



Ecology Action Centre

ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24



parade photos: Raymond Plourde



photo: Astrid Zhang



photo: Sara Farias

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTORS

As an organization and as a movement, in the past year we've seen so many amazing things happen. Care for our environment has manifested itself in creative and exciting ways in the aspirations and actions of communities throughout the province and around the world.

And yet, as the devastating effects of the climate emergency become increasingly evident, inequity and cost-of-living continue to skyrocket, and multiple conflicts unfold throughout the globe, our world is becoming dangerously polarized. With so much at stake, it can be all too easy to give in to division.

But as we face down these crises – these challenges that at times seem nearly insurmountable – it is a deep connection to one another and the planet which sustains us that will see us through to a more just and vibrant future.

53 years ago, when the Ecology Action Centre first came together in a basement room at Dalhousie University, we could have only dreamt of the progress we see today. We once had to fight to convince the world of the very existence of climate change, and now we're witnessing mass action against the fossil fuel industry and unprecedented innovations in clean energy. Where the varied struggles of humanity were once siloed and considered separate from one another, we are now seeing strength in solidarity between movements. In the face of urgent crises, we're learning new ways to trust one another and work together.

Indeed, there are more players in the environmental sphere than ever before. In this dynamic and ever-evolving space, the EAC will continue to do as we have always done. We'll bring people together to take action, learn from and with communities, act as an incubator for innovative solutions, hold decision makers accountable and cut through the noise to create systemic change in the face of urgent, complex environmental issues.

This report offers a snapshot of the EAC's work throughout the 2023-2024 fiscal year. As is ever the case, we see so much to celebrate. Our work expanded access to affordable, healthy local food, removed barriers to active transportation and held decision makers accountable to their promises to protect more of our province's wild spaces. We helped mobilize thousands of Nova Scotians to stand up for the Coastal Protection Act, clean energy regulations, and so much more. We invite you to share in these successes, because the work we do is grounded in the support of our amazing community – our members, volunteers, staff and everyone working to build a better world throughout Mi'kma'ki/Nova Scotia and beyond. With your help, our work is making a real difference every day.

In this work, those who continue to profit from the destruction of our planet will inevitably push back – touting misinformation and distractions while offering false solutions. But instead of giving in to this division, we will continue to meet these challenges head on, with compassion, fierceness and a lasting commitment to building a better future together. Thank you for standing with us in this crucial work.

In gratitude and solidarity,
The EAC's board and staff directors

OUR BOARD

Christina Macdonald – Co-Chair

Helga Guderley – Co-Chair

Roland Evborokhai – Treasurer

Michael Sime – Secretary

(appointed February 2024)

Andrea Argueta – Member at Large

(joined September 2023)

Anne Winters – Member at Large

Alyda Faber – Member at Large

Dan Rutabingwa Gakire – Member at Large

(joined September 2023)

Dawn Burstall – Member at Large

Grant MacDonald – Member at Large

Keith MacMaster – Member at Large

Laurette Geldenhuys – Member at Large

Rhiannon Davies - Member at Large


Calla Farn - Member at Large

(joined September 2023; resigned November 2023)


Virginia Olsen – Secretary (until February 2024)

OUR IMPACT


By broadening and deepening engagement, showcasing alternatives and influencing decision makers to create transformational change, we're making an impact on the future of our communities, our province and the planet. Here are just some of the ways that you've helped us create meaningful change in the past year!



With the help of our ongoing advocacy work, even more of **Nova Scotia's forests, wetlands and other natural spaces are protected** for future generations.




By acting as a watchdog against unaffordable urban sprawl and engaging with the HRM's planning strategies at multiple levels, **we're helping guide the municipality toward complete, affordable and climate-safe communities.**



The ocean is a safer place for key species like blue sharks, whale sharks and manta rays because our work is fighting for better international policies around issues like catch limits, provisional landing bans and more.



Through our guided hikes, information sessions and more, **Nova Scotians are reconnecting with our province's natural spaces** and the need for better protections for unique and crucial ecosystems.



Our vigilance is ensuring that large clean energy projects truly benefit the climate and our communities, **helping minimize environmental impacts and shining a light on false climate solutions.**



photo: Sara Farias



Because of the work of the EAC and others in the Halifax Food Policy Alliance, **the Halifax Regional Food Hub Co-operative has successfully incorporated.** The Hub will connect food producers located throughout mainland Nova Scotia with HRM-based wholesale buyers and offer facilities for aggregation, storage, online ordering, order fulfillment and delivery, and opportunities for co-marketing and promotion of local products.



