

## **NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR ENVIRONMENT NETWORK**

### **Report from the Steering Committee for**

**The Annual General Meeting, November 22, 2022**

**NLEN's last Annual General Meeting was held on May 27, 2021 online via Zoom. Since that time the organization has continued to struggle with the challenges of the times, combined with the effect which the isolation caused by the Covid 19 pandemic has had on the ability of non-profits – and in fact, all of society – in being able to work and come together in any effective manner. Yet, we have continued to strive to improve the environment to overcome such obstacles and continue to seek solutions to our financial challenges and gain a stronger economic footing.**

**The NLEN has also maintained some level of presence in the environmental community with number of volunteer efforts of the steering committee. These activities include:**

- **Steering Committee member Roberta Benefiel has continued to participate on the RCEN's Environmental Assessment and Planning Caucus.**
- **SC member Kim Todd through her organization, thegreenrock / Guide to the Good, has taken on the task to assemble notices of upcoming events, along with topics relevant to the environmental community, and issue our E-Updates to a large segment of our community. Those notices are a valuable tool in spreading awareness and fostering communication amongst those who take an interest in the environment, and in excess of 600 subscribers receive these notices.**
- **SC member Diana Baird has continued to participate in online meetings with other provincial affiliate networks across the country as well as with the umbrella group, the RCEN.**
- **SC members Rita Anderson and Diana Baird met on a Zoom meeting with members of Nature NL in the autumn of 2021 to re-introduce them to the efforts and goals of the NLEN.**
- **SC members Marjorie Evans, Helen Forsey, and Piers Evans participated in a provincial environmental workshop in Grand Falls in April, 2022. While they also represented other ENGOs, they were all able to speak on behalf of the NLEN at this event. Helen is involved with a group of ENGO reps in the planning for a similar networking gathering this coming April. Watch our E-Updates for detailed plans as they evolve.**
- **As the NLEN is a member of both the Electronic Product Recycling Association (EPRA) and the Product Care Organization (paint recycling), Diana has continued to be our representative on both these waste reduction initiatives.**

- A sub-committee of the NLEN's SC is continuing work on a NL Nature Plate and NL Nature Trust Program, with a goal to raising funds to establish an environmental funding program for the province. I shall defer to committee member Piers Evans to talk about our work on this initiative in more detail.
- Our Treasurer, Marjorie Evans, has kept up with all the tax preparations and banking to ensure our Charitable Status remains in good standing.
- In August, 2022 the SC were successful in hiring Leisha Toory as a part-time Conservation Corps (CCNL) Intern. Her employment endures until early January and her efforts have been a great boon to our work.
- In October, SC member Diana Baird met on Zoom with members of the newly created Atlantic Climate Change Network to discuss ways and means to develop stronger partnerships with ENGOS in this province. However, this past week I received notice that two of the members have left the organization, and a restructuring of the Network is forthcoming.

While the NLEN continues to struggle with very limited resources to maintain and strengthen connections and capacity within the environmental community of this province, we recognize the importance of seeking new methods to maintain effectiveness. Combined with this, the period since the beginning of the pandemic has seen a declining membership. While we know some organizations have undergone huge challenges as well, there are also a number of new ENGOS that have been created. We sincerely hope this decline can be reversed as this province is faced with both long standing and emerging issues that need a strong, united and reasoned voice offering sustainable solutions.

Respectfully

NLEN Steering Committee