



A Year of Celebration & Integration



Our Contributors

 Fisheries and Oceans Canada / Pêches et Océans Canada

 Status of Women Canada / Condition féminine Canada

 Environment Canada / Environnement Canada

 **The ACZISC**

 Natural Resources Canada / Ressources naturelles Canada



 Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada / Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada



*Sustainability*

*Living in Balance within Earth's limits for a healthy future, and understanding that economies, environments, and societies are interconnected.*

As defined by consensus by Coalition Members  
November 27, 2004

**THE COALITION'S FOUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

1. Facilitate and coordinate Gulf-wide sustainability projects by engaging individual group members.
2. Build an internet-based geospatial regional sustainability atlas that supports base mapping, coordinated data collection, sharing of information and informed decision-making.
3. In a coordinating role, assist partner organizations with building capacity to affect sustainable change in the ecosystem and the communities in the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence region.
4. As an Educator and Facilitator, create a collaborative environment that brings together communities, business, government & experts to move the sustainability agenda forward.

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From the  
**Chair**

Dear Coalition Members,

**I am pleased to be the Chair of the Coalition during this our tenth anniversary.** While it has been ten years since the group had its first Annual General Meeting, the group has actually been in existence for a much longer time. I feel privileged to have been involved since the very beginning.

The strength of the Coalition is in the volunteers and the staff. This combined with positive funding support from our government and private sector partners has allowed the Coalition to become stronger as a force for positive change in our region. While we have accomplished many great things over the past ten years there is more to be done. In these tough economic times we must not forget the pillars of sustainability. While Canada is a resource dependent country the Gulf region is highly dependent on the primary resource industries. The landscape, our shores and the bounty it provides makes the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence region a real treasure and one that needs to be monitored and protected to allow future generations the same benefits. Our environment supports our economy.

The Coalition has adopted a new strategic plan and has been spearheading Gulf wide monitoring programs. The Coalition intends to be a part of the planning of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Environment Canada and other agencies as they address issues in the Northumberland Strait and the Gulf of St. Lawrence. We invite you to participate with the Coalition in one of our committees, projects or monitoring initiatives. To learn more about the Coalition, please visit our website at [www.coalition-sgsl.ca](http://www.coalition-sgsl.ca). We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

*David Boyce*



From the  
**Executive Director**

**Wow – it’s already been 10 years since the Coalition’s foundation!** The steady growth in membership, activities, partners and sponsorship is certainly indicative of the universal interest in sustainability. The Coalition-SGSL continues to represent a region-wide voice and opportunity for people to have a ‘say’ in sustainability and to become involved in ‘grassroots efforts’ through our diverse working groups.

We were both very fortunate and blessed this past year with remarkable short-term and long-term staff that literally surpassed any expectations to carry out specific project tasks (see page 8 for a full list of employees). Two of our project coordinators were first recruited as volunteers and later evolved into paid staff. They learned that volunteering can be a great launch-pad for their careers – an important take-home message for all recent graduates. In addition, the Coalition would not be as successful without the countless hours spent reshaping and reorganizing activities and processes by our many working group volunteers, like Chantal Gagnon, Ray MacIsaac and Marie-Hélène Thériault, to name a few, whose selfless dedication and numerous contributions are what make the Coalition-SGSL a credible, fun & dynamic organization to belong to.

Sadly, our top federal counterpart, John Legault of DFO, retired this Spring and left a legacy with the exciting new ‘Place-based Values Mapping’ project. The Coalition was contracted by DFO to spearhead this project which is very new to the region and consists of engaging community residents to indicate on paper maps their points of interest with respect to socio-economic, cultural, spiritual values, etc. This data will be used for future integrated management initiatives and was an excellent opportunity for the Coalition-SGSL to raise its profile in the communities it serves.

Similarly, another fantastic opportunity to learn from our constituents was with the ‘Mapping Made Easy’ project sponsored by GeoConnections. Six learning sessions were held throughout the Southern Gulf and was designed to assist community organizations, researchers and individuals with using geomatics to improve their efforts for land-use planning, ecosystem management, marketing and to leverage funding. Participants also helped identify future training needs. Simultaneously, a gifted team was on the ground interviewing fishermen to map fish habitat and spawning grounds for the Traditional Fisheries Knowledge mapping update project, also sponsored by DFO.

