



# Ecology Action Centre

2018/19 ANNUAL REPORT



architect: Solterre Design  
photo: Acorn Art Photography



# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTORS & BOARD

At the Ecology Action Centre, we often say that we work at the scale that is necessary to achieve the change we are seeking. This is even more evident when we sit down to try and describe what we have been working on over the past year.

From our home on Fern Lane, the work you have made possible has a ripple effect, making positive changes in our communities, the places we love, in our province, and across Canada.

In our last annual report, we welcomed a more accessible and energy efficient office. This year, that work was recognized with not just one, but three awards! But what's a building without the community that interacts with it? This year, local artist Marie Koehler recreated the old growth eastern forest in our boardroom for Nocturne. Just a few blocks away, our community bike programs, Bike Again and Welcoming Wheels, set up a new shared workshop at 5664 Charles Street. The move allowed the two programs to combine tools and parts, increase the available workshop space, and share expertise.

We're seeing the impacts of our work and partnerships in communities throughout Nova Scotia. In Cumberland, we are working with local partners to build a municipal community garden strategy and strengthen a network of garden coordinators. The Mobile Food Market has expanded to serve 12 locations in 7 communities across HRM, and we're supporting teams in Digby and Cape Breton to start their own similar initiatives. Meanwhile, we're connecting with faith-based organizations, cooperative housing communities, and apartment rental companies to improve the energy efficiency of the properties they own and operate.

In 2018/19, we celebrated some big wins for the places we love. After more than a decade of advocacy, Nova Scotia has taken a crucial step toward protecting the natural ecosystems that defend our coasts. The Coastal Protection Act was introduced in March and has been making its way through the legislative process. Once in place, the Act will help protect our resilient coastal ecosystems so that they can adapt and protect us.

In August, Halifax Council unanimously approved the Green Network Plan, a major milestone in protecting nature from development and supporting smart growth in HRM.

**None of our work would be possible without your support.** Thanks to you, last summer saw one of the largest environmental protests in Nova Scotia's history. The #NoPipe Land and Sea Rally brought over 3,500 citizens to oppose the plan by Northern Pulp to pump up to 90 million litres of toxic pulp mill waste directly into the Northumberland Strait via an underwater pipe.



The impacts of our work were felt across the country too. The most recent federal budget allocated over a billion dollars for energy efficiency and committed to consultations across Canada on a universal school food program. More of our oceans and their ecosystems are now protected too. We achieved a prohibition on directed fishing of the Greenland shark, and welcomed the announcements of the Banc-des-Américains Marine Protected Area and new fishery closures in the Strait of Georgia and Howe Sound off the southern mainland of BC. These all reflect victories we've been pushing for with partners across the country for years.

The strength of relationships and dedicated people have helped make all of this possible. This year, two long-time staff directors announced that they will be leaving the organization in the year ahead. Carla Vandenberg, our Financial Director who has been with us for 16 years, is retiring, and Mark Butler, Policy Director, is moving on after 23 years. We have big shoes to fill! This summer, we'll embark on a new chapter, as we begin the search for an Executive Director.

For close to half a century, the Ecology Action Centre has been taking action for a more just and sustainable world. This past year, and in the months to come, we're making changes to set us up for the next 50 years of environmental action.

# AT HOME

It's now easier for shoppers to learn the story behind the seafood they purchase. Through our partnership with SeaChoice, we launched [seafoodprogress.org](http://seafoodprogress.org), to showcase what each of Canada's largest retailers are doing to support sustainable seafood.



Our free **Better Building Speaker Series** is connecting the public with experts in constructing buildings that are more resilient, healthier and better for the environment.



Our building renovation received a **2018 Bright Business Award** and a **Canada Green Building Award** from Sustainable Architecture and Building Magazine, a national award that recognizes nine projects across the country for excellence in sustainable design and construction. The renovation was also named one of Canada's **Clean50 Top Projects** for 2019.



More than 100 people learned how to make sourdough, grow sprouts, make ferments, and more, at the 4th annual **Up!Skilling Food Festival** in Cape Breton.



