

Impact Report

Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Region Association

2025-2026

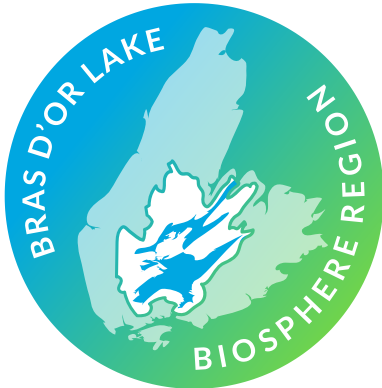


Bras d'Or Lake
Biosphere Region
Association

Pitu'pa'q/ Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere



The Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Region is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People. We are privileged to share this special space.



KI'LEWEY
PITU'PA'Q
BIOSPHERE REGION

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

Mission:

The association's mission is to improve balance in the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere by encouraging community capacity building, conservation efforts, and sustainable development.



Vision:

We envision all things thriving in the special place that is the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere.

YOUR
BRAS
D'OR
BIOSPHERE REGION

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

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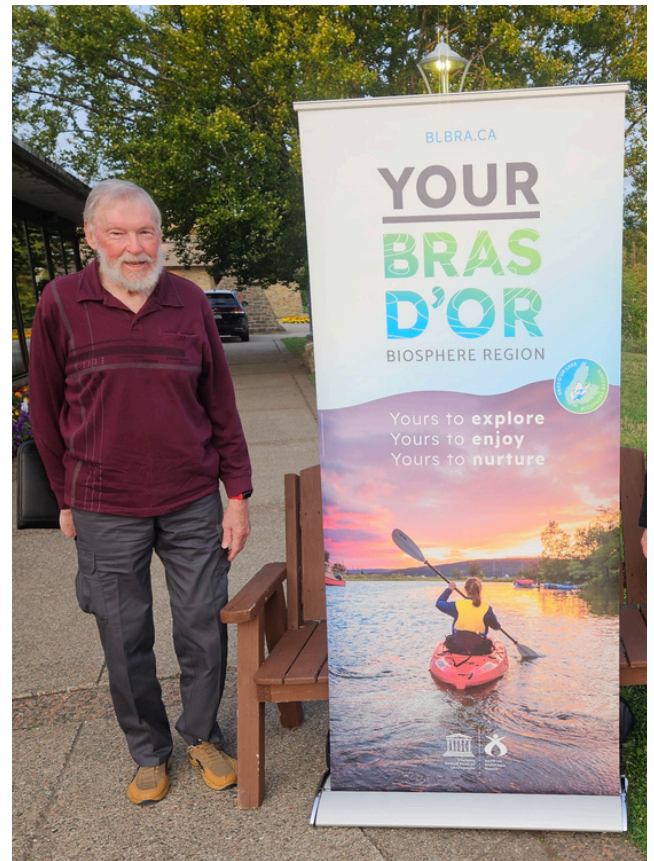
Strategic Pillars

We continued to monitor the alignment of our 2025-2026 initiatives with the 2022-2025 Strategic developed with the help of Acadia University's Entrepreneurship Centre. Our key strategic goals can be grouped into four distinct, yet interrelated, priority areas referred to as Pillars, and aligned with UNESCO's 3 Pillars of Conservation, Economic development and Logistical support and their Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's). Our alignment with the Pillars is noted below. Our alignment with the SDG's can be found on page 27.

We started a review of the Strategic plan in the IQTR26 and will be making only a few edits to remove completed goals or expand on a few goals and revise timelines. These efforts include marketing and communications. In conjunction with this review we will continue to implement the new branding on our internal and external communications.

BLBRA Strategic Pillars

	Inclusive Partnerships & Collaboration
	Environmental Stewardship
	Sustainable Economic Development
	Community Engagement



Strategic Plan Summary



Bras d'Or Lake
Biosphere Region
Association

BLBRA 2022 - 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

VISION

We envision all things thriving in the special place that is the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere.

MISSION

Our mission is to improve balance in the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere by encouraging community capacity building, conservation efforts, and sustainable development.

