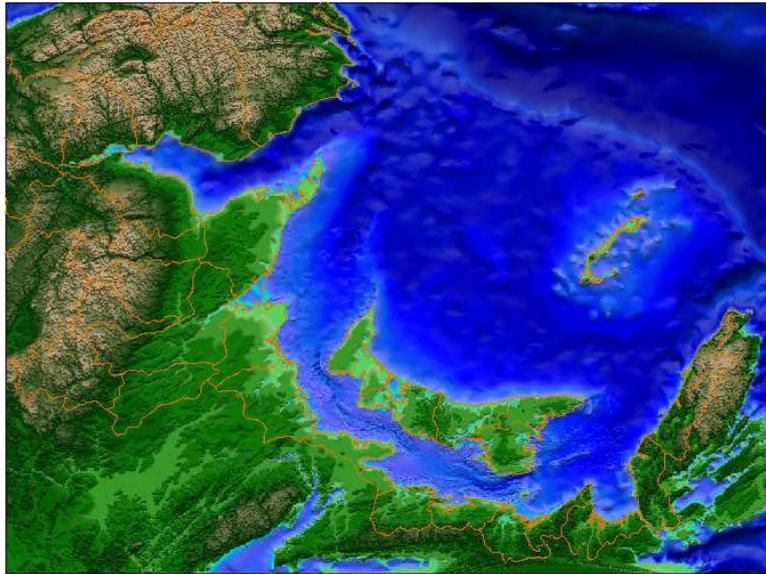




Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence  
Coalition on Sustainability

Bi-Annual  
Report  
2009-2011



### Change, Adaptation & Action



## Our Contributors



Fisheries and Oceans Canada Pêches et Océans Canada



Environment Canada Environnement Canada



Status of Women Canada Condition féminine Canada

Service Canada



UNIVERSITÉ DE MONCTON  
CAMPUS DE SHIPPAGAN



Coastal Communities Challenges  
Community-University Research Alliance  
[www.coastalcommunitieschallenges.org](http://www.coastalcommunitieschallenges.org)



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### 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-SGSL 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.



From the **Past-Chair**

Dear Coalition-SGSL Members,

I am pleased to have been the Chair of the Coalition-SGSL during these past 4 years. The last two years have seen many changes starting with the departure of our Executive Director Nadine Gauvin. Nadine gave great energy, passion and determination to the Coalition-SGSL since she started in 2004. After five years of faithful service, she moved on to a career with Parks Canada in July 2009, and we hired a new Executive Director, Chantal Gagnon in August of that year. Fresh as an executive but an experienced Coalition-SGSL volunteer, Chantal has initiated many changes to adapt the organizations to changing times. Like Nadine, she brings great passion, determination and energy to the Coalition-SGSL.

Adding to these fresh changes, at the 2010 AGM in Chéticamp, Nova Scotia, a new Chair was elected, Rémi Donelle. As Past-Chair, I am taking this opportunity to pass along my experience and knowledge of the organization to Rémi. In this way, fresh ideas and fresh management approaches can be put forth while maintaining consistency in how we make decisions in a non-profit democratic organization.

I would like to thank all Coalition-SGSL members for supporting my time as Chair. The experience was a rewarding one, and I hope I was able to contribute to the progress of the organization.

Sincerely,

*David Boyce*



From the **Chair**

Dear Coalition-SGSL members,

I'm very happy to have been voted president for the Coalition-SGSL during the 2010 AGM in Chéticamp, NS. I work with a local NGO in southeast New Brunswick, the Kent Watershed Coalition, based in Cocagne. This gave me experience with various Coalition-SGSL programs namely CAMP and SECOA.

I have been learning a lot about the opportunities and challenges that come with such a large territory with a broad membership. I think that the strength of the Coalition-SGSL comes from the commitment of the various members and volunteers. I am happy to join a great team with the Coalition-SGSL's Management Committee Officers, David Boyce (Past-Chair), Alice Power (Vice-Chair), Omer Chouinard (Secretary) and John Legault (Treasurer).

