

2020 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 Steven Myers
Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Action
PO Box 2000
Charlottetown, PE
C1A 7N8

Dear Minister Myers:

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, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Gaudet
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, Energy and Climate Action.

General Comments

Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the usual activities of the Council were altered in 2020. The Council held three regular meetings during 2020. Normally the Council gathers for additional special meetings to select the winners of the Science Fair and the Prince Edward Island Environmental Awards, and to attend the Environmental Awards ceremony neither of which were able to take place due to public health restrictions.

Meeting Outlines

A list of the speakers who met with the Council in 2020, together with the discussion topics addressed, is presented in the table below.

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Guests/Speakers</i>	<i>Issues Discussed</i>
January 29	Hope Parnham	<i>Climate Change Adaptation</i>
March 11	Todd Dupuis	<i>Climate Change Mitigation</i>
November 18	Todd Dupuis	<i>Climate Change Targets</i>

2020 Science Fair Winners

The Environmental Advisory Council takes an active interest in the annual Provincial Science Fair sponsored by the University of Prince Edward Island. Involvement has included helping judge and award prizes to participants whose projects demonstrate a high level of understanding or innovative approaches to environmental issues. The **Dr. Leon Loucks Environmental Awards** are normally presented to entries in the junior, intermediate and senior categories with prize money of \$80, \$50 and \$30 awarded to first, second and third place winners respectively.

In support of the ongoing efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19 in PEI, and the measures put in place in the public school system and the University of Prince Edward Island to protect Islanders, the 2020 PEI Science Fair scheduled for April 1, 2020 at the University of Prince Edward Island was canceled, and was not rescheduled.

The PEI Science Fair Organizing Committee publicly recognized the efforts of hundreds of Island students and their mentors and supporters who had worked on science fair projects and congratulated them on their achievements. Students were encouraged to continue to work on and advance their projects, in anticipation of the 2021 PEI Science Fair.

PEI Environmental Award Winners

Since its inception in 1987, the Environmental Advisory Council has recognized citizens for their special commitment to the environment through the PEI Environmental Awards. Due to the pandemic the awards and ceremony were cancelled for 2020.

Appendix A
Environmental Advisory Council
2020 Membership

Dr. Connie Gaudet, Chair
Charlottetown

Art Smith, Vice-Chair
Stratford

Pat Bray
Murray River

Marcia Hooper
Charlottetown

Jim Jenkins
Charlottetown

Ron Maynard
Tyne Valley

Steven Watts
Hampton

Darlene Moore
Northam

Reg Conohan
Cardigan

Linnell Edwards
Charlottetown

Richard Gallant
Stratford

Gerry Moore
Charlottetown

Title Page Photo Credit: Laurie Gallant, Government of PEI

