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MSIT No'kmaq - People & Nature; Better together

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In This Issue: The Climate Change Adaptation Forum

The Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq.



CCA Forum Day 1 – MacAulay Conf. Centre, Inverary Resort, Baddeck



CCA Forum Day 2 – Wagmatcook Cultural Centre, Wagmatcook, CB.

Climate Change Adaptation Forum Overview

A remarkable Forum on Climate Change Adaptation concluded appropriately, this past Friday, on National Indigenous Day. The Forum was remarkable because it was jointly partnered by the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve Association and the Collaborative Environmental Planning Initiative, better known as CEPI. Participating in this Forum were representatives from 13 of Canada's 18 UNESCO Biosphere as well as Indigenous Circle delegates. Most importantly, the Forum was attended by 15 environmental aware CEPI Youth ranging in age from 18 to 35.



CBRA & Indigenous Circle delegates to the Summer Gathering in Membertou. (Photo by Nelson Boisvert)

When many of us think of climate change adaptation we think of governments developing policies and accords, leading us into battle against the coming problems. Many of us feel helpless in this battle and don't feel we have any way to help lead our communities in the struggles to adapt to climate change.

Employing CEPI's two-eyed seeing approach, each morning, the Forum brought together experts from varying backgrounds who laid out some of the steps necessary to adapt to the climate changes occurring in our country and some of the tools available to help us. Each afternoon delegates discussed what they had learned; sharing the knowledge of what has worked or might work for them in their own communities with the hope of developing a blueprint which will result in the production of guidelines, the hard copy results from the discussions and consultations by the participants at this forum. These Guidelines on Adapting to Climate



The very capable Susan Gesner, the Forum's Facilitator. (Photo by B. Oland)



Key note address given by Senator Dan Christmas (by SKYPE from Ottawa). (Photo by B. Oland)



To see Dr. Robert Muggah's address to the CCA Forum [click here](#).

Change will be developed and distributed to Canadian Biospheres and hopefully other communities throughout the country this Fall.

As a footnote to the CCA Forum, the planning committee was aware that it's efforts were an expression of reconciliation with First Nations' people; however, it was soon apparent to all participants that this forum clearly demonstrated the best approach which is "reconciliation", not just with one another but with our environment which means the right to clean air, clean water, and clean earth.



Day 1 - Reporting from round table discussions. (Photo by Brooke Oland)



Day 2 - The CEPI Youth group at Wagmatcook. (Photo by Tristan Simon)

Reflections on the CCA Forum *by Hanna Kosick*

As a young person, it can be quite hard to feel valued and appreciated when you sit at a table with individuals who are older and more experienced. Often times I have personally felt intimidated in these settings as youth voices are not usually taken seriously.

At the Climate Change Adaptation Forum this was not the case whatsoever. Fellow delegates took the time to get to know myself and the other youth and were generally interested in what we had to say. People went out of their way to make us feel wanted and important which meant so much to us as it is our future and that of our children that is at risk.

When I heard that volunteers from the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere went and asked their friends for donations so that youth could attend the forum I was speechless. To think that Cape Bretoners would give their hard earned



Hanna Kosick, a CEPI Youth delegate reporting for her discussion group. (Photo by B. Oland)



Georgian Bay Biosphere delegates present at the CCA Forum. (Photo by B. Oland)



Opening prayers and wise words given by Albert Marshall. (Photo B. Oland)

money so that youth such as myself could attend this event was incredibly generous and I felt so honoured to have their support. The contributions of these donors are very much appreciated as the opportunity to attend a conference such as this was invaluable.



Day 3 - Forum Wrap Up & Summary of Outcomes at CBU. (Photo by B. Oland)



Todd Strickland, Vice President for RBC Atlantic Region presents Teresa MacNeil of the BLBRA with a cheque for \$5,000 in support of the CCA Forum. Also in the photo are three RBC "event" volunteers as well as Dave Harris (left) and Don Crosby (right) of the CCA Forum Committee.



In celebration of National Indigenous Day, CCA Forum participants were treated to an Indigenous feast and meaningful entertainment. (photos by RBC staff member)

Coming July 13th

Bras d'Or Watch 2019

Come and join us for the fifth
annual Bras d'Or Watch Field Day.
No experience necessary

Come explore the Bras d'Or

Saturday, July 13 (rain date July 14)
10:00am - 2:00pm
Whycocomagh, Grand Narrows, Ross Ferry,
St. Peter's

10:00am-12:01pm
Ben Eoin RV Park

Like us on Bras d'Or Watch Facebook to get updates!
All ages welcome. Family-friendly games and activities



For details click [here](#).

A perfect opportunity to expand
your child's experience and
vocabulary with the natural
world.



On Wednesday, June 26
BLBRA's AGM for 2019



(Photo by K. Tynski)

Big Pond Fire Hall at 7:00 pm
To renew your annual
membership on line, please
go [here](#).

A number of by-laws will be
voted on at this meeting. To
download proposed by-law
changes click [here](#)

Vanishing Words

Brain Pickings by Maria Popova <newsletter@brainpickings.org>

In early 2015, when the 10,000-entry Oxford children's dictionary dropped around fifty words related to nature — words like *fern*, *willow*, and *starling* — in favor of terms like *broadband* and *cut and paste*, some of the world's most prominent authors composed an open letter of protest and alarm at this impoverishment of children's vocabulary and its consequent diminishment of children's belonging to and with the natural world. Among them was one of the great nature writers of our time: Robert MacFarlane.

"Once upon a time, words began to vanish from the language of children. They disappeared so quietly that at first almost no one noticed — fading away like water on stone. The words were those that children used to name the natural world around them: acorn, adder, bluebell, bramble, conker — gone! Fern, heather, kingfisher, otter, raven, willow, wren... all of them gone! The words were becoming lost: no longer vivid in children's voices, no longer alive in their stories."

Language is our primary sieve of perception, our mightiest means of describing what we apprehend and thus comprehending it, words also belong to that which they describe — or, rather, they are the conduit of belonging between us and the world we perceive. As the Native American storyteller Robin Wall Kimmerer observed in her [poetic meditation on moss](#), "finding the words is another step in learning to see." Losing the words, then, is ceasing to see — a peculiar and pervasive form of blindness that dulls the shimmer of the world, a disability particularly dangerous to the young imagination just learning to apprehend the world through language.



Bras d'Or Watch 2017, Grand Narrows. (Photo by E. Crosby)



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The BLBRA welcomes your comments or suggestions. Let us know if you do not wish to receive this newsletter. Address your comments or suggestions [here](#).

Wishing you a Safe and enjoyable summer

Thanks to CCA Forum Sponsors. We couldn't have done it without you!