The Coalition-SGSL will continue to work on projects that promote sustainability in the Southern Gulf of St-Lawrence such as coastal erosion and aquatic monitoring. We will also participate in new initiatives such as the Coastal Communities Challenges – CURA and the Northumberland Strait Environmental Monitoring Partnership. During the next year, we will also be reviewing our strategic plan, which is due for renewal in 2013. The plan will be adjusted to meet the needs of the region.

We invite you to participate with the Coalition-SGSL's activities. To learn more about the Coalition-SGSL, please visit our website at [www.coalition-sgsl.ca](http://www.coalition-sgsl.ca). We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

*Rémi Donelle*



From the **Executive Director**

**Two years of a whirlwind journey!**

As one can appreciate, 2009-2011 have been busy, topsy-turvy yet rewarding years! We faced operational changes that meant everyone had to chip in and give a hand, from the volunteers on the Management and Steering Committees to the project officers on staff and the chairs of our volunteer groups.

With sadness, the Coalition-SGSL said goodbye to many staff members including Monique Brideau, Nadine LaPlante and Danica LeBreton, who have all moved on to promising new studies and careers. Veteran volunteer Allister Marshall had to step down from the Steering and Management Committees to attend to his health. Steering Committee Members, Ray MacIsaac and David Garbary have also stepped down to focus on other activities and provide space for new faces to join the Coalition-SGSL team. New Steering Committee Members, Tanya Dykens, Robert France and Normand Haché will add agriculture and water management knowledge to the group, while Annie Johnson brings more First Nations experience to the team. Finally, Debbie Nielsen and Doug Deacon are sharing their municipal perspectives on sustainability and climate change, and Yves Martinet and Steve Plante ensure Québec's academic and non-government organization's voices are part of the direction for the Coalition-SGSL.

Thanks to everyone's devotion to the organization, we were able to make a seamlessly smooth transition as we changed Executive Directors. This transition affected very little the delivery of our projects and communication efforts. However, this transition was an opportunity to look at our operations with a new pair of eyes. This has led the Management Committee to a new path for operations, communications and employment at the Coalition-SGSL. For example to reduce member fatigue, green house gas emissions and cost, the Steering Committee now holds its meetings virtually using an Internet Meeting Platforms. The Coalition-SGSL is continuously moving forward on delivering on its mandates while finding efficient and affordable approaches to engage and involve more volunteers in the Coalition-SGSL's efforts to ensure a sustainable Southern Gulf of St.Lawrence.

Sincerely,

*Chantal Gagnon*



2010 AGM, Chéticamp, NS



2011 AGM, Iles-de-la-Madeleine, QC

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## Steering Committee Members, 2010-2011

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**Rémi Donelle**, President\*  
Coalition des bassins versant de Kent

