

2019 Annual Report



Prince Edward Island
Environmental Advisory Council





**Prince Edward Island
Environmental Advisory Council**
11 Kent Street, 4th Floor Jones Bldg.
Charlottetown, PE C1A 7N8

Honourable Brad Trivers
Minister of Environment, Water and Climate Change
PO Box 2000
Charlottetown, PE
C1A 7N8

Dear Minister Trivers:

In accordance with the requirements of the *Environmental Protection Act*, I have the honor of presenting the Annual Report of the Environmental Advisory Council.

This report covers the period of January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

Art Smith
Acting Chair

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Introduction

The Environmental Advisory Council is a group of individuals appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council to advise the Minister Responsible for the Environment on environmental matters.

Environmental Advisory Council Terms of Reference

Subsection 4(2) of the *Environmental Protection Act* sets out the Council's responsibilities. The Act states that

The Council shall

- (a) serve as an advisory board to the Minister Responsible for the Environment; and
- (b) perform such functions as may be prescribed by regulations.

The mandate for the Environmental Advisory Council as prescribed by the Act is somewhat general in order to be all encompassing. To better define the Environmental Advisory Council's mandate, the following terms of reference were approved by the Minister:

1. To advise the Minister Responsible for the Environment on matters referred to it by the Minister or the public under the *Environmental Protection Act*.
2. To report annually to the Minister on submissions received, research conducted, investigations undertaken and recommendations made under the *Environmental Protection Act*.
3. To advise the Minister on environmental matters related to other provincial strategies and initiatives.
4. To make recommendations to the Minister on conservation or environmental improvement awards.
5. To make recommendations to the Minister respecting opportunities for environmental improvement or protection programs or projects.
6. To recommend to the Minister public education projects or programs.
7. To make recommendations to the Minister respecting support for community, private and non-government programs and projects.
8. To advise the Minister on legislative proposals as they relate to environmental protection and enhancement.
9. To advise the Minister on such matters as the Minister may direct.
10. To perform such functions as may be provided by regulations under clause 4(2)(b) of the Act.

Administrative support for the Council is provided by staff of the Department of Environment, Water and Climate Change.

General Comments

Council held seven regular meetings during 2019 together with special meetings to select the winners of the Science Fair and the Prince Edward Island Environmental Awards, and to attend the Environmental Awards ceremony.

Meeting Outlines

A list of the speakers who met with the Council in 2019, together with the discussion topics addressed, is presented in the table below.

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Guests/Speakers</i>	<i>Issues Discussed</i>
January 16	Todd Dupuis	<i>Climate Change Action Plan</i>
February 27	John Hughes	<i>Plastic Bag Reduction Act</i>
April 17	Steve Watts	<i>Potato 101 (Potato Production Methods)</i>
May 21	Robert Godfrey	<i>Climate Change and Agriculture</i>
June 19	n/a	<i>Environmental Awards Ceremony</i>
September 25	n/a	<i>Planning meeting</i>
October 16	George Somers	<i>Water Regulations</i>
November 20	John Hughes	<i>Update on Plastic Bag Reduction Act</i>

Other Matters

During the year, Council members discussed and examined various matters pertaining to environmental issues, included but not limited to:

- provincial actions for mitigating and adapting to climate change;
- measures to reduce plastic bag use;
- potato agronomy; and
- best management practices in agriculture.