



Nova Scotia
Environmental Network
Connecting for a Sustainable Future

Eco Connections Newsletter December 2016

Happy Holidays

Wishing you the best of the season!
From NSEN



Welcome!

Below you will find **events** (starting on page 2), various **jobs postings** (page 3), lots of **opportunities** to have your voice heard (page 10), and **news** (page 16). *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: nseenvironmentalnetwork@gmail.com.

Get in touch!

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/NovaScotiaEnvironmentalNetwork

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

Email: nseenvironmentalnetwork@gmail.com

Membership: Membership Matters!

We look forward to new and renewing members' input on issues of importance to you. We know 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.

A big thanks to the following newest members!

- Council of Canadians- South Shore Chapter
- Hike Nova Scotia
- Young Naturalists Club
- Halifax North West Trails Association
- Canadians for a Safe Learning Environment
- Environmental Health Association of Nova Scotia

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

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! Check out NSEN's Climate Caucus webpage: <https://nsenvironmentalnetwork.com/about/caucuses/climate-change>

Water Caucus:

The next NSEN Water Caucus meeting will be in January or February 2017. Be in touch for more info: Amy Buckland-Nicks: amy@coastalaction.org and Kelly Schnare kellyb@sierraclub.ca. Check out www.ourlivingwaters.ca if you/your organisation may be interested in joining a network across Canada for people protecting and conserving freshwater bodies!

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

The next meeting will take place in the New Year. Be in touch with Karen for further details: karenmckendry@eastlink.ca

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

Upcoming Member Events & Events of Interest

January and onward...

Hive Mind: Engaging the Public for the Greater Good, brought to you by the ICN – the creators of the Global Hive

This FREE online course is a flexible, go at your own pace, online program that takes roughly 20 hours to complete. A certificate is offered upon course completion.

Learn the key concepts and tested methodology in a straightforward guide that provides insights from case studies, ready-to-use tools and resources to build into the work you do. Sign up now: <http://bit.ly/2fcZZZZ> to be part of the first cohort starting January 15, 2017!

Where: Online

When: January 15, 2017

Saturday January 14, 2017 – Sewer Stroll I – Halifax/Dartmouth

Area, HRM

Contact: Carol Klar

Email: cklar@bellaliant.net

Phone: 902-443-3385.

This will be a joint field trip with the Halifax Field Naturalists. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot of McCormack's Beach Provincial Park, just past Boondocks Restaurant in Eastern Passage. We'll look for rare birds and regular winter visitors. Dress for cold weather and bring a lunch. Plan to carpool as much as possible. Storm date: Sunday January 15.

Solar Nova Scotia offers practical courses on designing and building Solar Homes and Additions

The Passive Solar Home Design Course is intended for the general public and, for those in design and construction. The instructor is a 40 year experienced solar designer-builder, Don Roscoe.

1 SOLAR BASICS for electricity, for active thermal hot water and hot air, and for passive solar (3 1/2Hrs)

2 CLIMATE CONTROL for comfort and health, energy and the environment (5 1/2Hrs)

3 SITE DESIGNING, working with nature, creating microclimates and integrating the shelter (3Hrs)

4 SHELTER DESIGNING, bringing you, your needs and your site together (4 1/2Hrs)

5 MAKING IT HAPPEN, costing, controlling costs, contracting and doing it yourself (1 1/2Hrs)

This is offered as a six evening course in Halifax, Chester or Bridgewater; Spring, Winter & Fall. With demand, locally organized weekend versions may be offered in other locations. Contact: solardon.ns@gmail.com

WINTER ! ! -- at Bridgewater High School (541-4367 hhanlon@bridgewater.ca)

COURSES or (the location with the most attendees)

! ! -- at Chester, Forest Heights High (275-2712 jconrad@chester.ca).

Thursdays 6:45-9:45PM January 19 > February 23.

-- at Nova Scotia Institute of Technology, Leeds St., Halifax, Tuesdays 7-10: January 24 >

February 28 Information at SolarNS.ca Registration at (852-4758 / solardon.ns@gmail.com)

The fee: \$80 students, \$90 single, \$150 couples; with handouts. Optional textbooks(\$20/\$40)

On demand, a one-day PASSIVE SOLAR CONSTRUCTION COURSE will be offered mid-winter at Halifax & at other locally organized locations. This course is intended for those wishing to design and build a PASSIVE SOLAR HOME with an air recirculated heat storage slab.

1 PASSIVE SOLAR BASICS

2 GROUND INSULATION instead of frost walls

3 HEAT STORAGE SLAB construction techniques and details

4 AIR RECIRCULATION and FILTRATION SYSTEM design and components

5 SYSTEM BALANCING and CONTROLS

Fee \$60 & \$50 students: with construction detail sheets & CD of the course visuals.

Info. & Registration at solardon.ns@gmail.com

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, March 5, 2017 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. for the **Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust Annual General Meeting** at the Estabrooks Community Hall, Lewis Lake. Everyone is welcome.

Job Postings:

Ecology Action Centre Job Posting: Marine Conservation Officer

Since 1971, the Ecology Action Centre (EAC) has been working to build a healthier and more sustainable world. We are proud to be a member-based organization with 5,000 members and more than 300 volunteers. Our areas of focus include Built Environment, Coastal & Water, Energy, Food, Marine, Transportation and Wilderness.

The Ecology Action Centre's marine team works locally, nationally and internationally towards protecting the marine ecosystem and maintaining sustainable fisheries, which support vibrant coastal communities. We are seeking an enthusiastic environmental campaigner with an interest in marine issues, who is looking for a dynamic and challenging job opportunity to make change in the world's oceans.

The Marine Conservation Officer will assist with EAC's marine conservation campaigns. Specifically the Officer will assist in all aspects of a campaign to designate 10% of Canada's ocean as marine protected areas and to protect sensitive benthic areas from harmful fishing practices. Other projects will include research, writing and advocacy for campaigns on marine species conservation and stock rebuilding. The Officer will report to the Senior Marine Coordinators.

The Marine Conservation Officer duties will include:

- Attend, as required, various DFO science and management meetings pertaining to protected areas, species at risk, stock assessment and management.
- Work together with other conservation organizations in Atlantic Canada and nationally on achieving shared objectives for marine protection.

- Research and compile information on existing and potential protected area sites.
- Work with the Marine Team's communication staff on communication products and strategy.
- Gather and compile Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) science and management advice about key threats/issues toward marine fish and habitat.
- Assist in organizing workshops and expert panels on marine protected areas and sensitive benthic areas.
- Conduct community outreach, event promotion, and general logistics as needed.
- Attend and participate in Marine Action Committee meetings and activities.
- Support the overall work of the Ecology Action Centre.
- Other duties as required.

Required skills and experience:

- Degree in environmental science or studies, public policy, marine biology or related field; advanced degree considered an asset.
- Some knowledge of marine protected areas, fisheries, species at risk, ocean or marine sciences and/or environmental policy.
- Some experience with environmental campaigning or working in a not-for-profit.
- Ability to digest, synthesize and communicate scientific data to a variety of audiences.
- Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal. Comfortable speaking in multi-stakeholder settings and to media through interviews.
- Able to organize multi-stakeholder events and meetings.
- Strong organizational skills, self-directed, as well as team player.
- Hold a valid driver's license.

