



# Ecology Action Centre



photo: Jimmie Pederson

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2024/25



photo: Sarah Moore



photo: Hannah Minzloff



# A message from our Directors

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It's been inspiring in the past year to see relationships new and old flourish in the face of difficult challenges. As an organization and part of a movement fueled by care for our environment and our communities, the groundswell of fierce and creative actions to defend places, people and our more-than-human relations is heartening.

At the same time, it has been a challenging year. Trade wars, corporate profiteering, resource extraction projects, rising authoritarianism, misinformation and state attacks on society's most vulnerable: if you're overwhelmed by this list, you're not alone! There's a lot of bad stuff to fight alongside the climate emergency, and there's a lot at stake.

The good news is that we have the tools to fight, and we know what the path to a better future looks like. In the past year, as always, the Ecology Action Centre took pride in being a source of trustworthy facts and nuanced debate that cuts through the polarized noise, greenwashed false solutions and political posturing. We continued to use our strong voice in our commitment to speak out when it matters – even when it was risky to do so. And we supported community power as people came together to build relationships across their differences. These meaningful connections to one another, and the solidarity growing between movements, have sustained us through this past year.

As grassroots and people power build momentum, the EAC will continue to do as we have always done, knowing that it's more critical than ever. We'll mobilize people to take action, learn from and with communities, make space for creative solutions, hold decision makers accountable and stay dedicated to bringing about systemic change in the face of complex environmental issues.

This report offers a glimpse into the EAC's work through the 2024–2025 fiscal year, and as always, there's a lot that we want to recognize and celebrate. This past year, we partnered with communities to share knowledge and expand access to active and sustainable transportation. We laid the groundwork for community-led marine conservation in Gros Morne and showed what sustainable development and complete, accessible and affordable communities could look like in our province. We helped mobilize hundreds of people to bring the environment into election conversations and to stand up for democracy and "special interests" — like clean air, clean water and healthy ecosystems. The world can feel heavy, and so we hope you can take a moment to celebrate these successes and shared work.

We see real change happening every day, powered by our members, volunteers, staff and everyone working to build a better future in Mi'kma'ki/Nova Scotia and beyond. There is strength in community, and ours is an amazing one. Together, we are resilient.

The crises we face are complex and urgent. The EAC will continue to adapt and face these challenges, speaking truth to power and fighting false solutions and misinformation. We've come a long way in 54 years, and our commitment to building a better future remains as strong as ever. Thank you for being with us for this critical work.

In gratitude and solidarity  
*The EAC's board and staff directors*

# Our Impact

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By broadening and deepening engagement, showcasing alternatives and influencing decision makers to create transformational change, we're making an impact on the future of our communities, our province and the planet. Here are just some of the ways that you've helped us create meaningful change in the past year!

photo: Nick Hawkins



# Energy & Climate

Since the 1970s when we successfully opposed the construction of a 12,000-megawatt nuclear power station on Stoddard Island, the EAC has been advocating for effective policy, piloting alternatives and mobilizing our communities to fight for a clean, reliable and affordable energy future.

In the past year, you've helped us make a true impact. We've advocated for meaningful support for households struggling to afford their energy bills. We've convened, supported and celebrated faith groups across the Maritimes working to lower their energy use and take action on climate change. We've championed strong energy policies like the Clean Electricity Regulations, helped educate and empower our communities through the Climate Commitment Badge program, supported mitigation solutions like blue carbon and so much more.

With your support, we're helping Nova Scotia, Canada and the world build viable roadmaps toward a sustainable and fair energy future.

## SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST YEAR:

- After years of evidence-based analysis and advocacy from the EAC and our allies, **Nova Scotia's Energy Reform Act was given Royal Assent** in April. The act enables changes that will strengthen accountability and compliance with climate goals while helping break up Nova Scotia Power's monopoly over our energy.
- Because of our continued work supporting six watershed groups in the Southern Gulf region, **Canada now has more robust data on eelgrass meadows** in New Brunswick and P.E.I. – and how these ecosystems can capture and store carbon to help mitigate climate change.
- **N.S. is closer to electrifying our school bus fleet!** In October, we released our Driving Towards a Healthier Future report in French and English, along with an advocacy toolkit for parents and teachers. The release was followed by a successful workshop and the formation of a working group for operators who are already using electric buses.
- In December, we celebrated the release of the **federal Clean Electricity Regulations** – policy that the EAC has championed for years. These regulations support the development of renewable energy and bring us closer to a total phase out of coal in Canadian energy systems by 2035.
- In collaboration with local artists and HalifACT, we launched our **Climate Commitment Badge program**. The program is helping individuals and community groups throughout the HRM set achievable goals to improve the well-being of their communities while doing our part to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- After steady campaigning from the EAC and our partners, the Nova Scotia government finally committed to partially adopting **federal 2020 building codes** pertaining to better building efficiency – a positive step toward less emissions and lower energy costs for Nova Scotian households.
- Because of our collaborative work supporting the **Faithful Footprints program**, more United Churches throughout Atlantic Canada are demonstrating how communities can work together to improve energy efficiency and fight climate change – all while lowering their energy costs and creating more comfortable, welcoming spaces for their congregations!
- Following the release of **A Way Forward: A Made-in-Nova Scotia Home Energy Affordability Program**, we've continued educating and empowering Nova Scotians to advocate for solutions to energy poverty, relief from high energy costs and better access to energy efficiency supports.
- We provided **free energy audits for over 30 faith buildings** throughout the province, empowering them to start efficiency retrofits and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- After switching from online webinars to in-person workshops, hundreds of Nova Scotians are connecting with our **Better Building Speaker Series**, gaining the knowledge, skills and connections that will help them understand energy efficiency issues in Nova Scotia.



# Nature, Ecosystems & Biodiversity

From diverse ocean life to the vibrant ecosystems of the Wabanaki forest, the EAC is working to protect the biodiversity and natural spaces that sustain us all.

Dating back to the 1977 ban on aerial spraying of chemical pesticides or the first meeting of our Marine Issues Committee in the 90s, the support of our community has helped us advocate for healthy ecosystems and livelihoods on land and sea – all while building a culture of engagement and appreciation for nature.

In the past year, we've mobilized Nova Scotians from across the province to continue fighting for meaningful coastal protection. We've helped preserve and restore eelgrass meadows that will support marine ecosystems, protect our shorelines and help mitigate climate change. We helped connect communities to natural spaces through guided hikes, webinars and bioblitzes. We're defending ecosystems from wealthy corporate interests, advocating for effective marine protection at the international level and stewarding new ways of engaging in collaborative, community-led conservation.

## SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST YEAR:

- In partnership with the Halifax Regional Municipality and Helping Nature Heal, we helped support the **naturalization of Birch Cove Beach on Lake Banook**. This project engaged citizens and demonstrates how nature-based solutions can be used to enhance shoreline health, water quality and biodiversity.
- As a part of the advisory committee, we celebrated the **Fundian Channel-Browns Bank Marine Protected Area** move into the final phase of approval. Protecting this rich area of deep-sea biodiversity and important fish habitat will move Canada one step closer to our commitment of protecting 30 per cent of our oceans by 2030.
- We mobilized hundreds of Nova Scotians to join our **Coastal Protection Act (CPA) rally** at Province house and supported the creation and distribution of CPA lawn signs all throughout the province – helping our communities stand up for meaningful coastal protection.
- We promoted wilderness conservation and engaged hundreds of residents in accessible, nature-based learning through our **2024 Hike the Greenbelt series**. In partnership with 13 different organizations, we hosted 14 guided hikes through priority areas of the Halifax Greenbelt.
- We're influencing marine conservation policy at the international level. At our 15th year attending the **International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna**, we hosted a training workshop on fisheries reporting and compliance requirements for international shark conservation, successfully advocated for fishery protections for whale sharks and manta rays and an **improved management regime for North Atlantic swordfish** – earning us official recognition for our dedicated work.
- We helped **protect and restore eelgrass meadows** by supporting a youth-oriented eelgrass educational event at Morris Lake, a community replanting event in Pugwash, eelgrass biodiversity assessments at Shad Bay and teaming up with Parks Canada to host a training seminar on the EAC's eelgrass kayak survey protocols for eight watershed groups at Kouchibouguac National Park.
- We partnered with a dozen organizations across N.S. to deliver 13 **Wetlands Appreciation Week events**, helping communities learn about and advocate for these unique and crucial ecosystems. This year's events included guided hikes, webinars, a bioblitz, a bird walk and a photo contest.
- We're keeping momentum up to **protect Sandy Lake from short-sighted development threats**. We delivered a winter presentation series to engage new audiences in community halls, classrooms and online – increasing public understanding of the ecological and recreational value of this critical area.
- We facilitated a collaborative workshop between Our HRM Alliance members and HRM planning staff to discuss **ongoing efforts to protect green space** and led a hands-on working session to identify priorities for implementation of the Green Network Plan. This work is helping Halifax move forward on protecting nature and biodiversity throughout the municipality.
- We celebrated the release of the **Gros Morne Community-Led Marine Atlas: People, Place, and the Ocean**. The Atlas brings together more than four years of collaboration with fish harvesters, First Nations, scientists, tourism operators and citizens in the Gros Morne region – laying the groundwork for community-led marine conservation planning alongside the preservation of sustainable coastal livelihoods.
- We've continued to **hold the Nova Scotia government accountable** to its commitment to protect 20 per cent of lands and water by 2030 – helping support communities proposing new areas for protection, fighting to keep unsustainable industries out of proposed protected areas and more.



# Strong, Healthy Communities

For over 50 years, the EAC has been on the ground advocating for strong democratic processes and helping Nova Scotians build healthy, complete communities.

This past year, our programming has helped communities gain equitable access to active transportation and local, healthy and affordable food. Our research and policy work has helped combat urban sprawl, encouraged sustainable development and investigated housing models to address affordability, equity and climate goals in the HRM. We've brought our communities together to demand accountability from decision-makers and celebrate water, life on Earth and the joy of resistance.

Together, we're fighting to build a future where government policy and development are informed by the wellbeing of our communities.

## SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST YEAR:

- 52 community groups and artists from all over the province joined us for the **People's Parade for Life on Earth**, celebrating the joy of our resistance and our connection to water, the Earth and all our more-than-human relations.
- We **helped Nova Scotians stay informed** through elections at all three levels of government. We provided candidate surveys on key environmental issues, platform analyses, and voter toolkits for municipal, provincial and federal elections that helped clarify party positions and guide readers through difficult conversations on political topics. Our resources were viewed over 20,000 times!
- We're **helping Nova Scotians choose active transportation**. To date, our Making Tracks (started in 2008) program has trained over 19,000 youth and 1,150 program leaders, Welcoming Wheels (started in 2015) has provided bicycle safety education to over 817 immigrants and refugees of all ages and our Pop-Up Bike Hub and PUBH Mini (started in 2020 and 2022, respectively) have fixed over 3,500 bikes in underserved communities across the province.
- This year, over 23,405 students from 111 schools were engaged in our **International Walk to School Month** and **Winter Walk Day** events.
- We oversaw a research initiative investigating **non-market housing models** that could address affordability, equity and climate goals in the HRM.
- In collaboration with Our HRM Alliance, we fought for **sustainable development, greenbelt protection and climate resilience** in the HRM, coordinating comprehensive feedback on all phases of the Regional Plan Review.
- Because of our work in collaboration with partner organizations, over 200 community members came together at the **Many Vs. The Money** townhall to strengthen connections across movements and fight the wealthy corporate forces here in Nova Scotia and beyond that are driving the converging crises of unaffordability, climate breakdown, housing and healthcare

