

Welcome!

Pjila'si | Failte | Bienvenue



Bras d'Or Lake
Biosphere Region
Association

**YOUR
BRAS
D'OR**
BIOSPHERE REGION

Yours to **explore**
Yours to **enjoy**
Yours to **nurture**

KI'LEWEY
PITU'PA'Q
BIOSPHERE REGION

Ki'lewey **mili-ala'sin**
Ki'lewey **wlapesin**
Ki'lewey **Wli-anko'tmn**



Proud member of the
Canadian Biosphere
Regions Association



unesco
Man and the Biosphere
Programme



Bras d'Or Lake
Biosphere Region
Association



unesco

Man and the Biosphere
Programme

Bras d'Or Lakes Biosphere Region Association 2025 Annual General Meeting

We would like to acknowledge that the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere is in **Unama'ki**, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People. As Treaty People, we are all privileged to share this special place together in friendship.





Bras d'Or Lake
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AGM Agenda – June 19, 2025



- ✓ Welcome
- ✓ Land Acknowledgment
- ✓ Guest Speaker:
Trish Nash, Director, Apoqnamatmu'k Wksitqamu (Working Together for Mother Earth) (UINR)
 1. AGM call to order
 2. Introductions
 3. Approval of the agenda
 4. Approval of September 2024 AGM minutes
 5. Financial Statements
 6. Nomination of new Board members
 7. Annual Committee and Project Reports
 8. Adjournment



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Biocultural Connectivity between Kluskap Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) and the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Region



Over the last 30 years Trish has worked for First Nation and Inuit communities across Canada on projects that advanced sovereignty and self-determination. Since 2019, she has worked for the Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources where she leads projects such as nature-based solutions, Mi'kmaw protected areas, and a nature plan for Unama'ki. Trish lives in Iona with her two children.

***Director, Apoqnamatmu'k Wksitqamu
(Working Together for Mother Earth)
(UINR)***



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AGM Agenda – June 19, 2025

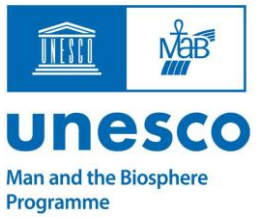


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Introductions





Bras d'Or Lake
Biosphere Region
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Bras d'Or Lakes Biosphere Region Association Annual General Meeting

Alexander Graham Bell Museum, Baddeck

Draft minutes Thursday, September 12, 2024





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Financial Statement

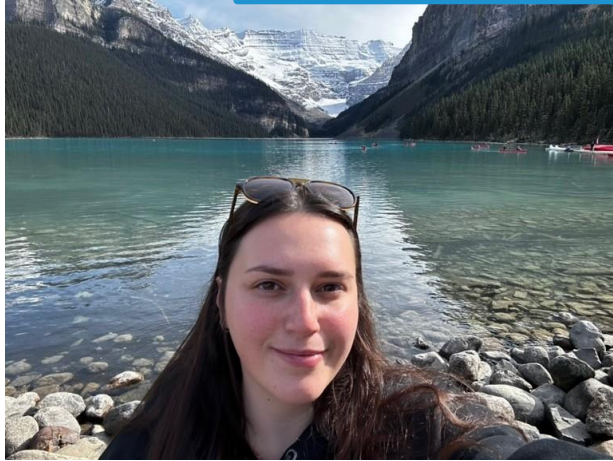
April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024





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Nomination of new board members



Anik Martin

- Emerging environmental advocate with a strong interest in community-led climate action
- Holds a master's degree in biology, specializing in chemical and environmental toxicology from the University of Ottawa. Her master's thesis studied the fatty acid profile of eulachon grease, an invaluable traditional food of the coastal First Nations of British Columbia.
- Climate change manager at the Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources (UINR)



Tyler Cole

- Tyler Cole is an Economic Development Officer – CBRM with the Cape Breton Partnership.
- I grew up in Ajax, ON and studied a Bachelor of Arts at the University of British Columbia and Sport Business Management at Algonquin College.
- Before starting this role with the Partnership in November 2023, I spent more than 6 years in Fort McMurray working in sport & event attraction, tourism development, and corporate marketing.
- Some of my favourite activities include golf, cross-country skiing, exploring Cape Breton's wonderful beaches, and hopelessly cheering for the Toronto Maple Leafs.
- I live in North Sydney with my partner Hilary, our daughter Eloise, and our two Northern Alberta rescue pups, Peggy and Jackson.