The Ecology Action Centre is committed to employment equity and encourages applications from individuals in traditionally marginalized groups such as: racialized people, Indigenous people, lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender and queer people, and persons with disabilities. We encourage applicants to self-identify in their cover letter or application if they are a member of a marginalized community. Diversity is a stated value of the Ecology Action Centre. Moreover, diversity in the EAC community is a strength that we seek to cultivate. It is the responsibility of every employee of EAC to foster a culture that embraces and promotes diversity.

Terms of Employment: 37.5 hours per week, some evening and weekend work will be required. 4 weeks paid vacation and a cost-shared benefits program. Salary will be based on experience and in the range of \$32,000.00-\$40,000.00 per annum. This position is for a term of one year with the possibility of an extension pending the success of the program and fundraising efforts. The position is located Ecology Action Centre, 2705 Fern Lane, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

To Apply: Please email a cover letter and resume as a single PDF document with the file name as follows:

LastName_FirstName_OfficerApplication.pdf to Susanna Fuller, marine@ecologyaction.ca.

No phone calls please. Your resume must include two references.

Application Due Date: Wednesday, December 21, 2016

We thank all applicants for their time and interest, however only short-listed applicants will be contacted. We anticipate that interviews for short-listed applicants will occur in early 2017. The Ecology Action Centre was founded in 1971 and is one of Nova Scotia's most active environmental organizations. The Centre welcomes new members and volunteers:

<http://www.ecologyaction.ca>

Position: **Community Energy Campaigner**

Organization: Ecology Action Centre

Location: Halifax, Nova Scotia

The Ecology Action Centre's Energy Action Team is seeking a full-time Community Energy Campaigner for a three month contract with possibility of extension. The successful candidate's responsibility will be to strengthen the EAC's work in community-level energy research and campaigning. The position will also support the work of the Energy Action Team, more generally. The Community Energy Campaigner will work closely with the Energy Campaign Coordinator and Energy Action Team and report to the Energy Campaign Coordinator.

This position will principally work toward community-based energy and climate change research and campaigning in Nova Scotia and Atlantic Canada, with a focus on the justice-based transition to a zero-carbon economy. Specifically, it will involve the following duties:

- Report-writing, research and support for various projects of the Ecology Action Centre;
- Building and strengthening relationships with Nova Scotian communities to support their existing needs, research and campaigns, with a focus on Workers, Mi'kmaq communities, African Nova-Scotian communities and other communities of colour;
- Research related to workers making the transition from high-carbon to low-carbon industries, and workers joining the low-carbon economy from other sectors and communities;

- Supporting the Energy Campaign Coordinator in monitoring and shaping climate change and energy policy in Nova Scotia, Atlantic Canada, and Canada;
- Supporting the Energy Conservation Coordinator in work relating to energy efficiency programs and multi-stakeholder initiatives in Nova Scotia and Atlantic Canada;
- Meeting with regional, national, and international organizations related to the Energy Action Team's work;
- Supporting the Energy Action Team's work in media, social media and various publications;
- Participation in stakeholder consultations, regulatory proceedings and advisory boards;
- Identifying and supporting the pursuit of fundraising opportunities; and
- Supporting the overall work of the Energy Action Team and the Ecology Action Centre.

The Ecology Action Centre is committed to employment equity and encourages applications from individuals in traditionally marginalized groups such as, but not limited to: African Nova Scotian and other racialized people, Aboriginal people, lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender and queer people, and persons with disabilities.

Skills and Experience Required

- Strong interest in the greater effects of climate change on indigenous communities and communities of colour, and the relationship between climate change and social justice.
- Interest in and knowledge of environmental matters related to community capacity, health, well-being, and environmental racism.
- Interest in and knowledge of energy systems and how they effect, benefit or harm people at the community level.
- Experience working with Aboriginal communities, African-Canadian communities or other communities of colour to support their operations, projects, events or political endeavours.
- Excellent communication skills, both oral and written.
- Demonstrated ability to develop and strengthen relationships within and between communities, including Aboriginal, African Nova Scotian or other Nova Scotian communities.
- Proven skills in reviewing and compiling topics of interest.
- Project management skills: ability to work independently and as part of a team, effectively manage multiple tasks and manage and use time efficiently.
- Computer literacy in MS Office, including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc.
- Available some evenings and weekends and willing to travel.

Desirable Skills and Experience

- Experience with social media and traditional mass media.
- Experience bringing people together, and leading or supporting community events or workshops.
- Experience working with an NGO, First Nation Band, co-op, Labour organization, non-profit or community enterprise.
- Experience working with volunteers.
- Experience working with governments and policy matters.
- Experience with public speaking.
- Web-based skills.
- Education or training in social sciences, community organizing, natural sciences or public policy.
- Related experience with sustainable energy.
- Experience managing projects and budgets, and develop funding proposals.

Wage and Benefits: \$20.00/hour; 30 hours/week; three month contract with possibility of extension and/or increase in hours based on funding and performance

Location: Halifax, Nova Scotia in EAC's newly renovated, highly efficient office

Application: Cover letter, resume and three references.

Please submit your application via email with "APPLICATION – Community Energy Campaigner" in the email subject line. All applications should be in the form of a pdf document with required elements in the following order: cover letter, resume, references.

Only applications received directly via email will be considered

Deadline: 4:00, Monday, January 9, 2017

Attention: Stephen Thomas, Energy Campaign Coordinator, stephen@ecologyaction.ca

We thank all applicants for their time and interest, however only short-listed applicants will be contacted. Interviews will begin the week of January 16, 2017.

The Ecology Action Centre is committed to employment equity and encourages applications from individuals in traditionally marginalized groups such as, but not limited to: African Nova Scotian and other racialized people, Aboriginal people, lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender and queer people, and persons with disabilities. We encourage applicants to self-identify in their cover letter or application if they are a member of a marginalized community. Diversity is a stated value of the Ecology Action Centre. Moreover, diversity in the EAC community is a strength that we seek to cultivate. It is the

responsibility of every employee of EAC to foster a culture that embraces and promotes diversity.

The Ecology Action Centre was founded in 1971 and is one of Nova Scotia's most active environmental organizations. The Centre always welcomes new members and volunteers: <http://www.ecologyaction.ca>

Job Posting and Application Details are also available at Ecology Action Centre Website here:

<https://ecologyaction.ca/sites/ecologyaction.ca/files/images-documents/f...>

Positions: Organic Farming Internship

Type: paid full-time internship; housing optional, more (see below)

Organization: Four Seasons Farm

Location: Maitland, near Truro, Nova Scotia

Four Seasons Farm is a place where many opportunities await both the aspiring farmer and the curious person looking to understand food. While the farm is a commercial business, the resources to learn about farming are many; there is a library of periodicals and books, a small plot of land to play with, experienced farmers to answer questions, and a successful, well established farm to experience. Owners Sina and Owen strive to accommodate and challenge interns so that when they finish the season feel fulfilled and ready to continue their journeys. Those who bring questions, motivation and a sense of humor find the best fit here. Also, previous experience is valued but passion and hard work trump all else. A commitment to a whole season is expected, benefiting the farm and the intern most. Interns who have these qualities enable the farm to move forward in producing healthy organic food, sharing ideas of permaculture and sustainable agriculture, and enriching the farm and the community that surrounds it (Maitland!).