CORE VALUES

Environmental Stewardship

Respect

Inclusivity

Responsibility

Two-eyed Seeing

Collaboration

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

INCLUSIVE PARTNERSHIP & COLLABORATION

GOAL A.1

Engaging rights holders and stakeholders to understand how the BLBRA can engage with each organization.

GOAL A.2

Develop a strong partnership with CBU and NSCC by the end of 2022.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

GOAL B.1

Work with local governments, rights holders & stakeholders to educate, raise awareness, and share best practices while supporting decision makers.

SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GOAL C.1

Explore how BLBRA can use its knowledge/ UNESCO status to support & grow local businesses while stewarding the biosphere.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

GOAL D.1

To get our educational resources into public domain and used in schools.

GOAL D.2

To increase our offer of/ community members' engagement in citizen science activities.

GOAL D.3

To evaluate BLBRA's current membership model, explore other models and adjust as needed.

OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

Funding & Capacity

1. Secure sustainable funding to hire qualified, long-term staff at living wage.

2. Secure office space/ BLBRA hub facility for volunteers and future staff.

Communications & Marketing

Develop a detailed marketing strategy to complement the current communications plan.



Message from the Executive Committee



Dear BLBRA Members,

It's been another busy and exciting year in the Biosphere. The BLBRA has continued to increase its citizen science initiatives while maintaining the popular Bras d'Or Watch and Hike the Biosphere series. Board members and staff have participated in Regional meetings with the Atlantic Biospheres (Southwest Nova and Fundy) and national meetings (National Gathering and Atlantic UNESCO Tourism Corridor). Efforts to increase awareness and provide educational materials continued as well.

The Board has reviewed progress towards fulfilling the goals of the 2022-2025 strategic plan. The mission, vision and values of the plan still apply, and the Board identified goals for the next five years. These include continuing to increase collaboration with partners, creating a specific goal for youth engagement and updating the communication and marketing goal to support the Atlantic UNESCO Tourism Corridor. Over these past five years, the BLBRA has strengthened relationships with First Nations, municipalities, NGO's, the Nova Scotia Community College and Cape Breton University. The ORB meetings have helped to renew the BLBRA's relationship with CBU's Bras d'Or Institute and engage with more partners.

As you read this report, please recognize the immense effort and commitment put in by the Board, committee chairs, volunteers and staff to further the work of the BLBRA. Allison McIsaac, in her 6th year on the board, will be stepping down as Chair and replaced by Megan MacInnis Bunyan with Kathleen Aikens holding the Vice-chair position, Adele Hunt will remain the Treasurer and Anik Martin has taken on the role of secretary. When the new board meets in September, a new election may take place if required, until then the BLBRA is in wonderful hands who will ensure that the goals are met in a collaborative, professional and inclusive manner.

Enjoy the 2025-2026 Impact Report and we hope to see you around the Biosphere!

Sincerely your BLBRA Executive,
Allison McIsaac, Chair
Terri Shobbrook, Vice-Chair
Adele Hunt, Treasurer
Megan MacInnis, Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025 - 2026



Allison McIsaac [Chair]

Member at Large / Dominion

Terri Shobbrooke [Vice-Chair]

Member at Large / Kempt Head

Adele Hunt [Treasurer]

Member at Large / Port Hawkesbury

Megan MacInnis [Secretary]

Member at Large / Coxheath

Anik Martin

Member at Large / Sydney

Jay Denny

Member at Large/ Eskasoni

Liz Campbell

Member at Large / St. Peter's

Tony Sylliboy

Member at Large / Eskasoni

Kathleen Aikens

Member at Large / Sydney

Rod Thompson

Member at Large / Glace Bay

Breah Sampson MacDonald

Member at Large / West Bay

Stan Johnson

Member at Large / Eskasoni

Parker Donham

Member at Large / Kempt Head

Veronika Brzeski

Member at Large / Baddeck

Tyler Cole

Ex-Officio [CBP] / CBRM

Kate Cave

Ex-Officio [Rich. Co.]/ French Cove

Steve Parsons

Ex-Officio [CBRM] / Sydney

Kirsty Lock

Ex-Officio [NSCC]/ West Bay

Donna Lefort-Matheson

Ex-Officio [Victoria] / Victoria

Bonnie MacIsaac

Ex-Officio [Inverness] / Inverness

Board members Terri Shobbrooke, Veronika Brzeski, Liz Campbell, Breah MacDonald and Parker Donham stepped down during the year. Ex-officio CBP board member Tyler Mattheis was replaced by Tyler Cole and Ex-officio Richmond County board member was replaced by Kate Cave. We thank them all for their efforts on behalf of the BLBRA.

