

The Spirit of the Lakes Speaks

Bras d'Or Lakes Collaborative Environmental Planning Initiative



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help keep it that way

Bras d'Or Charter

Bras d'Or Lakes
CEPI
Collaborative Environmental
Planning Initiative

VISION

To lead a unique collaboration of partners that incorporate both traditional Mi'kmaq and western perspectives in order to foster a healthy and productive Bras d'Or Lakes Watershed ecosystem

PURPOSE

To develop an overall management plan for the Bras d'Or Lakes Watershed ecosystem and to facilitate its implementation by governments and other relevant stakeholders

OBJECTIVES

A balance of environmental, social, cultural and institutional objectives will be pursued to ensure the health and sustainable use of the Bras d'Or Lakes Watershed ecosystem

By signing this Bras d'Or Charter, we commit to work together to pursue the vision, purpose and objectives outlined for the Bras d'Or Lakes Watershed by the Collaborative Environmental Planning Initiative (CEPI) signed on 23 November 2005 at Eskasoni, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia.

Chief Kester Pick
Chief Wignatook First Nation-Leser Park

Terrance J. Paul
Chief Membertou First Nation-Terry Paul

Chief Ekasson
Chief Ekasson First Nation-Bar Francis

Chief SeS
Chief Wignatook First Nation-Leser Park

Chief Wignatook
Chief Wignatook First Nation-Leser Park

John Morgan
Cape Breton Regional Municipality

Wayne Bridge
Victoria County

Quarantine
Inverness County

John Buchanan
Richmond County

Deputy Minister
Deputy Minister NS Department of Natural Resources

Deputy Minister
Deputy Minister NS Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Deputy Minister
Deputy Minister NS Department of Environment and Labour

Deputy Minister
Deputy Minister NS Department of Aboriginal Affairs

Regional Director
Regional Director General, Department of Fisheries and Oceans

Regional Director
Regional Director General, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

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Regional Director General, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

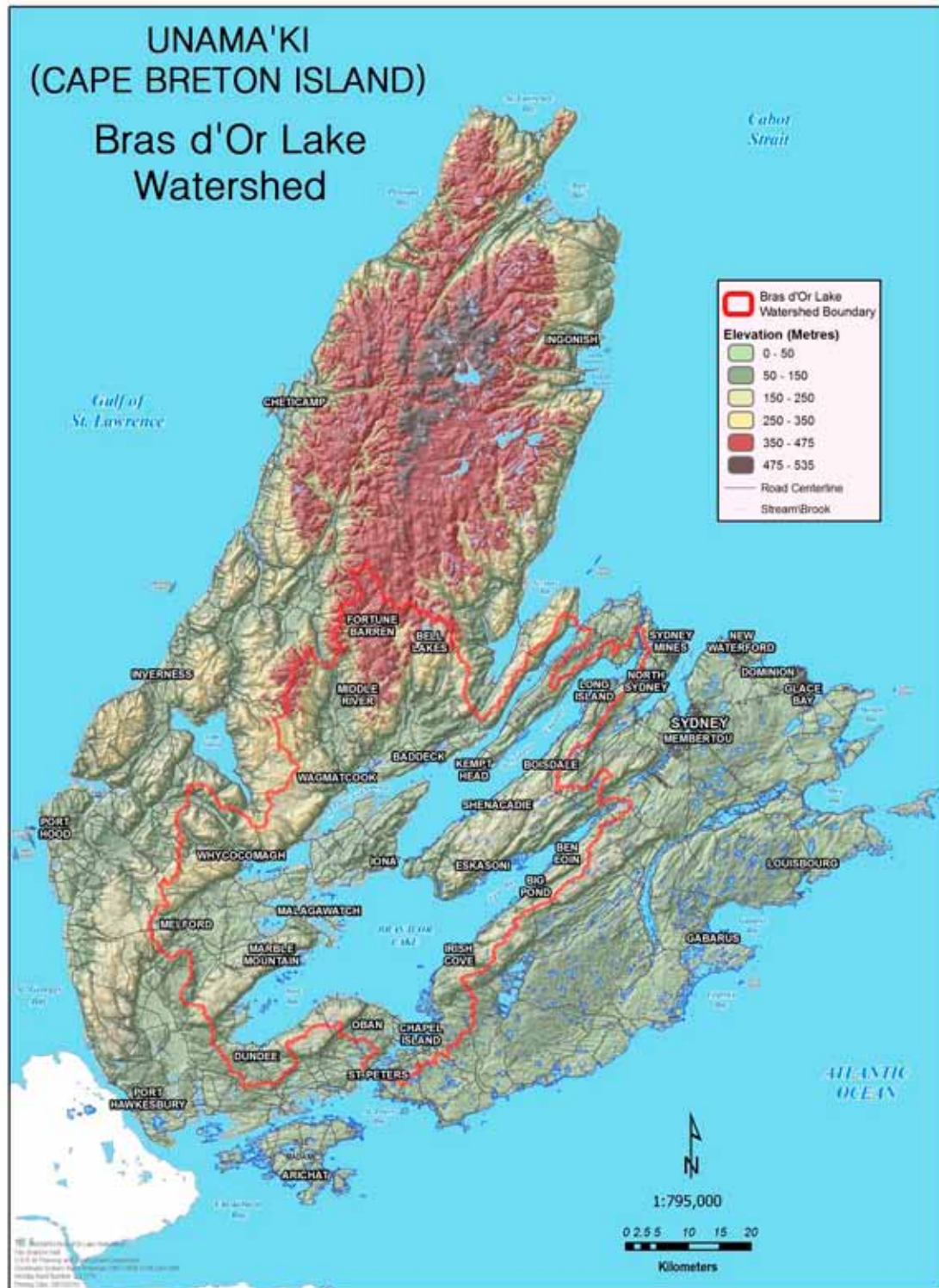
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Regional Director
Regional Director General, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

Collaborative Environmental Planning Initiative



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The Spirit of the Lake Speaks

– A way forward

Executive Summary

I am the heart of Cape Breton. I have existed for millennia, shaped by ice, water and wind. All of these influences worked together to make me what I am today. All things are connected to each other forming the great circle of life. If close attention is paid to my cycles and rhythms, to my ebbs and flows, you will see that I can provide for now and for the future. If close attention is not paid, I will wither: I will not be able to feed all of you, shelter you, or provide for all creatures that live within me. It is my hope that great attention can be paid to how we can live together in harmony, and with respect. I cannot do this alone: I am in great need of your assistance.

Come - walk with me.

The Spirit of the Lakes Speaks is a document created by the Bras d'Or Lakes Collaborative Environmental Planning Initiative [CEPI] with a vision for the protection and sustainability of the Bras d'Or Lakes and its watershed.

This document is a process plan for individuals and governments who live and work in the Bras d'Or Lakes watershed. It introduces the Lakes as a living entity that generates feelings in people, and supports them in many ways.

It provides a way forward for municipal, provincial and federal governments and the Mi'kmaq of Unama'ki to maintain the trust, transparency, harmony and cooperation established among themselves while discharging their various mandates in the protection, maintenance, and enhancement of the Bras d'Or Lakes watershed.

The plan proposes a set of "Guiding Principles" for decision-making and action. It incorporates Circular Planning guided by the Medicine Wheel and the "Two-eyed Seeing" concept where one view is based on contemporary scientific knowledge and the other on Traditional Ecological Knowledge about the plants, fish, and wildlife inhabiting the Lakes and the watershed lands.

Understanding and respect of all components of the Bras d'Or Lakes ecosystem are necessary for collaboration on essential priority items, i.e. the health of the Lakes, stopping on-going damages, unpolluted waters and the return of once-abundant species.

The document welcomes input from everyone who is associated with the Bras d'Or Lakes and its rivers and streams either as a government regulator, a resident, or a visitor. The Spirit of the Lakes Speaks calls for a collaborative effort by all parties involved to ensure the healthy environment for marine life which benefits all those who use or visit the Lakes now, or will in the future.

For a complete version of "The Spirit of the Lakes Speaks" document, please visit www.brasdorcepi.ca

Welalin — Merci — Thank You - Tapadh leat

L'appel de l'Esprit du lac

– Une voie d'avenir

Résumé

Je suis le coeur du cap Breton. Je bats depuis des millénaires, sans cesse façonné par la glace, l'eau et le vent, et ces influences conjuguées ont fait de moi ce que je suis aujourd'hui. Tous les êtres sont liés les uns aux autres dans le grand cercle de la vie. Si vous prêtez attention à mes cycles et rythmes et à mes flux et reflux, vous verrez que je subviens à bien des besoins et que je pourrai continuer à le faire. Sinon, je dépérirai et je ne serai pas en mesure de vous nourrir, de vous arbitrer ou d'assurer les besoins de toutes les créatures qui comptent sur moi pour survivre. Il nous faut veiller sans cesse à vivre en harmonie, dans le respect les uns des autres, et je ne peux y arriver seul. J'ai grand besoin de vous.

Trouvons ensemble des solutions.

Les membres de l'initiative conjointe de planification environnementale (Bras d'Or Lakes Collaborative Environmental Planning Initiative) ont élaboré le document L'appel de l'Esprit du lac dans le but d'assurer la protection et la durabilité du lac Bras d'Or et de son bassin hydrographique.

Ce document est un plan de processus à l'intention des particuliers et des administrateurs qui vivent et travaillent dans la zone du bassin hydrographique du lac. Le lac y est présenté comme une entité vivante qui inspire aux gens des sentiments et les nourrit à bien des égards. Le document offre aux municipalités, aux gouvernements provincial et fédéral et aux Mi'kmaq d'Unama'ki (cap Breton) un moyen de maintenir le climat de confiance, la transparence, l'harmonie et l'esprit de collaboration qui règnent entre eux tout en exécutant leurs divers mandats respectifs en matière de protection, d'entretien et d'amélioration du bassin hydrographique du lac Bras d'Or.

Le plan consiste en une série de « principes directeurs » visant à orienter la prise de décisions et les interventions. Il repose sur la planification circulaire, laquelle s'articule autour de la roue médicinale et du concept du « double regard », une perspective se fiant d'une part sur la science moderne et d'autre part sur les connaissances traditionnelles en écologie relativement aux plantes, aux poisons et aux autres espèces qui font du lac et des terres de son bassin hydrographique leur habitat. Il importe de bien comprendre et de respecter toutes les composantes de l'écosystème du lac Bras d'Or pour trouver ensemble des solutions aux questions prioritaires, soit la santé du lac, l'arrêt de la détérioration continue, l'assainissement de l'eau et le retour d'espèces autrefois abondantes.