Located in rural Nova Scotia, 25 min west of Truro, and 1 hour north of Halifax, Four Seasons is a unique and well-established medium sized farming operation beginning its 25th year as an organic farm. Family owned and operated since 1992, the farm went through a transition of ownership from one generation to the next in 2012. Mixed greens play an important role at the farm, while the rest of the focus is put toward shoot mix, herbs and market vegetables, particularly garlic, cherry and heirloom tomatoes, carrots and beets.

There are ten greenhouses that are used for season extension, which allow growing to start in February and finish harvesting in December. A processing building houses a walk-in cooler and allows us to process more effectively and out of the elements. The farm currently cultivates 6 acres on owned and leased land. Slowly, the farm is incorporating fruit trees and chickens for eggs into the system to create a more sustainable, permaculturally inspired approach to organic farming. The farm is a place to learn about food in its many aspects, especially growing it but also cooking and eating it. Experience farming as both as a lifestyle and a livelihood alongside seasoned farmers who want to teach what they know and learn what they don't. We offer each intern a small plot of land where they can experiment with crops and have their own garden to grow what they want. Inside, everyone is encouraged to read from the constantly expanding comprehensive farm library. 2nd year interns who are invited back can have a new arrangement with access to land and tools to start their own initiative and a potential employment on the farm.

The farm family includes friends Sina and Owen as owners, Moira (Owen's wife), and their daughter. The former owners Nancy and David Roberts play a part, two full time people, local part-time helpers, two interns, friends & volunteers and a few others in between. Oh yeah, and Hali our dog and Rocky & Red the cats.

Come and join our fun farm family!

INTERNSHIPS

Interns are invited to join us from March until November

Qualifications:

- A strong interest in local, sustainable food
- Previous work experience/education in agriculture is preferred
- Positive and inquisitive
- Energetic, hard-working and highly motivated
- Desire to work and live in a cooperative setting

Work/Learn Description

- Over the course of the season interns will develop the skills to grow from "seed to plate." Some of the tasks and themes include: seeding and transplanting; soil health and fertility; cover cropping; irrigation; trellising and pruning; weed, pest and disease management; intercropping; succession planting; managing and improving high tunnels; post-harvest handling; direct farm marketing; delivering to clients and selling at a farmers' market; cooking and preserving food; poultry care; implementing some permacultural practices; compost making; breaking and working fallow ground; fixing and maintaining small machinery; and general farm maintenance

- Some building projects are also planned for this year include: finishing the processing building, building a new glorified mudroom, painting the house, hooking up a well to solar power, building a small cabin and dozens of other projects in mind. And there is always upgrading & maintaining the greenhouses.

- Learning and working take place in both individual and group settings; there is individual instruction, group demonstrations, and working with one another to pass along skills
- Detailed instructions are given to develop the skills necessary to perform tasks on the farm
- There is an extensive farm library for everyone to use
- Special workdays and celebrations with friends and community several times a year for a change of pace

Responsibilities:

- The regular work schedule is full days of work on weekdays running from 7am – 5pm, with a 30 minute morning break/aka second breakfast, and a 1 ¼ hour lunch break
- Interns are in charge of watering the farm crops on a rotating basis, this includes the weekends and is usually once a month or less
- Helping with deliveries
- Selling our produce at the farmers market in Halifax on Saturdays, usually once a month or less

Housing:

- Housing can be provided in the beautiful family farm house for a fee. Interns will have their own rooms.
- Access to Canada-wide long-distance phone calls and wireless internet
- Laundry facilities available
- Detergent, soap, sunscreen and some over the counter medication provided
- Regular opportunities to cook almost anything with fresh and local ingredients
- Interns are also expected to take part in managing an orderly household, clean the house weekly, do household chores and take turns cooking for everyone

Farm conduct:

- There is a reasonable list of household guidelines which outline rules of respect and procedure followed in the house and on the farm
- Safety is first and foremost; taking care of potential dangers and being mindful as we work.
- No drugs allowed, responsible drinking practiced

Compensation: \$11/ hr

Additional Benefits:

- A space in our farm garden of your own to grow what you want
- An opportunity to explore this beautiful region of Nova Scotia on the Bay of Fundy (several bikes available, mud sliding, swimming, sports, hiking and foraging are all things that are commonly done here)
- The chance to meet others locally and from around the world, involved in the farm and food revival movement
- Campfires, playing music and socializing are common activities enjoyed on the farm (sing it!)

To Apply

The 2017 season will run from March until November.

There is no deadline to apply.

- Only full season interns get accepted
- preference will be given to applicants over 20, as well as single applicants
- International applicants are encouraged to apply to the internship. However, the applicant will be expected to research information regarding visa and travel restrictions. Please keep in mind that we are not English teachers and we expect applicants to have a basic knowledge to communicate in English
- Please email us a request for a questionnaire. It can be send together with your resume and 2-3 references to: info@fourseasonsfarm.ca . Follow up communication and an interview will be done by phone or Skype with Nancy Roberts.
- Please note: the initial two weeks of an intern's stay is a probationary period where both the farm management and intern will assess whether they are happy with each other

Check us out at <http://www.fourseasonsfarm.ca>

A warm welcome to those who enjoy hard work, tasty food, good conversation, music, and living with a diverse group of people. We sincerely look forward to working hard and having a great time together!

From Maitland

Owen & Sina

Position: Skilled Farm Worker

Type: full-time paid positions, optional housing (see below)

Organic farm: Four Seasons Farm

Location: Maitland, near Truro, Nova Scotia

Four Seasons Farm is looking for Skilled Farm Workers

Requirements:

- At least 2 years of vegetable farming experience (one year on an organic farm)
- Driver's license
- First aid [preferred]

The Ideal Person Is:

Responsible, outgoing, good at communicating, hardworking, autonomous, precise, observant, organized

Jobs description:

The farm worker will be working in our fields and greenhouses doing day to day farm work. Work will happen independently and in a team. Instructions will be given on a daily basis with potential for the development of an independent work schedule within the farm schedule.

Tasks will include but are not restricted to:

- Seeding field crops [specifically salad greens]
- Bed preparation
- Harvesting
- Transplanting different vegetables and herbs
- Working with irrigation
- Specific watering tasks
- Potential Market/Retail Helper and/or delivery driver

Compensation:

Wage: \$14/hr

Housing:

Accommodation can be provided in the farm house for a monthly rent which could also include meals.

Separate housing would be preferred.

Time commitment:

March 1st, 2017 – November 30th, 2017

Monday – Friday, occasional weekends

Potential for part-time work as well

Saturdays for markets as needed

Opportunities:

- Land & greenhouse space is available to grow your own crops with the possibility to sell it to the farm (conditions apply)
- Long term employment
- Access to farm vegetables

For more on the farm visit our website at fourseasonsfarm.ca

To apply please email us and include your resume and references: sina.owen@fourseasonsfarm.ca

ORGANIC FARMING OPPORTUNITY

<http://FoodWork.ca/953763>

Position: Organic Farm Paid Interns (4 positions)

Type: full-time weekly base salary plus room and board, more (see below)

Farm: Abundant Acres <http://abundant-acres.com>

Location: Centre Burlington, Hants County, Nova Scotia

Are you committed to a career in agriculture? Are you looking for a chance to build farming skills while saving up some money? If so, we would like to talk with you.