Biosphere Staff

We had the great pleasure to work with Zoe Nicholas as administrative assistant until the end of May 2025 and Adryan Jones as the 2025 summer intern. We also welcomed Pierre onboard as Administrative Assistant from June 2025 to end of March, 2026. The Project Management and Administrative Assistant position were funded by the ECCC project and the Intern position was largely funded by a CLEAN Foundation grant. We wish Zoe, Adryan and Pierre all the best for the future. The Project Manager position is currently funded until end of the fiscal year 2026-2027.



Colette Mesher
Project Manager



Pierre LaRoche
Administrative Assistant



Zoe Nicholas
Past Administrative Assistant



Adryan Jones
Natural Asset & Engagement Intern

Acknowledgements

Through a variety of partnerships and funding we have been able to expand our activities, hire staff, undertake impactful activities and support knowledge transfer during this period.



Environment and
Climate Change Canada
Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada



East Coast
CREDIT UNION



RBC
Royal Bank



nscc

Strait Area Campus



THE MUNICIPALITY
OF THE COUNTY OF
RICHMOND
LA MUNICIPALITÉ
DU COMTÉ DE



**Cape
Breton
University**



**CAPE BRETON
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY**



Contacts

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Administrative Assistant -
Submit a question or comment online

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<https://blbra.ca/contact>

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

exec@blbra.ca

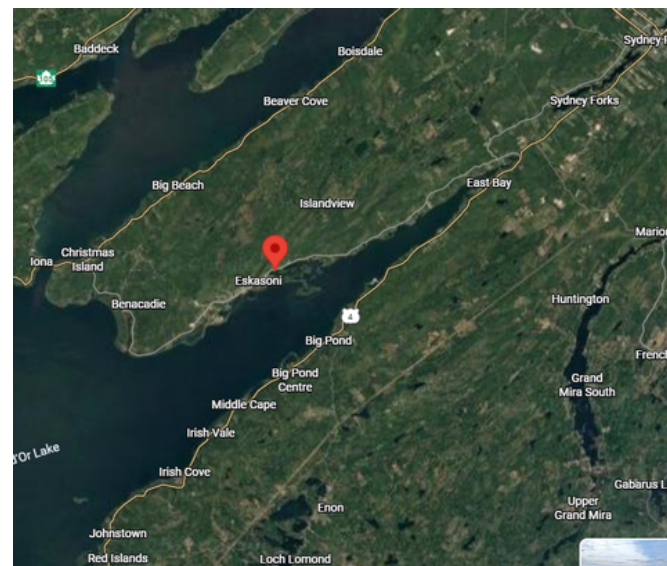
COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Citizen Engagement and Learning Chair -
Communications Committee Chair -
Fund Development Chair -
Trail Committee Chair-

sciencechair@blbra.ca
communications@blbra.ca
info@blbra.ca
trailschair@blbra.ca

PHYSICAL AND MAILING ADDRESS

Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Region Association (BLBRA)
4115 Shore Road
Eskasoni, NS B1W 1M4



BLBRA in Snapshots



The History and Mi'kmaq Use of 15 Tree Species found on the Nicholson Trail

Big baddeck Rd., Baddeck, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia



The trail was built and maintained by the Biosphere Northeast Trails Association.

Beech



Lifespan
100 - 200 years



BLBRA in Snapshots

cont'd



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Committee Highlights

Community Engagement & Learning Committee (CEAL)

The CEAL Committee is made up of members who are working hard to increase awareness and understanding of the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere through a variety of activities and offerings for students and the general public. The learning opportunities include interactive facilitations of teaching kits in the local schools, citizen science opportunities to monitor a variety of parameters around the lake using testing kits, hands-on explorations for all ages at the Bras d'Or Watch events, and distribution of information through social media and website, just to name a few. Outside funding is important to many of the activities.



