

## **For Immediate Release**

July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013

### **Nova Scotia coastal property owners suffer hurricane damage**

#### **“I had all the necessary permits to live by the sea” warns landowner**

Halifax - The Ecology Action Centre is lending its support to the Pigz family in their call for new regulations to limit construction on vulnerable coastal areas and flood plains. The Pigz are coastal property owners who have recently lost their homes after flooding caused by a hurricane.

“I was taken by surprise,” says Dreamy Pig, whose cozy waterfront home was knocked down by hurricane force wind and waves, “After all, I obtained all the proper permits to live by the sea.” Daring Pig, another member of the Pigz family, also suffered flood damage despite having constructed a seawall to protect her home. Both pigs had to escape their crumbling homes during the height of the storm and take refuge on higher ground.

According to the Ecology Action Centre, this scenario is quite typical. “Many coastal property owners have no idea the waterfront lot they just purchased is vulnerable to storm surges, floods, or accelerated erosion,” claims Jen Graham, Coastal Coordinator at the Ecology Action Centre. “There is currently no department within government looking at applications for development on coastal lots to make sure they are actually suitable for their proposed use”.

There are ways to minimize the risk, however; Delilah Pig, another member of the Pigz family, built her home on higher ground and set well back from the sea. She suffered no damage during the hurricane. “Building at some distance from the sea brought me peace of mind,” says Delilah Pig, from the deck of her still intact home “I am able to enjoy an ocean view without fear of hurricane damage. It is only a short walk down to the coast when I want to swim or go for a sail.”

The Pigz are holding a press conference on Wednesday, July 31<sup>st</sup> at 11:00 am at Horseshoe Island Park (Off Quinpool Rd. near the Rotary) to tell their story. They want other waterfront landowners to be spared a similar experience, and hope Nova Scotia will soon adopt a provincial Coastal Act. “A system of clear, consistent, and easily understood coastal land use regulations in Nova Scotia will save this province a lot of money, and keep people and property safe,” says Jen Graham. “The Ecology Action Centre would like to see our coast, Nova Scotia's most important asset, healthy, valued, and protected.

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For more information:

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