About the farm: We grow organic vegetables for a 175 family CSA, a busy farmer's market stall and several wholesale accounts including Dalhousie University. Our farm is on 90 acres of fields, forest, and salt marsh on the banks of a tidal river near the Bay of Fundy. We are constantly experimenting with new crops and production systems. In 2017, we plan to grow six acres of vegetables. We also keep free range laying hens for eggs and graze a small herd of cattle

Our farm is too complex to manage by ourselves, so we ask each employee to manage one of our four production systems. These are 1. seedling and production greenhouses, 2. short season crops on permanent beds, 3. mechanically cultivated row crops, and 4. plasticulture crops. To see how the farm crew worked last year, please see our blog post about it, or the article written by Dakota Varen on the Grow A Farmer blog.

The team so far:

- Jen Greenberg is in charge of animals, fruit, finances and customer relations.
- David Greenberg leads vegetable production. He spends a lot of time on maintenance of equipment and infrastructure, and coming up with new ideas.
- Marshall Zuern is returning for his fourth season with us. He is our field production manager, responsible for managing harvests, wholesale orders and training a new person to do the job he did so well last year: Growing 1.5 acres of high value,

short season crops on permanent raised beds.

The position is from mid-April until mid-November. We offer a base salary of \$300 per week, plus room and board. We also offer workman's comp, and a paid one week vacation mid summer. At the end of the season, you will be eligible for EI. Higher pay is possible for applicants with extensive farming experience. Year round employment with room and board is a possibility.

Apply by email to: Jen Greenberg, jenredfox@gmail.com. Please send a letter of intent, resume, and three references. Position will be posted until hiring is complete. If this interests you, don't delay getting in touch! Questions? Call David Greenberg [902-757-1640](tel:902-757-1640) or email davidgreenberg71@gmail.com

Wanted – caretakers for our rural property on North shore of NS for 2017

Position: Organic Farm Caretakers

Type: work-stay / volunteer / self-employment

Organization: Windy Mountain Road Farm

Location: North Shore, Nova Scotia, Canada (live-in)

Are you in a situation where you are wanting to live the rural farming (or similar) life but are unable to afford to purchase or lease land?

We have an amazing opportunity for interested person(s), ideally suited to a couple or two single people. We are seeking caretakers for our farm while we volunteer overseas. We are located between Pictou & Tatamagouche. We are offering a place to stay for free while we are away in exchange for taking care of our chickens, dogs, cats and our place. We have a modest 2 bedroom home, wood stove heat, solar power for most our electrical needs, several small greenhouses and other infrastructure. We have 2 asparagus beds that one person can maintain (weeding!!), with one bed that can be harvested and produce sold in order to garner some income.

We are offering folks the chance to try their hand at market gardening/small scale farming (using non-agribusiness methods, so essentially organic methods) for the 2017 season. We have the land & equipment that would be needed. You will need your own vehicle. The only costs to be covered by caretakers would be their food & utilities (phone & internet, electricity, some propane for cooking, some wood for woodstove). We are looking for folks who are seeking to live a self-sufficient, environmentally sustainable lifestyle. You must demonstrate your familiarity and thus interest in permaculture, transition town and preppers. Some experience with farm animals and simply a love of animals is required. Experience with woodstove heat is also necessary. References will be required as well as a security deposit. Unfortunately you can't have your own pets as we are a full house with our own and this is non-negotiable. Only serious inquiries please. Contact Wilma at wwolfvan@yahoo.com and provide your phone number in order for me to contact you.

WORK EXCHANGE PROGRAM

<http://GoodWork.ca/982763>

Opportunity: International Forestry Work Exchange Program

Type: student work exchange bursary award programme

Organization: Canadian Institute of Forestry

Locations: United Kingdom (for Canadian applicants) // Canada (for UK applicants)

Job Description:

The Canadian Institute of Forestry/l'Institut forestier du Canada (CIF/IFC) is the national voice of forest practitioners. The Institute's mission is to provide national leadership in forestry, promote competence among forestry professionals, and foster public awareness of Canadian and international forestry issues.

Work Term: Summer - June to August 2017

The Prince of Wales Forest Leadership Award recognizes students and recent graduates who have actively engaged in forestry or natural resource management and have demonstrated a passion for the environment and a desire to solve complex problems. A total of two award-winners, from Canada, will take part in the international forestry work exchange program during the summer of 2017.

Participating students/recent graduates will work at meaningful employment in their partner country, which will offer a broad range of interdisciplinary forestry experience in policy, planning and field work.

Potential work experiences could include: aiding in harvest prescriptions, high value conservation area determination, harvest block and road layout, silviculture-related data collection, modelling and analysis, science and research support, urban forestry management, tree planting and nursery husbandry, or gaining a better understanding of how forestry NGOs and government work.

Award-winners will receive a bursary of CAD \$12,000 total (CAD \$6,000 from TD Bank and CAD \$6,000 from employers).

Participants will cover their own expenses, including flights, accommodation, local transportation, food, insurance and incidentals. In addition, participants will be asked to maintain a blog during the exchange and produce an article after the

program finishes.

Qualification Criteria

Canadian Applicants

Must be a Canadian citizen age 30 or under; be studying or recently graduated from a Canadian post- secondary institution and able to travel to the United Kingdom.

Students:

- Students who have spent at least 3 years in an accredited university forestry/natural resources management program, i.e. 3rd or 4th year students
- Students in a Master degree program in Forestry
- Students in a college forestry/natural resources technical program (must have finished one year)

Recent Graduates:

- Immediately following graduation from an accredited university forestry/natural resources management program
- Immediately following graduation from a Master degree in forestry
- Immediately following graduation from a college forestry/natural resources technical program

Important:

Canadian applicants must be members of the Canadian Institute of Forestry – Institut forestier du Canada to participate.

How to apply

Applications must be submitted in a single document via email by 11:59pm EST on December 31st, 2016. Applications must include each of the following:

- Personal essay
- Transcript(s)
- Curriculum Vitae (Résumé)
- Application Form
- Three Letters of Recommendation

Please submit completed applications to: Virginia Hudson Email: vhudson@cif-ifc.org Phone: 1 (604) 224 -3221 ext. 5351

Environmental Opportunities:

Triclosan

The **assessment for triclosan** was published. A proposed risk management approach document for triclosan was also released for a 60-day public comment period **ending on January 25, 2017**.

www.chemicalsubstanceschimiques.gc.ca/plan/approach-proche/triclosan-eng.php

Ozone-depleting Substances and Halocarbon Alternatives Regulations

The proposed Regulations amending the Ozone-depleting Substances and Halocarbon Alternatives Regulations were published. www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2016/2016-11-26/html/reg1-eng.php

Chemical Substances Website Inquiries | Questions du site Web Substances chimiques

c/o Health Canada | Santé Canada

A.L. 4905B

Ottawa (ON) K1A 0K9

chemicalsubstanceschimiques@hc-sc.gc.ca

Government of Canada | Gouvernement du Canada

Call for Winter 2017 Guided Snowshoe Hikes

Deadline: December 21, 2016

Once again, Hike NS invites groups across NS to partner with it on delivering winter guided snowshoe hikes in January, February and March of 2017. The purpose of the event series is to: 1) get more people in NS hiking and snowshoeing; 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 snowshoe hike (or already plan to host a hike), please register your event here <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XN2GQF6> by December 21, 2016 for events between January 14 and March 12, 2017. Note that one organization may register only up to five hikes. Thank you!