Nova Scotia is one step closer to a **ban on single-use plastic bags!** Halifax Regional Council has voted to collaborate with the ten largest municipalities in Nova Scotia, and to draft a by-law for council's consideration to eliminate the distribution of single-use plastic bags. Thank you for making your voice heard by signing petitions, making phone calls and sending emails.



We had our **biggest Bluenose running team** of all time, with 76 Green Avengers. Together, we raised \$27,500 for the EAC!



illustration: Solterre Design

# IN THE COMMUNITY

We raised awareness about **green burial options** in Nova Scotia, part of our work to increase the availability of ecologically-friendly burials in our province.



More than 13,000 students and 60+ schools across the province participated in International **Walk to School Month**, our highest participation in years!



In collaboration with provincial and national partners, our **Speak Up for School Food** campaign helped secure a federal commitment to consult with provinces and territories to develop a National School Food Program.



Some **rental properties in Nova Scotia** are becoming more energy efficient after more than 50 apartment rental property companies learned how to increase energy efficiency, and which energy efficiency programs they can apply for.



Folks who walk, bike, or use a mobility device in Nova Scotia now have more protection thanks to the introduction of the **Traffic Safety Act**. The new act replaces the Motor Vehicle Act and includes vulnerable road user legislation.



The **Mobile Food Market** expanded to serve 12 locations in seven communities, increasing access to affordable, fresh fruit and veggies in Halifax neighbourhoods that need it most. Halifax Regional Council unanimously approved a motion to provide an additional three years of support, so this important program can continue to operate.



More than 11,500 students from 75 Nova Scotia schools and youth groups got outside for a walk as part of our **Winter Walk Day** event.



**Bike Again** and **Welcoming Wheels** moved to a new location on Charles St. The new shared space makes it possible for up to a dozen people to work on bikes at the same time, and allows the volunteers running these programs to combine tools and parts and to share expertise.



At least five cooperative housing communities are looking into using energy efficiency programming to upgrade their facilities after attending our **energy efficiency workshops**.



Halifax Council unanimously approved the **Green Network Plan**, a major milestone toward making Halifax a national leader when it comes to protecting nature from development and directing growth. This was the culmination of more than seven years of work by Our HRM Alliance.



People are transforming their communities through food. In Cape Breton, as part of the **Island Food Network**, we're working to engage communities on a Shared Food Vision to inform a future regional Food Action Plan. In South East New Brunswick, the Regional Food Pledge has been endorsed by seven more municipalities and local service districts. And in Halifax, we're working with the Municipality to explore the development of a Food Action Plan.





# PLACES WE LOVE

We conducted an **Atlantic mackerel data collection** research pilot project in Halifax, the first regional attempt to quantify recreational catch.



All summer long, our **Sea Bridge Exhibit** let folks peek beneath the waters off Nova Scotia's coast through the skillful lens of photographer Nick Hawkins. Thousands toured the free exhibit along the Halifax Waterfront.



Our "**Biodiverse-City**" **guided hikes series** helped folks get out and explore nature while learning how to identify different types of plants and wildlife. We explored wild areas being considered for protection and empowered participants to get in touch with decision makers and speak up for these areas at risk of development.



Nova Scotia is closer to reaching its goal of 13% protected land with the announcement of **three new protected areas**, including the iconic Wentworth Valley Wilderness Area.



We worked with the St. Mary's River Salmon Association and the citizens of Sherbrooke to **oppose a huge new open-pit gold mine** proposed to be developed right beside the St. Mary's River.



On **World Cleanup Day**, we turned our beach clean-up at Turtle Grove (Tufts Cove) into a plastic audit – part of a nationwide collaboration with Greenpeace Canada to identify the major corporate contributors to plastic waste polluting our shorelines and green spaces. Five companies were responsible for nearly 46% of plastic waste.

We helped **form a new citizen's group** dedicated to the development and wise management of the yet-to-be-created Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes Regional Park.



