

INVITATION:
SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION IN NOVA SCOTIA FOR EVERYONE MEETING

Monday, November 3, 2008
8:30 a.m.-4:15 p.m.

Nova Scotia Teachers' Union, 3106 Joseph Howe Drive, Halifax

Key Note Speaker: L. Ron Farrell, Dean, School of Trades & Technology Nova Scotia Community College
Special Screening of the film "First Annual Sustainability Education Symposium in Nova Scotia"

Agenda

8:30-9:00 a.m. Registration and coffee
9:00-9:10 a.m. Welcome by NSTU president Alexis Allen
9:10-9:30 a.m. Icebreaker / introductions
9:30-10:00 a.m. SENSE Overview
10:00-10:15 a.m. Break
10:15-11:00 a.m. Nova Scotia Department of Education presentation on Sustainability Education
11:00-12:00 p.m. Key note by L. Ron Farrell, Dean, School of Trades & Technology NSCC

*Title of Presentation: **Poems, Reason & Promise: The Greening of NSCC's Academic Programs***

This presentation will provide an insight into the visioning and strategic planning process for the Centre for the Built Environment and the development of new programs such as Heritage Carpentry, Natural Resources & the Environment, Energy Sustainability Technology, and Environmental Technology. It will also explain how the CBE will lead the way towards facilitating applied research, shaping our curriculum, and leveraging our teaching and learning practices, in order to achieve our goal to live up the 2004 UNESCO Bonn Declaration, to help achieve sustainable development for Nova Scotia. UNESCO Bonn Declaration 2004 - Learning for Work, Citizenship and Sustainability "since education is considered the key to effective development strategies, technical and vocational education and training (TVET) must be the master key that can alleviate poverty, promote peace, conserve the environment, improve the quality of life for all and help achieve sustainable development."

Brief Bio: L. Ron Farrell is a graduate of the College of the North Atlantic in Engineering Technology and holds a Bachelor (Vocational Education) and Masters Degree (Information Technology – Education) from Memorial University. He is currently Chair of the National Council Deans of Technology. As Dean of the School of Trades and Technology for the Nova Scotia Community College, Ron is actively involved leading the development of programs in industrial trades and engineering technologies, in response to the labour market needs of the province of Nova Scotia. Under Ron's leadership the School has created a vision for environmental and sustainable education at NSCC, which has led to the development of innovative programs such as Heritage Carpentry, and Energy Sustainability Engineering Technology, and the development of the Centre for the Built Environment (CBE) at the Waterfront Campus. As envisioned the CBE will not be just a place – it will support the delivery of sustainability education throughout the 13 campuses of NSCC, by providing a supporting infrastructure that enables authentic interactions between distributed learners, and the Centre for the Built Environment (including building management, energy management, and micro-environments). It will provide opportunities for the province-wide campus network of learners to monitor and interact with the environment around distributed campuses, and to observe and analyze the impact of the environmental and systems changes.

12:00-1:00 p.m. Catered lunch
1:00-1:30 p.m. Special Screening of the film "First Annual Sustainability Education Symposium in Nova Scotia"
1:30-3:15 p.m. Facilitated small group- **Taking Action!** 3 sectors of education (formal, non-formal, informal)
3:15-3:30 p.m. Nutrition Break
3:30-4:00 p.m. Report back and Debrief
4:00-4:15 p.m. Draw Prize

This meeting is free and open to the public. Please RSVP to attend to ensure a seat and lunch.

To RSVP and for more information about SENSE, please contact:

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SENSE: Sustainability Education in Nova Scotia for Everyone

(Nova Scotia Education for Sustainable Development Working Group)

Introduction

Sustainability Education in Nova Scotia for Everyone (SENSE) is an active multi-stakeholder network that is promoting sustainability education in the formal, non-formal, and informal education sectors in Nova Scotia established in 2006. SENSE has over 150 partners from different sectors representing government, school boards, teachers, community, industry, and non-governmental organizations. Our working group is coordinated by a part-time coordinator and governed by a volunteer steering committee. Core funding comes from Environment Canada and Learning for a Sustainable Future. SENSE is part of a national network of Provincial and Territorial Working Groups striving to achieve the objectives of the United Nations' Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) from 2005-2014. Our vision is that all Nova Scotians are living sustainably.

Background

After the World Summit on Sustainable Development in South Africa in 2002, the United Nations' General Assembly passed a resolution to declare the period 2005-2014 the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD). The lead UN agency for the DESD is the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). UNESCO has identified the key action areas of education for sustainable development to be sustainable consumption, sustainable urbanization, gender equality, health promotion, environment, rural development, cultural diversity, and peace & human security. Canada endorsed the DESD and appointed Environment Canada to oversee its implementation. As education is a provincial responsibility, Environment Canada is working closely with the Council of Ministers of Education Canada (CMEC) and the national non-profit organization Learning for a Sustainable Future (LSF).

Mission

To advance sustainability in Nova Scotia through formal, non-formal and informal education that addresses environmental, social, and economic themes (please see **Definitions**).

Initiatives

- Network Meetings
- Sustainable Development Resource Directory
- School Facilities Greening
- The Ecological Footprint
- Atlantic Canada Sustainability Initiative
- Annual Sustainability Education Symposium

Definitions

- **Sustainable Development** is a concept from the report *Our Common Future* (also known as the Brundtland Report, 1987) and refers to "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." Government of Canada's *What is Sustainable Development*: http://www.canada2002earthsummit.gc.ca/about/what_e.cfm
- **Formal Education**: education through the school systems from primary/kindergarten to the end of high school as well as some aspects in colleges and universities.
- **Non-formal Education**: public awareness activities by organizations outside of the school system (e.g., Professional Development, Business Training, Environmental Street Theatre, Youth Forums etc...).
- **Informal Education**: Activities provided by media (e.g., articles, documentaries on radio and television etc...) and books, papers, etc.

Links

- *UNESCO Decade for Education for Sustainable Development*: <http://portal.unesco.org/education>
- *SENSE working group*: <http://www.nsen.ca/education.php>
- *Learning for a Sustainable Future*: <http://www.lsf-lst.ca>
- *Atlantic Canada Sustainability Initiative*: <http://www.atlanticsustainability.ca>
- *The Natural Step Canada*: <http://www.naturalstep.ca/>