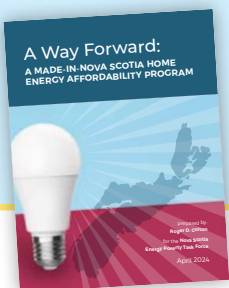
We've helped clear the air on federal and provincial climate policy, encouraging real solutions and **arming Nova Scotians with the knowledge they need** to see through harmful public relations campaigns and disinformation.



After the EAC and our partners at SeaChoice made the recommendation to the House of Commons Fisheries and Oceans Standing Committee, **the Department of Fisheries and Oceans established an interdepartmental task force for seafood traceability,** helping Canadians know where their seafood is coming from.



After years of advocacy from the EAC and our allies, **Nova Scotia is launching its first ever school lunch program!** An accessible, equitable school food program will address youth food security and promote healthy learning environments where students are nourished and able to learn.



Following our work with the Energy Poverty Task Force, Nova Scotia now has A Way Forward, **a viable pathway to help households struggling to afford their energy bills.**



Because of our work with the Pop-Up Bike Hub, Bike Again, Making Tracks and more, **people across the province have the tools, knowledge and confidence they need to be able to safely ride and maintain their bikes.**





photo: Peijing (Pepe) Yu



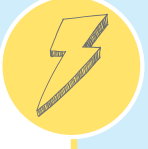
Because of mobilization and tireless work from the EAC and our allies, Nova Scotians across the province are standing up to **demand action on the Coastal Protection Act, holding the provincial government accountable** for their indefensible decision to scrap the Act.



We've held decision makers at every level of government accountable to their climate promises, **helping pave the way for a clean energy future in Nova Scotia and beyond.**



Because of the efforts of the EAC, East Coast Environmental Law and Sierra Club, **government at both the federal and provincial level decided to veto an offshore petroleum exploration license** issued by the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board.

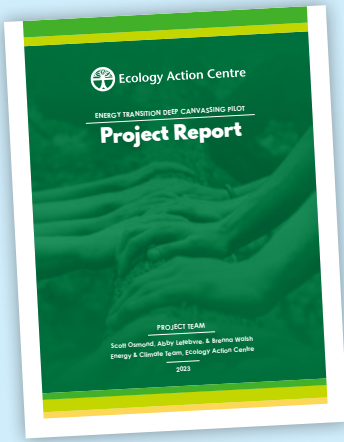


Because of years of work from the EAC and our partners, **Halifax now has its first food strategy, the JustFOOD Action Plan.** HRM council has committed to funding the establishment of a Halifax Food Council, emergency food planning, municipal urban agriculture pilots, an HRM food asset map and more!



By testing new low-impact gear and helping fleets adapt to changing ocean conditions and low catches, **we're supporting a sustainable harpoon swordfish fishery in Nova Scotia**, so that small-scale operators can take advantage of opportunities to bolster our coastal economies.





Though our Energy Transition Deep Canvassing Pilot Project, **we're connecting with Nova Scotians across the province** to hear their concerns and give them a voice in the transition to a clean energy future.



Because of the swift action and extensive community mobilization from the EAC and our allies, **West Mabou Beach Provincial Park is now safe from golf course development.**



Because of a partnership between the Halifax Food Policy Alliance (of which the EAC is a member) and Feed Nova Scotia's Innovation and Learning lab, recommendations from the Rural Food Access Pilot and the Social Supermarket Pilot will **help increase dignified and affordable food access in two HRM communities.**



Nova Scotians are gaining better access to clean, affordable and reliable energy because of our work engaging with provincial and federal policy, providing education and eliminating barriers to energy efficiency.



Our Kelp Kurious project is **supporting the creation of a sustainable kelp farming sector in Nova Scotia.** This sector could diversify our coastal economies and seafood industry, improve regional food security and restore marine ecosystems – all while adding upwards of \$50 million in revenue to our province's economy over the next few years alone.



Through education and advocacy, we've empowered citizens throughout the province to **advocate for and build better active transportation infrastructure** in their communities.



EAC BY THE NUMBERS



Over **29,122 students** from **132 schools** engaged through our International Walk to School Month and Winter Walk Day events.