Nova Scotia took a crucial step toward protecting the natural ecosystems that defend our coasts. The **Coastal Protection Act** is now making its way through the legislative process. Over the next 12-18 months, it is anticipated that NS Environment will be creating regulations in consultation with Nova Scotians, municipalities and industry. Once in place, the Coastal Protection Act will help protect our resilient coastal ecosystems so that they can adapt and protect us. For more than a decade, we have been working with organizations, coastal community members, and people like you to rally for this important piece of legislation.



# NOVA SCOTIA

We helped organize one of the largest environmental protests in Nova Scotia's history. The **#NoPipe Land & Sea Rally** brought over 3,500 citizens together in and on Pictou Harbour to oppose the plan by Northern Pulp to pump up to 90 million litres of toxic pulp mill waste directly into the Northumberland Strait via an underwater pipe.



**Northern Pulp's Environmental Assessment** for their Replacement Effluent Treatment System (the proposed effluent pipe into Northumberland Strait) was sent back to the company, by Environment Minister Margaret Miller, citing 19 areas where lack of information made it impossible to assess the environmental impact. Many of the areas flagged in EAC's submission to the Environmental Assessment process were identified by the Minister as deficient.



The Island Food Network hosted the second annual **Farmer to Farmer Retreat**, a sold-out event where farmers had the chance to connect, collaborate, and share a delicious local meal to celebrate another year of growing.

We hosted over 40 screenings across the province of the award-winning biomass documentary film **"Burned – Are Trees The New Coal"** to raise public awareness and action. We've been calling on government to remove biomass from the Renewable Electricity Regulations and on Nova Scotia Power to shut down their biomass generating plants that are driving harvesting practices in Nova Scotia to new lows.



Throughout the year we built up a conversation about **the Just Transition** across the province by visiting Cape Breton, the Mi'kmaq Employment Officers, and joining the Federally Appointed Just Transition Task Force's tour around Nova Scotia.

Through the **Mobile Food Market Provincial Mentorship Pilot**, we began providing support to a team in Digby for the development of their "Fresh Food Box" - a food access initiative due to launch in the summer of 2019.



We welcomed the government's acceptance of the **Independent Review of Forestry Practices** conducted by Professor Bill Lahey, and their commitment to begin implementing its recommendations within one year. We were heavily involved in the process and released a review following its release outlining the good, the bad and the missing.



**Bill 30** was introduced as a private members bill to the Nova Scotia Legislature. If passed, it will commit Nova Scotia to EAC's advocated emissions reduction level—50% below 1990 levels by 2030—and open broad, public consultations for new environmental goals under the Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act.

We helped to convene the launch of **the 2030 Declaration**, with more than 45 signatory organizations, and a broad network of collaborators from labour organizations, Mi'kmaq organizations, environmental groups, groups working against environmental racism, anti-poverty advocates, businesses, and many others. The 2030 Declaration calls for a justice-based framework to reducing provincial emissions by 50% below 1990 levels, by the year 2030.



# CANADA AND BEYOND



We worked with environmental groups, fishing organizations and indigenous representatives to **strengthen Bill C-69** and limit the role of Offshore Petroleum Boards. We were not successful, but raised awareness amongst MPs, Senators, and Canadians.



Canadians from 24 coastal communities learned how to increase their resilience against climate change impacts as part of our **Educating Coastal Communities about Sea Level Rise project**. We worked with partners in New Brunswick, Newfoundland & Labrador, Prince Edward Island, British Columbia and Nova Scotia.



**Canadian charities** are now much freer to speak out on important issues like poverty, the environment and human rights. We worked with environmental charities across Canada to encourage the Federal Government to uphold their promise to protect the free speech of Canadians and Canadian charities.



Canada is one step closer to a **modernized Fisheries Act**. Bill C-68 successfully passed through the House of Commons with amendments that the conservation community worked hard to bring forward. Our contribution to the collaborative effort has been significant, including testimony to committees, a written submission, and outreach messaging to Senators to get this historic Bill passed before the summer.



The Federal Budget allocated **\$1.01 billion to energy efficiency**, something we've been calling for. Continued investments of this kind will lead to more than 118,000 green jobs across Canada, while significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions and giving a boost to energy affordability and our economy.



