

## Statement from Dr. Tarah Wright, Director of Environmental Programmes, Faculty of Science, Dalhousie University

In a time where economic success seems to trump all, it is refreshing to see an educational indicator set based on some of the fundamental principles of community wellbeing rather than the usual quantitative 'output' measures that tell us nothing about the quality of education. This GPI report touches on indicators that are essential for understanding where we have been, and where we are going as a collective as we strive toward a more sustainable future.

The essential educational indicators of student debt, public financing of education, and literacy are familiar to most in the field. This report is unique, however, in that it highlights the need for an ecologically and civically literate citizenry and because it assesses the degree to which formal educational attainment is (or is not) correlated with environmentally responsible behaviour. Here, finally, are meaningful ways of measuring progress. Because education for sustainable development (ESD) is a burgeoning field, these indicators require considerable further development. They do, however, represent an excellent start, and GPI Atlantic should be congratulated for taking the bold move to include them as essential components in measuring educational attainment.

The report will undoubtedly be a significant contribution from Canada to the work being conducted worldwide as part of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.