Thousands of kilograms of kelp supplied by our seedling nursery and demonstration farm to over **40 restaurants**, as well as local food, agriculture and wellness companies developing sustainable kelp products.



50 free energy audits for faith buildings in partnership with the Clean Foundation, Efficiency Nova Scotia and Faith & the Common Good.



164 doors knocked on and **526 numbers** dialed to engage Nova Scotians in meaningful conversations about the clean energy transition through our Energy Transition Deep Canvassing Pilot Project.



Hundreds of messages sent to HRM council supporting the full funding of Part B of the JustFOOD Action Plan.





photo:
Peijing (Pepe) Yu



58 refurbished bikes gifted and **38 participants** in our Welcoming Wheels program, helping newcomers to Canada gain the confidence they need to take advantage of active transportation.



Over 1,400 letters sent, **hundreds of lawn signs** distributed, 12 municipalities and **thousands of Nova Scotians** mobilized in support of the Coastal Protection Act.



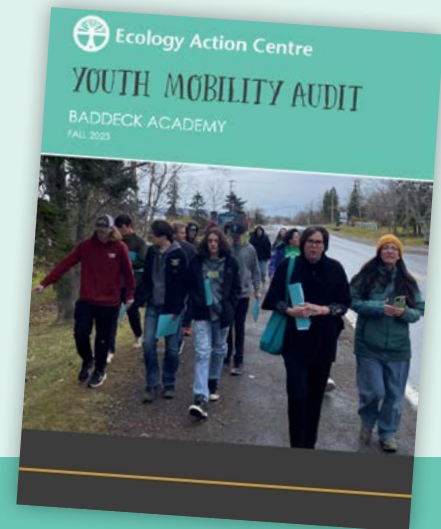
1,122 letters sent in support of strong federal clean energy regulations that will help secure 100 per cent clean energy across Canada by 2035.



1,138 letters sent to provincial and municipal decision makers, urging them to remove Sandy Lake and Sackville River from the province's list of Special Planning Areas fast-tracked for development.



Three Youth Mobility Audits and three Youth Active Transportation Leadership sessions across Nova Scotia, engaging **78 youth**.





675 children, youth, and adults trained in safe active transportation practices through our Making Tracks program.

Making Tracks



Over 4,000 members

throughout Nova Scotia and beyond, helping us fight for a just and vibrant world of respect, belonging and ecological resilience.



2,500 'I Share the Road' magnets, printed in Mi'kmaw, French, English and Arabic, distributed throughout the province.



Six guided hikes over the course of the summer and fall in three critical areas for protection — Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes, Sandy Lake-Sackville River and the Halifax Backlands — to spotlight the need for a protected greenbelt around urban Halifax.



Over 35 diverse community groups

participated in the second annual People's Parade for Life on Earth, celebrating our connection to water, life and joyful resistance.



photo: David Neira



photo: Raymond Plourde



Over 1,600 messages sent urging the provincial government to amend the outdated Provincial Parks Act to eliminate loopholes that would allow harmful development in already protected areas.



214 attendees at eight events across Nova Scotia for Membership May, our first annual member appreciation month.



17 blue carbon monitoring locations, six SeagrassNet monitoring sites (with three more planned) and **three acoustic survey sites** established for eelgrass monitoring and restoration in collaboration with our Gulf regional partners.