### BECAUSE OF OUR WORK, MORE HALIGONIANS ARE GAINING EQUITABLE ACCESS TO FOOD.

We helped fund repairs and upgrades to 10 community gardens through our **Community Garden Grant**. In collaboration with the HRM and the Halifax Food Policy Alliance, we helped fund a **Mi'kmaw Food Coordinator** position at the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre and an **African Nova Scotian and Black Food Coordinator** at ONE North End to advance community projects on food justice, sovereignty and security.

In partnership with Feed Nova Scotia and the HRM, we developed template boxes for **Emergency Food Stormkits** for newcomers containing emergency resources and local, sustainable shelf-stable foods to demonstrate the potential of supporting local producers during emergency planning.

# ✂ Jobs, Justice & Sustainable Economies

Nova Scotians shouldn't have to choose between a thriving economy and a healthy environment. Defending our environment and our communities against wealthy corporate interests and fighting for just, sustainable economic growth has always been at the core of the EAC's work.

This year, we've had to fight hard against short sighted, dead-end industries like fracking, uranium mining and large-scale biomass burning. But with your help, we've continued to hold decision makers accountable and battled corporate misinformation with well-researched, accessible information. We've empowered and mobilized our communities and showcased alternatives that can help build a fair, thriving economy that works in harmony with the ecosystems that we depend on.

The solutions to the economic and environmental issues our communities are facing are intertwined – and your support is helping us bring those solutions to life.

## SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST YEAR:

- When the Houston government tabled undemocratic legislation that opened Nova Scotia to short-sighted industries like uranium and fracking, we sprang into action. We helped mobilize hundreds of citizens for the **Special Interests for Democracy rally** at Province House, cut through misinformation with our ongoing **Keeping the Know in Nova Scotia** factsheets, provided thoughtful analysis and helped support grassroots organizing in affected communities. The groundswell of community action has been amazing, and this fight is far from over!
- Our **Kelp Kurious project** continues to showcase low-impact sea-farming opportunities and empower local producers and businesses to get involved. We grew over 3,000 pounds of sugar kelp to provide to 25 businesses developing new food, wellness, agriculture and bioplastics products, successfully advocated for changes to provincial legislation to support small scale seaweed and shellfish farms and brought over 100 people from different parts of the sector to exchange ideas, learn and showcase products at our **2024 Kelp Fest!**
- This year we joined the **Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Action Alliance** to help fight illegal practices in fisheries globally and promote global cooperation for fisheries sustainability and effective enforcement.
- After more than three years of work testing gear and exploring policy options, we released our **Keeping a Century-Old Fishery Alive** report on the harpoon swordfish fishery. This report provides crucial information on the technical, economic and policy supports needed to enable this sustainable fishery in Nova Scotia
- We've continued **fighting for responsible land use in Nova Scotia** – advocating for the province to fully implement recommendations from the Lahey Report, while acting as a watchdog for industries like onshore wind, mining, biomass burning for energy production, green hydrogen and more!

photo: Nicki Brown



# Financials

## Statement of Operations

Year Ended March 31

REVENUE	2025	2024
Foundations and charities	1,573,303	1,239,116
Government funding	1,191,563	705,788
Memberships	528,948	558,127
Donations	840,038	713,452
Other funding	540,413	520,178
Interest and miscellaneous	103,711	110,460
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	21,260	29,891
Fundraising activities	19,072	15,893
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>4,818,308</b>	<b>3,892,905</b>