Toute personne s'intéressant au lac Bras d'Or et aux rivières et ruisseaux qui l'alimentent ou y prennent leur source, que ce soit à titre de fonctionnaire d'un organisme gouvernemental de réglementation, de résident ou de visiteur, est invitée à faire connaître son opinion sur le document. Celui-ci fait appel à la collaboration de toutes les parties intéressées pour assurer la salubrité du milieu biologique marin qui profite à tous ceux et celles qui utilisent ou visitent le lac ou le feront à l'avenir.

La version intégrale du document L'appel de l'Esprit du lac (en anglais) se trouve sur le site www.brasdorcepi.ca

Welalin – Merci – Thank You - Tapadh leat

Tha Spiorad a' Locha a' Bruidhinn - Slighe air adhart

Prìomh Gheàrr-chunntas

Is mise cridhe Eilein Cheap Breatainn. Tha mi air a bhi ann fad mhiltean de bhliadhnaichean 's mi air mo chruthachadh le deigh, uisge agus a' ghaoth chruaidh. Gur iad sin na cumhachdan a dh'obraich an glaic a chéile gus mo chumadh a bhi dèante mar a nochdas mi an diugh. Tha gach rud 's an t-saoghal air a cheangal a chéile gus mór-chearcall na beatha a dheanamh co-iomlan. Ma bheirear geur-shùil air mo chuairteachadh - a' traoghadh 's a' lionadh, chithear an toradh a bhios agam ann dhuibh an diugh agus am màireach. Ma 's ann air dhearmad a bhios mo chùram 'ga chur, fàsaidh mi crìon: chan urrainn mi ur biadhachadh uile, na fasgadh a thoirt dhuibh, air neo na creutairean a tha beò annam a sholairachadh. 'S e dùrachd mo chridhe gum bitheamaid beachdail air mar is urrainn dhuinn a dh'fhuireach còmhla air réite 's le meas. Chan urrainn mi seo a dheanamh leam fhin: 'S mór m'fheum-sa air ur cuideachadh.

Tiugainn agus coisich còmhla rium

Tha Spiorad a' Locha A' Bruidhinn 'na sgrìobhainn 'ga chur an céill aig a' Bhras d'Or Lakes Collaborative Environmental Planning Initiative [CEPI]. 'S e is léirsinn dhi Loch Bras d'Or, agus a thobraichean uisge, a chumail tèarmannaichte, buan.

'S e dealbh-iomairte a tha 's an sgrìobhainn seo. Tha i 'ga cur an riochd do dhaoine fa leth, agus do riaghaltasan, a bhios a' fuireach agus ag obair taobh astaigh àrainneachd a' Bhras d'Or. Tha i a' cur a' Bhras d'Or an aithne mar bhith bheò mun a bheil daoine mothachail 's i a' cumail taice riutha air caochladh rathaidean.

Tha innte slighe air adhart do riaghaltasan aig ìre mhunaiseapail, na mór-roinn, fheadarail agus Mi'kmaq de Unama'ki gus creideas, réite, co-obrachadh agus trid-fhollaiseachd a chumail an cleachdadh air feadh 's a tha iad a' cur ri an cuid òrdaighean crìochan-uisge a' Bhras d'Or a dhionadh, a chumail suas agus a leasachadh.

'S ann a tha an dealbh a' moladh clàir de phrionsabalan a stiùireas co-dhùnaidhean agus gnìomhachais a bhios dèante. Bidh iad air an coimeasgachadh ann An Dealbhadh Cruinn a bhios air a stiùireadh an dàrna cuid aig Cuibhle Mhór Na Cungaidh agus aig a' bhun-bheachd "Fradhrac na Dà Shùla." Tha aon bheachd aréir saidheans an là an-diugh agus am fear eile aréir Nòs Fiosrachaidh na h-Àrainneachd air lusan, iasg agus creutairean coilleadh a tha a' fuireach anns na Lochan agus na crìochan uisge mun cuairt orra.

Feumar tuigse agus urram a bhi ann mu na roinnean uile a nì àrraineachd a' Bhras d'Or los gum bi co-obrachadh ann air na prìomh ghnìomharra riatanach mar a tha fallaineachd nan Loch, casgadh cron leannatainneach, uisge gun truailleadh agus ath-bheòthachadh gné dha 'm b'abhaist a bhi pailt anns na Lochan uair dhe 'n t-saoghal.

Cuiridh an sgrìobhainn seo fàilte air a' chur-asteach aig gin sam bith aig a bheil ceangal ris a' Bhras d'Or 's na h-aibhntean 's cùislean mun cuairt air, co dhiubh an e neach-riaghalaidh, tuineach na aoigh a bhios ann. Tha Spiorad a' Locha a' Bruidhinn a' sireadh iomairt co-obrachail aig gach neach 's buidheann an sàs los gum bidh cinnt gu bheil àrainneachd shlàn ann do bhith na mara a bhios 'na bhuannachd dha na h-uile a chleachdas, air neo a nì céilidh air, na Lochan Bhras d'Or aig an àm seo 's anns an àm ri teachd.

Gabhaidh suideachadh iomlan de 'n sgrìobhainn "Tha Spiorad a' Locha a' Bruidhinn" faighinn aig www.brasdorcepi.ca

Tapadh leibh - Merci- Thank You - Welalin

Kelusilitl Quspem Wjijaqmijl

– Ta'n tel-siawita'mk Wi'katikn

Ni'n na Unama'kik wkamlamun.

Ki's sa'q mimaji, nujituan mkumi, samqwan aq wju'sn. Msit ula maw-lukutikl kisa'luksi Kinu me wenik kiskuk. Msit koqoey mawa'tumk kelo'tk msit mimajuaqn . Menaqaj iloqaptmumk ta'n tel-wije'tultik aq ta'n tela'sik koqoey, ta'n telki'k aq ta'n teli apjejk, npitn a'jela'lultoqsip nike' aq elmiknik. Mu menaqaj nike' maliamuksiwan , npitis ma' kis-smuluoq msit kisna ikaluluoq aq ma' maliamaqik ta'nik eykik wsitqamu'k nike. Ajipjitu menaqaj ankaptasin ta'n kis-tl-mawo'ltitesnu aq kepmite'tmenu. Ma kis-newtuktmu ni'n ula, nuta'yk apoqnmasuti. Mu nin, nike' tetpaqe'wioq aq mu tajikewan na mu eyknuk koqoey kise'ytu aq mu eyruk wen mimajitew.

Juku'e- Pmwije'tultinen

Quspem Wjijaqmijl Kelusilitl na wi'katikn kiswi'kmi'tij Pitu'paq Collaborative Environmental Planning Initiative [CEPI] etek ta'n kisaptmi'tij tli- Anko'tasin aq maliaptasin Pitu'paq aq maqamikew tepow Kisitasik wjit msit wen maw kaplno'l aq ta'nik wikultijik tepow Pitu'paq wikultijik aq ta'n wsitqamu telik. Teli-skutasik Pitu'paq staqa mimajikel, kisa'lajik wenik sespit'etnew aq mimaju'najik wenik. Ula wi'katikniktuk wejiaq ta'n tl-pmita'taq Mi'kmaq wikultijik Unama'kik aq kaplno'lk wjit kijanke'kati'l, Kniskamijenaqi'k aq kmitkinaq kulaman kis'maw-lukutitaq aq mawi-apoqnmatultitaq ta'n teli maw mawanko'tmit aq menaq jo'tmitij Pitu'paq.

Kisite'taqniktuk etekl "Nikanawti'kekl Kina'matnewe'l" wjit teli-ilutmumk aq tela'tekemk koqoey. Wiaqa'tumkl kiwto'qa'sik telita'simk wettaqne'wasik Npisuney Kiwto'qa'sik aq Toqwa'tu'kl Kijijitaqnn ta'n telaptmumk koqoey wejiaq aklasie'wey kina'masuti aq ktik wejiaq L'nuey kina'matnewey wjit saqliaqewe'l, mime'jk aq waisisk eymu'tijik Pitu'paq aq maqamikew kiwto'qiw.

Amujpa nestmumk aq kepmite'tmumk msit koqoey etek Pitu'paq wsitqamuey kulaman kis-mawuktiten koqoey staqa nike' ta'n telamu'k Quspeml, enqa'tumk teli-ajkna'tumk aq winamkwa'tumk samqwan aq ta'n tli-apaja'laten pem-kaqiejik mimajultijik.

Wjit ula wi'katikn, wulta'sultitesnen tlimuksiek ta'n telite'tmi'tij koqoey wenik ta'n etl-lukutijik kisna Nemiitu'tij kisna wikultijik tepow Pitu'paq aq sipu'l aq sipu'ji'l etekl tepow. Ula wi'katikn teluisik "Quspem w'jijaqmijl Kelusitl" telapukuek nuta'q msit maw-lukutinenu kulaman kelu'ktitew wsitqamuey wjit mime'jk aq msit wen ta'n ewe'wk kisna Nemitu'tij Pi'tupaq nike' aq elmi'knik.

Ktu' kitmn Msit wi'katikn "Wjija'qamijel Quspemk Kelusa'silitl", pasik nasa'si aq lie www.brasdorcepi.ca

Wela'lin – Merci – Thank You - Tapadh leat

1. Welcome

I am the heart of Cape Breton. Sheltered on all sides by rugged hills. Fed by the heights surrounding me. Streams and rivers flow to all my arms and inlets freshening my saltiness. I have deep gorges and sheltered bays ensuring a large variety of habitats for all who live within and around me. The sheltering hills ensure I am warm in the summer and stay fairly calm. No extremes. Water transpires from my surface to be returned to the hillsides and thus to me: cycles recycling. Shelter presents me with only one problem: anything that flows into me stays with me for a long time, thus changing me. As more people have been drawn to my shores more and more stays with me and I am changed. Change isn't always for the better.

Come - walk with me.

The Bras d'Or Lakes is a unique estuarine environment, a place that is home to animals that are normally resident much farther north, and host to occasional visitors (like the Sunfish) from farther places south. The Lakes' 1,100 kilometres of shoreline boast many sheltered harbours and inlets, perfect for mooring a sailboat or gardening oysters. The tidal forces of the Great Bras d'Or Channel move water in and out at a daily speed of up to 11 knots, flushing about once every day and a half. The 3,500 square-kilometre watershed includes parts of the Cape Breton Highlands, at hundreds of metres elevation, down to sea-level salt marshes and barrachois ponds. The people living in the watershed have their roots in at least four different languages and cultures: Mi'kmaq, Acadian, Gaelic, and English, with newer arrivals in the summer months from all corners of the world. This is only a glimpse of what is known as the beautiful Bras d'Or Lakes ecosystem. There is no place like it anywhere in the world.