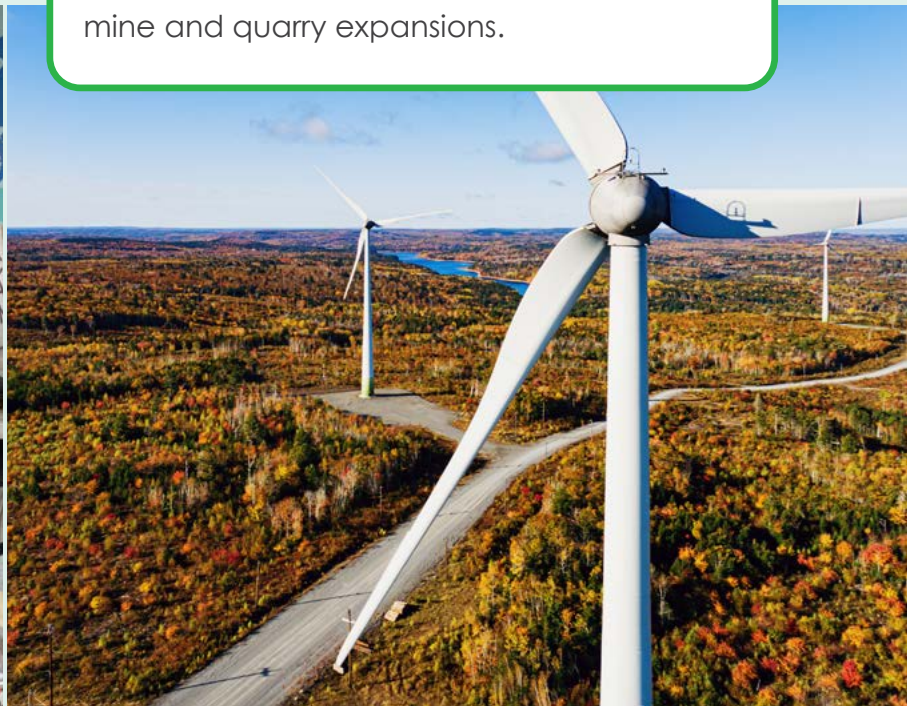


696 bikes repaired in 25 communities throughout the province by our Pop-Up Bike Hub and Pop-Up Bike Hub Mini.



Comments provided for **five different environmental assessments** for proposed large industrial projects in rural Nova Scotia, from wind energy projects to mine and quarry expansions.

photo: Sara Farias



FINANCIALS

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Year Ended March 31

REVENUE	2024	2023
Foundations and Charities	1,239,116	1,532,732
Government funding	705,788	817,989
Memberships	558,127	551,313
Donations	713,452	535,017
Other funding	520,178	414,269
Interest and miscellaneous	110,460	58,183
Amortization of deferred capital contribution	29,891	17,339
Fundraising Activities	15,893	3,975
TOTAL REVENUE	3,892,905	3,930,817

EXPENSES	2024	2023
Amortization	42,991	41,247
Bank and credit card charges	27,322	26,191
Communications	67,608	51,026
Fundraising activities	6,274	13,453
Insurance	20,863	24,097
Interest on long-term debt	11,383	12,400
IT Services	33,693	43,413
Magazine (<i>Ecology & Action</i>)	21,044	16,080
Memberships and subscriptions	37,304	25,438
Office	6,206	7,956
Professional fees and consultant fees	528,255	615,213
Property taxes	20,404	1,711
Rental	53,858	41,365
Repairs and maintenance	18,646	12,559
Supplies and materials	39,740	68,657
Training	16,465	25,095
Travel and meetings	182,728	174,085
Utilities	39,790	27,221
Wages and benefits	2,669,100	2,599,181
TOTAL EXPENSES	3,843,674	3,826,388

EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	49,231	104,429
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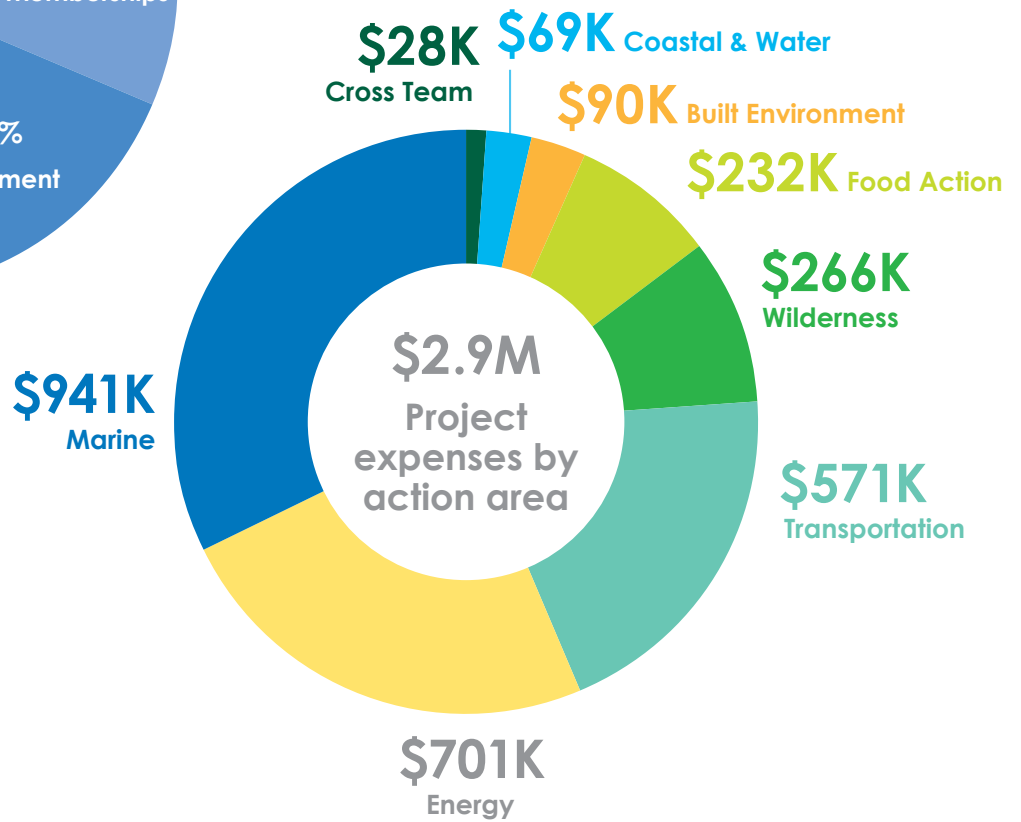
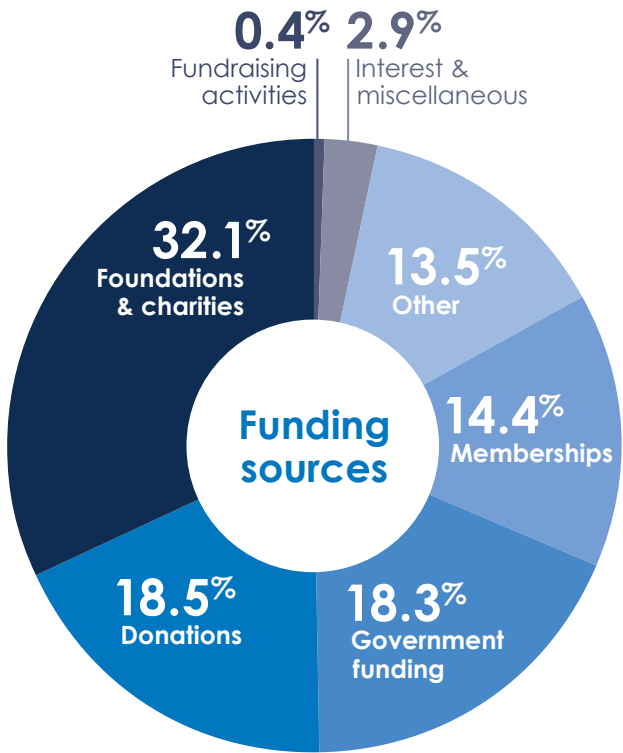
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Year Ended March 31

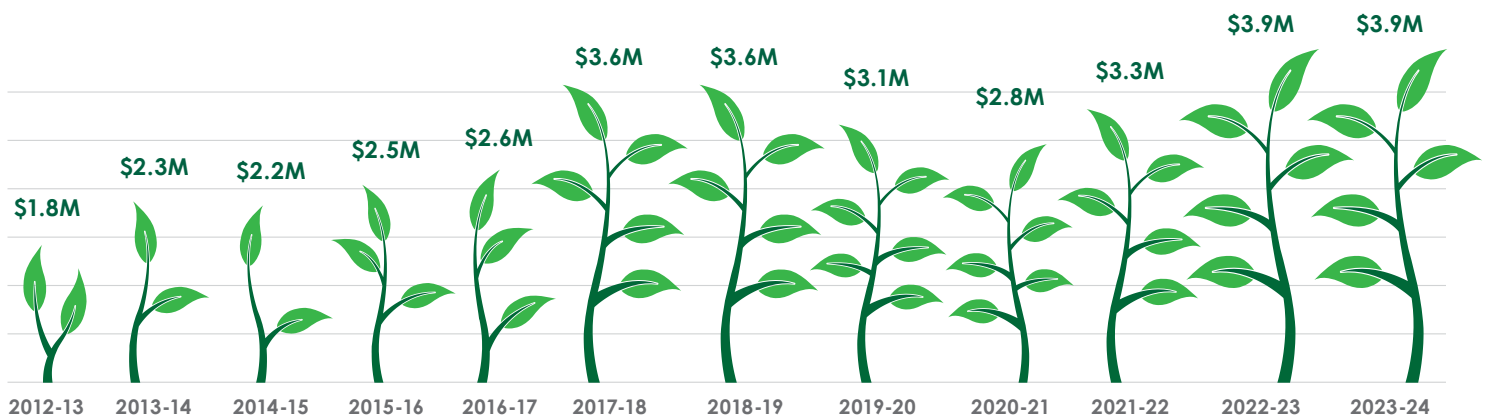
ASSETS	2024	2023
Current		
Cash	737,178	644,426
Term Deposits	813,856	1,000,256
Accounts Receivables	128,296	92,501
Government remittances receivable	23,687	25,165
Prepaid expenses	56,402	36,582
	1,759,419	1,798,930
Long-term		
Term Deposits	1,046,878	775,213
Capital Assets	802,908	830,330
TOTAL ASSETS	3,609,205	3,404,473