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AGM Agenda – June 19, 2025



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8. Adjournment

a. Chair's Report

b. Manager's Report

c. Membership Committee/ Fund Development

d. Communication and Marketing Committee

e. Community Engagement and Learning Committee

f. Trails Committee



Bras d'Or Lake
Biosphere Region
Association

Chair's Report



- Strategic Plan implementation
- 2-year Extension of Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) Eskasoni Hydrology Project
- Donation from Bras d'Or Preservation Trust
- Inclusion of the Mi'kmaw Language into website and social media products
- Participation in the Atlantic Canada Tourism Corridor (to link the Atlantic Biospheres and UNESCO Heritage Sites through a tourism strategy).

Much appreciation to all the Board of Directors, Committee Chairs and members and staff for their amazing work in the Biosphere.

ECCC Report

Qualifying UNESCO buffer zones as OECMs within the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Region of Nova Scotia

The project has 4 main parts:

1. Governance/Management
2. Research (hydrological monitoring)
3. Documentation and prioritization
4. Knowledge Transfer

ECCC Report

1. Governance/Management

Regularly scheduled meetings with a wide range of stake and rights holders

Inclusion of the Mi'kmaw language

Digital marketing and communications plans continues to be asset and utilized regularly

2. Research (hydrological monitoring)

Reid Dauphinee was awarded his masters degree with results showing that the wetlands and the area surrounding the wells are of highest conservation priority for groundwater recharge and streamflow generation

The team has submitted a paper for publication (Hydrological Processes)

3. Documentation and prioritization

A series of maps were developed to illustrate land ownership (public and private) in the Biosphere and help in identifying priority areas.

Key indicators identified by First Nations include cultural significance, threats due to climate change, habitat degradation and invasive species.

4. Knowledge Transfer

CBRA have created a wide variety of material, new membership fees implemented

CBRA National Gathering (September 16 – 19, 2024) was Biodiversity Blueprint: Achieving Biodiversity Targets through Biosphere Regions



ECCC Report

Ongoing Work:

- Biosphere Mapping - GIS courses and support from partners
- ORB - Organizations Representing the Bras d'Or
- Support IPCA and Dalhousie research
- Work with committees - intern to also support
- Atlantic Gathering to return to Bras d'Or in spring 2026
- Funding applications - Federal and provincial applications submitted, looking into municipal funding this fiscal

Membership Committee 2024-25

- ✓ 144 Members at end of 2024-25 FY (40 annual; 104 Lifetime)
- ✓ Membership administration: maintaining records & streamlining processes
- ✓ Membership recruitment through Biosphere events, peer to peer recruitment, and social media

Priorities for 2025-26:

- ☐ Event-based recruitment using in-person tap to pay and online payments
- ☐ Member engagement & recruitment with leadership from Fund Development Committee

Fund Development committee

- This committee had its first meeting in March 2025
 - Chair: Colette Mesher
 - Members:
 - Eileen Crosby
 - Don Crosby
 - Adele Hunt
 - We are investigating all avenues with the goal of long term sustainable funding for the association with additional project funding
- If you would like to contribute, please email manager@blbra.ca



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Communication and Marketing Committee



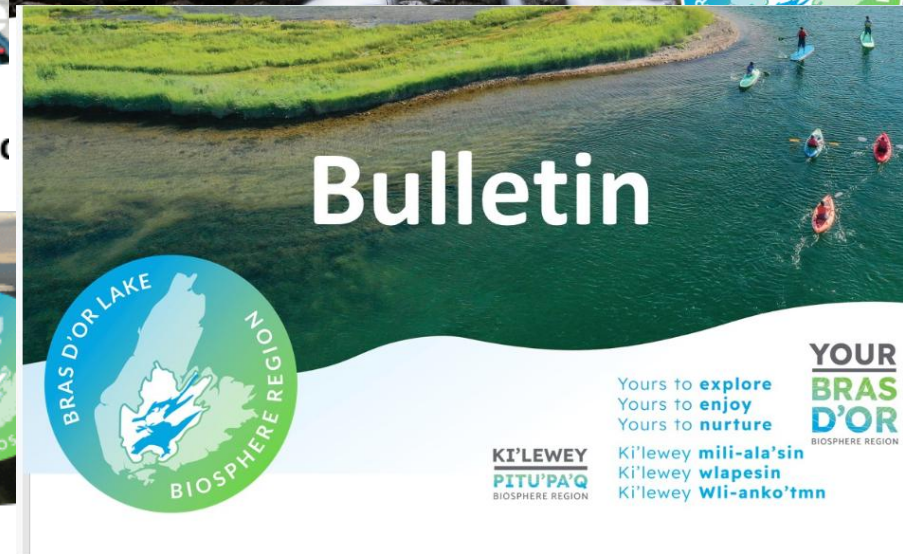
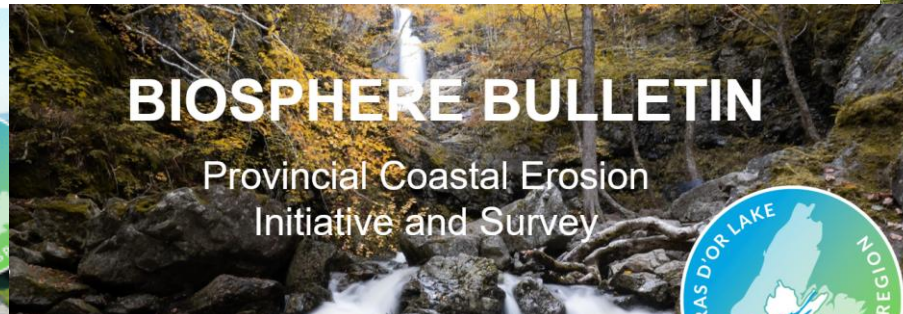
✓ Newsletters and bulletins



**Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Region
Association**

Annual General Meeting

Thursday, June 13, 2024



**Atlantic Canada UNESCO Tourism
Corridor Engagement Survey**





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Communication and Marketing Committee



Communication

- ✓ Newsletters and bulletins
- ✓ Social Media
- ✓ Branding integration
- ✓ Communication software
- ✓ Liaison with CBRA

-Communication Community of Practice

- ✓ Website



Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere
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2.2K likes • 2.4K followers

Contact us

Liked

Message



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Communication and Marketing Committee



Marketing

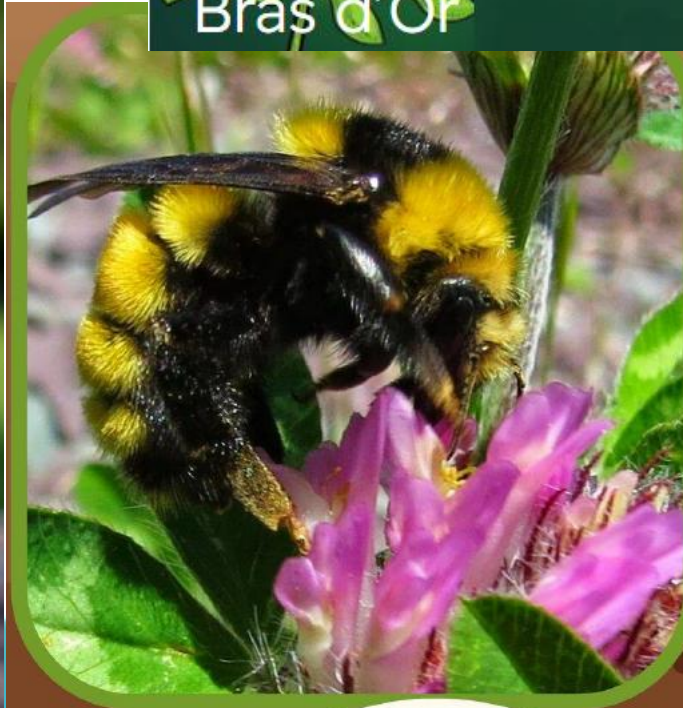
- ✓ Biosphere Expo (Baddeck)
- ✓ Final Video from Vibe
- ✓ Unama'ki - Cape Breton Island Tourism Summit (BLBRA Booth)
- ✓ Communication software
- ✓ Liaison with CBRA
 - Communication Community of Practice
- ✓ Website



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Communication and Marketing Committee

✓ Website





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Communication and Marketing Committee

✓ Liaison with Canadian Biosphere Reserves Ass.





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Communication and Marketing Committee

✓ Branding integration

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Communication and Marketing Committee

✓ Communication software



Drive

Canva



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Community Engagement and Learning Committee

✓ Teaching Kits

- Adapting to Watery Habitats
- Introduction to the Acadian Forest
- Animals and their Habitats: A Question of Balance





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Community Engagement and Learning Committee



Bras d'Or Watch

June 8 in Iona

July 3 in Eskasoni

August 3 in St Peter's

August 11 in Baddeck

TBD in Ross Ferry



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Community Engagement and Learning Committee



Future Priorities:

- QR codes on signage (Nicholson trail)
- Citizen science: Year-round water monitoring
- Adventure Lab
- Teaching kits: facilitate and distribute
- Hire a person to promote awareness and engagement



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Trails Committee



- Trails Committee goals
- Biosphere wall map
- Relationship building: Hike NS, Trans Canada Trail





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Trails Committee

Walk the Watershed - hiking series



May 25 East Bay Hills Trail: An early birding walk

June 15 Whycocomagh PP: The Forest Floor

JULY 27 Goat Island Trail: A Walk Through Time

August 17 Iona Beach - MacCormack PP: Habitat Hopscotch

September 28 Uisge Ban Falls PP : The Fungus Among Us



Thank you!

Wela'lioq

Merci

Go raibh maith agat



See you around the Biosphere!



unESCO