



Workshop: The Role of Municipalities, First Nations and Communities in Coastal Management
June 17th, 2009 (1:00 - 4:30pm) | Nova Scotia Archives (6016 University Avenue, Halifax, NS)

You are invited to attend a workshop on *The Role of Municipalities, First Nations and Communities in Coastal Management* on the afternoon of Wednesday June 17th. As you may know, a series of public events and strategic workshops – under the name *Coastal Nova: Where Nova Scotia meets the Sea* – has been held over the past several months, organized by a team from the Coastal Coalition of Nova Scotia, the Ecology Action Centre, the Environmental Studies Program at Saint Mary’s University, the Marine Affairs Program at Dalhousie University, the Coastal Research Network and the Coastal CURA initiative. The upcoming workshop is a key component of that series.

In considering Nova Scotia’s emerging Sustainable Coastal Development Strategy, it is clear that municipal governments and coastal communities around the province have an important role to play in coastal stewardship and management. Coastal Nova Scotians and communities have demonstrated an active and growing interest in sustainable coastal management. In the 1990s, economic challenges for fisheries-based coastal communities, in particular, led to many community-based responses and initiatives, and a province-wide coastal communities network (CCN). Subsequently, in addressing a range of issues (whether onshore or offshore), community-based organizations have participated in a wide range of planning and review processes to promote sustainable coastal activities.

Municipalities and coastal communities are also full of talented individuals dedicated to improving the health of their communities and the coastal environment; this knowledge and talent is a valuable resource that should be more fully utilized. Indeed, finding ways to facilitate meaningful participation and involvement from municipal governments and coastal communities will be integral to the development and subsequent success of the province’s coastal strategy.

The upcoming June 17th workshop will (1) explore mechanisms for encouraging and promoting meaningful participation and involvement from municipal governments, First Nations and coastal communities in provincial coastal policy and management, and (2) help chart a course both for establishing successful coastal management initiatives at the community and municipal level and for ensuring their long-term involvement in the government’s Sustainable Coastal Development Strategy. The workshop will highlight the various perspectives of First Nations, community organizations, elected municipal representatives, regional development authorities and others charged with coastal and land use planning, economic development and environmental protection responsibilities along the coast. Participants will reflect on issues of accountability and governance relating to the respective roles of municipalities and local development agencies, as well as the use of community-based planning models, in ensuring sustainable coastlines. A goal will be to assess how common, complementary and competing interests can be effectively managed within a collaborative approach to coastal management.

The workshop will help to improve our ability to work together, share information and create solutions, through small group interactions and facilitated plenary discussions. At the end of the day, participants will summarize the key ideas that have arisen on coastal management initiatives and local involvement, as well as potential next steps.

To ensure productive discussion, the number of participants at the workshop will be limited, and registration must be done in advance. It is therefore essential to RSVP to coastalcura@smu.ca by June 10th, 2009 in order to confirm your attendance. Also, you may find it useful to review the following documents: “Coastal Area Management in Nova Scotia: Building awareness at the municipal level” (http://ccns.chebucto.org/RCIP_Coastal_Report.pdf) and “Land use and resource planning” found at www.ccns.chebucto.org. For more information, please contact any member of the Coastal Nova Organizing Committee, as listed below. We hope to see you on June 17th...

Best wishes,

Coastal Nova organizing committee

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