**David Boyce**, Past-President\*  
Three Rivers Heritage Associations

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

**Dr. Omer Chouinard**, Secretary\*  
Université de Moncton

**John A. Legault**, Treasurer\*  
Public-at-large

**Tanya Dykens**\*  
Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada,  
Agri-Environment Services Branch

**Annie E. Johnson**\*  
Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources

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

**Robert Capozzi**  
New Brunswick Department of Environment

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

**Debbie Nielsen**  
Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities

**Doug Deacon**  
Town of Stratford

**Melanie Corkum**  
Environment Canada – Atlantic Region

**Marie-Hélène Thériault**  
Public-at-large

**Dr. Robert France**  
Nova Scotia Agricultural College

**Jean Goguen**  
Kent District Planning Commission

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

**Lisa Arsenault**  
Consultant

**Normand Haché**  
Basaltec Ltée

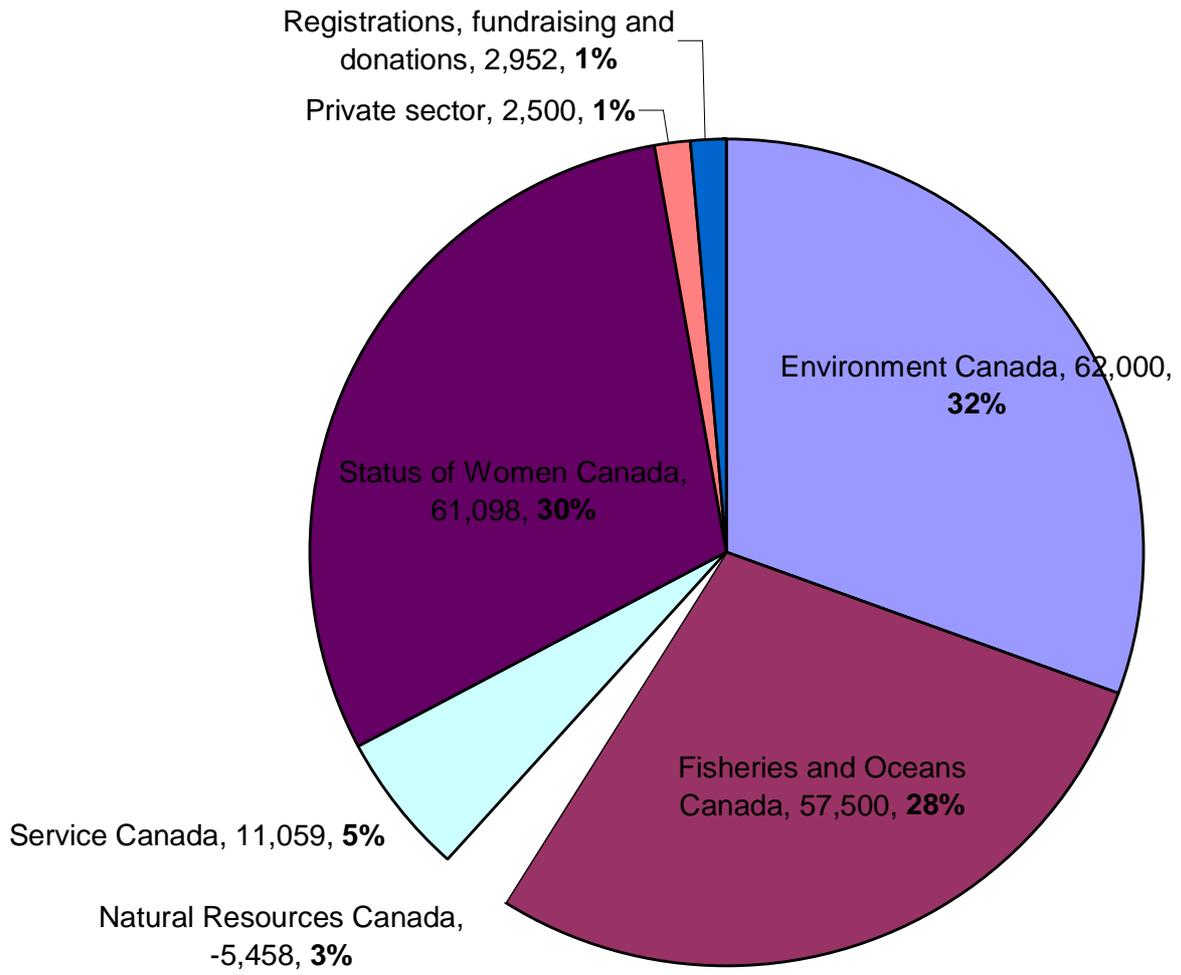
**Irene Novaczek**  
Oceana Seaplants

**Dr. Steve Plante**  
Université du Québec à Rimouski

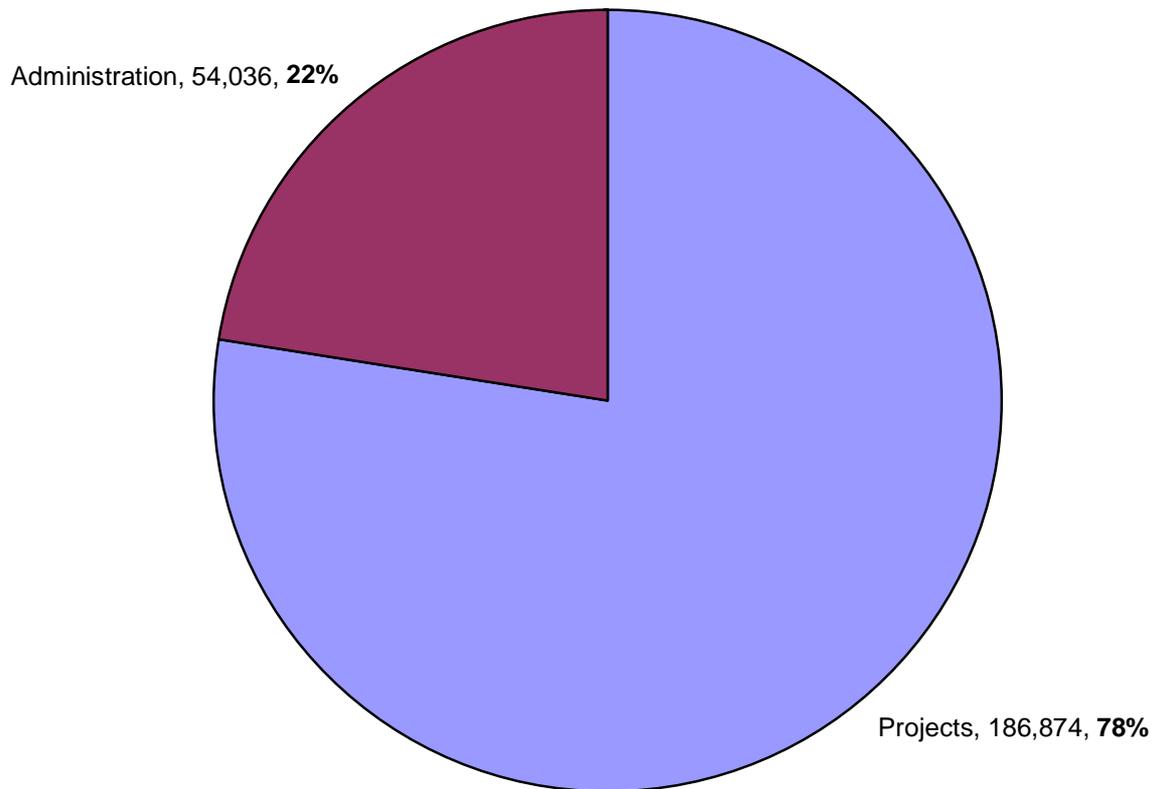
**Yves Martinet**  
Comité ZIP des îles-de-la-Madeleine