The nutrient-rich waters off the eastern tip of the Gaspé Peninsula are now protected under Canada's Oceans Act. **Banc-des-Américains Marine Protected Area** is home to some of the most exciting and diverse habitat in the Atlantic Ocean.



# FINANCIALS

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Year Ended March 31

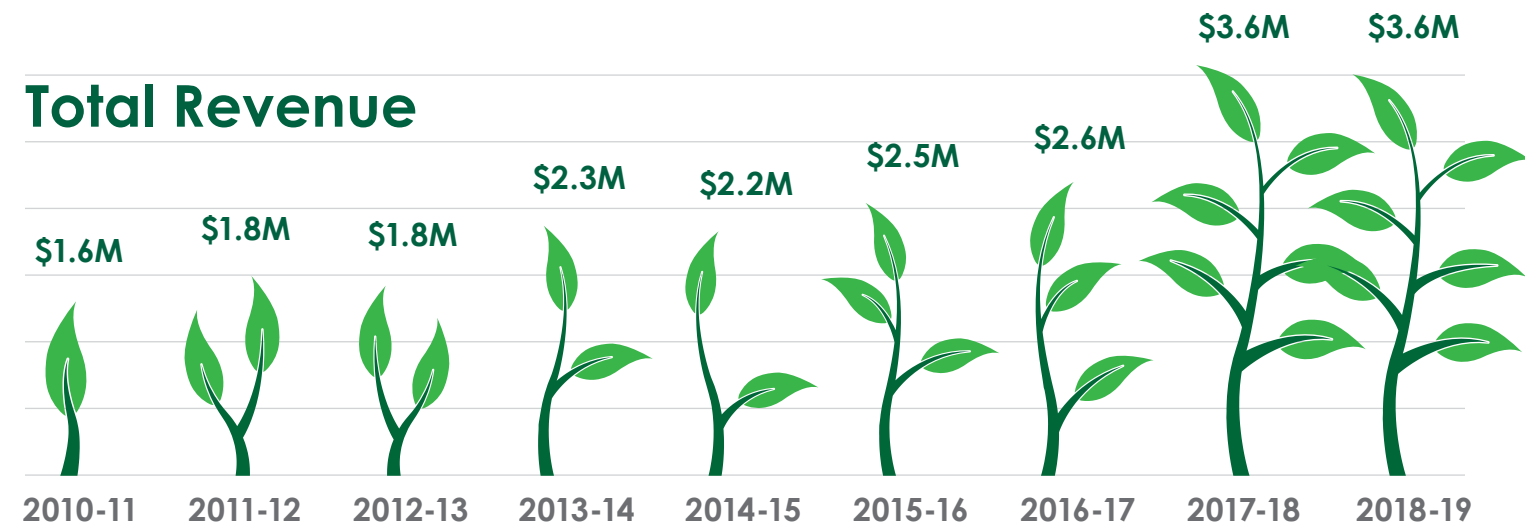
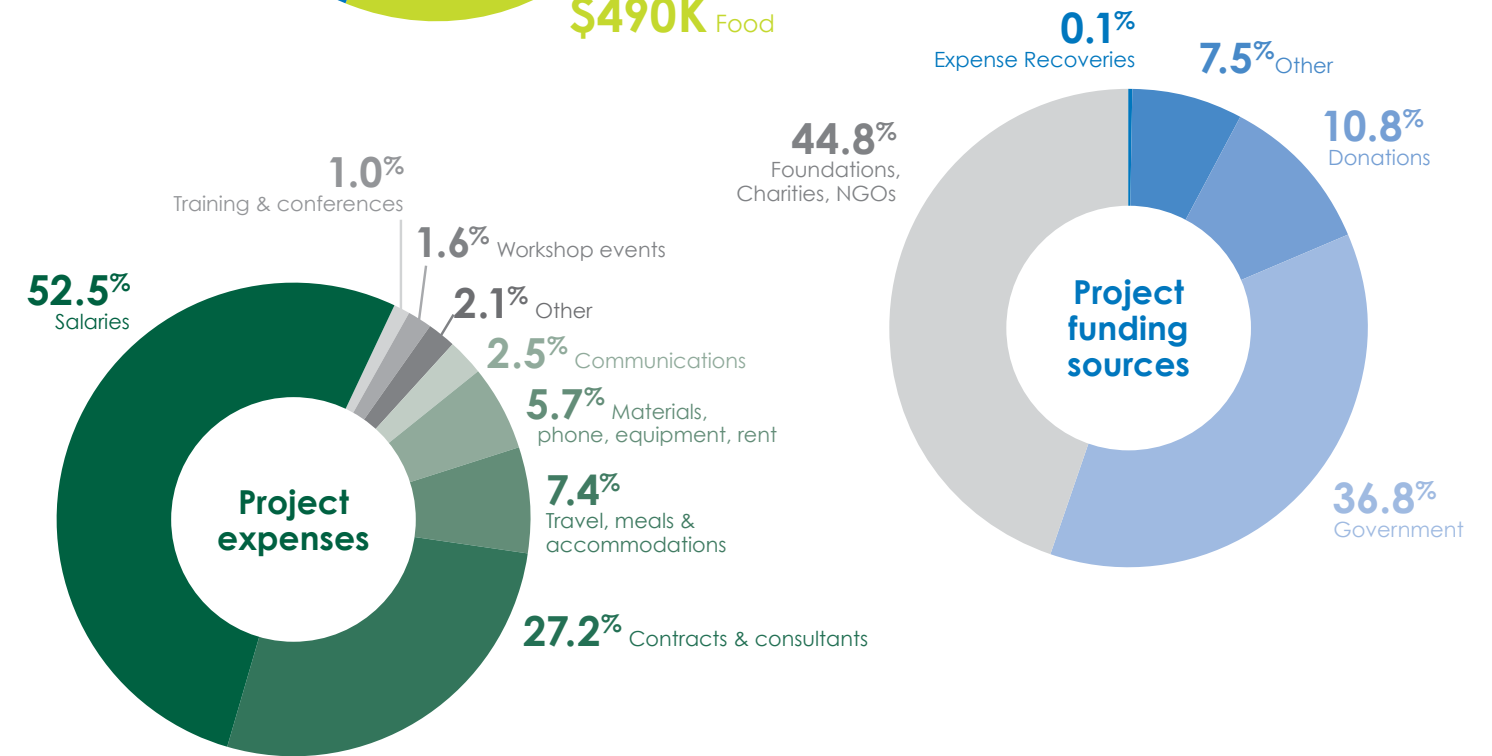
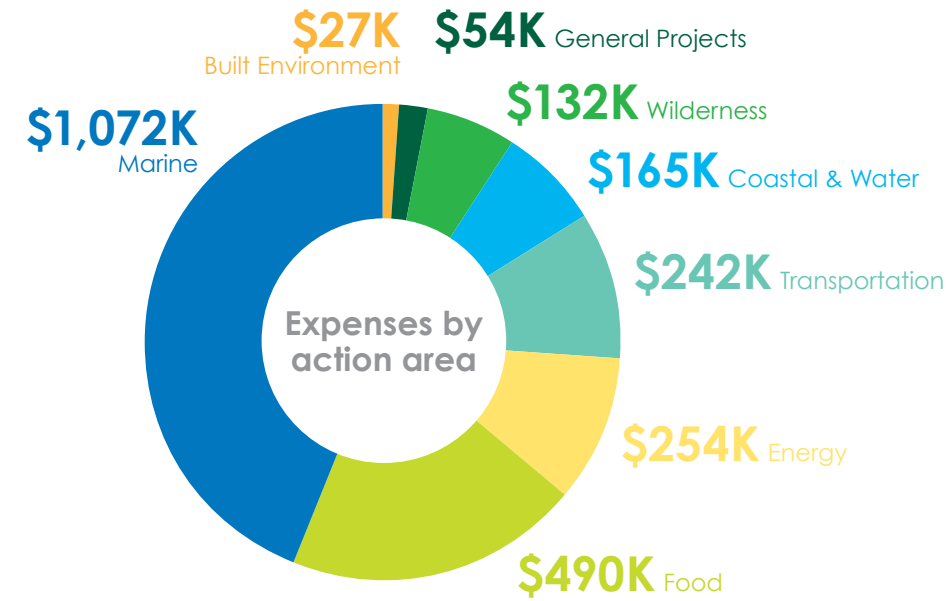
REVENUE	2019	2018
Project revenue	2,436,353	2,459,186
Admin (contribution fr projects)	220,539	208,979
Capital contribution	40,620	40,410
Donations	157,824	145,838
Fundraising events	36,110	46,390
Interest on savings & misc	18,287	15,123
Magazine ( <i>Ecology &amp; Action</i> )	-	2,100
Memberships	612,793	626,398
Operating expense recoveries	54,916	62,306
Space rental	-	6,900
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>3,577,442</b>	<b>3,613,630</b>
EXPENSES	2019	2018
Project expenses	2,436,353	2,459,186
Bank, credit card & payroll fees	23,611	24,265
Communications	5,293	3,169
Database and computer support	8,747	16,153
Depreciation	43,846	42,553
Equipment lease	4,709	5,623
Fundraising events	22,467	18,913
Insurance	11,529	11,353
Magazine ( <i>Ecology &amp; Action</i> )	21,292	22,759
Membership materials	1,231	2,148
Miscellaneous	11,409	9,958
Office	25,707	28,205
Power, water, telephone	12,866	13,375
Professional fees & consulting	54,814	17,396
Project contributions	125,563	144,823
Property financing	17,882	17,688
Property taxes & maintenance	18,068	15,496
Staff wages & benefits	707,103	735,208
Subscriptions & memberships	8,392	6,663
Travel	4,429	6,970
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>3,565,311</b>	<b>3,601,904</b>
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>12,131</b>	<b>11,726</b>