EXPENSES	2025	2024
Amortization	45,716	42,991
Bank and credit card charges	26,264	27,322
Communications	53,729	67,608
Fundraising activities	4,280	6,274
Insurance	22,619	20,863
Interest on long-term debt	10,688	11,383
IT Services	51,236	33,693
Magazine ( <i>Ecology &amp; Action</i> )	18,593	21,044
Memberships and subscriptions	53,072	37,304
Office	7,800	6,206
Professional and consultant fees	768,288	528,255
Property taxes	5,193	20,404
Rental	55,339	53,858
Repairs and maintenance	17,905	18,646
Supplies and materials	72,801	39,740
Training	32,504	16,465
Travel and meetings	235,435	182,728
Utilities	26,577	39,790
Wages and benefits	3,034,740	2,669,100
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>4,542,779</b>	<b>3,843,674</b>

<b>EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>275,529</b>	<b>49,231</b>
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## Statement of Financial Position

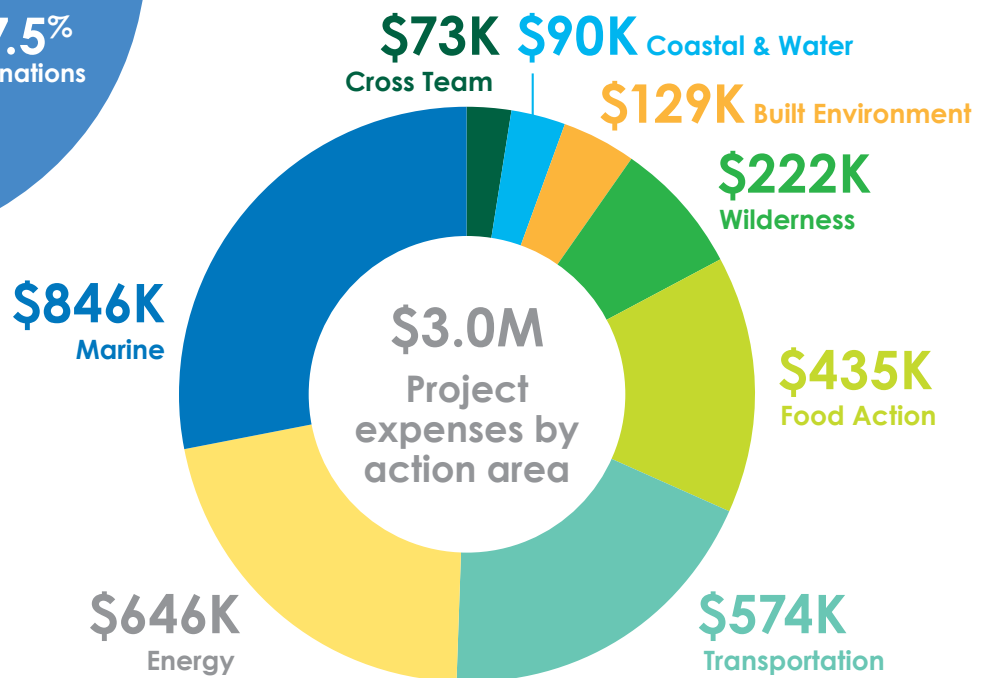
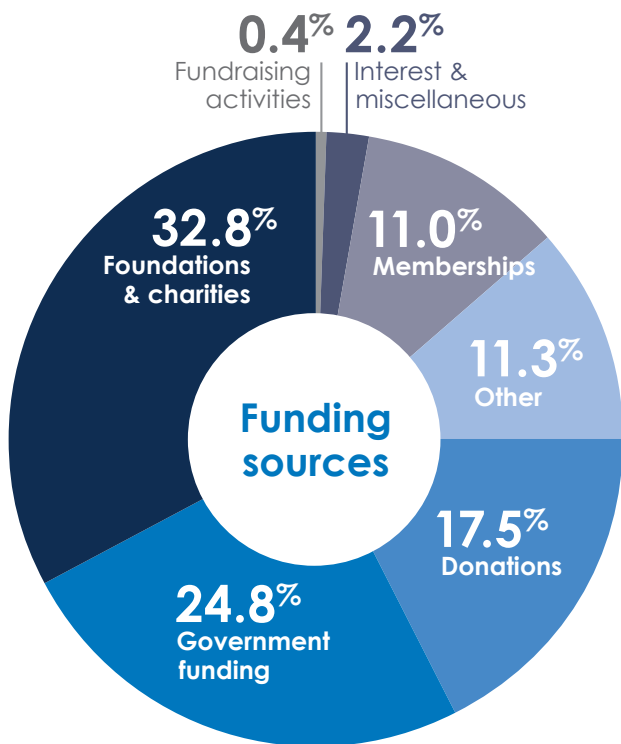
Year Ended March 31