\* These individuals are also members of the Management Committee

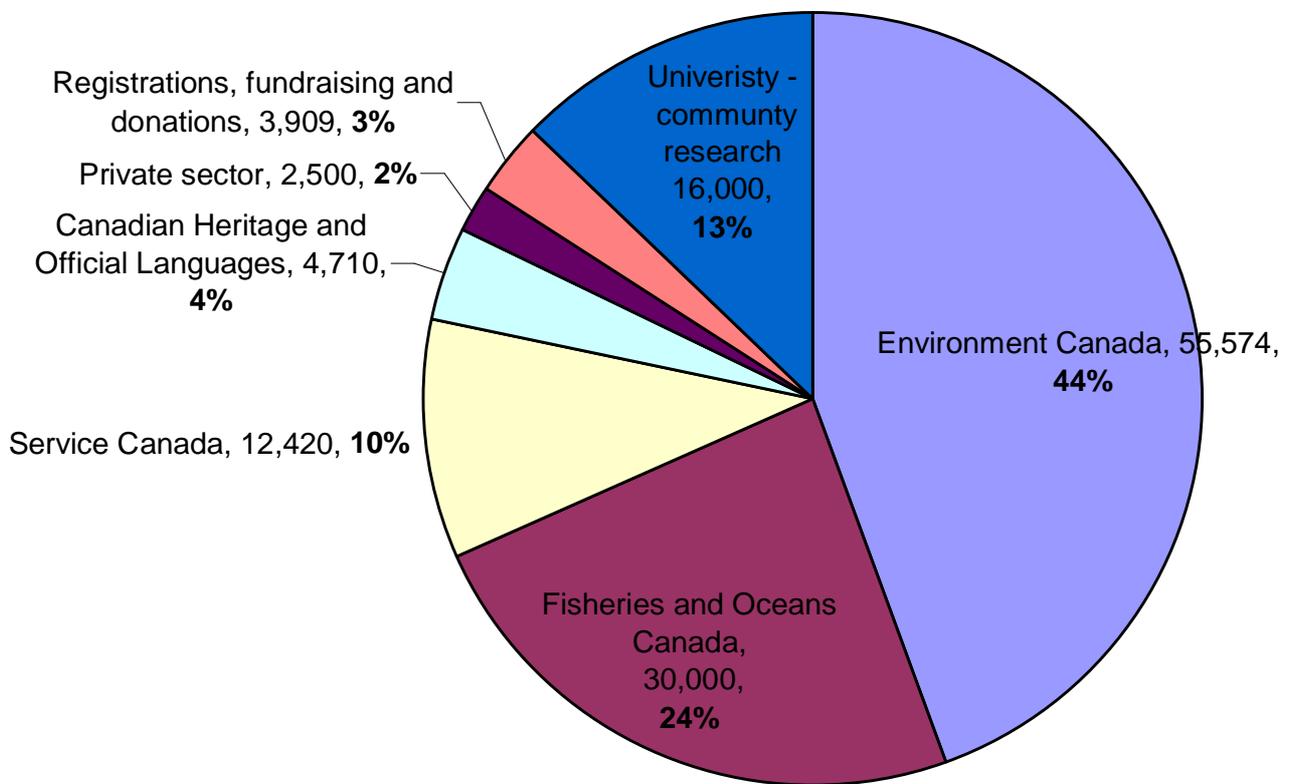
### Revenues 2009-2010



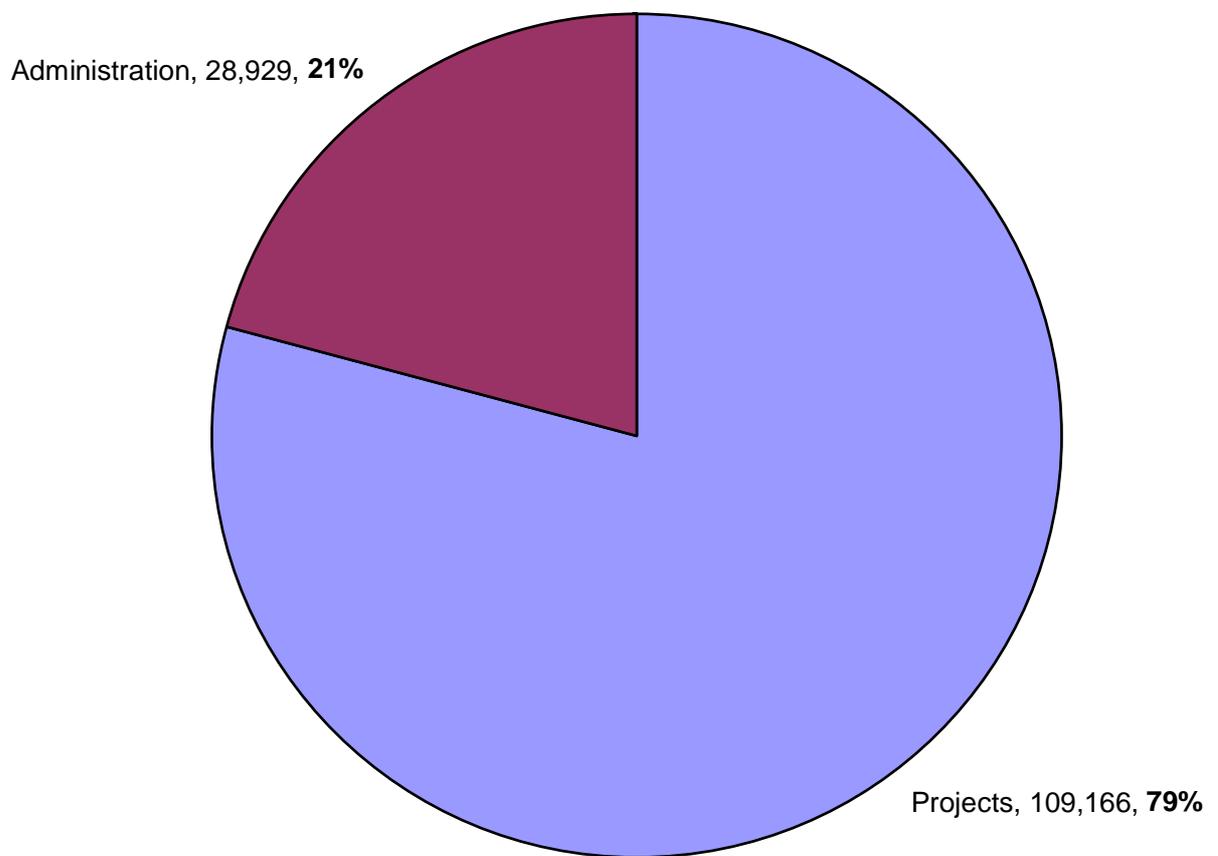
**Expenses 2009-2010**



Revenus 2010-2011



### Expenses 2010-2011



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## Volunteer Groups, 2009-2011

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### **Coastal Erosion** (Chair, Jennifer Graham)

The Coastal Erosion Working Group was very active in 2009-11. Several meetings were held. Members had opportunities to share information on developing techniques for monitoring occurring in the Gulf region. Further, the Annual General Meeting of the Membership in 2010 had a strong focus on coastal erosion with several presentations from group members. New projects have been initiated by group members in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. The group supervised the Coalition-SGSL's ongoing Coastal Erosion Monitoring and Education Program (CEMEP) which involves four community groups in Cocagne, NB, Antigonish, NS, Souris, PEI and Carleton-sur-Mer, QC. Beach profiling and erosion rate measurements have been occurring at two sites in each community. A bilingual brochure explaining coastal erosion has been published and is available on the Coalition-SGSL's website. As well, a template of a bilingual presentation about coastal erosion and management strategies was developed and tested in each community. In the coming year, the Coalition-SGSL will refine this presentation to make it available to all interested Coalition-SGSL members. The Coastal Erosion Volunteer group will continue to network and share knowledge, data and ideas in the coming meetings. The group will also add more coastal erosion resources in French and English on the Coalition-SGSL's website. Finally, the group will determine what are the next steps for erosion monitoring in the Gulf after a reviewing a report from the Executive Director which includes several strategic recommendations for the way forward on both monitoring and education of coastal erosion.



