

**New Brunswick Education for Sustainable Development Working Group Meeting
September 25, 2006**

Present:

Alison Howells, New Brunswick Lung Association
Bob Jewitt, NBSCETT / B&P Management Services
Brigitte Laliberté, MÉNB
Carolyn Ann Young, Falls Brook Centre
Claude Cote, Environment Canada
Claudia Menendez, Falls Brook Centre
Colette Lemieux, New Brunswick Department of Environment
Daniel Rosset, Environnement Canada
Dave Riddell, Environment and Sustainable Development Research Centre
Dawn Weatherbie, Dept. of Education
Debby Peck, UNB Faculty of Education
Denny Richard, Group d'Initiatives Vertes - Green Initiatives Group
Diane Pruneau, Groupe Littoral et vie, Université de Moncton
Elaine Rubinoff, Learning for a Sustainable Future
Jean Paul L'Italien, Comité local de développement durable du Nord-Ouest
Jessica Scott, Conservation Council of New Brunswick
Jim Petrie, Learning for a Sustainable Future
Karen Sullenger, UNB Faculty of Education - CRYSTAL Project
Kelly Ashfield, Business New Brunswick
Martha McClure, NB Department of Education
Nancy Butler, Harbour View High School
Nik Basque, Cocagne Sustainable Development Group and The Beyond Factory Farming Coalition
Pam Schwartzberg, Learning for a Sustainable Future
Pamela Nason, Opponents of Grand Lake Landfill and UNB
Paul Arsenault, GAPGO Energy Development Inc.
Raissa Marks, NBEN-RENB
Roland Chiasson, Nature NB / Nature N.-B.
Serge Langis, Bessborough School
Sharon Flatt, Conservation Council of New Brunswick
Shawn Dalton, Environment and Sustainable Development Research Centre
Steve Reid, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, NB Chapter
Susan Bone, Environment Canada

Absent:

Anna Girouard, PODIUM
Brenda Kelley, Bathurst Sustainable Development
Carolyn Barnhart, Fredericton High
Charles McFadden, Atlantic Canada Association of Science Educators
Gabrielle Kretzschmar, New Brunswick Partners in Agriculture
Genevieve MacRae, Canadian Forestry Association of New Brunswick
Grace Losier, Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick

Julian Riva, NBCC St. Andrews
Kafui Sawyer, NBCC Miramichi
Kathleen Rice, District Scolaire 3
Lori Ann Roness, Ducks Unlimited
Thérèse Tremblay Philippe, Conseil du Travail Restigouche

1. **Welcome** – Raissa welcomed everyone.
2. **Learning for a Sustainable Future & Environment Canada Presentation** – See Powerpoint Presentations.
3. **Icebreaker and talk about education for sustainable development in NB** – Participants got to know each other and each other's organizations.
4. **Review and adopt the working group's vision & purpose, guiding principles of education for sustainable development, and working definition of sustainable development** – In small groups, participants developed a working definition of sustainable development, a vision for the Working Group, and some guiding principles. These items may be revisited and finalized at future meetings.

Working Definition of Sustainable Development

Sustainable Development: The evolution of communities in which we promote healthy exchanges with the environment (social, cultural, economic, and natural resources), the result of which is a viable world for all species who share this space.

Additional ideas that may be incorporated into the definition: future generations, social justice, responsibility, restorative work.

Vision

To create a culture of education for sustainable development in the province to support the overall goal of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, 2005-2014, which is “to integrate the values inherent in sustainable development into all aspects of learning to encourage changes in behaviour that allow for a more sustainable and just society for all.”

Additional ideas that may be incorporated into the vision: other species, refer to definition of sustainable development, contributing to learners' abilities, empowerment, ownership.

Guiding Principles

Education for Sustainable Development...

1. Addresses the interactions among environmental, economic, and social themes (from local to global scales).
2. Fosters empathy, respect, and an ethic of care for the Earth and all its species.
3. Has values, biases, and assumptions that are open for interrogation.

Additional ideas that may be incorporated into the guiding principles: empowerment for action/participation, active, responsible citizenship, all learners, awareness and consequences of choices.

5. **Discuss and adopt working group governance, goals, and priorities** – In small groups, participants began to develop the working group's governance structure, goals, and priorities.

Governance Structure – The following ideas were proposed to be added to the proposed governance structure.

Membership:

- open structure (individuals and representatives from organizations)
- continuity (letters of support inviting members to continue)
- initial terms = one year, subsequent terms = two years
- look for gaps in membership (based on goals and priorities)

Structure:

- to be reviewed after one year
- Co-chairs – NBEN, open
- Sub-committees – representatives report to working group
- Everyone on a sub-committee is also on the working group (sub-committee can take on ex-officio members of the working group as needed)

Additional ideas that may be incorporated into the governance structure: when would people start and finish terms? More flexible terms, more structured (over time)

Priorities

Short Term:

- Establishment of the Working Group – recognition, signatures from all New Brunswickers, funding, communication, action plan, policies, website, current status of ESD, sustainability of the group, incorporate as NGO?

Long Term

- Who will we educate? Teachers, future teachers, industry people, communities?
- What subjects will we teach? Climate change, water, sustainable communities, waste, alternative energies, current state of the environment?
- With what will we educate? Which resources, formal/non-formal, how to make it accessible
- How will we reach the learners?

Additional ideas that may be incorporated into the priorities: timeline? Costs? Business plan model, fine-tune who we are and where we're going, group consensus on definition of sustainable development, decide which SD themes apply to NB

Goals

- Understand behaviour in order to support existing sustainable behaviours and change unsustainable behaviours.
 - Identify barriers to action and build on strengths.
 - Create a sense of urgency by showing visible evidence of unsustainable practices.
 - Share success stories and provide alternative solutions.
 - Provide guidance on what we should be teaching.
 - Communicate and share with members.
 - Lead by example.
6. **Brainstorm working group objectives** – In plenary, participants brainstormed objectives under each goal and suggested 40 objectives.
7. **Wrap-up and evaluation** – Raissa and Daniel thanked everyone for coming. The next meeting will be November 30, 2006 in Moncton.