As one can appreciate, 2008-2009 was indeed a busy and rewarding one! Thanks to the dedication of our members, staff, Steering Committee and Management Committee; the Coalition-SGSL met every project deliverable on-time and on-budget – a feat worth celebrating.

Here’s toasting one and all a ‘Happy 10<sup>th</sup> Coalition-SGSL Anniversary’ and let’s aim for another successful ten years!

Sincerely,

*Nadine Gauvin*

## Steering Committee Members, 2008-2009

**David Boyce**, President\*  
Canadian Agro-Sustainability Partnership

**Dr. Omer Chouinard**, Past-president\*  
Université de Moncton

**Alice Power**, Vice-President\*  
Friends of the Pugwash Estuary, NGO

**Chantal Gagnon**, Treasurer\*  
Two Countries One Forest, NGO

**Allister Marshall**, Secretary\*  
Chapel Island First Nation

**John A. Legault**\*  
Fisheries & Oceans Canada – Gulf Region

**Justin Huston**\*  
Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture & Fisheries

**Jane Tims (acting)**  
New Brunswick Department of Environment

**Dr. Irene Novaczek**  
Institute of Island Studies, UPEI

**Randy Angus**  
Mi'kmaq Confederacy of Prince Edward Island

**Harry Collins**  
Miramichi River Environmental Assessment  
Committee, NGO

**Kathryn Parlee**  
Environment Canada – Atlantic Region

**Marc-André Ploudre**  
Friends of the Kouchibouguacis

**Marie-Hélène Thériault**  
Fisheries & Oceans Canada – Gulf Region

**Jean Goguen**  
Kent District Planning Commission

**Rémi Donnelle**  
Kent Watershed Coalition, NGO

**Dr. Nagarajan Palanisamy**  
University of Prince Edward Island

**Dr. David Garbary**  
St. Francis Xavier University

**Lisa Arsenault**  
Guelph Water Management Group, NGO

**Denis Desrosiers**  
Sentinel Systems Ltd.

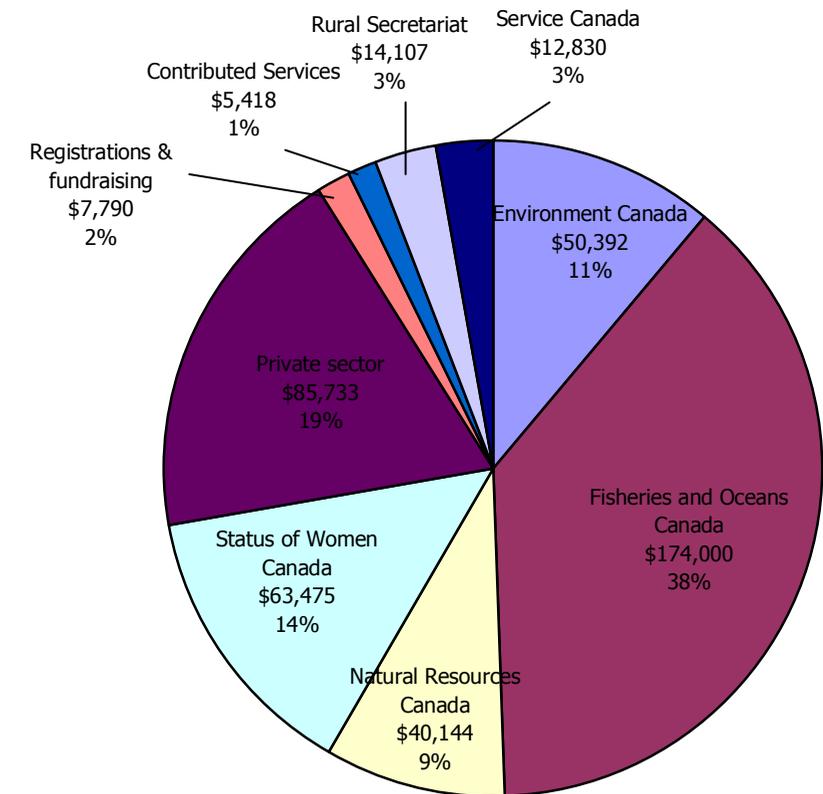
**Marie-Hélène Rondeau**  
PESCA Environnement