For as long as we have lived around the Lakes, the Bras d'Or watershed has sustained us by providing water, food, recreation, and economic opportunity. It was the first, and continues to be an important, transportation link for all residents and visitors. Over time harmful actions occurred, many unknowingly, and the ability of the Lakes to sustain us as a community has been diminished. The time has come for all of us dwelling around the Bras d'Or to take it upon ourselves to stop our short-sighted ways and learn and re-learn how to live with the Lakes in a sustainable manner.

In the last few years all the Mi'kmaq communities, municipal, provincial, and federal agencies and citizens with an interest or responsibility in the Bras d'Or watershed have banded together to work on a management plan for the Lakes. A unique declaration, the Bras d'Or Charter, was signed by all these groups, which committed them to the Bras d'Or Lakes Collaborative Environmental Planning Initiative (CEPI). The spirit of the Charter is the collaboration: one eye on our past history and teachings, and one eye on modern science (Two Eyed Seeing). All agencies and peoples work together, bringing their statutes, expertise, and interests to the group. Information and ideas are shared.

Mi'kmaq Elders brought the Medicine Wheel to the project. A wheel of four quadrants: Knowledge, Action, Spirituality and Feelings. For the Bras d'Or system and the project to be healthy, the four quadrants must be in balance. As much time and effort must be spent on gathering knowledge about the Lakes as is expended understanding the Spirit of the Lakes and its peoples. Actions in and around the Lakes must be balanced by our Feelings about the Lakes.

Members of the Bras d'Or Lakes CEPI have gathered a great deal of scientific and traditional knowledge about the Bras d'Or Lakes ecosystem and have produced reports on this information. Proposals for land use around the Bras d'Or have been put forward and are being discussed by the Municipalities and First Nations Communities. To move forward in the spirit of the Charter and the Medicine Wheel, we need everyone who lives around and uses the Bras d'Or to have their say and join with us in a CEPI plan for the Bras d'Or Lakes watershed. Success depends on your involvement. We must all learn to become the agents of change that will make the Bras d'Or strong again.

This document is a process plan for individuals and governments who live and work in the Bras d'Or Lakes watershed. It introduces the Lakes as a living entity that generates feelings in people, and supports them in many ways. It provides a way forward for First Nations and other (municipal, provincial and federal) governments to maintain their established trust, transparency, harmony and cooperation among themselves while discharging their various mandates towards the Bras d'Or Lakes Watershed. In that task, it is hoped that they will be inspired, guided and helped by the Non-Government Organizations (NGO's), the Academic Community and the inhabitants of the watershed.



2. The Journey

I was conceived by the Creator on both sides of an ancient ocean, then forged in the tropics within the middle of a supercontinent; all the while being weathered by the Elements of fire, wind, ice, and water over some 600 million years. The final form of my embryo was developed while entombed in ice some 22,000 years ago. I was birthed 11,000 years later as the glaciers receded and their melt waters poured life into my streams and underground waters. During the first 5,000 years of my childhood I was in the form of fresh water lakes, rushing headlong to the distant sea through a turbulent mountain stream confined by the narrow deep gorge of the Great Bras d'Or Channel. At first my skin was formed of rocks and soil chiseled by glaciers, bared to a silent and empty world. As I warmed arctic tundra developed; then the spruce and fir came. By 4,000 years ago the hardwoods and softwoods had covered my surface, providing shade and nourishment for all sorts of life. Some 6,000 years ago the sea rose to meet me, lapping higher and higher on my shores, allowing my evolution into the estuary that bathes and blankets the parts of me you see today.

I am ever-changing, but the processes changing me now are different . . . come - walk with me.

As time has changed the Lakes over the centuries, there are milestones in the history of its relationship with humans. One of these milestones for the Bras d'Or Lakes watershed, was the creation and signing of the "Bras d'Or Charter" (see page 2). Created in 2005, this Charter represents a huge step towards a plan to guide the establishment of a unique and vital collaboration between all decision-making agencies in the watershed.

Attempts to design a management plan for the Bras d'Or Lakes and its watershed have a long history. This history reflects the honest and dedicated efforts by sincere people devoted to the long-term well-being of this unique and valued ecosystem. A growing body of knowledge was transformed into a blueprint reflecting a serious commitment to secure the future sustainability of the Lakes.

History further shows the establishment of the Eskasoni Fish and Wildlife Commission, dedicated to the orderly and sustainable harvesting of the fishery resources in the Lakes. In 1991, a conference on The Future of the Bras d'Or Lakes was held to find a model for sustainability, to identify key elements of a management plan, and to harness the momentum towards action.

Our knowledge about the Bras d'Or Lakes continues to grow. The establishment of the Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources (UINR) in 1999 created a base for this knowledge. Then in 2003, at the request of workshop participants and Mi'kmaq Chiefs, UINR was tasked as the lead organization to deliver a plan for collaboration and the gathering of minds.

These efforts led to the signing of the Bras d'Or Charter in November 23rd, 2005. The official title "Bras d'Or Charter" was constructed around the Vision, Objectives and Purpose for the Bras d'Or Lakes CEPI agreed upon at the 2004 workshop. The seventeen signatures affixed to the document represent the collective intent, or "will", of the relevant governments with responsibilities for the management and protection of the Bras d'Or Lakes and its watershed. It includes the signatures of Nova Scotia Provincial Government Deputy Ministers and Government of Canada Directors-General, Municipal Wardens/Mayors, and Mi'kmaq Chiefs. The Charter is a truly historic document and lays the foundation for a unique and inspiring form of collaboration that cannot be found anywhere else. Its existence is extremely significant.

The jurisdictions (or responsibilities) for each of the signatures on the Charter are reflected in the geographical boundaries of their designated lands and through statutes and laws or acts of various levels of government. These laws direct how we are to conduct ourselves in carrying out activities in our daily lives, designed to prevent damage to the health of the watershed and its ecosystem. However, gaps do exist in these complex laws and regulations.

The CEPI has set out a new operating culture, putting forth a challenge that will help identify issues, priorities, and actions that will be reinforced by a commitment to transparency, responsibility and accountability.



3. Guiding Principles

I am the heart of Cape Breton. I have existed for millennia, shaped by ice, water and wind. All of these influences worked together to make me what I am today. All things are connected to each other forming the great circle of life. If close attention is paid to my cycles and rhythms, to my ebbs and flows, you will see that I can provide for now and for the future. If close attention is not paid, I will wither: I will not be able to feed all of you, shelter you, or provide for all creatures that live within me. It is my hope that great attention can be paid to how we can live together in harmony, with respect and full admiration. I cannot do this alone: I am in great need of your assistance. Come - walk with me.

The Guiding Principles offer a moral compass, or theme, which will influence how decisions are made and which actions are to be undertaken. These guiding principles ought to live up to the spirit and intent of the Charter, which calls for Understanding, Respect and Cooperation, now and into the future.

We must try to understand and respect all components of the Bras d'Or Lakes ecosystem. The health of the Lake must be improved. On-going damages must be stopped, the waters must be cleaned, and once-abundant species must be encouraged to return. Once this is achieved, maintaining the health of the Lakes should be the most important focus.



We must understand, respect, and cooperate with the people who interact with the Bras d'Or Lakes, directly and indirectly. For those of us who live in the watershed, any improvements we can make to the system will make us happier and healthier. We must find a balance between a healthy ecosystem and the need for people to provide for their families through the creation of jobs and wealth.

With this in mind, we propose the following principles to guide people's considerations, decisions, and actions while interacting with the Bras d'Or Lakes and collectively managing her resources. These principles are for all to observe, whether you are a government decision maker, a visitor, or a permanent resident of the watershed. We all have the responsibility to assist the Bras d'Or Lakes in healing.

These Guiding Principles do not contradict any current laws, regulations, or rules that govern human activities within the Lakes. Instead, they are meant to provide guidance in their application and understanding, leading to a more healthy relationship between all involved, and to changes needed to protect the integrity and health of the Lakes.

The Principles:

- **We are part of Nature, not the owners of Her.**

We acknowledge and respect the trees, the birds, the fish, and all our relations with whom we share the Bras d'Or. We are grateful for their important role in maintaining a balance in our natural world.

- **We will assist in healing previous damages.**

We will use Traditional Ecological Knowledge combined with the tools of modern science to assist the Lakes in healing former injuries and work to restore fish and shellfish to their former abundance. We will try to restore their habitats when we discover losses or degradations in them.

- **We will consider the impact of our present actions on future generations.** We, the current generation, will think and live in a manner that will ensure that inhabitants seven generations into the future will continue to benefit from the Bras d'Or as we have.

- **We will pay attention.** We will refrain from decisions and actions that would knowingly harm the Bras d'Or. We will work with authorities to ensure that any proposed alteration is thoroughly reviewed, and will only proceed if the ecosystem shall remain the same or benefit from the change.

- **We will cause no net loss of habitat.** We will use the best practices available to ensure that, as we benefit from the use of the Lakes' resources, we can ensure the restoration or creation of habitats to compensate for any damage we may cause to the land, the water, or native species.

- **We will work together.** We shall be patient and work together in a spirit of mutual respect for the social, economic, and spiritual well being of our Bras d'Or friends and neighbours.

- **We are accountable.** Our actions will be transparent, we will measure our progress, we understand our responsibilities to the Bras d'Or Lakes and to its people, and we are prepared to be judged by our peers and by future generations for our actions.



4. Medicine Wheel - Inspired Planning

I am the heart of Cape Breton. Four colours and four forces work within a circle to bring balance to my people. I give this as a gift to you to guide your life and your works with me.

Come - walk with me

The Bras d'Or Lakes are very important for many people and cultures for a variety of reasons. The watershed provides the basis for supporting the economy through forests, minerals, and fish. It is a place for sport and recreation, a place where we can reconnect with nature and all its deeper meanings. The Bras d'Or is a provider of gifts important to individual diet and communal health. It is intimately intertwined with our unique and diverse cultures. Our common concern for the Bras d'Or Lakes has brought our communities and leaders together in a collaborative effort to improve the quality of the ecosystem for the benefit of our communities and all species.

The Bras d'Or Lakes CEPI recognizes the importance of making decisions that will respect the diverse needs of the environment as well as of our communities. To achieve this balanced approach, the CEPI has adopted the Medicine Wheel as a guide for the management of the Bras d'Or. The Medicine Wheel is an ancient symbol that provides the basis of many Indigenous Peoples' philosophies throughout North and South America, and in other forms is recognized globally. It has been adopted by the Mi'kmaq and by many other tribes as a teaching tool to help illustrate several key concepts. While the teachings and concept of the Medicine Wheel are far more complex than can be illustrated in this section, the basics can be seen in the following diagram (further teachings on the Medicine Wheel can be found in the bibliography at the end of this document – see The Sacred Tree).