Funding Successes Allow for Hiring of Facilitators

- Awarded grants of
\$25,000 from Clean Foundation
\$5,000 from St Peter's East Coast Credit Union
- Funded two Facilitator contract positions to implement the work of CEAL committee and CoastReach Project.



2025-2026 Highlights

- Participated in interactive facilitations of the teaching kits at schools in Wagmatcook, Potlotek, Baddeck, and Iona reaching over 200 students in gr 1-8
- Hosted Bras d'Or Watch events in Iona, Baddeck, Eskasoni, Ross Ferry and St Peter's reaching more than 150 people of all ages
- Distributed seven new water monitoring kits, trained community volunteers to complete a variety of tests with the kits, and supported data upload process to Water Rangers database to have a total of 12 citizen science monitoring sites in the Biosphere watershed



Committee Highlights

Community Engagement & Learning Committee cont'd



Highlights cont'd

- Added QR code stickers with more detailed information to 16 tree identification signs on the Nicholson Trail
- In progress of installing CoastReach camera stands for citizen scientists to contribute to the monitoring of coastal changes in Iona, Marble Mountain and Eskasoni



2026-2027 Priorities

Secure a new committee chair as Kirsty Lock completes six years in the role and on the Board



Build on the existing activities (e.g. additional Oak Tree signage for the Nicholson Trail)

Increase engagement through interactive opportunities (e.g. Adventure Labs for the three Coastal Reach projects)

Committee Members

Kirsty Lock (Chair)

Megan Bunyan (MacInnis), Maureen Cameron-MacMillan, Kate Cave, Jay Denny, Adryan Jones, Lauren Laporte, Pierre LaRochelle, Melanie MacNeil, Anik Martin, Donna Matheson-Lefort, Allison McIsaac, Colette Mesher, Breah Sampson-MacDonald

Kirsty Lock



Committee Highlights

cont'd

Communication Committee

Communications continued to publish, create and/or source new media content from board members, committees, partners and individuals for online distribution via Facebook, Instagram and the BLBRA website. We issued 4 Biosphere Highlights newsletters and 7 bulletins for direct emailing to 650 plus subscribers. The open rate averaged 50% and exceeded the industry startandard for non-profits of 30% - 40%.

We completed acquisition of a new branded canopy tent and feather flags and used them to promote the biosphere at the Nova Scotia Indigenous Tourism Enterprise Network (NSITE'N) Tourism Tradeshow in Membertou.

Pierre was a member of Canadian Biosphere Region Association (CBRA)'s Communication Community of Practice receiving and sharing national concerns and initiatives.



Proud member of the
Canadian Biosphere
Regions Association

Engaged with University of Saskatchewan's "Entrepreneurship to Advance Sustainable Development" study of initiatives among the 19 biospheres.

Applications were submitted to be recognized members of UNESCO's World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves and the World Network of Mountain Biosphere Reserves, both having similar concerns to ours and related resources.



Committee Members

Pierre LaRoche (Chair)
Megan MacInnis

Pierre LaRoche



Membership Records

The BLBRA had a total of 138 members at end of 2025-26 fiscal year.

34 were annual members who must reapply every fiscal year, April to March. 104 are Lifetime members. The number of annual members has declined slightly. Event-based and peer-to-peer recruitment continues to perform better than online recruitment. Individuals are also added to the Biosphere Highlights newsletter subscriber list and bulletin list if they so choose.

PLEASE HELP US CONNECT PEOPLE & NATURE

You can help enrich the Bras d'Or Lake and it's watershed through sustainable development, conservation and climate change adaptation. With the spirit of community and the power of a global presence we can keep the Lake golden.

We are all in this together!

Will you Join in, Support or Volunteer?

Become a member...

and support sustainable tourism
in a UNESCO Biosphere

Membership Admin

Kathleen Aikens

2026-2027 Priorities

Designate membership ambassador(s) + succession-planning for administration.

Work with the Finance committee to create guidelines for streamlined payment for in-person recruitment to avoid future missed opportunities.

Kathleen Aikens



Trails Committee



The Trail Committee continued to build the hiking series initiative by successful collaborations with Cape Breton Naturalists. Some lessons were learned as we continue to learn and expand this series!



