

Eco Connects NS Gathering to Build Capacity for Environmental Conservation **Truro, Sept. 22 & 23, 2017**

Truro, NS-- **“Eco Connects NS” will bring together Environmental Leaders from Government, ENGOS, First Nations, Researchers, and Youth from across the province to meet in Truro on September 22nd and 23rd. It is being organized by the Nova Scotia Environmental Network to invigorate capacity and connections for enhanced environmental conservation in Nova Scotia. It will produce tangible actions to work towards together and individually in areas of water, coasts, forests, and energy/climate. The gathering is supported by the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage as part of Canada 150 Forward and by Nova Scotia Community College. It is also receiving in-kind support from the Mi’kmaq Conservation Group, Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute, and others.**

Elder Albert Marshall from the Unama’ki Institute of Natural Resources will present on the concept of “Two Eyed Seeing” for the climate change adaptation and action round table that will balance indigenous and non-indigenous perspectives. Keynote speaker Silver Donald Cameron will present on green rights and share stories about his film “Defenders of the Dawn”. A “Growing Sustainable Funding” panel discussion with Raissa Marks from New Brunswick Environmental Network will explore Trust Funds and other models for financing on Saturday.

Dorene Bernard, Mi’kmaq Grassroots Grandmother, Water Protector, and volunteer organizer of the Peace and Friendship Alliance NS and organising committee member shared her reason for being involved: “In the Spirit of reconciliation and recognition of Peace and Friendship Treaty Rights, our vision is for a future where we, as Treaty people, work together to ensure we have healthy water, air, and lands for our families. Eco Connects NS is a positive step towards building relationships necessary for taking care of our environment and people.”

Early bird registration is on Eventbrite until September 5th. Tickets are tiered (\$10 to \$150 a day) to make the event widely accessible. Find out more at www.nsenvironmentalnetwork.com.

A Powered by Pecha Kucha (short and snappy presentations) networking event on Friday afternoon will celebrate environmental leaders. There will be activities for families including film screenings, live entertainment at Victoria Park Friday night, and youth activities on Saturday.

Geoff McCain, interim director for the Nova Scotia Environmental Network, commented: “We are pleased to invite a wide range of people and organisations to this event that share in Nova Scotia Environmental Network’s vision for a more sustainable future”.

For information Contact: nsenvironmentalnetwork@gmail.com

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Register at Eventbrite: <http://bit.ly/EcoConnectsNS> [Eco Connects NS Schedule](#):
<https://nsenvironmentalnetwork.files.wordpress.com/2017/06/eco-connects-ns-schedule1.pdf>