The four colours of the Medicine Wheel - white, yellow, red, and black - symbolize many things to many different peoples. The Medicine Wheel illustrates the following points:

- the need for equality of the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual aspects of our lives and of our cultures. When the elements are not treated evenly, the Medicine Wheel is out of balance, and individuals and communities will suffer.
- the synergy of the elements with each other. The elements of the medicine wheel cannot be pulled apart like pieces of a pie. It is only through working in their entirety that individuals and communities can stay on the path toward wellness.



- the circle of existence. Time is never-ending, as each season progresses into the next, life to death to life, year after year, the cycle is circular and has neither beginning nor end.

We recognize that in order to maintain our own health, we must give equal consideration to the physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional aspects of our lives. Becoming life-long learners in all four quadrants balances and completes us. We need to exercise and eat a balanced diet (physical); reduce stress and experience personal growth (mental); interact and communicate with nature and our spirituality (spiritual); and maintain relationships with our friends and family (emotional). Much of our time here on earth is spent out of balance: we may eat too much, pray too little, and take on too much stress. We neglect to take care of ourselves and in so doing, we neglect what we cherish in Mother Earth and all that she provides.

There are many different ways that the basic concept of the Medicine Wheel can be expressed. It can be adapted to reflect the different stages in your life or your relationship to your surroundings. The CEPI has adapted the Medicine Wheel to be reflective of our planning process – in fact, the Medicine Wheel can be seen on the Bras d'Or Charter, and therefore, at the heart of the work of the CEPI. It is a tool that will guide us in how we interact with one another and our environment. The CEPI acknowledges that no decision should be made based solely on one element of the Medicine Wheel, while understanding and embracing the need to take a well-rounded approach to everything we do. Everything has to be balanced across the four quadrants.

Traditionally, our knowledge has been the foundation for decision-making (Action). However we must also listen to and respect the Feelings of others in deciding on our Actions and Knowledge gathering. Another important aspect that we don't often consider in our decision-making is the Spirit of the Lakes. The Bras d'Or is the heart of Cape Breton and has a special significance and place in the hearts of all the people of the Bras d'Or. It is only by listening to the Spirit and our own hearts that we will be able to make decisions that will ensure that the Bras d'Or Lakes will be sustained for the enjoyment and benefit of all generations.

When considering the Medicine Wheel, it is important that we begin to understand the concept and practice of spirituality. Spirituality is the belief that governs each and every action of an individual, or group. For example, the Mi'kmaq hold the belief of universal equality: all life and the non-living, including forces unseen, were created equal - from the smallest plant to the largest mountain, or the deepest sea. The Mi'kmaq people recognize and acknowledge the living spirit in all aspects of Mother Earth (living and non-living). These spirits are acknowledged as relations and are respected rather than worshipped. As our relations, all those things around us are connected to us.



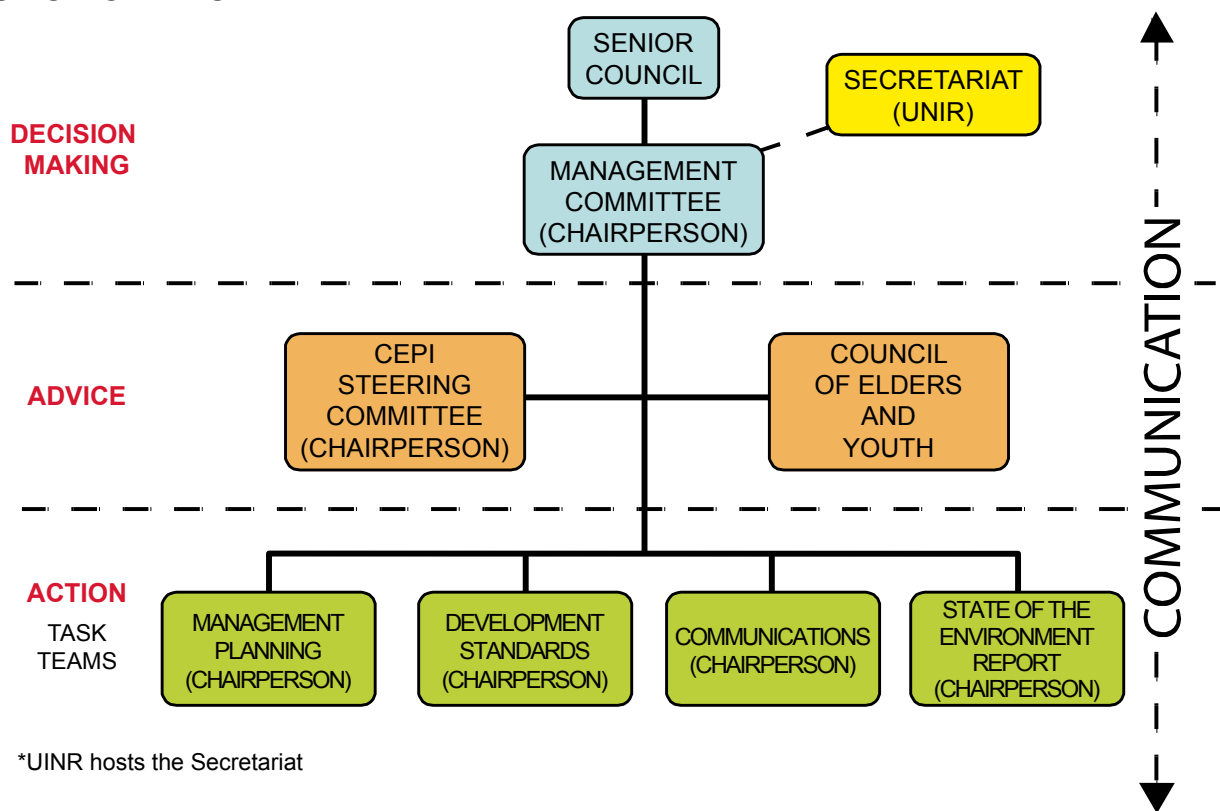
5. CEPI Structure and Its Planning Cycle

I am the heart of Cape Breton. I am ever changing, ever the same. I grow by season and cycle to a new beginning in a regular changing circle. Death is a part of my circle as are birth and change. Learning by living is a part of life. Learn while you live and bring new energy to the cycle.

Come - walk with me.

The CEPI structure

FUNCTIONAL CHART



The CEPI structure is shown above. The structure is divided into the three separate categories of Action (Task Teams), Advice (Steering Committee and Elder's Council) and Decision-making (Senior Council and the Management Committee (MC)). The diagram is an illustration intended to assist the reader in understanding the authorities within the structure itself.

The Planning Cycle

The CEPI will use a circular planning model based in part on the Medicine Wheel, and in part on the practices of modern planning process theory. This circular planning operates on a one-year cycle.

The starting point and end-point of the planning cycle is the annual meeting of the Senior Council normally held in the Autumn. The agenda will include a report card on the year's activities, and a prioritized list of issues and projects for the coming year. A proposed work plan for the coming year and a budget will also be presented for approval.

In preparation for Senior Council, the Management Committee (MC) consults with the Steering Committee (SC) and the Elders/Youth (E/YC) during focused meetings held in September or October. The agenda for these focused meetings will include issues and plans proposed for Senior Council by the MC. These meetings are the normal avenue through which Issues and Gaps Champions (see Chapter 6) can access the Senior Council. The Agenda may also include items raised by members of the SC or by the E/YC.

The MC will inform Senior Council members ahead of time about the issues to be presented. Minutes stating issues and decisions are prepared by the CEPI Coordinator, approved by the MC and posted on the CEPI website before the end of the calendar year.

In January and February of each year the MC prepares a detailed work plan and budget. These are based on Senior Council's decisions.

In March, the work plan and budget will be presented to the Steering Committee and Elders/Youth Councils for consideration, advice, and possible modifications.

On April 1, the Task Teams Chairpersons will receive their mandate on priorities for action and associated budgets. The Task Team Chairpersons coordinate the work of participating government staff and volunteers, taking into account their respective resources and abilities to contribute. Projects are expected to run year-round as required. Chairpersons provide quarterly updates on projects. Some projects, by their very nature, require more than one year to complete, but progress reports will continue to be provided quarterly.

In September, the MC holds consultations with the Steering Committee and the Elders/Youth Councils. These consultations prepare the end of the cycle and form the initial phase of the next planning cycle.

Approximately every five years, and/or upon a decision by Senior Council, the CEPI will hold public workshops for information and consultation purposes. At these workshops, the CEPI will report on achievements, and present updates on the issues and gaps being addressed. Proceedings of these workshops will include reports on progress made against mutually agreed objectives through measurement in the environment. By assessing feedback, suggestions and advice collected during these workshops, the CEPI can assess whether it is still making progress or if a change in focus is required. The Proceedings of this gathering will be made available to individuals and organizations through the CEPI web site (www.brasdorcepi.ca) within two months of the workshops.

6. Issues and Gaps

I am the heart of Cape Breton. The People have come together to assist me in achieving better health. When the First People pray, they do so in a circle. Mother Earth is round, tree trunks are round. Each day has a cycle. There is a need for the cycle to continue and nurture those that are on my shores. By forming a circle, The People will be able to see the rise and fall of objects that are precious to us all – and great progress will be made in healing the harm that has been done. The circle is strong and the bonds even stronger. We have gathered in a circle;

come - join me.

Introduction

The broad issues within the Bras d'Or Lakes are well-known. They include declining fish and shellfish stocks, marine invasive species, forestry, changes in land-use and sewage. Solutions require conscious and deliberate changes in human attitudes, and time for the Lakes' ecosystem to react in its own natural ways.

In the meantime, individuals, community groups, businesses and even government departments continue to have immediate and long-term concerns about the Bras d'Or Lakes, and they have brought those to the table of CEPI's Steering Committee.



Before the CEPI came into being, there were times when issues did not reach the right office. Even after the CEPI was formed, certain problems continued to be a challenge. The CEPI membership discovered that, for many issues, there was no existing legislation or there were overlapping jurisdictions. Sometimes problems brought to the CEPI table were not explained clearly enough for anyone to focus on solutions.

The CEPI Steering Committee and Secretariat did not document individual issues and gaps as they were identified. Each time an issue came up we had to start from the beginning to find solutions because of our lack of good record-keeping. In the same manner, issues that were resolved were not well documented. We could not easily learn from our failures and successes.

We believe that open communication leads to mutual understanding and optimal solutions. Using the Medicine Wheel, we will establish a structure that will document, address, and resolve issues in an open and respectful manner.

Issues and Gaps Resolution Process

The proposed method of dealing with the issues and gaps will be circular and will be connected with the CEPI's planning cycle to ensure timely and documented consideration.

At the entry point into the circle, the issue is raised at the CEPI Steering Committee or Elders/Youth Council by a representative agency, committee member(s), or environmental group. Concerned citizens can have access via a member of the Steering Committee or the Elders/Youth Council; their names and contact information are on the CEPI website.