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Year Ended March 31

ASSETS	2019	2018
<b>Current</b>		
Cash & cash equivalents	1,051,126	1,503,826
Receivables	142,087	184,323
Prepays	9,460	10,215
	<b>1,202,673</b>	<b>1,698,364</b>
<b>Property &amp; equipment</b>	<b>926,867</b>	<b>968,614</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>2,129,540</b>	<b>2,666,978</b>
LIABILITIES	2019	2018
<b>Current</b>		
Payables & accruals	41,877	62,942
Deferred project revenue	1,088,596	1,563,316
Deferred operations revenue	8,207	6,258
Current portion of mortgage payable	17,127	16,397
	<b>1,155,807</b>	<b>1,648,913</b>
<b>Long-term</b>		
Deferred capital contributions	415,966	454,487
Mortgage payable	362,639	380,581
	<b>1,934,412</b>	<b>2,483,981</b>
<b>Surplus</b>		
Operating deficit	(51,624)	(37,638)
Investment in capital assets	131,135	117,149
Reserve fund	115,617	103,486
	<b>195,128</b>	<b>182,997</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>2,129,540</b>	<b>2,666,978</b>

This summary of financial information has been extracted from the Ecology Action Centre's audited financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2019. These statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO). The audit was completed by Grant Thornton LLP. Audited financial statements are available to view online at [ecologyaction.ca/annual-report](http://ecologyaction.ca/annual-report).





# OUR FUNDERS

Generous monetary and in-kind contributions from foundations, organizations, business and individuals like you 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

Individual donors  
Patagonia

## COASTAL & WATER

Clean Foundation  
Community Conservation Research Network  
Echo Foundation  
ERAC Foundation  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Individual donors  
Province of Nova Scotia – Communities, Culture & Heritage (Diversity & Community Capacity Fund)  
Rodney's Oyster House  
Saint Mary's University  
Sleeman Breweries  
Stewardship Centre for British Columbia  
The Marguerite Hubbard Charitable Foundation  
Youth Employment Strategy - Canada Summer Jobs