Committee Members

Ron Newcombe (Chair)
Maureen Cameron-MacMillan
(Secretary)
Candace Christiano
Teresa MacNeil
Bethsheila Kent
Don Crosby

2026-2027 Priorities

The Committee is earnestly interested in collaborating with and supporting community led trail groups in the Biosphere. If you know of any groups like this, please help us to connect with them.

Hike NS badge development - By completing the requirements hikers can apply for their very own Bras d'Or Lakes Biosphere badge.



Ron Newcombe



Fund Development Committee

- The Fund Development committee has been strategizing on how to engage and capitalize on membership as well as use social media more consistently.
- The project manager also applied for 12 funding grants, some successful, some declined and some still in process.
- The completion of the ECCC project has meant some big changes are coming in the next fiscal year.
- Keeping biospheres as an important player in the biodiversity, sustainable development and tourism fields is critical to ensure continued funding being made available through the federal government across the national biosphere network.



Committee Members:

Colette Mesher (Chair)

Eileen Crosby

Adele Hunt

Support the Biosphere
Make a donation

DONATE

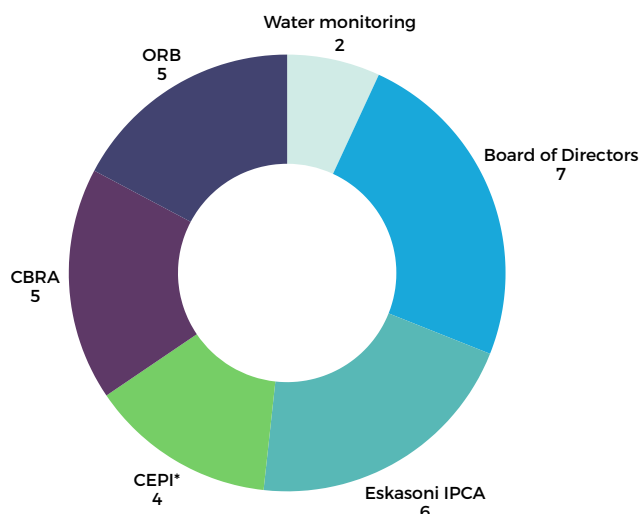
Colette Mesher



Theme 1:

Governance and Management

- Strong coordination and oversight were maintained through bi-annual stakeholder meetings, including Indigenous organizations, NGOs, academia, and government partners.
- Regular Board of Directors reporting ensured transparency and increased awareness of project progress among leadership and partners.
- Active participation in the Eskasoni Watershed Protection Committee (EFWC IPCA) supported collaboration and contributed to progress toward designating ~332 hectares as an IPCA.
- Inclusive communication practices were used, including integration of Mi'kmaw language and ongoing use of digital communication strategies.
- We presented at the Eskasoni IPCA community meeting, keeping community members informed.



Number of meetings attended



Theme 2:

Research (hydrological monitoring)

- Numerical groundwater modeling from Reid Dauphine's thesis revealed that ~60% of pumping water comes from streamflow infiltration, while the local recharge into the fractured rock around the wells accounted for the remaining 40%. His work modeled three different fault shapes and provided improved understanding of groundwater-surface water interactions.
- Preliminary results from Julia Gillette's thesis has shown the snow pack appears to be sufficient to recharge the aquifer after the drought we experienced in summer 2025. Further refining of the computer models will continue.
- The wetland model includes snow depth projections and groundwater recharge but needs further calibration, with forest and well models still to be developed but expected to be completed as planned by the end completion of Julia's thesis.
- Academic contributions included theses, conference presentations, and ongoing model refinement, strengthening scientific outputs.



Theme 3:

Documentation and prioritization

- Developed mapping tools (GIS) to identify priority conservation areas based on land ownership and ecological value.
- Integrated Mi'kmaq and non-Indigenous knowledge, identifying key indicators such as cultural significance, climate threats, and habitat degradation.
- Emphasized a Two-Eyed Seeing approach, involving Mi'kmaw youth and community participation in monitoring and data collection.
- Expanded outreach through communications, events, and citizen science, increasing public awareness and engagement in biodiversity conservation.
- To assist with outreach, the BLBRA hired a youth intern to for the summer. Adryan Jones was able to gain knowledge regarding biodiversity within the Biosphere and Canada's efforts to conserve and protect biodiversity for years to come.
- We also hired a facilitator who was able to expand two citizen science initiatives as well as present at schools in multiple communities.



