

# We All Share the Coast: A Workshop on Coastal Access

May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
Saint Mary's University  
Halifax, Nova Scotia

The results of the workshop *We All Share the Coast: A Workshop on Coastal Access* are summarized here. The workshop presented three main perspectives of the coastal access issue including public access rights, private property rights and the sensitivity of coastal ecosystems to human impacts.

The workshop marked the third event in a series of public events and strategic workshops under the name *Coastal Nova: Where Nova Scotia meets the Sea*, organized by the Coastal Coalition of Nova Scotia, the Ecology Action Centre, the Environmental Studies Program at Saint Mary's University and the Marine Affairs Program at Dalhousie University.

The Key Issues and Recommendations identified by participants at the workshop has been sent to representatives of the Government of Nova Scotia with the hope that they will be used to advance coastal policy and management related to the coastal access issue in Nova Scotia

## List of Key Issues Identified by Participants:

1. General lack of understanding and awareness surrounding public coastal access in Nova Scotia
2. Lack of compiled data and information on coastal access
3. Public coastal access is decreasing
4. High cost of coastal land
5. Many different user / interest groups access the coast
6. Culture and tradition of coastal access in Nova Scotia is often at odds with legal property and access rights
7. Lack of education and understanding regarding liability for public access on private land
8. Environmental impacts of coastal access not well understood or monitored
9. Divestment of public lands without public consultation
10. Existing property laws and regulations are not being enforced

## List of Recommendations:

1. Create a publically-available coastal access database for Nova Scotia
2. Increase public education and awareness around coastal access issue
3. Create a Code of Best Practices/Conduct for public coastal access and stewardship
4. Establish a strong partnership between provincial and municipal governments and collaborate on coastal access issue
5. Identify and address any Aboriginal and traditional use issues regarding coastal access

## Representatives from the following organizations participated at the workshop:

- Canoe Kayak Nova Scotia
- Clean Nova Scotia
- Coastal Access Committee
- Coastal Coalition of Nova Scotia
- Coastal Communities Network
- Coastal CURA
- Dalhousie University
- Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture
- Department of Natural Resources
- Department of Transportation and Infrastructure
- Ecology Action Centre
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Mining Association of Nova Scotia
- Municipality of Annapolis County
- Nova Scotia Association of Realtors
- Nova Scotia Bird Society
- Nova Scotia Nature Trust
- Nova Scotia Sea School
- Nova Shores Adventures
- Provincial Oceans Network
- St. Margaret's Bay Stewardship Association
- St. Mary's University
- Surf Association of Nova Scotia
- Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia

\*The key issues and recommendations presented here have not necessarily been endorsed by all organizations listed here or their representatives.