We're also looking to update our Where to Borrow, Rent or Buy snowshoes guide found here:

<http://www.hikenovascotia.ca/projects/guided-hikes/>. So please let us know if it needs updating. Thanks.

Hike Nova Scotia

info@hikenovascotia.ca

www.hikenovascotia.ca

Scientists say the **Great Barrier Reef's coral** has been cooked to death by warming waters. Now the Australian government wants to give a \$1bn loan to a massive coal project in the reef's heart. Join me and add your voice to stop the deal before we lose the Reef forever:https://secure.avaaz.org/campaign/en/84_reject_coal_deal_protect_the_reef/?kFiefab

A note from Peggy Cameron:

Please complete this federal Department of Environment survey on Environmental Assessment.

<http://eareview-examenee.ca/choicebook/>

Apart from responding about what the role of the Nuclear Safety Commission and the National Energy Board should be in the environmental assessment and project approvals process the survey is an excellent opportunity to...

1. recommend that climate change & reduction of greenhouse gas emissions be the top consideration for all reviews, &
2. ask that the \$1 million funding for the Canadian Environmental Network be reinstated. This non-profit umbrella organization, parent of provincial groups such as the Nova Scotia Environmental Network (NSEN), facilitates cooperation and networking among environment groups and environmentally themed civil-society, social-justice non-governmental organizations across Canada and internationally. Its funding was cut under the Harper government but not reinstated by Trudeau. NSEN is especially crucial to our region for keeping citizens informed.

Please be direct in your comments-

If greenhouse gas emissions aren't reduced there is no economy.

If Boards aren't impartial they aren't credible.

If citizens aren't informed, they can't participate. Or is that the plan?

A campaign supported by CASLE (Canadians for A Safe Learning Environment): From CHPS NEWS: STUDENTS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Carter and Olivia Ries, ages 15 and 14 respectively started One More Generation (OMG) when they were still in elementary school. Their passion for educating fellow students has taken them around the world. One More Generation has worked on protecting rhinos to sea turtles and teaching children the importance of recycling and not polluting the planet.

Carter and Olivia have now set their sights on one of the most ubiquitous pollutants that no one thinks about - disposable plastic straws. Americans use an estimated 500 million plastic straws every single day. That is like 1.6 straws for every man, woman and child living in this country every single day. If you were to take an entire day's worth of plastic straws we use in one day, it would fill up over 127 school buses. Another way to illustrate the problem is to think about all those straws, end on end, they would stretch around the world 2.5 times, each day.

Schools and students are encourage to get involved! The organization asks that you give up using a straw for 30-days and help others in your school and families to give them up too! To learn more about OneLessStraw or to take the pledge, visit: www.onelessstraw.org.

The David Suzuki Foundation is offering three \$50,000 research fellowships to support young scholars in Canada. Among the student fellowships, is one to support Indigenous science and knowledge. We're specifically looking for a young Indigenous Scholar to lead a project on Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Climate Change. Details are available on the David Suzuki Fellowships website: <http://ow.ly/7gUy305L5Na>

Creative Industries Fund: Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage is now accepting applications for a new \$2 million Creative Industries Fund. This fund has been designed, in consultation with stakeholders, to invest in the growth of the creative industries. Businesses, not-for-profits, social enterprises and sector associations operating in the creative sectors are eligible for funding. For more information click [HERE](#).

Hi Solar Friends,

Can you help to make Nova Scotia a place that relies 100% on renewable energy?

Are you an owner of a solar energy system? Do you want to inspire others by your example? We are looking for volunteers who would be interested in having their system and story featured on our website as a case study.

We need case studies for

Passive Solar

Solar Thermal

Hot air

Hot water

Solar Electricity (PV)

Concentrated

Ideally, case study volunteers would have owned their solar energy systems for a minimum of two years and are willing to share information about their systems such as the details of its design, energy production and costs. We will do the rest. Why do we want to do this?

- Clearly show Nova Scotians the economic and environmental benefits of adopting solar energy.
- Make our website the recognized clearing house for solar energy information.

If you are interested please contact me before December 20, 2016:

Ian Guppy

Solar NS Communications Committee

guppy@ns.sympatico.ca

Phone: [902-425-5121](tel:902-425-5121)

Right now, Canada is reviewing some of its most important environmental laws – starting with the law that governs how environmental assessments are conducted for new projects like pipelines and dams.

The independent Panel appointed to review Canada's environmental assessment processes [launched its public engagement strategy](#) last month. **Until December, you have a chance to have your say.**

This review is an important opportunity for all Canadians to weigh in on environmental assessment processes and how decisions should be made.

The panel started its cross-country public engagement tour in September, with stops in 19 communities from coast to coast. **Check out the details about [public workshops](#) and [public hearings](#) to see when the Panel will be visiting a community near you.**

Can't make it to an in-person engagement event? [You can still have your say online.](#) **Tell the federal government what you think matters most in strengthening environmental assessments – such as meaningful public participation, a climate test and nation-to-nation dialogue with Indigenous peoples.**

[Have your say now to ensure stronger environmental decision-making in Canada!](#)

You can find more information about the review and discussion themes [here](#).

This review marks a once-in-a-generation opportunity for Canada to enact a leading-edge environmental law for nature, communities and democracy. We hope you'll be a part of it!

Thank you,

West Coast Environmental Law, Ecojustice, Environmental Defence and Ecology Action Centre

P.S. To learn more about how Canada can enact a next-generation environmental assessment law, read [West Coast Environmental Law's recommendations on environmental assessment reform](#) – based on the collective wisdom of over 30 of Canada's leading experts on the subject.

This is to advise that on December 16, 2016, Halifax Water will register the Lake Major Dam Replacement Project for environmental assessment, in accordance with Part IV of the Environment Act.

The purpose of the proposed undertaking is to replace the existing Lake Major Dam with a new concrete structure, located approximately 35 m upstream from the existing structure, in the community of Lake Major, Halifax Regional Municipality, Nova Scotia. The new dam will maintain a water level of 19.5 m, which is approximately 0.5 m above the existing normal lake level. Pending approval to proceed, construction is anticipated to commence during the spring of 2017 with operations to begin in late 2017.

On December 16, 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 no later than **January 25, 2017** to be considered in this environmental assessment. **Comments are requested to be provided via e-mail if possible.**

On or before February 14, 2017, 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:902-424-1514)

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

e-mail: Helen.Yeh@novascotia.ca

Got some beef to air?

Got some news to share?

Got some questions? Got some ideas? Got some plans?

This Friday evening, every Friday evening, is the Solar Nova Scotia Sup'n'Share!

We're there at 5:00 sharp, have supper and catch up.

When: Every Friday evening, 5:00pm

Where: Lion's Head Tavern, 3081 Robie St. Ask the waiter to point out our table.

See ya there!

Take Action Now to Protect Blue Whales and The Gulf of St. Lawrence!