Theme 4: Knowledge Transfer

National Gathering: The agenda for the biospheres was varied with presentations about sustainability, biodiversity, OECMs and IPCAs, reconciliation and the Atlantic tourism initiative. These meetings allow for us to meet colleagues and compare and contrast how we have achieved our goals and how we see things evolving in the future. It also gives us the chance to connect with our colleagues at CCUNESCO.



Atlantic Biospheres continued to meet throughout the year to discuss conservation, climate and forests, sustainable communities, tourism, reconciliation, engagement as well as outreach and communication strategies.

We also had a chance to discuss plans for funds awarded to the Atlantic biospheres for a joint project that we hope will link the 3 groups and afford opportunities to highlight significant locations to Mi'kmaq culture. We also worked collaboratively with the Atlantic biospheres on joint funding applications as well as letters to government agencies.



Colette Mesher



Atlantic Canada UNESCO Tourism Corridor

The multi-year Destination Canada initiative includes all seven World Heritage Sites, three Global Geoparks and two Biospheres. Budget still to be fleshed out.

The BLBRA was well represented at the first regional meeting held in Moncton, NB in October 2025.



BLBRA Communications sits on project and marketing committee. First Nation perspectives are entrenched in the project.

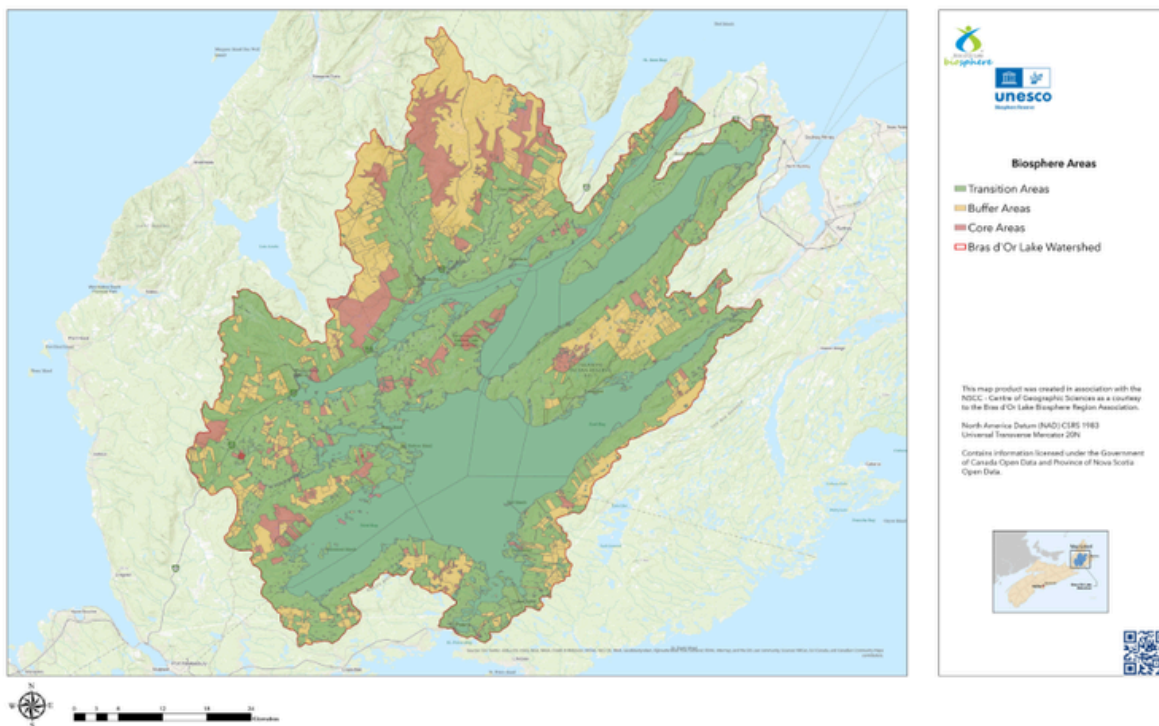
A marketing contract to develop messaging about the site similarities and differences for stakeholders to use is expected end of June and will be incorporated in our messaging as the project progresses.