The Steering Committee or Elders/Youth Council will review the information to ensure that the issue is within CEPI's mandate, and, if so, document it on a one-page "Issue document" in the following format:

Title: One line

Champion: Whoever raises the issue and/or understands it well enough to ensure that it stays alive and gets attention.

Description: 3-4 lines describing the issue, what is needed to address the problem, why is it required?

Recommendation: what would the proposed solution(s) be? Who should be involved?

- The Issue document will be dated and recorded, a timeline for resolution tentatively established, and a Champion assigned to keep the issue alive and ensure that it is addressed in a timely fashion. The CEPI Coordinator is the custodian of the documents.

- If the issue is already being addressed by an agency/agencies, information will be added to the Issue document to record what actions are being taken and by whom, and within what time-frame (if available).

- If the issue can be addressed by the CEPI membership, then the Champion shepherds the issue/gaps through the CEPI group until they are essentially resolved. In that endeavour, Champions have access to: 1) the CEPI Coordinator; 2) the Steering Committee; 3) the Management Committee

- For issues not resolved by the process described above, the Champion works with the various agencies in the membership (and beyond) to pull together options and recommendations for presentation to the MC for evaluation, consideration and action. The MC may involve the Senior Council in this process.



- In the majority of cases, the MC will deal with an issue/gap in one of two ways: 1) if the issue is clearly not within the scope of the CEPI, the issue may be referred to another organization with direct responsibility; or 2) an existing or new Task Team may be asked to analyze the issue and make recommendations to the MC. This will allow any agency/agencies not in the CEPI to be brought into the circle.
- Once a decision has been made by the MC or Senior Council, the CEPI coordinator adds the decision to the Issue document and informs the SC and the E/YC. The Communications Task Team develops information for the public.



7. Decision-making Tools

I am the heart of Cape Breton. I have a vision that my friends will see the challenges facing us and they will act responsibly when we are together so that I may help them remain healthy for the next seven generations.

Come - walk with me.

The diverse network of watersheds influencing the Bras d'Or Lakes creates many opportunities for interaction. Understanding and appreciating the natural order of the Bras d'Or Lakes will give future generations the opportunity to live in harmony with nature. We must strengthen our collective resolve towards a united strategy to restore the integrity and diversity of the Bras d'Or for the future. A planning strategy based on principles of common sense and responsibility (See Chapter 3) must also be flexible and transparent to benefit both the environment and its people.

The burden we have placed on the Bras d'Or must be reduced. We must learn to adapt and respond positively to environmental changes using both Western science and traditional knowledge. The planning tools and development standards identified in Appendix 11.A provide additional decision-making capacity to individual residents, government agencies, community groups, and stakeholders in their effort to improve and maintain the health of the Bras d'Or.



8. How Can You Help?

I am the heart of the Cape Breton. You are learning but there is much more to do. All of the dwellers around my shores must find a way to help me. With many working, the load is light and great progress can be made. No job is too small, no aid insignificant.

Come - join me.

Since time immemorial the Lakes ecosystem has been generous in meeting the needs of all who live around and within it. But over time and with use, the Lakes' ability to sustain itself and its dependents has declined. At the heart of this plan is a team of people who, above all, have a direct personal interest in the health and well-being of the Bras d'Or Lakes. We all have positive memories of our experiences around the Bras d'Or that we treasure; however, now are dismayed to witness some negative occurrences. The time has come to take it upon ourselves to ensure that these short-sighted ways are stopped, and to begin the re-building process in a practical and sustainable manner. This CEPI process plan is an effort to bring the people of the Bras d'Or together as one community to help restore the ecological integrity of our precious ecosystem.

Throughout this document you may have heard us respectfully refer to the Bras d'Or Lakes as if it were a living, breathing creature. That kind of respect for our natural environment has, unfortunately, diminished over time and must now be restored in the minds of people and organizations.

It is not too late: the Bras d'Or Lakes are still relatively pristine, and with your help we can ensure that our sons and daughters, and their sons and daughters, have the same kind of fond memories we have. Perhaps you may think that your contribution may not make a difference in your lifetime; however, it may make all the difference for generations to come.



The members of the CEPI recognize that a successful plan will work best if it has both the support and input of the people of the watershed. To ensure the voices of the Bras d'Or people are heard, the CEPI proposes to inform, inspire and engage the community. For example, the people of the River Denys Basin have banded together to improve fish habitat in their streams and monitor water quality in their area. They meet regularly to discuss progress and to plan for more work to improve the River Denys Basin. Other communities in the watershed may wish to follow their example.

There is a need to monitor human activities and the evolution of plant and animal life in the

watershed over time. Perhaps a citizen-based monitoring program, a sort of „Bras d’Or Watch’, would allow citizens to become involved in the work of the CEPI. Data collected through Bras d’Or Watch programs would be added to our knowledge of the effects of climate change and human impacts on biodiversity in the watershed.

This involvement would encourage respect for the Lakes as a living entity. Community-based monitoring programs could include a focus on plants; ice cover; birds; fish; frogs; or shorelines (an early warning citizen-based monitoring program to help identify sites experiencing serious shore erosion, alterations resulting from human activities, etc). The monitoring protocols (how the data is collected and recorded) could be made available through the www.brasdorcepi.ca website.

Your interest and involvement are important, whether you clean a beach or work on a committee. Whenever you leave the Lakes and you know that they are a better place because you have been there, the difference belongs to you, but it will also benefit those whom you may have helped or influenced. Enjoy the feeling...and come back.



9. Take-home message

This Plan is for the Bras d'Or and its people. Any person who loves the Bras d'Or can come on board. Indeed, the Spirit of the Lakes invites you to join in and be part of it.

This Plan calls upon all Bras d'Or people to unite and cooperate to stop the degradation of the Bras d'Or, to help the Lakes mend themselves, and to build a new relationship with the Lakes based on understanding, respect, and cooperation.

People who wish to take action may ask: "What do we do now?" "What happens to all the recommendations written over the years in reports, proceedings, etc.?" These are good questions that deserve an answer.

Viewed in the context of Medicine Wheel Inspired-Planning (Section 11.A.2), and with the aboriginal and contemporary knowledge available in the various sections of Chapter 11, the framework offered in Section 11.A.3 could become an important component of the work-plan of the CEPI and of its many partners using the CEPI organizational model (Senior Council, Management Committee, Steering Committee, Elder Council, Secretariat, Task Teams).

The Charter signatories and their partners continue to work together and with the Spirit of the Lakes. Over time, it is anticipated that the tasks associated with the CEPI work-plan will be incorporated into the business planning process of each government partner (and others as able) to ensure the necessary in-kind and financial support.

The Plan is a living document. As people's thinking evolves, they will identify desirable changes. Circular planning means that it is never too late to become involved.

As individual citizens, government, and First Nations people, you are invited to learn more about CEPI on its Web site www.brasdorcepi.ca, and to become involved. You can also communicate with the CEPI Secretariat at the Unama'ki Institute for Natural Resources at the following coordinates: CEPI Coordinator, 4102 Shore Road, Eskasoni, Nova Scotia, B1W 1C2; phone: (902) 379-1343; or e-mail info@brasdorcepi.ca



10. Bibliography

We have made references throughout this document to further information that the reader can seek to gain a better understanding of the work of the Bras d'Or Lakes.

We invite you to seek these out, and to explore the information and documentation that can be downloaded on the www.brasdorcepi.ca website.

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11. Appendices

A- Decision-making tools

The following sections present the various tools that are being engaged in the process called CEPI. These tools not only represent the scientific facts that are known about the Bras d'Or Lakes, but also incorporate a mix of scientific, traditional Mi'kmaq and local ecological knowledge. This combination of traditional knowledge and western science can be compared to combining wisdom with knowledge. It adds another dimension, a more human aspect to the objectivity of science, one that provides us with a larger view of our human universe. These tools include workshop reports, the Medicine Wheel, contemporary planning processes, proposed development standards, and other works in progress. We invite you to explore and use this wealth of knowledge.

11.A.1 Summary of the 2003/2004 workshops

I am the heart of Cape Breton. I have gathered my peoples, from all walks of life, to share ideas and to strengthen friendships. The People are much stronger together as they hold hands and share a common concern for the natural world. Like the tree roots that bind together in the soil to form a strong forest, the people too have gathered, holding hands and strengthening their resolve to help protect the Lakes. The spirit that was demonstrated by the People at these workshops will live for generations to come, and will be the beating heart of the CEPI. Let us not forget the will of those that came to my shores.

Come - walk with me.

In October of 2003, at the request of the Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources (UINR), a gathering of "many peoples" was held in Eskasoni and Wagmatcook. This gathering included all levels of government, Mi'kmaq communities, community and environmental organizations, Elders, Youth and people that shared a concern for the future of the Lakes. The purpose of this gathering was to develop a common understanding of the issues affecting the health of the Bras d'Or Lakes, and to develop a working relationship between all entities that have a responsibility to help protect the Bras d'Or Lakes.



In October of 2004, another workshop was held in Wagmatcook. This meeting was the beginning of the development of a management plan for the Lakes. There was recognition that in order to work, the plan would need to include the participation of the Mi'kmaq, the non-Native communities surrounding the Lakes, and all levels of government. There was also a need to integrate the values and traditions of Mi'kmaq and non-Native communities. Participants developed a vision for a healthy Bras d'Or Lakes by using the four quadrants of the Medicine Wheel, which represent spirituality, emotions, knowledge and action, thereby expressing their individual and collective attachment to the Lakes. It is this attachment, this collective and yet personal bond, that makes the development of the plan possible. The people also spoke about what actions should be taken to help address the issues affecting the Lakes. All of these factors will help inform the plan.

These two workshops were attended by people who care deeply about the Lakes. They represent the emotions/feelings and values that these people attribute to the Lakes. The aspirations of these people, together with their sentiment towards the Lakes, were essential in order to have balance in the Medicine Wheel. These emotions and values are carried forward in this plan. These workshops were also a first step in helping identify the most important issues that affect the health of the Lakes, which will become the actions that are required to bring the Lakes back to a healthy state for all generations to enjoy.

11.A.2 The Medicine Wheel as Planning Tool

I am the heart of Cape Breton. Like the canoe that still frequents my waters, the medicine wheel has stood the test of time as a tool that can help guide you through your own personal growth and development as well as how you relate to the world around you. Balance is essential in one's life, as well as in the way in which we look at the world around us. Humanity is a part of nature, created by the Great Spirit with each person being a traveler on this road of life – and balance is essential for the peace, harmony, and respect that is needed for human existence. The First People saw the need for balance and have used the circular symbol for thousands of years. We must find a way to have this balance returned.