It's like a bad dream that you can't wake up from. **The company that has wanted to drill in the Gulf of St. Lawrence for nine years, the same company responsible for seismic testing while the endangered blue whale was migrating, wants a new license.**

This in spite of numerous calls for a moratorium on all oil and gas development in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and an historic statement from the Chiefs of the Mi'qma'wei Mawiomi calling for a 12-year moratorium on oil and gas in The Gulf.

We need to wake up from this nightmare. It is up to the federal Minister of Natural Resources, Bill Carr and the Newfoundland and Labrador Natural Resources Minister Siobhan Coady to make this stop, and they will receive your comments and letters until October 17th in response to this request for a new license.

The Gulf of St. Lawrence is **one of the most precious marine ecosystems we have.** Given the federal government's commitment to better environmental regulation and protection of our oceans, **it's time to declare the Gulf of St. Lawrence off limits to oil and gas and to start making good on promises.**

[Please send your letter today!](#)

Thank you for taking action.

Gretchen Fitzgerald - National Program Director

My name is Nicole LeBrun and I am current enrolled in the **Environmental Engineering program at the NSCC Waterfront campus.** As a class we are asked to do an applied research project that will take place over the course of the year. As part of the project we are encouraged to reach out to local community organisations or larger organisation in the hope that they will be currently working on a project that we students can help with and also use as our applied research project. I was wondering if you, or anyone at the local level was working on a project regarding environmental conservation, restoration, engineering or any other environmental work.

Thank you very much for your time.

Nicole LeBrun

nicolelebrun4@hotmail.com

Stop spraying glyphosate in Nova Scotia

- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/StopSprayingNS/>
- <http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/get-involved/petitions/>
- https://www.change.org/p/let-s-tell-our-environment-minister-and-premier-that-it-is-not-ok-to-spray-our-woodlands-with-glyphosate-ever?recruiter=63316987&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=facebook&utm_campaign=share_facebook_responsive&utm_term=des-lg-share_petition-no_msg&fb_ref=Default

ACOA has issued a **Call to Action** inviting Atlantic Canadian companies, communities and non-profit organizations to develop proposals for projects that promote clean growth through clean technology. The Agency has **earmarked \$20 million** for clean technology projects in 2016-17. Applications should be submitted on or before **March 31, 2017.**

Please share with clients who may be interested. I will also follow-up with the ACOA Area Account Manager to see if she can pop in to give an overview of the program to Dartmouth staff as part of our Speaker/Info Series.

Objectives of ACOA's Clean Technology Initiative

- To encourage Atlantic Canadian businesses, communities and non-profit organizations to access ACOA programs to develop clean technology products, services or processes;
- To help companies adapt and adopt clean technology that make their work processes more efficient and less costly;

- To help **communities and non-profit organizations become more eco-friendly through the adoption or adaptation of clean technologies in community facilities;**
- To help **non-profit organizations such as institutions of higher learning conduct research and development on clean technology products, services and processes;**
- To promote clean growth as a way to grow the economy of Atlantic Canada; and
- To diversify the region's economy, open up new markets and generate good jobs for Atlantic Canadians.

What types of projects will ACOA consider assisting?

ACOA will consider assisting various types of projects, including those proposed by:

- businesses in the clean technology sector that wish to start up or expand through the development or upgrade of newer, cleaner technologies; organizations from other sectors looking to develop, adapt or adopt products, services or processes that promote clean growth; **organizations that wish to implement more clean processes; and communities and non-profit organizations looking to become more eco-friendly through the adoption or adaptation of clean technologies in their facilities.**

<http://www.acoa-apeca.gc.ca/eng/ImLookingFor/ProgramInformation/Pages/Clean-Technology-Initiative.aspx>

Watch for Wildlife (W4W) NS is a new wildlife vehicle collision prevention program that encourages and enables Nova Scotians and visitors to the province to drive with an awareness of wildlife on roads, and do what they can to prevent collisions with wildlife. It is also about providing drivers contact numbers and information about how to respond in case a collision does happen.

If you want a magnet or sticker to put on your car so you can be a reminder to others as you drive to Watch for Wildlife, please get in touch.

Please see our website: www.watchforwildlife.ca

And follow or like us if you do at:

Facebook www.facebook.com/watchforwildlifens/

Twitter @watch4wildlife

Sign up to receive newsletters on school environment and health issues from CASLE. Send your request to info@casle.ca

In this month's newsletter:

1. Research has now shown there is no doubt that Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) affects learning and well-being.

<http://www.chgeharvard.org/resource/impact-green-buildings-cognitive-function>

2. Nova Scotia remains in the forefront of regions that address indoor environment quality issues actively. CASLE and the government departments have been collaborating for two decades to create and maintain healthy schools.

3. The US Environmental Protection Agency is continuing its series of on-line courses in school environmental health:

https://www.epa.gov/iaq-schools/iaq-knowledge-action-professional-training-webinar-series?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=

4. Canadians for A Safe Learning Environment (CASLE) website www.casle.ca in its new format is accessible to tablets and phones, and contains updated practical information on a wide range of topics relevant to healthy schools and healthy school children. Please circulate the web address widely.

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](#).

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.

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)

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. 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 holy 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/>

Position: New Growers Wanted

Type: self employment & learning opportunity

Organization: Bethany New Growers Program

Location: Antigonish, Nova Scotia

The Bethany Garden New Grower Program is seeking motivated individuals who want an opportunity to learn about gardening as a career. The garden is set up with raised beds, irrigation, deer fence, and greenhouses. A barn near the garden houses many tools, including a BCS walking tractor and implements. There is also a walk in cooler and a vegetable processing area. High quality compost, cover crop seed, electricity and water are included. Mentorship from two experienced market gardeners is a key component to this program.

Participants pay a fee of \$4,000 or 50% of gross sales, whichever is less, and purchase seeds, fuel and other consumables. Knowledge, hard work and weather in the growing season are factors in determining what income can be made but the garden has been able to net \$30,000 from May to November.

If you are in transition between apprenticing on farms and starting your own market garden, or if you have some experience growing vegetable and need to learn all aspects of market gardening this is a perfect learning opportunity for you. If you are from out of the area, we will do our best to help you find a place to live nearby. The Bethany Garden is located right in the dynamic university town of Antigonish NS.

To apply, please send a résumé and letter of intent to Jen Greenberg: jenredfox@gmail.com. We will begin interviews as soon as we get promising applicants.

Environmental News:

Long-time NSEN advisor and activist, Sheila Cole recently attended Habitat III, the United Nation's conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development in Quito. She was interviewed by Halifax Magazine:

Sheila Cole warns Halifax's decision-makers

By Kim Hart Macneill | November 25, 2016

Running once every 20 years, Habitat III, the United Nation's conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, affects policy for governments around the globe. And when Quito, Ecuador hosted the 2016 edition in October, Halifax's Sheila Cole was there.

The goal of the conference was to implement the New Urban Agenda: "an action-oriented document that will set global standards of achievement in sustainable urban development, rethinking the way we build, manage, and live in cities through cooperation with committed partners, relevant stakeholders, and urban actors at all levels of government as well as the private sector."