NSCC - COGS Capstone Project

The Capstone 120 hr project with the Centre of Geographic Sciences was initiated in March with a GIS student, Logan Anderson, assigned to us to source and/or create a series of key biosphere feature layers ex. core, buffer, transition, watersheds and municipal and First Nation boundaries. Many of the features are Canadian and Nova Scotia Open Sourced Data however Logan needed to do some GIS magic to properly represent our zones, especially the transition zone.

BRAS D'OR LAKE BIOSPHERE REGION



Logan developed a mapping template and documentation that brings future mapping data management in-house to support annual updates, CCUNESCO and UNESCO mapping needs.

During the project we added a GIS prototyping model to support shoreline movement as well as importation of point data for other Biosphere initiatives including annual updates and the 2031 Periodic Review.

Sustainable Development Goals & our Strategic Goal Alignment



The Stockholm Resilience Centre is recognized for separating the 17 SDG's into a 3-Tier Wedding cake illustrating how economies and societies should be seen as built on the biosphere, the base, and not seen as separate processes. It recognizes the over-arching need to form partnerships.

“Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) provide a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.” - **UNESCO**

SDG's related to the Economy



SDG's related to Society



SDG's related to the Biosphere



Our Strategic Goals



Inclusive Partnerships & Collaborations

GOAL A.1

Engaging rights holders and stakeholders to understand how the BLBRA can engage with each organization.

17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



This is an ongoing process and will continue throughout the years. We will continue to engage with the Bras d'Or Lakes CEPI, Pitu'pa'q Partnership, the Cape Breton Regional Municipality, Victoria county, Inverness County, and Richmond County and all rights holders or stakeholders. With the revival of the ORB (Organizations Representing the Bras d'Or) meetings, new collaborations, discussions and learning has occurred. Additionally, partnerships and collaborations have taken place with Eskasoni Fish & Wildlife Commission, ACAP Cape Breton, and many more local organizations. The Trails, Communication and Community Engagement and Learning Committees play an important role in ensuring that this goal is addressed.

Our Strategic Goals

cont'd



Inclusive Partnerships & Collaborations

GOAL A.2

Develop a strong partnership with CBU and NSCC by the end of 2022.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



The BLBRA has worked with Dalhousie University, CBU and NSCC to develop education and learning opportunities as well as marketing studies. NSCC holds an ex-officio position on the BLBRA Board of Directors. CBU Capstone studies and their World Tourism Institute are well aligned with our objectives. The Bras d'Or Institute has hosted several ORB meetings as well as supporting grant applications by Dr. Alana Pindar. We look forward to current and future meaningful partnerships and collaborations with CBU, NSCC - Strait Campus and NSCC - COGS. All these institutions have provided students to research and document studies for the BLBRA under their Capstone Grant initiative.



Discussions about data storage for monitoring and related data are ongoing among these institutions.



Our Strategic Goals

cont'd

GOAL B.1

Work with local governments, rights holders & stakeholders to educate, raise awareness, and share best practices while supporting decision makers in strengthening protective regulations and creating regenerative practices.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Environmental Stewardship

As a learning place for sustainable development the BLBRA was actively involved in sharing local information directly with stakeholders and via its website, newsletter and new media.

We searched out best practices as a member of the The World Network of Mountain Biosphere Reserves (WNMBR) and applied to join the World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves (WNICBR) and look at addressing coastal erosion issues among other concerns.

We participated in regular meetings with the Atlantic Region Biospheres and the Canadian Biosphere Regions Association (CBRA) to discuss leveraging the network and activities of the 19 member sites, fostering interconnected communities dedicated to sustainability and biodiversity conservation.



Our Strategic Goals

cont'd



Sustainable Economic Development

GOAL C.1

Explore how BLBRA can use its knowledge/ UNESCO status to support & grow local businesses while stewarding the biosphere.



UNESCO and CCUNESCO provide international and national leadership on balancing environment, local economies and job creation, rural development and cultural preservation. The BLBRA promotes use of best practices and shares related resources developed internally and by UNESCO in support local businesses and communities. One example was distributing 'A guide to Supporting Sustainability Practices in Tourist Accommodation Facilities' (CCUNESCO)



Our Strategic Goals

cont'd

GOAL D.1

To get our educational resources into public domain and used in schools.

