



Ecology Action Centre

Annual General Meeting 2024

Tuesday, September 17 6:00–8:30 pm

Location: Nantucket Room, Zatzman Sportplex, Dartmouth & on Zoom

Agenda

6:00 Registration

6:05 Welcome and Acceptance of Agenda

6:10 Approval of Minutes of 2023 AGM

6:15 Board Report & Directors' Report

6:35 Financial Report

7:00 Appointment of Volunteer Board Members for 2024–25

7:10 Recognition of milestone years of service of EAC staff

7:15 EAC Annual Awards

7:40 Keynote Speaker: Nanci Lee, facilitator, poet, will reflect on what she has been learning moving from ally to friend in Rematriation of land and governance at Tatamagouche Centre and with Down the Marsh, a Black-led Africentric Community Land Trust. Practices and pitfalls.

8:10 Members' Forum

8:30 Adjournment & Reception (with cake!)

2024 Ecology Action Centre Board Nominations



Curtis Whiley, a sixth-generation African Nova Scotian from Upper Hammonds Plains, is a dedicated public servant and social entrepreneur committed to advancing and liberating Black communities in Canada. He holds a Bachelor of Commerce and an MBA specializing in Social Enterprise Leadership. In 2022, he founded the Upper Hammonds Plains Community Land Trust to preserve historical lands, create affordable housing solutions, and empower his community through collective action. Curtis's leadership aims to preserve his heritage's integrity and history through innovation and community-led transformation.



Originally from Finland, Milka moved to Halifax in 2020 with her family after three decades of studying and working in Europe and Asia. Most of her professional career she has worked in and advised multinational companies on corporate responsibility and sustainability. In 2018, Milka co-founded her own ESG (environment, social and governance) consultancy firm, specializing on business and human rights; helping companies identify and manage diverse human rights risks, including human rights implications of net zero strategies and the transition towards a low carbon economy.

Milka is passionate about building better dialogue and finding new and innovative models of collaboration between the private and non-profit sectors. She has previously served on the board of the Global Network Initiative, a multistakeholder organization promoting and advancing freedom of expression and privacy rights across the technology ecosystem. She currently acts as a technical expert to Safe Online, a UNICEF-managed global partnership fund that finances and helps scale up technology solutions, research and awareness programs to fight online child sexual exploitation and abuse.

When not working, Milka is mostly likely found outdoors in nature, her true happy place.

2024 Ecology Action Centre Board Nominations



Louis Joe Bernard, Paed, Taed

Louis Joe Bernard began his career in economic development at Yellowquill College, Portage La Prairie, Manitoba, and graduated with an academic excellence award in 1993. Louis Joe has since then gone on to become a Professional Aboriginal Economic Developer (Paed); and a Technical Aboriginal Economic Developer (Taed), certification with the Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers (CANDO), and now a member of the National Certification Committee for CANDO. In 2008, in Montreal, Quebec at the National CANDO Conference, Louis Joe was voted among his peers of over 260 First Nations across Canada with the Economic Developer of the Year Award from CANDO. He was a Member of the Institute of Business Consultants (MIBC) in the United Kingdom for the past 8 years. Louis Joe also received a Certified Advanced Small Business Counselor designation from Confederation College, Thunder Bay, Ontario. He is a Certified Aboriginal Lands Officer through Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. Louis Joe sat as a board member for the Labour and Advanced Education Apprenticeship Division for the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia for 2 x 3-year terms. Louis Joe also sat on the Tripartite Economic Development Working Committee, Maritimes and Northeast Pipelines Economic Benefits Committee, and sat on the Canadian Community Economic Development Network, Ottawa, Canada. He was a member of the Michelin Aboriginal Employment Partnership Advisory Council, since 2003. In 2009, when Dr. Pamela Sloan and Dr. David Oliver from the University of Montreal (HEC) won first prize in World Competition in the 2009 oikos Foundation Global Case Writing Competition in the Corporate Sustainability Track, they wrote, "Louis Joe played an active role in enabling this case to be written, he was intimately involved in setting the direction for partnership as well as in implementing it. ... this allowed us to convey the challenges and complexity of the partnership - a feature of the case that was recognized in the adjudication of the oikos competition."

Louis Joe also sat as a Chairperson on the Centre of Excellence on Matrimonial and Real Property Law as a representative of the National Aboriginal Land Management Association (NALMA) of which he has sat on the Board of Directors. As a chairperson for the Atlantic Region Aboriginal Lands Association (ARALA) which has a membership of eighteen (18) First Nations in Atlantic Canada. Louis Joe has been with the Union of Nova Scotia Indians-Tribal Council under the title of Community Capacity Development Officer- Economic Development as his last position before retiring from the organization in 2015. Louis Joe now sits on the Board of Directors for Whycomagh Coop as a volunteer Vice President.

2024 Ecology Action Centre Board Nominations



Zahra's Williams (She/Her) journey has taken her across the globe, having lived and worked or studied in Barbados, the United Kingdom, New York and Baltimore, USA, and throughout Atlantic Canada. She holds degrees from Mount Allison University, Dalhousie University, and Morgan State University.

Zahra is an architect, and principal of zzap, as well as a sessional instructor at Dalhousie University in the Faculty of Architecture and Planning. Based in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Zahra brings a wealth of experience and a deep passion for the built environment to her work. Her research delves into the implications of climate and social justice on the built environment, with a strong focus on housing and community, social inclusion, poverty disruption, architecture and colonialism, and the challenges of post-industrial cities.

Beyond her professional life, Zahra is deeply committed to her community. She actively volunteers with the Nova Scotia Association of Architects (NSAA), is a member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), and the National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA). Passionate about fostering diversity within architecture and related fields, Zahra has developed a youth job shadow program to introduce African Nova Scotians and indigenous youth to architectural practice. She also hopes to establish a NOMA student chapter at Dalhousie University.

In her free time, Zahra enjoys spending time with her family, friends, and her beloved dog, Junie Jabarkus. Whether she's hiking, being near the water, listening to live music, making art or reading, Zahra is always looking for opportunities to be engaged and build community.