### **Communication & Education** (Chair, John Legault)

This group met on several occasions and has lent a helping hand to the Executive Director in developing the Messenger Newsletter issues and in reviewing several webpage. The group also helped developed the Membership questionnaire and renewal form. Indeed, the Coalition-SGSL staff and volunteers initiated a massive call around campaign to renew our relationship with members, while up dating their contact information and confirming with each member their preferred means of receiving information from the Coalition-SGSL. The experience was a positive one and many members appreciated the personal touch of a phone call. The calling of members will continue in 2011-2012. We are always looking for more volunteers to help.



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

The Fund/Development group has been active in 2009-2011 with dozens of funding applications. As prescribed in the previous Executive Director's term a Fundraising Policy was developed in 2010. This policy helps set some transparency and accountability features to the process of raising funds for the organization. It was approved by the Steering Committee in March 2011. In the coming year, the Fund/Development group will seek to further this document by developing a robust fundraising strategy that includes 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.



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## Volunteer Groups, 2009-2011 (Suite)

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

This group was active with regular meetings focused on the Community Aquatic Monitoring Program (CAMP), the Sustainability Indicators, the Coastal Communities Challenges – CURA (CCC-CURA), and several other Coalition-SGSL initiatives. 2010 included a scientific review of CAMP with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). Marie-Hélène presented the most recent developments to the members at the 2010 Annual General Meeting in Cheticamp. The Coalition-SGSL in collaboration with DFO surveyed CAMP members in 2010 to determine changes to the sampling season and process. As well we included seven years of CAMP data on the Regional Sustainability Atlas and developed a template bilingual presentation.

