

APPENDIX A:

Highlights of recent achievements in water management in Nova Scotia

bottled water policy

- In the spring of 2010, the Government of Nova Scotia adopted a bottled water policy, which limits the purchase of bottled water for events and promotes the use of tap water within provincial government departments.

toolkits for community water quality monitoring

- Together, Saint Mary's University and the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design developed a tool-kit that will assist community-based watershed stewardship organizations in the province undertake water quality monitoring activities. This is a component of a larger initiative to help willing volunteers in the more than 50 watershed organizations across the province work more closely and efficiently with the government agencies responsible for water quality. <http://www.envnetwork.smu.ca/welcome.html>

new information resources for private well owners

- Over the last three years Nova Scotia Environment developed three new resources to help private well owners understand the link between well water quality and their health. These resources include *A Guide for a Private Well Owner*, *Your Well Water* booklets on treating water, and *The Drop on Water* fact sheets on water quality. These documents were also translated into French to better meet the needs of provincial Acadian and Francophone communities. These resources can be seen online at www.gov.ns.ca/nse/water/privatewells.asp.

provincial water monitoring network

- **Groundwater** across the province has been monitored since 1965. In recent years, ten new groundwater observation wells have been added to the network, bringing the total number of stations to 35. Reports and data can be found at NSE's website at www.gov.ns.ca/nse/water.
- **Surface water** quality in Nova Scotia is also monitored through various programs such as lake surveys and joint initiatives between federal and provincial governments. There are five active surface water stations across the province that provide real-time data. This data can be found at www.gov.ns.ca/nse/water.

community groundwater monitoring

- The Ecology Action Centre, in partnership with the provincial departments of Environment and Natural Resources, has launched a new initiative *Groundswell: Community-based Support for Sustainable Groundwater*. With funding from RBC Blue Water Program, this project aims to initiate community action on groundwater monitoring, education and sustainability. www.ecologyaction.ca/content/groundswell

improved access to groundwater information

- The Department of Natural Resources and Nova Scotia Environment created an interactive groundwater map. The map includes information about geology, water chemistry, and the locations of drinking-water wells and municipal water supplies. It is available online at <http://gis4.natr.gov.ns.ca/website/nsgroundwater/viewer.htm>.

restoration of tidal flows to estuaries

- Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal has been working to restore tidal flows to estuaries when constructing new roads and performing general maintenance. Cheverie Creek and dykelands in St. Croix are successful examples of this restoration work.

innovative funding for stream restoration

- The Nova Scotia Salmon Association and the Nova Scotia Liquor Corporation (NSLC) have struck a unique partnership to help fund the protection and restoration of local watersheds to improve water quality and aquatic habitat. The NSLC Adopt-A-Stream program will benefit from a 5-year commitment of \$500,000 to fund stream, river and headwater projects across the province. www.adoptastream.ca

climate change research

- In 2009, the Atlantic provinces joined together to work on climate change adaptation research. Through this project, they are investigating sea level rise and salt water intrusion. This will allow us to better understand how coastal communities can adapt infrastructure to withstand these challenges.

water supply evaluations for HRM

- Amendments were made in May 2010 to the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) Charter to allow HRM to require water supply evaluations for proposed larger subdivisions outside the water service area. This will give HRM greater authority to ensure that proposed subdivisions with private wells in HRM will have sustainable water supplies.