

CCNS Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Coastal Coalition of Nova Scotia commends purchase of coastal properties)

(Nova Scotia– 9:45 am November 24, 2004) – The Coastal Coalition of Nova Scotia commends the Nova Scotia government for its bold step in purchasing 2,400 hectares of coastal properties in Shelburne, Halifax, and Guysborough counties.

“The purchase of these lands represents a significant step toward conserving the environmental, cultural and economic values of our coastline,” says Chris Miller, coastal researcher at Saint Mary’s University and member of the Coastal Coalition. “We are very impressed that these lands have been added to the public realm, for the benefit and enjoyment of all Nova Scotians.”

The Coastal Coalition formed out of concern for the state of Nova Scotia’s coastal areas. Since May of this year, over 40 non-government organizations, municipal representatives, community groups and individuals, have signed on to its mission statement.

“The groundswell of support for this group in such a short period of time indicates the degree to which Nova Scotians are concerned about coastal areas.” says Anna McCarron, chair of the coalition and coordinator of the Nova Scotia Coastal Guardian Program.

“Few suitable habitats remain for many endangered species in Nova Scotia. Since most of our coastal lands are privately-owned, purchasing these properties will help ensure that at least a few areas are conserved for some endangered species and for Nova Scotians alike.”

Much work still needs to be done, however, to ensure that our coastline is protected for many stakeholders. “Nova Scotians are demonstrating the urgent need to establish a responsible agency to implement a plan to protect the quality of life along our coast and to ensure that our coastline remains a valuable resource for all Nova Scotians.” says Tony Bowron of the Ecology Action Centre. “There must to be a plan in place to meet Nova Scotians needs.”

The Coastal Coalition is calling on the provincial government to develop a comprehensive coastal management strategy. Through a designated agency, Nova Scotians could participate in an open, public process to address such issues as public access, non-resident ownership, environmental stewardship, shoreline erosion, wetland loss, and tourism development, among many others.

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For more information or to arrange interviews, contact:

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The Coastal Coalition of Nova Scotia (CCNS) is dedicated to preservation, restoration and sustainable use of the physical, biological and cultural heritage of Nova Scotia's

coastal ecosystems. The CCNS is composed of a group of individual organizations, each with its own mission, sharing common concern for the future of Nova Scotia's coastal lands. Organizations share information and keep others informed through internet connections. The coalition meets regularly to share status reports, and discuss and identify actions upon which member organizations may wish to cooperate. The individual organizations determine how and when to respond to issues identified by their coalition connection.