The presentation is for CAMP groups to present to their community leaders. The presentation is to be refined and made available in the coming year to all groups. The group was able to move forward on a direction for the Sustainability Indicators and is starting to work more closely with provincial and municipal government representatives on the Steering Committee to share regional effort regarding sustainability indicators within municipal or local planning initiatives. Finally, through the Science, Research and Habitat group member Simon Courtenay, the Coalition-SGSL was involved with helping initiate a Northumberland Strait –Environmental Monitoring Partnership (Norst-EMP). This partnership seeks to establish a regional monitoring framework in the Northumberland Strait that can help identify cumulative effects. This partnership involved aquatic monitoring end-users and regulators and was inspired by the Canadian Water Networks' Saint-John – EMP.

### **Technical Advisory** (Chair, none)

The Technical Advisory team has been inactive in the last two years. The atlas has been created and the group has since been lacking a leading voice to organize meetings and move forward on populating the on-line regional sustainability atlas. However, thanks to volunteer and former staff Julie Whalen we were able to clean-up the on-line regional sustainability atlas and add data. New data includes CAMP survey information from the past several years, a follow-up from previous year's member requests. As well, in collaboration with conservation groups, such as Nature Conservancy Canada - Atlantic region, we have added a layer of information which indicates which land and water areas are of interest for habitat stewardship.

### **Traditional Ecological Knowledge** (Chair, none)

This volunteer group had been inactive in 2009-2011. Both Allister and Chantal had to step down as chairs, which noticeably reduce leadership for organizing group meetings. However, the TEK group is still 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.

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All Volunteer Group meetings, including Steering Committee meetings, are open to all members. The information of upcoming meetings can be found on each group's respective page on the Coalition-SGSL's website. Visit: [http://www.coalition-sgsl.ca/working\\_groups.php](http://www.coalition-sgsl.ca/working_groups.php) for the days and times of the 2011-2012 meetings.

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## Scholarship Award Winner, 2010

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### Gabrielle Beaulieu, Dalhousie University

**Thesis:** Gabrielle's research is to determine the impact of predators on Piping Plover reproductive success and parental behaviour and to test the effectiveness of current management techniques used to reduce nest predation. Nest enclosures are examples of such management techniques and are structures placed over nests of ground-nesting birds that prevent the access of predators to nests while allowing the passage of parent birds. To identify piping plover predators and the behaviours exhibited by plovers at both enclosed and unenclosed nests, Gabrielle conducted focal observations at every piping plover nest (n=19, half enclosed) in both Kouchibouguac and PEI National Parks and outfitted a subset of these (n=9) with remote cameras. Productivity of each breeding pair was recorded. Vigilance, a degree of alertness, was measured for each incubating parent. Vigilance levels varied greatly over time, and with further analysis Gabrielle hopes to identify whether vigilance is a reliable measure of predator harassment. During this past field season, she was able to engage several volunteers in the project. The

empowerment of coastal communities in conservation and stewardship activities is necessary not only for the recovery of endangered species, but also for the healthy persistence of coastal ecosystems as a whole.

View her video on our website: [http://www.coalition-sgsl.ca/scholarships\\_awards.php](http://www.coalition-sgsl.ca/scholarships_awards.php)

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## Scholarship Award Winner, 2011

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### Alice Roy-Bolduc, Université de Montréal,

**Thesis:** Alice's research project aims to improve the understanding of the Magdalene islands' dune ecosystem and to demonstrate the importance of mycorrhizal fungi in these circles.

The sand dunes are an important element of the Magdalene islands' landscape and fulfill several important functions, such as the reduction of coastal erosion. It is the establishment of vegetation – first the pioneer plants, then the ammophila grasses (marram grass) followed by shrubs and trees – which maintains the sand and stabilizes the dunes. Nevertheless, it is very likely that most plants of the dune systems could not establish themselves nor survive without the aid of a powerful ally: the mycorrhiza. The plants' roots and the fungi's mycelium then join in a mutually beneficial relationship and develop a nutritional dependence.