Cole works in a variety of roles, including senior policy advisor for the Nova Scotia Environmental Network and chair of the Canadian Environmental Network's Health Caucus. "The presentation I was making at UN Habitat was about public engagement and multi-stakeholder decision-making processes," says Cole. "The thrust of the New Urban Agenda is inclusiveness and accessibility and places very much an emphasis on participatory, democratic forms of engagement." With Halifax in the midst of a wave of development, the subject is timely. According to Cole, Halifax must ensure that communities are engaged in the decision-making processes and that we're taking care to preserve the heritage and natural assets we have now, while also developing in a thoughtful and strategic way.

While Cole says that Halifax is currently a leader in terms of environmental practices, she also says that when it comes to development practices, the city is losing its edge.

"We need to scale back the huge development initiatives that are going on right now," says Cole. She goes on to say that the city is developing too rapidly, and without nearly enough citizen engagement.

"We're losing a lot of the soul of the city by encroaching on historic and established neighbourhoods," she says. "It's willy-nilly development. What we are doing is not desirable. In the very rapid, shocking actually, degree of development that's happening now, we're having tremendous slippage there in terms of the overall integrity of the structure of our city."

Cole outlines a number of other areas that Halifax needs to work on, based on the discussions at Habitat III.

"We need to formulate our policies and decision-making through the multi-stakeholder process," says Cole. "We need to keep on with our initiatives to make our transportation more accessible and less polluting. We need to work on healthy, affordable housing. We need to protect our parklands and our special places within the city in order to give people places for recreation, but also to protect our ecosystems, for the purposes of protecting air, soil, and water. We need to work on pollution reduction where we can. And we need to focus on food security that links the rural areas with the urban areas."

It's a long to-do list, but it's one Cole is confident we can accomplish, especially since Halifax has a history of taking progressive environmental steps. She names the ones she's been involved in; these include the introduction of non-smoking legislation, the pesticide bylaw, no-scent policies, and environmentally healthy schools.

"This is what people are hungry for and striving for all over the world, and we have already achieved it," she says, speaking about the city's past initiatives. "In terms of the multi-stakeholder process, that it was citizens who led these things is what makes Halifax really different."

Halifax North West Trails November 2016 Newsletter is now available on our web site [here](#).

Solar Nova Scotia Newsletter can be found [here](#).

View the **December 2016** edition of the **Organic Friends' E-Zine**, brought to you by the Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada (OACC).

You can find the latest issue online (<http://coinatlantic.ca/index.php/aczisc-coastal-update-e-newsletter/latest-issue>) or through our many social media pages! Please check out **COINAtlantic** on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Youtube](#), and our [website](#) for regular updates and news-at-it-happens!

FUNDY TIDINGS The Quarterly Newsletter of the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP)

November 2016 ~ Autumn Issue: http://www.bofep.org/wpbofep/?page_id=416

N.S. wins deal to use coal-fired plants past new federal deadline of 2030

<http://atlantic.ctvnews.ca/n-s-wins-deal-to-use-coal-fired-plants-past-new-federal-deadline-of-2030-1.3169661>

The province also announced it intends to adopt a cap and trade system for industry, with details to be worked out by 2018.

Richard Zurawski's informed response to the news that NS is extending coal and choosing cap and trade:

The announcement earlier this week that the provincial government of Nova Scotia and that the federal government of Canada have come to an agreement regarding the burning of coal for electricity generation until 2030 has me mystified. Secondly, the provincial government of Stephen McNeil has entered into a Cap and Trade agreement for the mitigation of CO2 emissions. The fact that Nova Scotia has been allowed to continue to burn coal for power generation past the 2030 deadline flies in the face of the rhetoric by both the federal and provincial governments, that the mitigation of climate change is a priority for both governments.

Historically, Western societies, North America and Europe, have been responsible for the vast bulk of the carbon dioxide that now exists in the Earth's atmosphere. And to further complicate the issue, Western companies have now taken up manufacturing in the Third World, which is desperate for development, and where the environment is sacrificed in order to raise the standard of living. This puts the responsibility for mitigating CO2 emissions and human induced climate change squarely in our court. And it also speaks to the fact that it is our continuing responsibility to seek a way to provide clean and renewable energy that does not contribute in any way to global warming.

Two recent studies highlight the incredible hypocrisy around human induced climate change by both liberal governments. The first, by Katarzyna B. Tokarska et al, in the prestigious Nature Climate Change magazine, published in May of this year, outlines the climate response to the expected 5,000,000,000,000 tons of CO2 that will be dumped into the atmosphere if the expected fossil fuel reserves are consumed, and is at the lower end of estimates, by the way. The projection is dire. In the wake of no global action, and a business as usual approach, mean temperatures will approach an increase of 20°C in the Arctic and 10°C globally in the next century. The fact that the continued burning of coal, which is the absolute worst of any of the fossil fuels, in Nova Scotia, points to the level of disconnect that these governments have with any sane plan to mitigate climate change.

The second article published by Mora et al, again in Nature magazine this month illustrates how any additional increase in temperature brought about by human induced climate change is not linear but exponential above 2°C. This tells us that any increase in CO2 emissions as we approach that 2° threshold is foolhardy. Currently the world stands at 1.5°C above industrial norms of the early 1800s. The bulk of the temperature increase according to both articles has happened since the 1970s. Any additional CO2 put into the atmosphere runs the risk of pushing us above the 2°C threshold. Once we reach that threshold according to both articles, we run a significant risk of having a runaway greenhouse effect, with large parts of the earth becoming potentially uninhabitable, massive species die off, and the melting of the Greenland and Western Antarctic ice sheets contributing to a 15 m sea level increase, inundating much of the world's coastline.

It is unthinkable to me, that any government would place immediate economic interests over and above what climate scientists and researchers have been telling us for decades. The fact that the federal government of Canada and the provincial government of Nova Scotia have entered into an agreement to continue the burning of coal, and a cap and trade system which is deeply flawed, points to a massive disconnect with reality. In what world does the potential for a few hundred or a few thousand jobs in the immediate term trump a nightmarish global dystopia and a complete disregard for the developing world.

Richard Zurawski BSc MA (Research)

PhD Candidate

[902-233-4291](tel:902-233-4291) cell

web: www.richardzurawski.ca

www.zurawskisciencefiles.ca

Hello Members and Friends of FBWHT -

As the Trust's new communications consultant, I'm very pleased to highlight some of the latest news and trail milestones to watch for in the coming months. I've been working with the group for just a few weeks now, and am already inspired by so much there is going on to support the use and preservation of these fantastic wilderness areas.

It is important work the Trust is doing; to preserve lands and allow others to experience their quiet beauty. But, I know I am preaching to the choir – just letting you know you've now adopted another voice.

- New [website](#) postings showcase the work of talented local filmmaker Kent Martin who beautifully documents things like a nature walk, a biking tour and new mural from the trails allowing you to visit nature from the comforts of home anytime.
- Watch [The Masthead News](#) for an article we shared about the new bridge to be installed across the Nine Mile River. This massive Trust project has been months in the planning and many volunteer hours have been spent executing the tasks that will allow for the 66-ft steel bridge to improve trail access for all trail users. When the installation occurs, within the next few months (weather depending), we'll also post photos and updates to the website and Facebook page.