ASSETS	2025	2024
<b>Current</b>		
Cash	1,470,589	737,178
Term deposits	700,000	813,856
Accounts receivables	246,223	128,296
Government remittances receivable	22,762	23,687
Prepaid expenses	19,483	56,402
	<b>2,459,057</b>	<b>1,759,419</b>
<b>Long-term</b>		
Term deposits	<b>1,099,724</b>	<b>1,046,878</b>
Capital assets	<b>768,267</b>	<b>802,908</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>4,327,048</b>	<b>3,609,205</b>

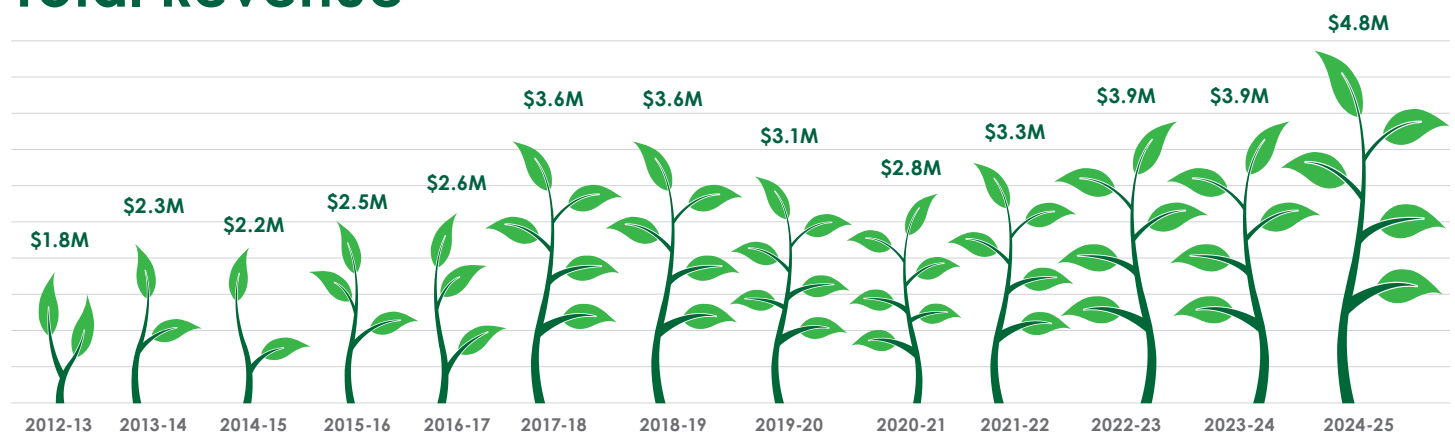
LIABILITIES	2025	2024
<b>Current</b>		
Accounts payable & accrued liabilities	234,289	210,712
Deferred project revenue	2,052,017	1,590,511
Current portion of long-term debt	28,020	21,579
	<b>2,314,326</b>	<b>1,822,802</b>
<b>Long-term</b>		
Deferred contributions	373,679	394,931
Long-term debt	242,663	270,621
	<b>616,342</b>	<b>665,552</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Emergency fund	133,008	133,008
Fern Lane fund	104,841	104,841
Strategic fund	632,226	632,226
Project fund	381,227	113,834
Investment in capital assets	145,078	136,942
	<b>1,396,380</b>	<b>1,120,851</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>4,327,048</b>	<b>3,609,205</b>

This summary of financial information has been extracted from the Ecology Action Centre's audited financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2025. These statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO). The audit was completed by BDO Canada LLP. Audited financial statements are available to view online at [ecologyaction.ca/annual-report](https://ecologyaction.ca/annual-report).





