

2017 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 Robert Mitchell
Minister of Communities, Land and Environment
PO Box 2000
Charlottetown, PE
C1A 7N8

Dear Minister Mitchell:

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, 2017 to December 31, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Dean Stewart
Chair

Table of Contents

Introduction Page 2

Environmental Advisory Council Terms of Reference Page 2

General Comments Page 3

2017 Science Fair Winners Page 4

2017 PEI Environmental Award Winners..... Page 5

Appendix A
Environmental Advisory Council 2017 Membership Page 7

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 Communities, Land and Environment.

General Comments

Council held five regular meetings during 2017, together with a number of special meetings of a subcommittee of Council to address the Environmental Awards, the Science Fair, and the *Water Act* public and one-on-one consultations.

Meeting Outlines

A list of the speakers who met with the Council in 2017, together with the discussion topics addressed, is presented in the table below.

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Guests/Speakers</i>	<i>Issues Discussed</i>
February 15	Jim Young	<i>Update on the Water Act</i>
April 19	Todd Dupuis	<i>Climate Change</i>
May 17	Barry Thompson Evan MacDonald	<i>Sustainable Agriculture Practices</i>
June 15		<i>Planning Sessions</i>
October 18	Round Table	<i>Agenda Items for Fall Session</i>
November 15	Kate MacQuarrie	<i>Fish Kills in PEI</i>
December 20		<i>Planning Sessions</i>

Other Matters

During the year, Council members discussed in a variety of settings and sessions the environmental issues that related to the development of a *Water Act* for Prince Edward Island. Other matters examined included but were not limited to

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- nitrate levels in Northumberland Strait
 - Watershed Report Card
 - crop coverage in relation to farm management plans
 - GMO salmon farming

2017 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** were 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. The 2017 winners are as follows:

DR. LEON LOUCKS ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS

Dr. Leon Loucks Award for Environment Stewardship & Sustainability

Elementary:

First

The importance of Wetlands
Student: Ardyn Hardy
School: Elm Street Elementary

Second

Water Filtration
Student: Kate Turner
School: West Royalty

Third

Volcanoes
Student: Logan Gregory
School: Stratford Elementary

Junior:

First

Rocky Secrets
Student: Christian Ndayegamiye
School: Grace Christian

Second

Sparkle, Tap, or Distilled
Student: Mallory Clark
School: Kensington Intermediate Senior High

Third

Bacteria of SIS/Bactéries de SIS
Students: Chloe Betts and Brinley Gallant
School Summerside Intermediate

Intermediate/Senior:

First

Using Renewable Energy to Power Your Vehicle
Student: Matt Jelley
School: East Wiltshire Intermediate

Second

Heat Your Home For FREE!
Student: Terrin Lewis
School: Summerside Intermediate

Third

Sustainable Electricity Generation Through Shock Absorption
Students: Jack MacPhail and Riley Taweel
School: Bluefield Senior High

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.

In June 2017, Prince Edward Island Environmental Awards were presented to the following:

School Award

Three Oaks Senior High School, Summerside

This year's winning school was Three Oaks Senior High School. The staff and students are continuously placing focus on preserving and protecting the environment. Among the school's efforts is the development of an interpretive trail system surrounding their school, which includes an outdoor classroom to allow students to learn in natural surroundings.

Organization Award

Great Enlightenment Buddhist Institute Society

An organization category award was presented to the Great Enlightenment Buddhist Institute Society, a registered Canadian charitable organization, that has been caring about environmental sustainability for years. Their efforts include public education and awareness of plastic pollution and environmental protection, involvement in past island and beach cleanups, and more.

Kensington North Watersheds Association

An organization category award was presented to the Kensington North Watersheds Association. The KNWA has been active in community-based watershed management since 2008. The organization includes 18 watersheds and over 22,000 hectares of land, and has made a positive impact through raising public awareness, understanding and concern for the environment.

Appendix A
Environmental Advisory Council
2017 Membership

Dean Stewart, Chair
Summerside

Darlene Moore, Vice-Chair
Northam

Richard Davies (term ended June 2016)
Belle River

Wayne Gallant
Summerside

Connie Gaudet, Ph.D.
Stratford

Mike Gilbertson
Brackley Beach

Lokesh Garg
Charlottetown

Irene Dawson
Cornwall

Nick Webb (term ended March 2017)
O’Leary

Art Smith
Stratford

Paul Gallant (term ended March 2017)
Souris

Ron Maynard
Tyne Valley

Jim Jenkins
Charlottetown

Mike Gilbertson
Brackley Beach

Dr. Connie Gaudet
Charlottetown

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