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Sustainability: The Leadership Challenge

Lunch and Lecture with Dr. Karl-Henrik
Robèrt

Founder of The Natural Step, Sweden

Friday, September 22, 2006

Westin Nova Scotian Hotel, Halifax

The great challenge of this era is to bring human activities everywhere into alignment with the rest of the natural world...The Natural Step provides an elegant framework, a compass, to guide us on the road ahead and is a powerful tool for all seeking a new mental model to move their businesses into a sustainable future.

- Maurice F. Strong, Secretary General UN Earth Summit 1992



www.gpiatlantic.org



www.naturalstep.ca



www.nsen.ca

Organized by Genuine Progress Index (GPI) Atlantic, the
Nova Scotia Environmental Network, and the Nova
Scotia Education for Sustainable Development Working
Group

Atlantic Sustainability Project

Vision

The vision of this project is for the Atlantic region as a whole to become a model of environmentally, socially and economically sustainable practices by adopting The Natural Step (TNS) framework as a systemic and overarching model with which to guide the actions and decisions of communities, governments, businesses, and other organizations.

Background

This project has been inspired through several events: a major international conference held in June 2005 called *Rethinking Development*, a follow-up workshop held in November 2005 called *Building Sustainable Development*, an introductory TNS workshop in December 2005, a TNS study circle in June 2006, and strategy sessions held in June and July, 2006.

Early Adopters

Early Adopters are respected and representative businesses, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and/or communities that make the commitment to provide leadership by introducing and using The Natural Step Framework in their respective organizations. These early adopters serve as examples and help to build capacity by demonstrating the viability, benefits, and cost-effectiveness of implementing sustainable practices using The Natural Step framework to guide sustainability planning. An Atlantic-region early adopter network and training program is envisioned for launch in late 2006 or early 2007.

How you can become involved

Already, this project has engaged leaders in business, government, non-governmental organizations, youth, and members of the public from the four Atlantic Provinces. If you are interested in becoming involved, please contact Clare Levin, GPI Atlantic Managing Director, at 902-489-2524 or clevin@gpiatlantic.org.

Networking Session: 2—3 pm

The networking session following today's lecture is intended to allow participants formal time to discuss the lecture and to talk about sustainability in their communities or organizations.

Please first take a few minutes for each person in the group to introduce themselves and to share their thoughts on the lecture.

In your group, please discuss the following questions:

1. How can The Natural Step be used to help guide Nova Scotia and the broader Atlantic Canadian region towards sustainability? What would it take and what can we as a group do to make that happen?
2. Identify at least one positive initiative that you personally will take to help move the Atlantic Region towards sustainability.
3. Name three existing resources or assets (for example, organizations, networks, infrastructure, initiatives, businesses, etc.) that can be helpful in moving the Atlantic Region towards sustainability.
4. What kind of support (from government, the non-governmental sector, other individuals, etc.) do you need in order to move forward with the activities and initiatives identified in #2 and #3?

Please appoint one person in the group to take notes on the summary paper provided at each table.

If you would like to stay informed about this project and sustainability in Atlantic Canada, please sign up on the sheet provided at your table.