Come - walk with me.

The Medicine Wheel uses symbolism to help you understand ideas that are not always obvious. It can be a tool that helps you reflect on different aspects of your life and your relationships to others, your community, and the Bras d'Or. You as an individual are always placed in the middle of this circle and it is up to you, through its teachings, to find a way to achieve balance. It is only when all four quadrants of the medicine wheel are in balance that true learning has taken place.



Faced with an Issue, Gap or expressed Need, an individual involved in the CEPI process considers where the inspiration came from. Ideally, it comes from a desire to serve the common Good; it can also be driven by less lofty motives like political gain, financial profit, job creation, or even raw human greed. How does one feel after examining motives? Already, one has visited the Spiritual and Feelings quadrants.

Next comes the question: “What do we know about this?” One eye looks at contemporary literature and government files; the other eye looks at Traditional Ecological Knowledge from First People and long-time residents. We are now in the Knowledge quadrant. To that Knowledge, then we add what is known about the motives and objectives of stakeholders, interveners, regulators, investors, politicians, etc. Knowledge in mind, and Feelings in hand, we can now define alternative solutions against the

backdrop of inspiration from the Common Good, a desire for harmony with the Spirit of the Lakes, and a determination to do what will be good over the long run. Now we are ready to consider the Action quadrant: what decisions are required, who can take these actions, within what time frame can they happen, what material resources are needed, etc.



Having selected a course of Action, we can stop for a moment, ask how we Feel about it in the present, and ponder how this course of Action would be judged by the Bras d'Or people of the future. The resulting Feeling may send the planner back to the Action quadrant, seeking an alternative that would better balance individual vs. common interest, people vs. the Lakes, present vs. future.

We have now gone full Circle, can revisit the whole thing quickly, can share it with others in an inner circle, refine it, use it for inter-departmental consultations, in stakeholders' consultations, in public town hall meetings, for interviews with the media, etc.

In the words of Eskasoni Elder, Dr. Albert Marshall, “it’s not enough to go through life with one perspective; we must embrace all the tools we have.” The Two-Eyed Seeing approach is another discovery tool that can also help you develop your understanding of how to bring a balanced approach to the CEPI process. Two-eyed Seeing describes a way of acknowledging, experiencing

and interpreting the natural world and the events within using two types of understanding: the contemporary Western scientific approach of observation, data collection and analysis, and conclusions; and the ecological knowledge held by the Mi'kmaq (Traditional Ecological Knowledge) that is acquired through long term observation and survival here; the kind of knowledge passed down from generation to generation through story telling, song, dance, ceremonies and experience.

Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge describes the relationship that the Mi'kmaq people have with all the components of the natural environment, and the interrelations that exist between all life forms, from a unique historical, cultural, and spiritual perspective. It is the worldview that is the foundation of Mi'kmaq beliefs.

11.A.3 A Contemporary Planning Process

I am the heart of Cape Breton. I review my ways and take from others what is helpful. Everything becomes a part of my processes and my cycles of change ever renewing. Everything old is new again.

Come - walk with me.

The development of a plan of action to improve the management of a unique watershed like Bras d'Or is a complex endeavour. In a contemporary context, such an endeavour starts with the gathering and analysis of relevant historical and legislative information. Fortunately, in the case of the Bras d'Or, that information is available in a thesis submitted to Dalhousie University in 2007 (see Naug, 2007 in the Bibliography). Although the information is presented in the context of the academic requirements for a Masters degree, the thesis is a very valuable source of information. Specifically, the document presents a review of over 30 years of issue identification, a summary of more than 30 years of previous planning attempts in the Bras d'Or, a legislative, policy and program review of all government departments working in the Bras d'Or Lakes and watershed, and an analysis of how key issues in the Bras d'Or are being managed and how management could be improved.



In 2006, the CEPI produced a document entitled Towards A Bras d'Or Lakes and Watershed Environmental Management Plan which outlines the steps and actions that are typically considered in a contemporary planning process. This framework document presents an approach to developing an overall management plan for the area based on a review of relevant literature and discussions with local managers.

Twelve tasks that could be pursued were identified for the entire Lakes and watershed as well as for each of the individual sub-watersheds in order to provide a range of approaches that are both

strategic (for the whole watershed) and action-oriented (for individual sub-watersheds). Planning for the entire watershed could address issues related to policy and regulations, communications and public participation, and the setting of shared priorities. Planning within each of the sub-watersheds could have the benefit of fostering community involvement and leadership, and help support the development of manageable sized projects. Both strategic and operational approaches are required to better manage this large and diverse geographic area.

11.A.4 Ecosystem Overview and Assessment Report

I am the heart of Cape Breton. It is much better to understand what I am, and to understand my rhythms and cycles. You will not be able to understand me until both eyes are open: one eye will allow you to see things your way, the other, you will be able to see it as I see myself – through observations, acknowledging patterns that are evident through time. I am very complex, yet simple. It is best to understand me as I am, not as I shall be. Notice the changes in me – they are not all for the good.

Come - walk with me.

As humans, we all like to know what we are doing, and why. Perhaps, more importantly, we want others to perceive that we know what we are doing. When it comes to making decisions and to taking actions with regards to our interactions with the Bras d'Or, it is very important that we have baseline information on which to formulate sound decisions, investments and actions. Fortunately, the large body of information available has been assembled in the Ecosystem Overview and Assessment Report (EOAR).



The federal department of Fisheries and Oceans produced this report in 2007. The 270-page document is based on 276 literature references and personal communications from approximately the last twenty years, and provides a general overview of the major ecological components of the Bras d'Or Lakes watershed. The document pays due respect to Mi'kmaq input from the Eskasoni Fish and Wildlife Commission (EFWC), the Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources (UINR), and the CEPI Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) workshop. The TEK Workshop proceedings are cited abundantly in many sections and are appended in its entirety within the report for easy reference. The material is organized in seven (7) major parts. Parts A, B, and C cover the geological, oceanographic and biological systems of the Bras d'Or. Part D describes ecosystem relationships and part E identifies ecologically and biologically significant areas. Part F attempts to address the complexities of human activities in relation to the Lakes ecosystem. In the conclusion (Part G), the EOAR makes recommendations with regard to future studies aimed at covering gaps identified in the various sections of the report.

The EOAR is the “background document” for the CEPI. It provides essential baseline information on the state of the Lakes in 2006 according to published documents and consultations with knowledgeable people. Publications of contemporary science and available TEK are presented side by side, giving users a unique perspective.

This ecosystem overview is meant to be a „living’ document – one that will be periodically updated as more traditional knowledge and new scientific information become available.

11.A.5 Traditional Ecological Knowledge

I am the heart of Cape Breton. The people of Unama’ki (or “Land of Fog”) have clung to my shores for centuries, keeping their culture and learning close to me. They have observed subtle and delicate patterns in my behaviour, and in the world around them, allowing them to better understand my ways and needs. These patterns occur over many of your lifetimes; but through observance and stories, my secrets have been passed on to each generation, allowing us to live in harmony. They feel comfortable lifting the fog and helping their neighbours live in closer harmony with me.

Come - walk with me.

Like all First Nations, the Mi’kmaq have a long story to tell. Since time immemorial, they have considered themselves to be part of the natural world that has provided them with shelter and food essential to their continued survival.



They believe that all components of their world are interconnected and must be treated with respect. The Laws of Nature govern their lives on a daily basis. Those who did not observe these Laws suffered the consequences of their actions.

This precious knowledge of Nature was gained through daily observations of millions of eyes over many, many generations. It has been passed on from generation to generation through oral traditions, with each generation updating the knowledge in order to adapt to the conditions of their time. Essential for their survival, that knowledge is known to us as Traditional Ecological Knowledge commonly referred to as TEK.

To the people working within the CEPI, a glimpse of this precious TEK (knowledge) is contained in the Proceedings of the Bras d'Or Lakes Traditional Ecological Knowledge Workshop that was held in Eskasoni on May 3-4, 2006. The genius of this document is that it captured knowledge from Mi'kmaq Elders, and from non-aboriginal people who have long lived by the Bras d'Or. Their knowledge is presented in simple language, devoid of obscure abstractions or bureaucratic words.



These TEK Proceedings must be read in their own context. Each Elder tells the story of his/her world, which is often a small microcosm of the Bras d'Or Lakes ecosystem. As each story unfolds, there may be apparent contradictions for a resource, such as eel-grass distribution, as it disappears from one area and appears elsewhere. Once all this information (or stories) is assembled, the smaller parts provide a much clearer picture, rich in detail.

The Netukulimk GIS Management Project was developed to collect traditional knowledge about the distribution of fish, shellfish, birds, mammals, medicinal plants, trees and berries in Waycobah, Wagmatcook, Eskasoni, Chapel Island, Caribou Marsh, Membertou and Malagawatch First Nations communities. The document presents this knowledge in the form of maps and symbols that represent particular species and their historical and present distribution. The document also offers precious information on former ground fish areas, and herring overwintering and spawning areas.

These documents provide us with an essential baseline of information about the state of the Lakes before human pressures caused a progressive deterioration of the ecosystem, and before modern science started to monitor the Lakes' decline through sporadic temporal observations.

Those with patience and humility, who sincerely believe in the restoration of depleted resources and damaged habitats, and who are seeking a new and respectful relationship with the Lakes, will gain from these documents a new and profound understanding of the Bras d'Or in its evolution to present day conditions.

11.A.6 Marine Environmental Quality of the Bras d'Or Lakes

I am the heart of Cape Breton. Salty are my waters. Creatures of the deeps and shallows can find shelter within. I am a haven for creatures straying south and north. They can find what they need here. Sometimes this causes problems for my resident populations and sometimes not. One has to look to be sure.

Come - walk with me.

The Bras d'Or Lakes is a unique semi-enclosed estuarine system of bays, inlets, and deep basins that make up approximately 18% of the total shoreline length of the Province of Nova Scotia. Variations in salinity, tidal range, flushing times and population distribution make the Bras d'Or Lakes especially vulnerable to human pressures.



An initiative was undertaken by the Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources (UINR) to determine the current state of marine water quality for the Bras d'Or Lakes. *The Marine Environmental Quality of the Bras d'Or Lakes* report was produced using data and information provided by Environment Canada, the Bedford Institute of Oceanography, UINR, and the Eskasoni Fish and Wildlife Commission. Data and anecdotal information in the report include information from scientific papers, reports, technical publications, and Mi'kmaq traditional ecological knowledge. The report includes a list of nine recommendations with a focus on a long-term monitoring strategy for oceanographic and marine environmental parameters so that changes to marine environmental quality can be observed and evaluated over time.