**Wilhelmina Nolan**  
International Institute of Concern for  
Public Health

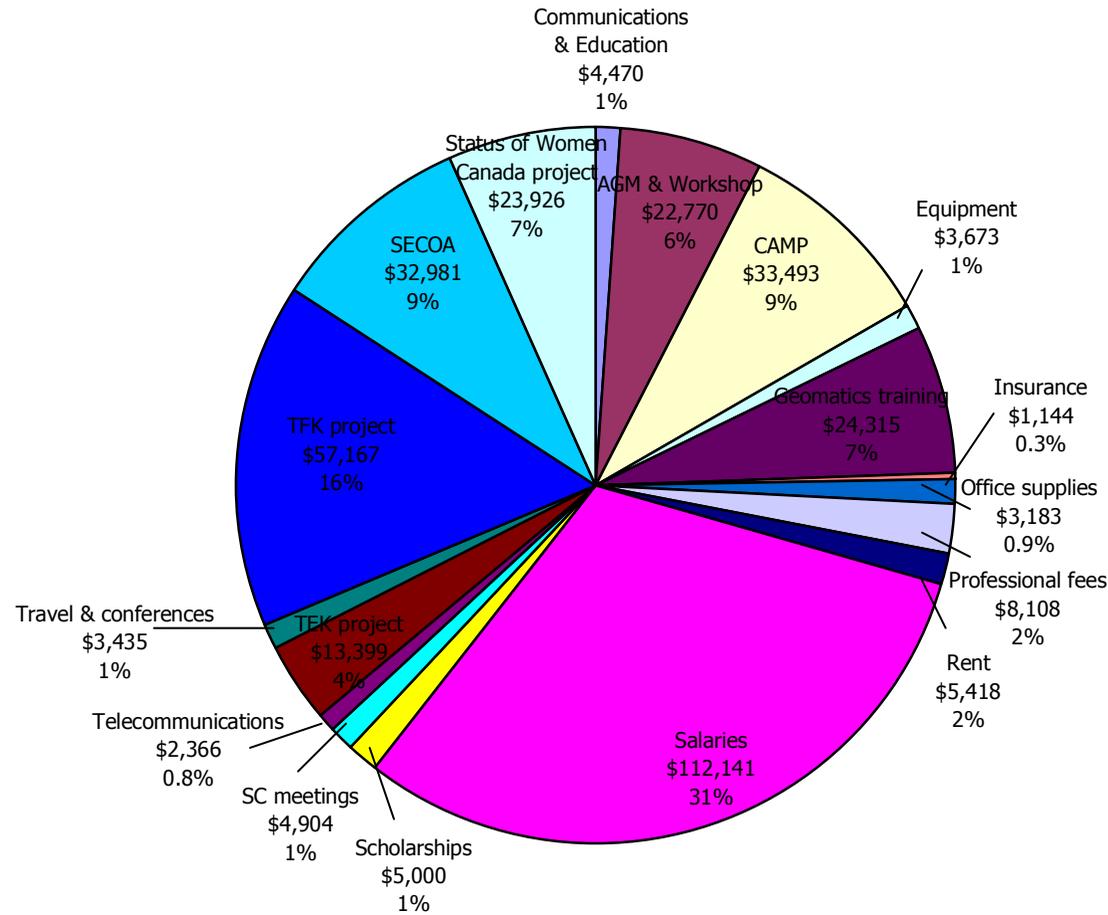
\* These individuals were also members of the Management Committee

## Financial Report 2008-2009

Revenues - \$453,889



Expenses - \$361,893



Working Groups and Committees, 2008-2009



**Coastal Erosion WG** (Chair, Kathryn Parlee – now resigned)  
 The Coastal Erosion Working Group was unfortunately fairly inactive in 2008-09 due to various circumstances. However, we did manage to guide a proposal for funding that would serve to initiate a new project – ‘Coastal Erosion Monitoring & Awareness for Improved Decision-making’. This funding has yet to be confirmed. The project proposal consists of partnering with four community groups to monitor their coastlines for erosion in the following areas: Bonaventure, Qc; Cocagne, NB; Cheticamp, NS and Montague, PE. The WG will be collaborating more with the Science, Research & Habitat WG this year in order to determine how to tie in some coastal erosion monitoring activities with CAMP.