## Total Revenue



# Our Funders

Generous monetary and in-kind contributions from foundations, organizations, businesses and individuals have helped the Ecology Action Centre immensely over the past year. You enable us to do the valuable work that we do. Thank you!



## BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Echo Foundation  
Park People Projects Canada  
Individual donors



## COASTAL & WATER

Davis Foundation  
Echo Foundation  
Patagonia  
Small Change Fund  
Individual donors



## ENERGY & CLIMATE

DI Foundation/Atlantic Action  
Echo Foundation  
EfficiencyOne  
Environment Funders Canada  
European Climate Foundation  
Faith & the Common Good  
Green Communities Canada  
Ivey Foundation  
Province of Nova Scotia  
Trotter Family Foundation  
Individual donors



## FOOD

Community Food Centres Canada  
Feed Nova Scotia  
Halifax Regional Municipality  
Medavie Foundation  
Nova Scotia Health Authority  
Individual donors



## MARINE

Animal Welfare Institute  
Bend Beauty  
Dalhousie University  
David and Lucille Packard Foundation  
Donner Canadian Foundation  
Environment Funders Canada  
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation  
Make Stewardship Count  
Oceans 5  
Shark Conservation Fund  
Waltons Trust  
Wyss Foundation  
Individual donors



## TRANSPORTATION

The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq  
Halifax Climate Investment, Innovation  
and Impact Fund (HCi3)  
Halifax Regional Municipality  
Help Age Canada  
Province of Nova Scotia  
- Communities, Culture, Tourism,  
and Heritage  
- Department of Public Works  
- Natural Resources & Renewables  
Individual donors



## WILDERNESS

Echo Foundation  
Individual donors



## WHOLE OF EAC

Canadian Heritage  
- Canada Periodical Fund  
Canadian Red Cross  
Clean Foundation  
Individual donors

## YOUTH EMPLOYMENT & INTERNSHIP FUNDING

Clean Foundation (Transportation,  
Marine, Built Environment)  
Loran Scholar Foundation (Energy, Food)  
Mitacs (Transportation)  
Province of Nova Scotia (SKILL)

photo: Sarah Moore





# SUSTAINABILITY ALLIES

Assante Capital Management Ltd

Authentic Seacoast

Domus Realty

Garrison Brewing Company

Helping Nature Heal

Innovative Real Estate Ltd

Laughing Whale Coffee Roasters

Patagonia Halifax

## Our Board

**Christina Macdonald** – Co-Chair

**Helga Guderley** – Co-Chair

**Michael Sime** – Secretary

**Roland Evborokhai** – Treasurer

**Alyda Faber** – Member at Large

**Andrea Argueta** – Member at Large

(resigned November 2024)

**Curtis Whiley** – Member at Large

**Dan Rutabingwa Gakire** – Member at Large

(On leave as of March 2025)