Marine water quality was determined through examination of three subtopics: bacteriological water quality, chemical water and sediment quality, and sedimentation. The integrated Driver-Pressure-State-Impact-Response model currently used by the European Environmental Agency was applied to marine environmental water quality under each subtopic.

The Bras d'Or Lakes ecosystem is still relatively pristine. Bacterial contamination from land-use activities is the primary source of pollution in the Lakes. Six of the eleven sub-watersheds of the Lakes ecosystem have shown degrading water quality in recent years. They include East Bay, St. Peter's Inlet, West Bay, McKinnon's Harbour, Whycocomagh Bay, and Middle and Baddeck Rivers. Chemical water and sediment quality was found to be very good, with the exception of low to very low levels of dissolved oxygen in Whycocomagh Bay that results in anoxic (low oxygen) sediments and water at low depths. Polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH)



concentrations are low in all areas of the Bras d'Or Lakes, as are heavy metal concentrations in biota (living tissue) and sediments. Higher levels of zinc were discovered in Denys Basin and higher levels of lead were found just off Eskasoni First Nation community. Sedimentation is difficult to measure; however, Denys Basin and Whycomomagh Bay are likely more susceptible to sedimentation because of the rivers that drain into them and their relatively low flushing times.

The Marine Environmental Quality of the Bras d'Or Lakes report is also available in a shorter, less technical version suitable for use as an educational tool for the general public and information for land and municipal planners.

11.A.7 Freshwater “State of the Environment”

I am the heart of Cape Breton. Water from my hills and valleys has been the source of nourishment and spirituality for the First People that came to my shores. Since the arrival of the New People, many changes have occurred. My waters have changed, the landscape has changed, and I have been under constant attack by new arrivals, strange creatures unfamiliar to my land and waters. Change is inevitable, but not always for the better. I cannot move to another place on Mother Earth... my roots are firm and the changes I am seeing are a concern not only to me, but to all that have come to my shores.

Come - walk with me.

We simply can't manage what we do not understand. People and their governments must understand the „bigger issues' in order to properly address smaller ones at the local level.

How much fresh water do we have in the watershed? Where is it? How much is replenished each year? How much is required to sustain natural ecosystems? These are all questions that need to be answered in order to understand the interactions in the environment, and to understand how human use affects the overall balance of water availability and quality.

The Freshwater Resources Report is an integral part of our knowledge on the state of the environment (SOE). It describes the current state of freshwater resources in the 2512 square kilometre watershed flowing into the Bras d'Or Lakes. The report focuses on the physical and chemical aspects of the waterscape. The waterscape is where the weatherscape joins the landscape. It is that unique zone of the watershed where people can live comfortably.

The waterscape of the Bras d'Or Lakes is unique. It was conceived on both sides of an ancient ocean, forged in the tropics within a supercontinent; all the while being weathered by the aggressive alliance of fire, ice and water for some 600 million years. This sculpted a rugged waterscape combining lakes, canyons, river valleys, foothills and plains that now form a series of three islands surrounding an inland sea, in turn surrounded by the North Atlantic and Gulf of St. Lawrence (see map on page 3).

This „state of the environment’ report offers a chance to stand back and look at the overall system. It offers time to break away from the day-to-day rapid pace of events and reflect on what has been learned so far about the watershed of the Bras d’Or Lakes. It is designed as a practical “snapshot” of our knowledge up to the end of 2005, using a traditional scientific approach.

The Bras d’Or is rather fortunate and unusual in that it has relatively plentiful water, a low population and only localized contamination. The timing for the CEPI and its management plan is ideal to provide the technical basis upon which to manage water resources for the long-term and to prepare adequately for the decisions that await future generations.



11.A.8 Standards for New Development in the Watershed

I am the heart of Cape Breton. My shores have been inhabited for a long time. The First People have always respected my mood. I can be tender and protective, a thing of beauty. I can also be dark and challenging, causing you to shudder as my waters churn. There is a great change coming. My waters are warmer and rising ever higher, the blood that runs through my rivers is changing. I have nurturing shores, but they must be respected. If not, there will be consequences. There is a need to respect the boundaries that I have put in place to protect my shores.

Come - walk with me.

Residential and commercial developments in the watershed have had a number of negative effects on the water quality of the Bras d’Or Lakes. During the construction of buildings and access roads, soil disturbances can result in siltation and sedimentation into the Lakes. Homes and businesses can contribute to nutrients leaching into the water if on-site sewage disposal systems malfunction or if excessive amounts of high nitrogen or phosphorous fertilizers are applied on lawns and gardens. Finally, certain businesses, such as automotive repair outlets and certain industrial users in the watershed, may contaminate the Lakes if noxious substances such as motor oil or transmission fluids are permitted, by carelessness, to escape into the environment. Deterioration in water quality resulting from these activities can result in negative consequences for the fisheries, for aquatic plants, and for recreational uses in the Lakes.

There is concern that new developments located too close to the shoreline may be threatened in the

future by storm surges and the erosion these surges can cause. With some climate change studies predicting that average sea levels in the Bras d'Or may rise by 76 centimetres by 2100, there are concerns that many of the new homes now being built around the Lakes may become uninhabitable. The CEPI has identified that a lack of development standards to address these problems (outlined above) is a serious gap. Of particular concern is the fact that 62% of the entire watershed and approximately 95% of the land adjacent to the shoreline is owned by private individuals or companies, who are subject to relatively few municipal or provincial regulations respecting land use.

In response to these concerns, the CEPI secured funding to carry out a study of the watershed with a view to developing recommendations regarding development standards. These standards, if implemented, would attempt to ensure that new developments within the watershed are located in a manner so as to minimize any negative impacts on the Lakes, and to minimize the negative impacts associated with sea level rise.

The Bras d'Or Lakes Development Standards Report and associated handbook make a number of recommendations regarding various “best management practices” that could be used to ensure that new development in the watershed proceeds in an environmentally sensitive manner. These include:

- Buffers along the shoreline and along watercourses, where trees and other natural vegetation would be preserved and limits placed on new development;
- Use of wastewater management districts to manage domestic sewage in areas where on-site systems are not working well and central sewer systems are not feasible; and,
- For larger developments, use of “low impact development” (LID) strategies, where entire subdivisions would be designed in harmony with the natural environment.



For the most part, implementation of the study's recommendations requires the four municipalities and the five Mi'kmaq communities within the watershed to enact new regulations with respect to new developments. In some cases, however, education and moral persuasion may be used to encourage landowners and developers to adopt the standards without having to legally impose them through the development of a regulatory regime.

UINR has been working towards implementation of new development standards in the Mi'kmaq communities, while the Bras d'Or Stewardship Society (a partner within the CEPI), has been working with the municipalities in an attempt to achieve the same goal.

11.B Works in Progress

I am the heart of Cape Breton. My emergence soon included Mi'kmaq people, who have evolved and grown with me. But my life is much longer than theirs and so I have watched them come and go for over 400 generations. Through their passing they gradually have come to know parts of me by watching, listening and taking nourishment from me. Recently others have come from across the sea, bringing with them many more of their kind and a different means of understanding me. They can now begin to read the diaries that I have been carefully engraving in the soils, rock, water, and trees that record my passing. Together they have formed CEPI. By combining their knowledge and wisdom they are now beginning to fully understand my enormity and complexity.

Come - work with me.

The work underway in the Bras d'Or Lakes watershed is far from over. There are many more initiatives that are geared towards understanding this complex and unique ecosystem. This section will provide you with some examples of the different types of work currently underway in the watershed – a true testament to the collaborative efforts being made by various groups as they strive to protect this fragile ecosystem.

The Collaborative Salmon Planning Initiative

The plamu/Atlantic salmon holds a position of significance in the history and culture of both Mi'kmaq and non-aboriginal peoples. Mi'kmaq and non-aboriginal communities across Unama'ki/Cape Breton have expressed concern regarding the state of the plamu/Atlantic salmon populations throughout this region. Scientific and anecdotal reports indicate that most plamu/Atlantic salmon populations in Unama'ki/Cape Breton are in decline and/or are at low population size relative to historic levels.

The Collaborative Salmon Initiative (CSI) of Cape Breton was formed to allow Mi'kmaq and non-aboriginal users, assisted and supported by the appropriate provincial and federal government

agencies, to collectively address issues surrounding the salmon/plamu resource for the benefit of all users. This discussion led to the development of a stewardship strategy for the Cape Breton/ Unama'ki salmon/plamu resource. The stewardship strategy recognizes the treaty and aboriginal rights of the Mi'kmaq as well as the economic importance of the recreational fishery to Cape Breton Island. Its focus is on sustainability: how to conserve or enhance salmon populations while concurrently meeting the needs of present generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

This document provides direction on where groups can access information to assist in their stewardship activities, including measuring the quality of the existing habitat, ways in which habitat protection and restoration activities can be determined, and how they can be prioritized. The ultimate goal of this initiative is to provide direction and support to community groups who want to conserve, rebuild, or restore salmon populations in rivers throughout Unama'ki/Cape Breton.

Bras d'Or Lakes Report Card

Public participation is a crucial piece in the development of goals, objectives, and indicators, and will help to ensure that expectations for achieving ecosystem objectives remain high. The Bras d'Or Lakes Report Card will provide citizens and concerned community groups with a snapshot of the current status of the issues identified by the public. Over time, as data is collected, we will be able to return to the overall objectives and modify our proposed action and policies according to the outcome. The Report Card will be an important piece of information that will allow agencies to track progress and report back to the public on issues that concern them the most. Indicators and their associated monitoring are critical tools for evaluating progress towards sustainability and the redirection of activities. Issues that are not being properly addressed, or lack demonstrated progress, can then be brought to the attention of the CEPI Steering Committee and the associated management plan structure, thereby ensuring that concerns are dealt with.



Bras d'Or Lakes Science Workshops:

In 2009, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Bras d'Or Lakes CEPI held two research priorities workshops. The first, entitled, Research and Monitoring in the Bras d'Or Lakes 2009: Looking Forward – Working Together was held April 28/29. The purpose of this workshop was to identify research and monitoring priorities that would support improved management of the Bras d'Or Lakes and watershed. The second workshop, held Nov. 17/18, invited researchers to report about projects done over the summer and fall, and to identify any new project ideas related to the priorities identified at the first workshop. Issues identified as priorities for research included nearshore habitats; fish and fisheries; land-use practices; invasive species; communications (amongst researchers, and between researchers and the broader community); and developing a framework to integrate TEK and Western Science into all research in the watershed.

11.C- Leaders, Friends, Reviewers and Writers

Leaders

The Bras d'Or has many friends... .

Over the last decade, and even before, they have been inspired to come together to stop the damage, take stock on the state of the Lake and of its watershed, and Plan for a better future.