LIABILITIES	2024	2023
Current		
Accounts payable & accrued liabilities	210,712	213,429
Deferred project revenue	1,590,511	1,388,027
Current portion of long-term debt	21,579	20,771
	1,822,802	1,622,227
Long-term		
Deferred contributions	394,931	418,596
Long-term debt	270,621	292,030
	665,552	710,626
Net Assets		
Emergency Fund	133,008	133,008
Fern Lane fund	104,841	104,841
Strategic fund	632,226	713,678
Project fund	113,834	-
Investment in capital assets	136,942	120,093
	1,120,851	1,071,620
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	3,609,205	3,404,473

This summary of financial information has been extracted from the Ecology Action Centre's audited financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2024. These statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO). The audit was completed by BDO Canada LLP. Audited financial statements are available to view online at ecologyaction.ca/annual-report.



Total Revenue



SUSTAINABILITY ALLIES

Assante Hydrostone
Authentic Seacoast
Garrison Brewing Co.
Helping Nature Heal
Innovative Real Estate
Just Us! Coffee Roasters
Laughing Whale Coffee Roasters

photo: Jimmie Pederson

OUR FUNDERS

Generous monetary and in-kind contributions from foundations, organizations, businesses and individuals 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

Echo Foundation
Ivey Foundation
Park People
Individual donors



FOOD

Feed Nova Scotia
Halifax Regional Municipality
Nova Scotia Health Authority
SeedChange



WHOLE OF EAC

Canadian Heritage – Canada
Periodical Fund
Canadian Red Cross
Nature Canada
Individual donors



COASTAL & WATER

Davis Foundation
Echo Foundation
Rodney's Oyster House
Individual donors



MARINE

Blue Nature Alliance
David and Lucille Packard Foundation
Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Canada - Oceans Management
Contribution Fund
Donner Canadian Foundation
Environment Funders Canada
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
Make Stewardship Count
Oceans 5
Patagonia
Shark Conservation Fund
Waltons Trust
Wyss Foundation
Individual donors



ENERGY & CLIMATE

Catherine Donnelly Foundation
Echo Foundation
Efficiency One
Environment Funders Canada
European Climate Foundation
Faith & the Common Good
Green Communities Canada
Halifax Climate Investment, Innovation
and Impact Fund (HCi3)
Ivey Foundation
NS Department of Natural Resources
and Renewables – Low Carbon
Communities Fund
Trottier Foundation
Individual donors



TRANSPORTATION

The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq
Halifax Climate Investment, Innovation and
Impact Fund (HCi3)
Halifax Regional Municipality
Help Age Canada
Housing, Infrastructure and Communities
Canada – Active Transportation Fund of
the Permanent Public Transit Program Fund
Province of Nova Scotia
- Communities, Culture, Tourism, and
Heritage
- Department of Public Works
- Department of Environment and Climate
Change
Public Health Agency of Canada Centre for
Chronic Disease Prevention and Health
Equity
Individual donors



WILDERNESS

Donner Canadian Foundation
Echo Foundation
Nature Canada
Western Organization of Resource
Councils Education Project
Individual donors

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT & INTERNSHIP FUNDING

Clean Foundation
(Energy, Marine, Transportation)
ECO Canada (Energy, Marine)
Loran Scholar Foundation (Marine)
Mitacs (Built Environment, EAC general,
Transportation)
NS Department of Labour, Skills and
Immigration – Cooperative Education
Incentive (EAC general, Energy)





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photo: Sara Farias