**Dawn Burstall** – Member at Large

**Grant MacDonald** – Member at Large

**Keith MacMaster** – Member at Large

**Laurette Geldenhuys** – Member at Large

**Louis Joe Bernard** – Member at Large

**Milka Pietikainen** – Member at Large

**Rhiannon Davies** – Member at Large

**Virginia Olsen** – Secretary

**Zahra Williams** – Member at Large

photo: Jimmie Pederson





photo: Nicki Brown



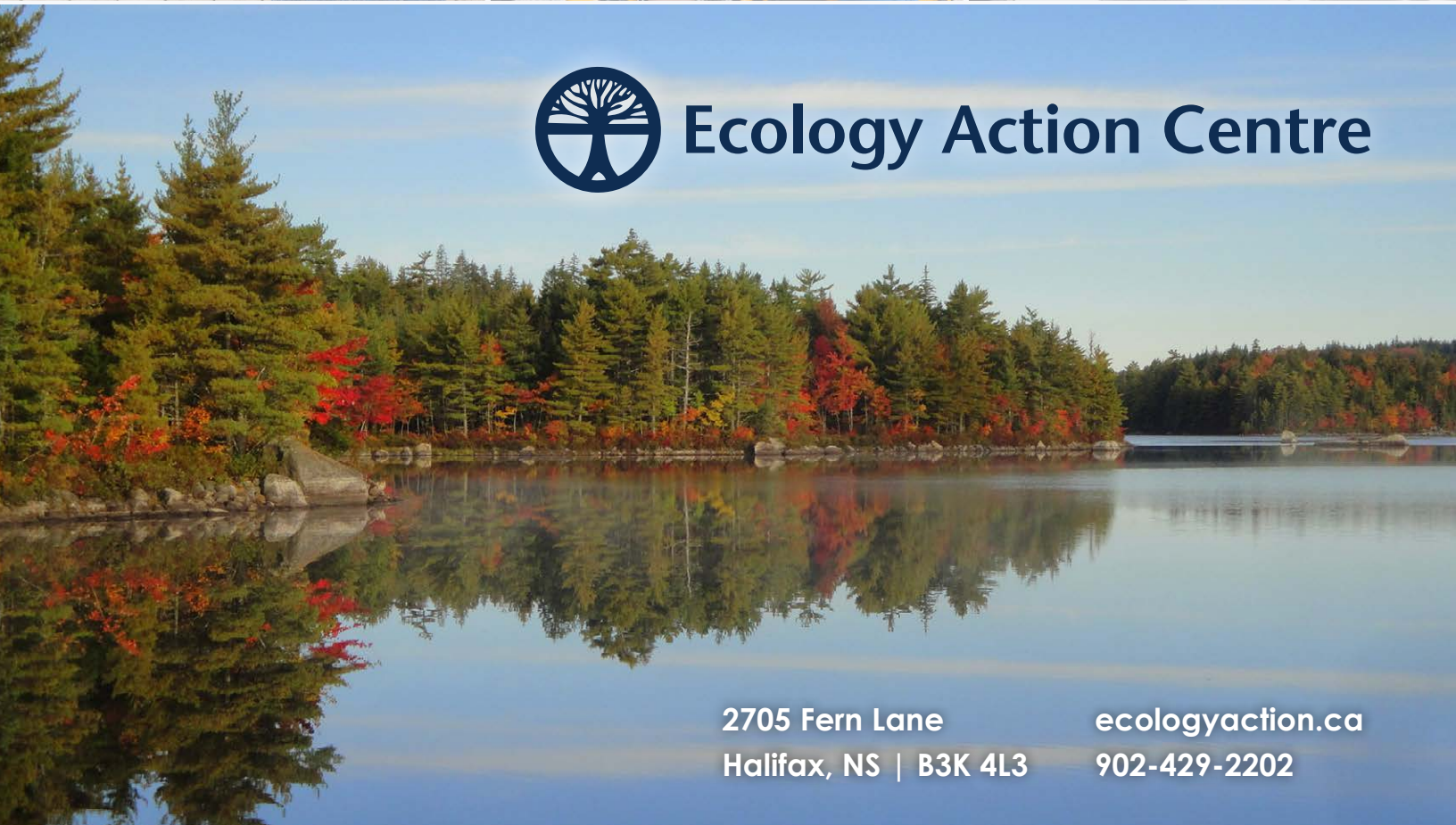
photo: Nicki Brown



photo: Kevin Prinoski



# Ecology Action Centre



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photo: Hannah Minzloff



photo: Hannah Minzloff



photo: Hannah Minzloff