Sampling the different stages of vegetation succession will allow us to characterize the fungal communities of the soil and to determine the relative importance of the different types of mycorrhizal interactions according to the changes in vegetation. The project will also involve a study of the mycorrhizae of disturbed areas and of sites restored by the planting of ammophila grasses, in comparison with intact areas. In order to assess the role of the mycorrhizae in the success of the establishment of ammophila grasses, we will conduct plantation experiments within a greenhouse environment.

View her video on our website: [http://www.coalition-sgsl.ca/scholarships\\_awards.php](http://www.coalition-sgsl.ca/scholarships_awards.php)

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## Involved in Actions

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### Volunteering

Our volunteer groups can always use more participants. The volunteer groups are divided into three categories: task, advisory and working groups. Working groups hold regular meetings and aim to further sustainability efforts in the region. Advisory groups hold regular meetings and aim to further the Coalition-SGSL's efforts. The Task groups meet when required and have a specific objective and a tight deadline.

If you are interested in sharing information, networking and developing collaboration on a specific issue or project, join one of these groups.

Science, Research and Habitat ([http://www.coalition-sgsl.ca/groups\\_srh.php](http://www.coalition-sgsl.ca/groups_srh.php))

Coastal Erosion ([http://www.coalition-sgsl.ca/groups\\_erosion.php](http://www.coalition-sgsl.ca/groups_erosion.php))

Traditional Ecological Knowledge ([http://www.coalition-sgsl.ca/groups\\_tek.php](http://www.coalition-sgsl.ca/groups_tek.php))

If you are interested in contributing to the Coalition-SGSL's operations, communication efforts, technical advances or fund developments, join one of these groups:

Technical Advisory ([http://www.coalition-sgsl.ca/groups\\_technical.php](http://www.coalition-sgsl.ca/groups_technical.php))

Fund Development ([http://www.coalition-sgsl.ca/groups\\_fund.php](http://www.coalition-sgsl.ca/groups_fund.php))

Communication and Education ([http://www.coalition-sgsl.ca/groups\\_commedu.php](http://www.coalition-sgsl.ca/groups_commedu.php))

If you are interested in a short term commitment on a specific Coalition-SGSL project or task, join one of these groups:

Annual General Meeting ([http://www.coalition-sgsl.ca/groups\\_meeting.php](http://www.coalition-sgsl.ca/groups_meeting.php))

Technical Advisory ([http://www.coalition-sgsl.ca/groups\\_technical.php](http://www.coalition-sgsl.ca/groups_technical.php))

Fund Development ([http://www.coalition-sgsl.ca/groups\\_fund.php](http://www.coalition-sgsl.ca/groups_fund.php))

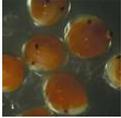
Email [admin@coalition-sgsl.ca](mailto:admin@coalition-sgsl.ca) or call 506) 336-9005 to be added to one or more of these groups. Working group meeting dates and time are set on each group's webpage for the coming year.

### Advantages

There are many advantages to becoming an active volunteer with the Coalition-SGSL. Active members keep coming back for more because they learn new information about their field of interest or about another issue important to the region's sustainability. They share information about developments as they occur in each province. Another advantage is the networking, which is an essential component to finding solutions to local and regional sustainability problems. Contacts made through the Coalition-SGSL's groups help bridge relationships and increase collaboration across-sectors and jurisdictions.

### Giving

If you believe in the Coalition-SGSL's work and would like to contribute actively but can't, please give generously. The Coalition-SGSL depends on volunteer involvement to accomplish our mandate and achieve our vision. However, volunteers are not enough. Donations help us maintain employment in the region which is essential to ensuring we can continue to meet your expectations while helping build skills and experience locally. To donate send a cheque or give through [Canadahelps.org](http://Canadahelps.org).



## Mission Statement

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



SOUTHERN GULF OF ST.  
LAWRENCE COALITION ON  
SUSTAINABILITY

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

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