4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



Community Engagement

The Community Engagement and Learning (CEAL) committee has been successful in engaging schools throughout the biosphere and also has educational resources available on the website. They were able to hire a facilitator again on contract to move their efforts forward developing kits and overseeing the Bras d'Or Watch events. See the CEAL report on page 14.

Both the Community Engagement and Learning (CEAL) committee and the Trail Committee have been active and running events such as the Bras d'Or Watch and Trail Walks creating opportunities for fun and learning across the biosphere.

GOAL D.3

To evaluate BLBRA's current membership model, explore other models and adjust as needed.

17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



The membership model continues to be evaluated and with the creation of a Fund Development committee, new plans and further changes are expected in the near future.

GOAL D.2

To increase our offer of community members' engagement in citizen science activities.

13 CLIMATE
ACTION



Our Strategic Goals

cont'd

Operational Priorities

Funding & Capacity

1. Secure sustainable funding to hire qualified, long-term staff at living wage.



Environment and
Climate Change Canada
Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada

The Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) project funding was extended for 2 years until March 2026. Funding was found to support the Project Manager until end of fiscal year 2026-2027. The Administrative Assistant position was completed April 3, 2026. Other funding opportunities have been investigated and the search will continue.

Office and equipment space continues to be provided in-kind by Eskasoni Fish & Wildlife Commission

2. Secure office space/ BLBRA hub facility for volunteers and future staff.



Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Region
Association (BLBRA)
4115 Shore Road
Eskasoni, NS B1W 1M4



Other SDG Efforts

As can be seen, through the BLBRA committees., partners and ECCC project work, we have been contributing to a variety of sustainable development goals, addressing not only the sustainability of our biosphere, but goals that contribute to the betterment of society and the economy. More examples are described below.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



We and our partners at EXP, Dalhousie, ECCC, EFWC, CEPI and others have individually and combined looked at our mountain Water Towers through ongoing hydrology studies to evaluate and ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. We and CEPI continue to support efforts to divert wastewater from the Bras d'Or. There is also zero tolerance for the dumping of sewage from pleasure boats into the Bras d'Or.

In addition to sharing quarterly synopsis of weather insights from Jonathan Buffett of the Cape Breton Mesonet, we have engaged Dalhousie through the ECCC grant to do a report on Climate Change Impacts on Ground Water Recharge in a Low-Mountain Area. This specifically looks at the impacts of climate change on the Christmas Brook watershed's groundwater resources. The work specifically aims to quantify how groundwater resources will change in a warmer future with less snow and more rain.

13 CLIMATE ACTION



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



Our fulltime and term staffing, annual summer student hiring and volunteer engagement practices, along with our educational resources developed by the Community Engagement & Learning Committee (CEAL) committee, continue to provide us with many opportunities to provide a wide range of impactful learning for both young and old across many demographics.

Our staffing, summer student hiring practices and volunteer engagement are non-discriminatory and are fully committed to achieving gender equity, 'leaving no one behind', whether in education, science, technology, safety, peace or inclusiveness. We thus empower all women and girls and those of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

5 GENDER EQUALITY



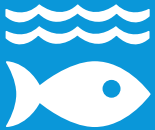
KI'LEWEY
PITU'PA'Q
BIOSPHERE REGION

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

Other SDG Efforts

cont'd

14 LIFE BELOW
WATER



Activities offered during Bras d'Or Watch, supporting youth participation, creating and deploying educational resources and fostering a joy of the outdoors, to jointly working with CEPI to roll out 'Explore the Bras d'Or', all supported research and economic development, fostered collaboration and encouraged life long learning of aquatic and terrestrial life all through the lens of climate change adaptation and resilience. Our goal is to conserve and support the sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources.



EXPLORE THE
BRAS D'OR | WJINENE'N
PITU'PAQ

<https://explorethebrasdor.com/>

We work to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainable land management practices, promoting reforestation, and addressing the underlying causes of desertification, ultimately aiming to improve the livelihoods of those living in affected regions and protect the environment, and and halt biodiversity loss.

15 LIFE
ON LAND



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.