

## **Update on the UNESCO Fundy Biosphere Reserve**

### **November 14, 2007**

As you are aware the FBR hosted a news conference on November 8<sup>th</sup> at the University of Moncton to announce the formal initiation of the project. The meeting was well attended with a good cross sectional representation of stakeholders, and the media was also well represented. Mr. Roland Hache', Minister, NB Department of Environment was in attendance and he provided some very well received words of encouragement for the stakeholder group and indicated the provincial government's support for the project. In addition he presented the FBR with a check for \$30k for the balance of the fiscal year. The FBR Chair, Dr. Yves Gagnon gave an overview of the project and the UNESCO Man and Biosphere program, Peter Etheridge gave some background on the history of the development of the project. Mr. Frank Tenhave, Executive Director of the Enterprise Fundy gave some insight as to the social and economic importance of the UNESCO designation for the region and its potential for further development of sustainable businesses in the region. The event was very effectively presided over by the master of ceremonies Mr. Sandy Burnett, a founding stakeholder member that has helped guide the project from the start.

There is a short article and picture on the NB Department of Environment Website at <http://www1.gnb.ca/cnb/multimedia/display-f.asp?ID=1263&num=1> There was also an article in the Moncton Times Transcript on November 9<sup>th</sup>, which is attached. In addition, we are glad to inform you that we now have a website up and running thanks to the technical staff at the University of Moncton, the address is <http://www.fundy-biosphere.ca/> In the future news notes such as this one will be posted there.

Following the news conference on November 8<sup>th</sup> there was a meeting of the FBR Interim Board of Directors which consist of the following persons:

- Chair, Dr. Yves Gagnon, Chair of Sustainability, Université de Moncton
- Vice Chair, Dr. Paul Bogaard, Mt. Allison University
- Mr. Frank Tenhave, Secretary Treasurer
- Mr. Arnold Kearney, NB Intergovernmental Affairs
- Mr. Edouard Daigle, Fundy National Park
- Mr. Vince Zelazny, NB DNR
- Mr. Peter Etheridge, Executive Director, ex-officio

The board accepted the offer of the Université de Moncton and the office of the Chair of Sustainable Development to host the FBR office at the Université, the board also requested Peter Etheridge to fulfil the role of Executive Director for the balance of the fiscal year to get the project started, which was accepted. A project coordinator will be hired in the near future. The board is planning for its first AGM or Stakeholder meeting for early in the new year. The objective of the meeting will be to present a strategy for FBR short and medium term projects and activities; relative working groups will also be established at the meeting.

Thank you for your continued support of the FBR. We will keep you updated as plans progress.

Peter

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