## ENERGY

Clean Foundation  
EfficiencyOne  
George F Wade Foundation  
Individual donors  
Ivey Foundation  
Northern Periphery and Arctic Program of the European Union  
Overlook International Foundation  
Queen's University  
Relay Education  
The Catherine Donnelly Foundation  
The McConnell Foundation  
Trottier Family Foundation  
Youth Employment Strategy - Canada Summer Jobs

## FOOD

Dalhousie University  
Individual donors  
Nova Scotia Health Authority  
Public Health Agency of Canada  
Public Service Alliance Canada – Social Justice Fund

## MARINE

Bend Beauty Inc  
Ecojustice Canada  
ERAC Foundation  
Fidelity Investments  
Individual donors  
International Academy - Korean Overseas Training Program  
Oceans 5  
Rodney's Oyster House  
Shark Conservation Fund  
Sleeman Breweries  
Synchronicity Earth  
The David & Lucile Packard Foundation  
The Donner Canadian Foundation  
The McConnell Foundation  
The Pew Charitable Trusts

## TRANSPORTATION

Halifax Regional Municipality  
Individual donors  
Mountain Equipment Co-Op  
Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage  
Nova Scotia Department of Energy  
Nova Scotia Department of Seniors  
Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal

## WILDERNESS

Echo Foundation  
Individual donors  
TD Friends of the Environment  
The Marguerite Hubbard Charitable Foundation  
The Schad Foundation

Ecology Action Centre  
**SUSTAINABILITY ALLIES**

Assante Wealth Management  
Bullfrog Power  
Down East Cleaning Products  
Garrison Brewing Company  
Helping Nature Heal  
Innovative Real Estate  
Just Us! Coffee Roasters  
Laughing Whale Coffee  
Mountain Equipment Co-Op  
Scotia Metal Products

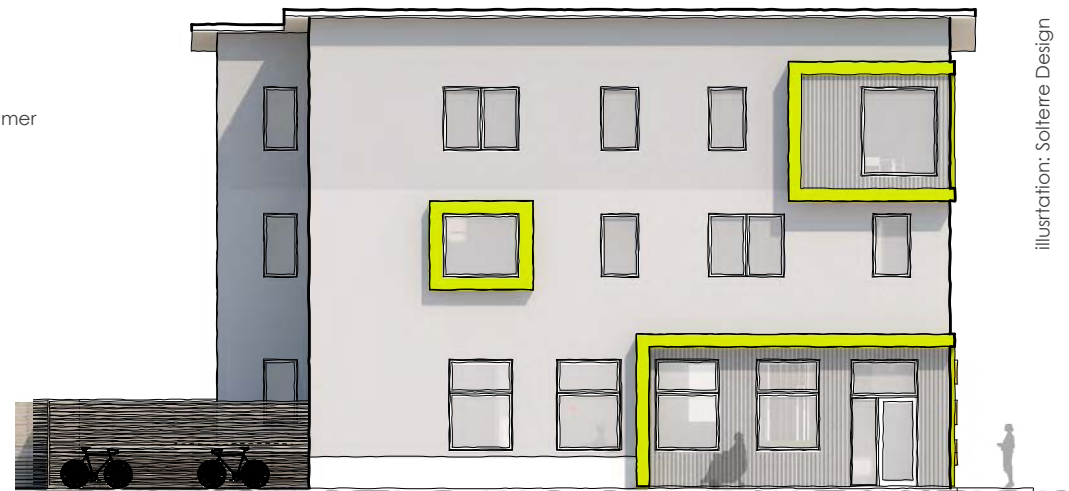


Illustration: Solterre Design

# OUR BOARD

- Denis Leclaire** – Co-Chair
- Candace Stevenson** – Co-Chair
- Ayo Makanjuola** – Treasurer
- Anne Marie Dalton** – Secretary and Wilderness Representative
- John Crace** – Built Environment Representative
- Jacob Thompson** – Energy Representative
- Sheila Stevenson** – Food Representative
- Jamie Baxter** – Member at Large
- Karen Miner** – Member at Large
- Anne Winters** – Member at Large
- Hudson Shotwell** – Member at Large
- Michael Sime** – Member at Large