- Many volunteers including Barb Allen, Krista and Mike Whitehouse, Terry Misner, Wayne Rogers, Mike Marriott, Beth McGee and Jeff Parks are working diligently to gather coordinates and update mapping for a new edition of the guide book [A Walking Guide to the Old St. Margarets Bay Road](#). Aiming to have the new guide reprinted and ready for explorers in spring 2017.
- FBWHT Annual General Meeting is set for **Sunday, March 5, 2017, from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.** at the Estabrooks Community Hall, Lewis Lake. Mark your calendars. Everyone is welcome.
- A huge shout out to Bay Treasure Chest for the tremendous support providing funding that allows the Trust to plan and embark on projects that previously would have been impossible.

If you have Trust news or stories to share, please contact [me](#). We are continually looking for new content to keep our Facebook and Website postings current and all of you up to date. As well, if you have recently moved or have changed your email provider, or no longer wish to receive updates, please let me know. Feel free to share our news with others who may be interested in the Trust's work or joining our supportive membership.

The Board of the FBWHT wishes you and yours a wonderful holiday season.

May you enjoy some peaceful time outside in nature during this bustling time of year.

Regards,

Joanne Ellis,

Communications Consultant FBWHT

fbwhtb@gmail.com

Cel: [902-223-0179](tel:902-223-0179)

Sierra Club Canada Foundation - Atlantic Chapter
and

Margaree Environmental Association

Environment Groups Slam Premier McNeil on Coal power, Offer affordable solutions to reduce Coal power by 80% by 2020.

Many Nova Scotian's, like us, are extremely concerned about the Federal Provincial agreement to allow Nova Scotia to continue to burn coal rather than have a plan to shut down coal burning as soon as possible. The Harper and McNeil governments made this agreement(see below) in 2014/15, and recently the Trudeau government, faced with this agreement being in place, agreed to allowing Nova Scotia's to burn major amounts of coal for power beyond 2030.

Nova Scotia will soon be touted as Canada's only dirty coal fired electricity Province. Nova Scotians do not want to be the only Province in Canada burning coal for electricity. Imagine how attractive Nova Scotia will look to outside businesses and people looking to move to Nova Scotia.

Premier McNeil falsely claims that Nova Scotians are paying high energy prices because of renewable energy projects. Renewable projects built to date (except the biomass project) are based on long term 20-25 year fixed priced levelized contracts. Levelized contracts are well known as a deal for consumers over the full contract period. The media have accepted this false claim.

Premier McNeil has placed a moratorium on renewable energy projects. Renewable projects take years to plan and finance. The building of projects are coming to a halt in 2017, and new ones cannot be planned without opportunities for them to be built.

Nova Scotia is losing green jobs now, for the experienced trades people who have worked in this field for years. More than 500 million \$ of local renewables construction in rural Nova Scotia is coming to an end.

Premier McNeil falsely claims Nova Scotians have already done enough. Nova Scotia's record is not as he states it. The 60MW of biomass power is not clean power and has increased ghg emissions, but increases it. It should be removed from green energy calculations, as it skews these calculations to make Nova Scotia's reduction by green energy false. The biomass plant as of this year is only being used seasonally. The biomass plant has no fixed priced contract, it is expensive power and is not green power.

Alton Gas case arguments wrap up in court

Lawyer Raymond Larkin argued in the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia on Tuesday that the government did not meet its obligation to fully consult with the Sipekne'katik Band about the Alton Gas project.

Alton Gas opponent Cheryl Maloney speaks with supporters after the conclusion of the Treaty Day ceremony at Grand Parade earlier this year. Arguments in a court case in which the Sipekne'katik Band is challenging the project wrapped up on Tuesday. (RYAN TAPLIN / Local Xpress / File)

The lawyer representing the Sipekne'katik Band in its appeal of the Alton Gas project approval strongly disagreed with arguments that the project poses no risk to fish and that the government has no legal duty to consult the band about the project

"The solution coming out of the caverns, nobody knows what it is," Raymond Larkin said in his closing argument in the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia on Tuesday.

Until the \$130-million first phase of the project gets underway, Larkin said there is no way of knowing for sure what Alton Natural Gas Storage LP will be discharging into the Shubenacadie River estuary near Fort Ellis, Colchester County. He said increased monitoring was introduced in the project precisely because there is a risk to fish.

"That concern should have been discussed in consultation. How do the risks affect aboriginal rights and title rights? How can you discuss the effects on aboriginal rights if you don't know what the province considers aboriginal rights."

Larkin argued throughout the two-day appeal hearing that the province has a duty to consult the band about the project that will flush out two giant natural gas storage caverns about 14 kilometres northeast of the Highway 102 exit at Stewiacke. The caverns would each measure about 105 metres by 70 metres and would hold four billion to six billion cubic feet of storage for natural gas.

The company, a subsidiary of AltaGas, will extract 10,000 cubic metres of water daily from the Shubenacadie River system and pump it through a 12-kilometre pipeline to the wellbores at Brentwood Road to flush out the caverns. The residue brine will be pumped back to the estuary for release into the river system, a gradual discharge of 1.3 million cubic metres of salt over a two- to three-year period.

In January, the Environment Department issued an industrial approval to the company to operate a brine storage pond at the river site, to lease submerged Crown land to complete the discharge channel and an agreement to construct a dike on Crown lands. Six groups, including the Sipekne'katik Band, appealed the approvals but the Environment minister dismissed all six in April.

The band appealed the dismissal and eventually took the case to the Supreme Court, claiming that it had not been consulted properly about the project.

Justice Department lawyer Alex Cameron finished his arguments earlier in the day, reiterating that the province did not have a duty to consult the band about the project because of treaty rights.

Cameron conceded that the band had fishing rights but that all the science and all the reports pointed to those rights to fish not being infringed upon by the project. He said a significant effect on the fish or the fish hatchery was "unlikely to occur," because of the project.

Daniela Bassan and Rob Grant, representing Alton Gas, argued that the duty to consult was discharged by the Crown, that the efforts of the Crown were reasonable, that modifications to the project and its environmental permits were made and that the project will cause no significant infringement on fishing rights. The company has already said that it will not begin flushing out the caverns and initiate the brining process until the new year. Justice Suzanne Hood, after listening to two days of evidence, said she won't get to the decision until mid-December and will be on leave in January, when she hopes to complete her decision.

"The judge has a number of alternatives," Larkin said after the court adjourned. "If she accepts the argument we made that the minister was procedurally unfair, the alternative we advocate is to send the case back to the minister to do it correctly. The other alternatives she has is to not accept that or accept that but say 'no, I want to deal with the duty to consult. I have all the material before me.'

"I get the impression that she would certainly consider doing that because she has obviously done a very thorough job on preparation."

Whatever the outcome, Larkin said he was as surprised as many in the gallery about Cameron's arguments that the Sipekne'katik Band had surrendered its sovereignty to the British Crown in the 1700s and does not enjoy the treaty rights that require consultation.

"The claim that there is no duty to consult goes against completely all the developments of the law in the last 15 years and what the province has been saying publicly," Larkin said. "For them to send council to say that there is no duty to consult, there is no honour of the Crown, that is a very serious position to take and a surprising one."

Cameron had argued that the province is guided by a robust policy of consultation and that government is committed to a consultation process.

"But if can't be enforced, if it doesn't have any legal effect, so then there's a disagreement and you can go to court, that's a pretty big issue," Larkin said. "We're optimistic on that issue. We think the duty to consult and the honour of the Crown is firmly established and we're hoping the judge will see it that way."

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