Their shared inspiration led to the 2003 and 2004 Bras d'Or Workshops which led to the moment of collective enlightenment when the Charter was signed. Under the Charter, Governments and Mi'kmaq leaders pledged to work together "To develop an overall Management Plan for the Bras d'Or Lakes Watershed ecosystem, and to facilitate its implementation by governments and other relevant stakeholders." Those who signed the Charter showed the Vision, Courage, Leadership and Faith that would inspire others to follow in their steps. These Leaders were:

Chief Terry Paul, Membertou First Nation

Chief Blair Francis, Eskasoni First Nation

Chief Wilbert Marshall, Potlotek First Nation

Chief Lester Peck, Wagmatcook First Nation

Chief Sandy Googoo, Waycobah First Nation



Mayor John Morgan, Cape Breton Regional Municipality

Warden Wayne Budge, Victoria County

Warden Duart MacAulay, Inverness County

Warden John Boudreau, Richmond County

Mayor Billy Joe MacLean, Town of Port Hawkesbury

Peter Underwood, Deputy Minister Nova Scotia Natural Resources

Rosalind Penfound, Deputy Minister Nova Scotia Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries

Judith Sullivan-Corney, Chief Administrative Officer, Nova Scotia Office of Aboriginal Affairs

William Lahey, Deputy Minister, Nova Scotia Environment and Labour

Ian Gray, Regional Director General, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

Neil Bellefontaine, Regional Director General, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Garth Bangay, Regional Director General, Environment Canada



¹ The writers on this team have tried their best to include everyone in this list; if, unfortunately, your name does not appear, it was by error and we invite you to contact the CEPI Coordinator (Shelley Porter at 902-379-1343) to have your name included.

Friends of the Bras d'Or

Since then, many people including Mi'kmaq Elders, several working groups and task teams have labored together in pursuit of the Vision, Purpose and Objectives of the Collaborative Environmental Planning Initiative (CEPI), because they love the Bras d'Or. Their contributions, small and large, are numerous and valuable. These people¹ are, in alphabetical order:

Jim Abraham; Rodney Alex; Laurie Alexander; Dave Alsina; Joe Arbour; Heather Atiyah; Fred Baechler; Lynn Beachler; George Ball; Cheryl Bartlett; Shawna Barrington; Anita Basque; Kenny Basque; Norman Basque; Pat Bates; Rod Beresford; Barry Bernard; Blair Bernard; Charles Bernard; Dina Bernard; Jake Bernard; Julena Bernard; Lawrence Bernard; Lena Bernard; Louis Joe Bernard; Nadine Bernard; Nancy Bernard; Pauline Bernard; Stephanie Bernard; Cheryl Berube; Grosvenor Blair; Wayne Bona; Weldon Bona; Yves Bosse; Wayne Budge; Gary Bugden; Judith Cabrita; Debi Campbell; Robin Campbell; Sharon Carter; Charlie Cash; Nancy Comeau; Steven Delorey; Dan Christmas; Keith Christmas; Stephen Christmas; Viola Christmas; Scott Coffe-Smooth; Nancy Comeau; Chantelle Cormier; Keith Cossey; Richie Cotton; Carla Dale; Chris Daly; Anne-Luise Daphinee; Steven Delorey; Charlie Dennis; Florence Dennis; Diana Denny; Rhonda Denny; Shelley Denny; Suzie Denny; Sylvia Denny; Penny Doherty; Abraham Doucette; Andrea Doucette; Charles Doucette; Lea Doucette; Helen Doyle; Jackie Drinnan; Phil Drinnan; David Duggan; Don Duncan; John Hugh Edwards; Jim Ellsworth; Bill English; Lucia Fanning; Donald Flood; Dave Forrester; Doug Foster; Fabian Francis; Frankie Francis; Kelly Francis; Mary Tina Francis; Sayyedy Francis; York Friesen; Catherien Anne Fuller; Paul Gentile; Ron Gillis; Catherine Godwin; Alex Googoo; Frank Googoo; Irene Googoo; Jean Googoo; Jean Doris Googoo; Joseph Googoo; Judy Googoo; Mary-Ellen Googoo; Morley Googoo; Pearl Googoo; Phyllis Googoo; Shannon Googoo; Stephanie Googoo; Stephen Googoo; Caroline Gould; John James Gould; Mary Rose Gould; Noel Joe Gould; Shauna Gould; Elizabeth Graham; Ian Gray; Eunice Harker; John Harker; David Harris; Troy Hartley; Ann Marie Hatcher; Bruce Hatcher; Brian Hicks; Larry Hildebrand; Murry Hill; Darren Hiltz; Craig Hominick; Tracy Horsman; Tom Howe; Eric Hundert; Linda Hunt; Gina Hunter; Justin Huston; Annie Claire Isaac; Bruno Isaac; Isadore Isaac; Bridget A. Isadore; Dennis Isadore; Freddy John Isadore; Isadore Isadore; Martha Isadore; Mary Janet Isadore; Pauline Isadore; Stephen Isadore; Marilyn Iwama; Brenda Jacono; John Jacono; Joe Janega; Howard Jeddore; Annie E. Johnson; Ethel Johnson; Howard Johnson; John Duncan Johnson; Margaret Johnson; Mary Johnson; Shaylene Johnson; Stanley Johnson; Tom Johnson; Marilyn Julien; Basma Kavanagh; Sana Kavanagh; Cheryl Keats; John Keefe; Gary J Koziel; Paul Thomas LaFleche; William Lahey; Tim Lambert; Slawa Lamont; Douglas Landry; René E. Lavoie; Daniel Lebel; Nadine LeFort; Gordan Lewis; Robert Livingstone; Lindsay Lyghtle; Duart MacAulay; A. J. MacDonald; Steve MacCormack; Dennis



MacDonald; Dougal MacDonald; Duncan MacDonald; Gordon MacDonald; Lawrence MacDonald; Lindiwe MacDonald; Lloyd MacDonald; Mike MacDonald; Nancy MacDonald; Ross MacDonald; A. J. MacDougall; Katie MacEwan; John MacInnes; Alex MacIsaac; Mary-Jo MacKay; Jack MacKillop; Vince MacLean; Gerard MacLellan; Jim MacLeod; Gerard MacMaster; Dan MacNeil; Teresa MacNeil; Mark MacPhail; Joseph MacPhee; Brian MacSween; Karen Malcolm; Albert Marshall; Allister Marshall; Anthony Marshall; Esmond Marshall; Joan Marshall; Lillian Marshall; Lindsey Marshall; Lorraine Marshall; Mary V. Marshall; Murdena Marshall; Nancy Marshall; Peter Marshall; Selena Marshall; Susie Marshall; Wilbert Marshall; Patricia McCormack; Rick McCready; Anna McCrory; Denise McCullough; Katie McEwan; Sharon McGladdery; Allison McIsaac; Shayne McQuaid; Christine Metallic; Michael Milburn; Eleanor Mitchell; Angela Morris; Edmund Morris; Nancy Morris; Brian Morrison; Bruce Morrison; Jim Morrow; Brian Muise; Hugh Muller; Sharon Munroe; Chris Mushquash; Jason Naug; Dennis Nevins; Melissa Nevins; Hubert Nicholas; Suzie Nilson; Jackie Olsen; Mike Parker; Lisa Patterson; Annie Gould Paul; Anthony Paul; Catherine Paul; Clifford Paul; George Paul; Janice



Paul; John Paul; Kara Paul; Ken Paul; Kimberley Paul; Lance Paul; Lawrence Paul; Margaret Paul; Serena Paul; Rosalind Penfound; Lorne Penny; Anthony Pierro; Frances Pierro; Vera Pierro; Shelley Porter; Amanda Poulette; Howard Poulette; Walter Poulette; Bessie Prosper; Chantel Purcell; James Redden; Joan Reid; Lorrie Roberts; Guy Rochon; Carol Ann Rose; Andrew Sark; Mark J. Sark; Francis Sayyedya; Faith Scattolon; Marney Simmons; Elena Simon; Da'Trice Sims; Bruce Smith; Kevin Squires; Jim Stanley; Ronald J. Stevens; Sherry H. Stewart; Robin Stuart; Laurie Suitor; Judith Sullivan-Corney; Steve Sutherland; Scott Swindon; Alyssa Sylliboy; Grand Chief Ben Sylliboy; Jeannine Sylliboy; Kerry Sylliboy; Terrance Sylliboy; Ron Taylor; Paul Tobin; Rita Toney; Darren Towers; Shirley Tuplin; Robert Urquhart; Gus van Helvoort; Nancy Vanstone; Kelley Vodden; Robert Wehrell; Lawrence Wells; Maxine Westhead; Darren A. Williams; Wyatt White; Darren Williams; Jerry Wolchuk; Madeline Yakimchuk; Robbie Youden; Curtis Young; Florence Young; Lisa Young; Mary Tina Young; Richard Young; Walter Young; Marc Zahradnik.

Reviewers

A number of agencies and individuals have reviewed the Draft dated March 31, 2010. Individually and together, they have provided cogent and practical comments that were very useful to the Task Team in the preparation of the current version. The Task Team is very grateful to these people for their effort and valuable input, and to their organizations for their expertise and time. These agencies and people are:

From the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve Association (Teresa MacNeil).

From Cape Breton Regional Municipality (Doug Foster).

From the Province of Nova Scotia: Aboriginal Affairs (Tom Soehl); Fisheries and Aquaculture (Justin Huston); Natural Resources (Brian MacSween); Environment (Cheryl Benjamin and Sharon Monroe)

From Fisheries & Oceans Canada ; Regional Director General (Faith Scattolon)

Fisheries and Aquaculture Management Branch, Sydney (Paul Gentile and

Lorne Penny); Oceans, Habitat and Species and Risk Branch (OHSAR)

(Glen Herbert, Jason Naug and David Duggan)

Writers

In December 2009, CEPI's Senior Council endorsed the creation of a Management Plan Task Team with the mandate to write a Draft of the Plan before the end of March 2010.

The writers came from Charter signatories, including old and young, males and females, government, community group, and Mi'kmaq people. In common, they shared a profound dedication to the Bras d'Or and to its people.



At their first meeting, on January 22, 2010, they chose a title and decided to write a document that would be Inspiring, Simple, Short, Non-threatening, Saleable, and Engaging.

At first humbled by the Task, they took stock of their collective knowledge and abilities, and set out to do their best within the time allotted, in a spirit of mutual trust and respect.

These people are: Pat Bates, Dan Christmas, Charlie Dennis, Shelley Denny, Paul Gentile, David Harris, Annie E. Johnson, René E. Lavoie, Rick McCready, Lorne Penny, Shelley Porter, Guy Rochon, Lisa Young.

During the Summer of 2010, the same people worked together to integrate the reviewers' comments into the present version which they code-named "SPIRIT III".

Your very own personal notes: