadie Estuary to the confluence with the Stewiacke River, as well as the Minas Passage and into the Chignecto Bay. Sipekne'katik has Aboriginal and Treaty Rights, and has never sold, ceded, nor surrendered any of its traditional territory. As such Sipekne'katik takes its duty to protect and preserve the natural resources found within the Shubenacadie River System for future generations very seriously.

Sipekne'katik is a Mi'kmaq Band in Nova Scotia with over 2,600 members throughout Mi'kma'ki. Sipekne'katik represents itself in all consultation and negotiation matters that concern Sipekne'katik.

For more information, contact:

Chief Rufus Copage

Sipekne'katik

Phone: 902.758.2049 ext. 222

Cell: 902.805.0141

Email: chiefcopage@sipeknekatik.ca

Green Teacher- The Summer Issue is here!

Summer time is here! Along with sunny days and warm weather, the season also brings a brand new issue of Green Teacher - which means more projects, more stories and more ideas to help you take on green teaching like never before. The special Summer issue dives into the theme of place-based education, and is designed to help turn your community into a classroom in its own right.

In this issue, there are thirteen articles, each exploring place-based education - taking us from Appalachia to the Amazon! From community gardens to youth leadership groups to student-run food trucks, get ready for ideas that will take learning outside the traditional classroom. Be prepared for a summer learning experience like no other!

[Click here to preview the issue.](#)

Interested in receiving the Eco Connections directly? Email me with your request! nsenvironmentalnetwork@gmail.com

We would like to hear your news! Please send updates of environmental concerns/activities in your community and we will post them in the newsletter and on our Facebook page.



Nova Scotia
Environmental Network
Connecting for a Sustainable Future

nsenvironmentalnetwork@gmail.com

Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/NovaScotiaEnvironmentalNetwork

Find past EcoConnections here: <http://nsenvironmentalnetwork.com/resources>

NSEN Events webpage: <http://nsenvironmentalnetwork.com/events>

The Nova Scotia Environmental Network connects environmental organizations across the province – together we are stronger!