**Communication & Education WG** (Chair, Marc-André Ploudre – now resigned)

The WG met on several occasions and developed a communications strategy with goals to update the Coalition’s profile and upgrade its communications vehicles including the website, newsletter and recruitment strategy. It also oversaw the creation of three newsletters (issues 15, 16, 17). Future objectives are to enlarge the working group to include specialists in communications; and to also hire and supervise an intern student in Public Relations – who will basically work to implement the objectives in the above identified strategy.



**Constitution Committee** (Chair, Chantal Gagnon)

This Committee was set-up at the June 2008 Steering Committee to help move the Coalition towards a more efficient approach to its management and governance structure. The Committee was responsible for reviewing the Coalition’s constitution and its governance structure and decided that the governance structure being a bigger issue; it would require a more in-depth study. The first part of studying the governance issue commenced in April, 2009 and more information will be available in late 2009. The Committee reviewed the constitution and made multiple amendments to bring the document up to date with the realities of the Coalition, as a comprehensive review of the Constitution had not been done since its foundation. The constitution amendments were presented at the February 27th Steering Committee meeting and was approved. The constitution now only needs the final approval by the members at the AGM. The Constitution committee also presented recommendations to the Steering and Management Committee on how to move forward on actions regarding the governance structure and to increase awareness on the constitution’s content with Steering Committee members.



**Fund/ Development** (Chair, Ray MacIsaac)

The Fund/Development WG has been active in recent months with the exciting Bike raffle. Tickets were sold with the intent of giving away a brand new street bike to four lucky winners. In another initiative, the WG was asked to provide guidance on the development of a purchasing/procurement policy for the Coalition which focuses on sustainability and support to local businesses. This is an effort to literally put our money where our mouths are in terms of achieving community sustainability. Finally, we have tasked ourselves with establishing a robust fundraising strategy that includes where funds could be allocated and how and which type of sponsors we approach. This will be a vital



document in terms of setting the future direction of fundraising efforts, considering sources of donations, types of mechanisms that can be developed for long term funding efforts and how we go about the business of receiving financial support.



**Science, Research & Habitat** (Chair, Marie-Hélène Thériault)

The WG was active with regular conference calls focusing on the Community Aquatic Monitoring Program (CAMP). The CAMP results were presented in March 2008 to the NGOs, and consequently the WG has prepared recommendations on how to raise the CAMP profile and better support volunteers. A proposal was submitted to EcoAction to use CAMP as a monitoring tool to evaluate and educate on the effects of hazardous household material with respect to the coastal environment. A second proposal to the RBC-Blue Water program focused on increasing the CAMP profile. Later this year CAMP

will undergo a Regional Assessment Process that we will closely follow. This exercise will determine if CAMP can provide an indication of health in our bays and estuaries.

**Social Economy Summit WG** (Chair, Omer Chouinard)

This ad-hoc committee worked to organize the Dec.5<sup>th</sup> Social Economy and Sustainable Societies Summit which was held in Bonaventure, Quebec. This included sourcing funding contributions, sponsors, partners; determining the program and promoting the event. The committee members included sub-node #4: Mobilizing natural resource and livelihoods of the Social Economy Network, the Conseil Régional de l'Environnement de la Gaspésie / Îles-de-la-Madeleine (CREGIM), the Coalition-SGSL and the Rural Secretariat. Over 60 participants from the Maritime Provinces and Quebec took part in the event and through the Open Spaces session a recommendations report was produced.



**Technical Advisory** (Chair, John Legault)

The on-line regional sustainability atlas was produced early in the fiscal year by adapting Google Earth Pro. Community groups can now insert their geo-referenced data for sharing and viewing in the atlas. To facilitate this process, six training sessions were provided to the NGO sector in early 2009 – which was sponsored by GeoConnections. The *Geomatics Made Easy* training evolved from collaboration between the Atlantic Coastal Zone Information Steering Committee (ACSISC),

CoastalCURA, the Applied Geomatics Research Group (AGRG) and Environment Canada. The WG is presently looking into options to publish themed data such as the data from CAMP and other sustainability initiatives.