Photo: Nick Hawkins

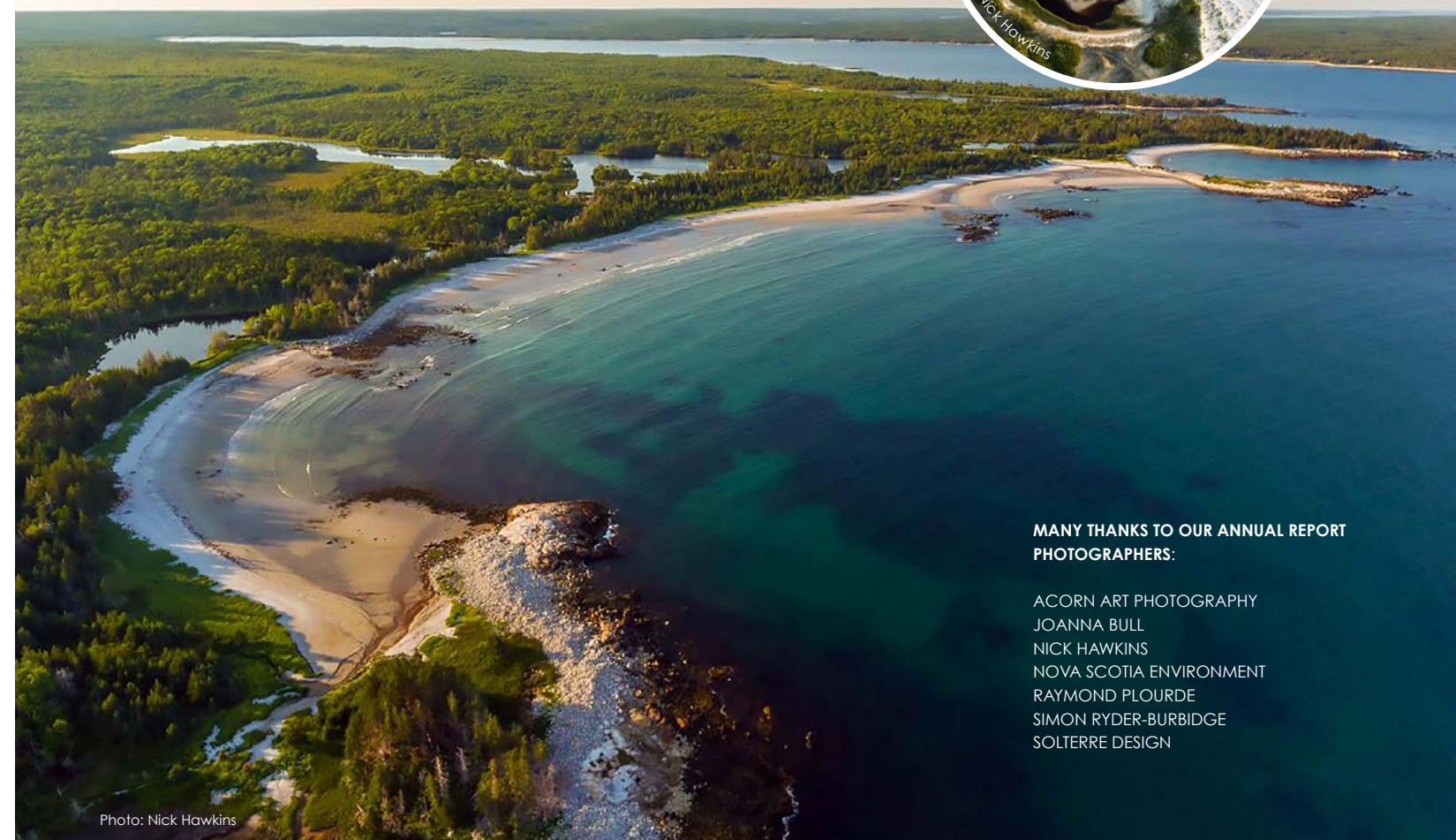


Photo: Nick Hawkins

### MANY THANKS TO OUR ANNUAL REPORT PHOTOGRAPHERS:

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- SOLTERRE DESIGN





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