



2026 Current EAC Board of Directors

Virginia Olsen – Co-Chair

Helga Guderley – Co-Chair

Shawn Brayman - Treasurer (Appointed July 2026)

Ben Grieder – Secretary

Scott Biggar - Member at Large

Natasha Burgess - Member at Large

Dawn Burstall – Member at Large

Alyda Faber – Member at Large

Dan Rutabingwa Gakire – Member at Large (On leave as of March 2025)

Laurette Geldenhuys – Member at Large

Grant MacDonald – Member at Large

Milka Pietikainen - Member at Large

Curtis Whiley - Member at Large

Zahra Williams - Member at Large

To read more about our Board Members, visit: <https://ecologyaction.ca/about-us/board-directors>

Departing Board of Directors - Sept 2026

Louis Joe Bernard (resigned May 2026)

Dawn Burstall

Roland Evborokhai (resigned July 2026)

Alyda Faber

Grant MacDonald

Virginia Olsen



2026 Ecology Action Centre Board Nominations



Shawn Brayman completed a BSc in Computational Mathematics and a Master of Environmental Studies at York University. He founded a software firm specializing in personal financial planning that grew to serve users in more than 20 countries and multiple languages before being acquired by a NASDAQ-listed company in 2020.

For the last 15 years, Shawn has been an active researcher, earning several awards for his peer-reviewed work. He served as President of the Academy of Financial Services, a global academic membership association, in 2024–25 and continues to serve on its Board. Over the years, he has volunteered with numerous associations and foundations in Canada and the United States, receiving several honours, including the FP Canada Fellow Distinction.

After retiring in 2022, Shawn and his wife, Nancy, sailed their boat, *Stealing Summer*—named after a short story he wrote about global warming—to Halifax. They chose to make Nova Scotia home in 2024. Since then, Shawn has remained active in environmental and climate initiatives, advocating for building decarbonization and EV infrastructure as board member of The Roy in downtown Halifax. He believes individuals and organizations can align their values with their financial decisions to strengthen both financial and environmental outcomes.



Tony Charles became a budding environmentalist in high school, which led to volunteering with the environmental organization Pollution Probe in Ottawa in the 1970's. He then moved to Vancouver, becoming an active volunteer with the city's major environmental organization, SPEC (Society Promoting Environmental Conservation). When he then shifted to Halifax in the mid-1980s, Tony began a 40-year involvement with the EAC, working on a variety of projects and serving on the Board for a time, including as Co-Chair. He also became a longtime professor at Saint Mary's University, specializing in environmental science, business sustainability, and fisheries, oceans and coasts. Tony has a passion for supporting local communities in

their environmental conservation activities, especially through his role as Director of the Community Conservation Research Network (CCRN), a global network in which EAC has been an active partner. Alongside his work with communities, Tony works internationally with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, on a range of topics such as fisheries, oceans, climate change, biodiversity and food security. Meanwhile, around Halifax, Tony is a dedicated commuter cyclist.



2026 Ecology Action Centre Board Nominations



Tania Cheng (she/they) is a strategy designer, change facilitator, and community builder who brings over 20 years of experience across the charitable and nonprofit sector as a leader, board member, volunteer, and consultant. Their work is informed by emergent strategy, systems thinking, design thinking, liberatory practice, participatory methodologies, and equity and anti-oppression -- with lived experience as a racialized queer and non-binary person. Prior to working as an independent consultant leading Seahorse Strategies, Tania held senior positions at EcoSchools Canada, Coralus, and Feminuity. Tania holds a Master in Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership from Carleton University and an Honours Bachelor of

Environmental Studies from the University of Waterloo. They bring 16 years of board experience, having served on the boards of Imagine Canada, Inside Out, and The Otesha Project.

Tania leads with love and is guided by core values of creativity, courage, and care. After moving from Toronto to Tantallon in 2020, Tania co-founded St. Margaret's Bay Pride in 2024 to raise 2SLGBTQIA+ visibility and inclusion in her local community. When not working or building community, Tania enjoys playing and watching basketball, making ice cream, and spending time with their wife, toddler, and Yorkie.



Luke Morine, CPA, is the Chief Financial Officer of Glooscap First Nation and Glooscap Ventures, where he provides strategic financial leadership across Nation administration, community programs, business enterprises, and economic development initiatives. Over more than a decade in senior finance leadership, he has worked with Indigenous governments and organizations to strengthen governance, support sustainable growth, and help leaders make informed decisions that create lasting value for their communities.

Growing up in Nova Scotia's Annapolis Valley, Luke developed an early appreciation for the land through time spent working on local farms and raising animals. These experiences fostered a lifelong respect for the connection between healthy ecosystems, resilient communities, and sustainable livelihoods. His career later took him to Inuvik, Northwest Territories, where working alongside Inuvialuit organizations and communities deepened his appreciation for Indigenous knowledge, environmental stewardship, and the close relationship between people, culture, and the land. Throughout his career, Luke has worked closely with boards, executive leadership teams, and community stakeholders to advance financial sustainability, effective governance, and organizational governance. He and his wife, Rebecca, are raising their two children in Nova Scotia, where they enjoy spending time together outdoors. Luke is excited to contribute his governance and financial expertise in support of the Ecology Action Centre's vision of a just and sustainable future for Atlantic Canada.



Ecology Action Centre

2026 Ecology Action Centre Board Nominations



Pauline Raven is a dedicated environmental advocate with over thirty years of executive experience in the non-profit sector. Her career has been defined by grassroots activism and effective policy change, including her eight-year tenure on Kings County Council, where she successfully championed agricultural land protection and renewable energy projects that prioritize environmental and social justice.

Recognizing the urgent need for climate action, Pauline recently completed advanced certifications in Climate Change Action and Community Capacity Building, with a specific focus on Indigenous-led leadership. A longtime admirer of the Ecology Action Centre, she is proud to serve on the

board, working to advance climate justice and community-centered solutions during this critical time.



Owen Skeen (he/him) is a student and union organizer, an artist, and a writer. Owen currently serves as Chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students Nova Scotia, and as a board member of the Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group, while studying at the University of King's College. Owen previously served as President of the Student Union of NSCAD, where he developed an art practice that engages the intersections between public art and insurgent political action.

As a student organizer, Owen is recognized for his contribution to the advancement of student syndicalism within the national student movement. As co-chair of the CFS National Student Strike Committee, Owen has worked with students across "Canada" to build capacity and precedent for student strikes and combative union organizing to press for divestment demands relating to environmental justice, Indigenous sovereignty, anti-war and anti-imperialism, anti-capitalism, and internationalist solidarity; as well as demands for free and accessible high quality college and university education for all.

Owen lives and works as an uninvited guest in Kijipuktuk, on the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq, with his partner, Beah, and their cat, Cassie.