**Traditional Ecological Knowledge** (Chair, Allister Marshall)

The working group continued to do work with Elsipogtog and Ugpiganjig to ensure future generations have access to traditional medicines and knowledge as related to climate change. The follow-up project from the 2007-08 initiative was to promote the incorporation of climate change and the place of traditional knowledge and medicine in decision-making through sustainable land-use management in First Nations communities. Chris McKnight was hired to carry-out this project and the TEK WG assisted him in meeting the Chief and band council for Ugpiganjig and the Wellness and Health Committee in Elsipogtog. Apart from the project, the TEK working group met a few times to discuss the long-term plans for the WG and to develop a 2009-2010 work plan. The TEK WG is looking at developing its information and networking facilitation role in the next few years with a long term focus on cross-culture and cross-generation awareness building on the importance of traditional ecological knowledge in sustainability.



**Coalition Employees, 2008–2009**



Nadine Gauvin  
Executive Director



Monique Bideau  
Project Officer



Julie Whalen  
Project Coordinator



Nadine LaPlante  
Project Assistant



Chris McKnight  
Project Coordinator



Philippe Rousselle  
NB CAMP Coordinator  
Summer student



Heather Mosher  
NS CAMP Coordinator  
Summer student



David Dowling  
PEI CAMP Coordinator  
Summer student

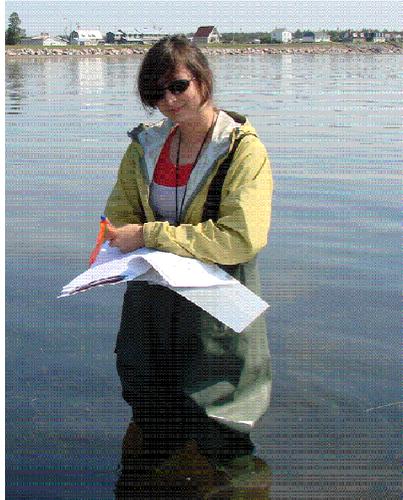


Two of the TFK team: left to right – PEI Fishermen, Don Bronson, Graham MacKay. Missing is Lee McNeill

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## Scholarship Award Winner, 2008

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### **Anne-Marie Leclerc, Université du Québec à Rimouski**

#### ***Thesis: The evolution of the coastal environment: Are beaches with rigid erosion control structures similar to their adjacent natural beaches?***

In maritime Quebec, coastal communities and local governments are becoming increasingly concerned about coastal erosion. This is particularly true in Saint-Siméon and Bonaventure within the Baie des Chaleurs, which were the focus municipalities of this research project. In order to protect local infrastructure, including Highway 132, against erosion, a widely recommended procedure is to install erosion control mechanisms including rock directly superimposed along the eroding coastline. These mechanisms give the impression that it completely stabilizes the coast... but neglects the ever changing dynamics of the coastal environment! In fact our study observes an immense reverse effect: the almost complete disappearance of beaches in front of large segments of coastline protected by rock (so-called artificial coast). My master's project includes first an assessment of the dissimilarities of the physical

components of artificial beaches in comparison to natural coastlines and second, the effect of these physical components on the structure of benthic assemblages and third, an assessment of the recent sediment dynamics.

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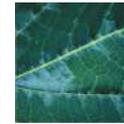
## 10 Years in Review (1999–2009)

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- 1999 – Coalition-SGSL Foundation meeting
- 2000 – 1<sup>st</sup> Executive Director hired, 2 major sponsors
- 2002 – Incorporated; 1<sup>st</sup> strategic plan (2002-2022)
- 2003 – Logo, branding promotional design launched
- 2004 – 3<sup>rd</sup> (current) Executive Director hired
- 2006 – Charitable status obtained
- 2007 – Private foundation funding secured
- 2008 – Number of members doubled since 2004  
New strategic plan (2008-2013)
- 2009 – 1<sup>st</sup> major fundraiser – bike raffle



A few of the Founding members, 2000



## Mission Statement

The Coalition and its members envision the future in which the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence is socially, economically and environmentally sustainable. Our goal is to work towards promoting the long-term sustainability of our ecosystem.



SOUTHERN GULF OF ST.  
LAWRENCE COALITION ON  
SUSTAINABILITY

COALITION POUR LA  
VIABILITÉ DU SUD DU  
GOLFE DU SAINT-LAURENT

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