



Environment
Canada

Environnement
Canada

Working for the Environment
in the Atlantic Region

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Our region

A trip through the Atlantic Region reveals varied and spectacular landscapes. The region includes 40 000 km of coastline with many breathtaking panoramas. With its four distinct ecozones—the Maritime Atlantic, the Boreal Shield, the Taiga Shield and the Arctic Cordillera—our region features a wide range of land and marine habitats for thousands of wildlife and aquatic species.

Who we are

The main goal of Environment Canada's employees in the four Atlantic provinces (Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland and Labrador) is to protect and conserve the natural beauty of our region for present and future generations, and to provide environmental information to protect the health, safety and property of Atlantic Canadians. Our 500 employees include engineers, biologists, chemists, meteorologists and enforcement officers as well as policy and program staff. These employees work as a team to provide Atlantic Canadians with the information needed to make informed decisions on weather, climate and water conditions.

Our team

"The Atlantic Region is always ready to engage communities to address local environmental issues. We collaborate with universities, four provincial governments, the Nunatsiavut Government, Aboriginal communities and organizations, municipalities, industry, and numerous other partner groups to protect the environment in our beautiful region."

- Regional Director General,
Atlantic Region

What we do

Canadians rely on our meteorologists to provide weather and environmental predictions so that they can make informed decisions to reduce their vulnerabilities to high-impact weather and weather-related environmental hazards. Our meteorologists work 7 days a week, 365 days a year at the Atlantic Storm Prediction Centre and Canadian Hurricane Centre in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, and at the Newfoundland and Labrador Weather Office in Gander, Newfoundland and Labrador. They provide the weather, air quality and marine forecasts and warnings that residents in Atlantic Canada depend on. Our staff also provide climate and weather data to the legal, scientific, educational and engineering communities.

Environment Canada monitors river water levels in all four Atlantic provinces, and this data is used for flood response, engineering design and scientific studies.

One of our regional priorities is to minimize the threats to our environment. Our environmental assessment staff review about 400 projects every year to minimize their effect on the environment. Our environmental protection staff are always on alert: for example, our emergencies team is ready to swing into action at a moment's notice to respond to pollution incidents that threaten our environment. We also work with federal landowners to help them manage and clean up polluted properties. Our staff are currently working with the Department of National Defence on a \$300-million, 10-year project to clean up the former military base in Goose Bay, Labrador. This is one of the largest clean-up efforts ever undertaken in Atlantic Canada.

At our Atlantic Laboratory for Environmental Testing in Moncton, New Brunswick, staff do chemical and toxicological analyses and provide analytical advice and interpretation to support our research, monitoring and enforcement programs. These scientists also work with provincial agencies, regional universities and other government departments, and frequently provide advice and expert testimony during legal proceedings.

Canadian Wildlife Service staff manage wildlife issues across the region. Their work includes protecting and recovering species at risk, managing National Wildlife Areas and waterfowl hunting, conserving migratory birds, and protecting wildlife habitat. The endangered Roseate Tern and Piping Plover both benefit from the dedication and diligence of our employees.



Environment Canada employees in the Atlantic Region are responsible for the promotion and enforcement of environmental and wildlife protection laws. Our compliance promotion staff work with industry and other federal regulatees to help them understand how new and existing environmental regulations affect their businesses. Our environmental enforcement officers ensure that industries are complying with these regulations. They inspect and enforce regulations for aquaculture sites, the fish processing sector, municipal wastewater facilities and toxic chemicals. We are also proactively working with other levels of government to monitor and regulate the finfish aquaculture sector. Proactive patrols carried out over the past year are protecting our waters from chemicals that are harmful to fish.

Our wildlife enforcement officers focus on exports of domestic

species, and work to protect migratory birds, species at risk and the 12 National Wildlife Areas located in the Atlantic Region.

Scientists in our region collect and share information to support decisions on the environment. For example, we are an important partner in the Canadian Shellfish Sanitation Program, a federal food safety program. Under this program, our employees monitor surface water quality, conduct pollution source impact assessments, and make recommendations to Fisheries and Oceans Canada on the classification of shellfish harvest areas to ensure shellfish in our region is safe to eat. Each year, over 14 000 marine water quality samples are collected from a network of 6 000 monitoring stations throughout the region.

We work with different partners to help protect and rehabilitate ecosystems across our region. Our funding programs support

grassroots community efforts to address environmental issues in Atlantic Canada. Through these programs, communities across the region are taking real action on the environment by remediating local waterways, developing sustainable business practices and local adaptation strategies to address issues like sea-level rise and storm surges in coastal communities.



Over the years

- ▶ From the late 1970s to the late 1990s, we established 6 new Migratory Bird Sanctuaries and 12 National Wildlife Areas in the Atlantic Region.
- ▶ In 1987, the Canadian Hurricane Centre was created to provide warning information to assist Canadians in preparing for hurricanes and tropical storms.
- ▶ In the 1990s, Environment Canada began regulating the Murre hunt in Newfoundland. This seabird hunt had previously been the largest unregulated hunt in North America.
- ▶ In 1997, we launched the first Canadian daily Smog Forecast Program in Saint John, New Brunswick, in collaboration with health organizations and the province of New Brunswick. This program led to the development of a national Air Quality Forecast Program and the Air Quality Health Index, a tool that helps Canadians make decisions on safe activity levels when air pollution is high.
- ▶ In 2005, fundamental changes were made to the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* as a result of our region's experience with the Birds Oiled at Sea Program in the previous 10 years.



Did you know?

- ▶ Every year, 6500 public forecasts and approximately 1900 weather warnings are issued in the Atlantic Region, as well as 4400 marine forecasts and 2800 marine warnings.
- ▶ Environment Canada's Atlantic Region operates a total of 205 water level and flow stations and 10 groundwater stations, 300 weather stations of various types, 5 radar and 9 meteorological offshore buoys.

- ▶ Enforcement officers in our region complete over 1800 inspections and enforcement actions annually.
- ▶ Our staff have collected and assessed more than 400 000 water quality samples over the past 30 years while conducting shellfish surveys.
- ▶ Our 24-hour pollution reporting telephone service has received 10 000 to 12 000 pollution reports every year since its creation more than 30 years ago. This service ensures that

pollution reports are quickly dispatched to appropriate agencies for the needed response.

- ▶ The Atlantic Region was the first area in Canada to enact the polluter pays principle through the Environmental Damages Fund. Since the Fund was created in 1995, approximately \$1.25 million has been collected from polluters to repair and rehabilitate environmental damage in our region.

Cat. No.: En4-145/4-2011E-PDF
ISBN: 978-1-100-18345-9

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