**REPORT OF THE OCEAN LITERACY WORKING GROUP TO THE BoFEP AGM, OCT.20, 2021.**

Since the last BoFEP workshop in Truro in 2019, there have been two major OL developments at the national and International level;

1. On March 16, 2021, the "**Canadian Ocean Literacy Coalition Strategy**" was released. It provides important local context. This strategy is being actively promoted by the Canadian Network for Ocean Education (CANOE),
2. In July, 2021 a UN Report was released entitled "**Ocean Literacy within the UN's Ocean Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development: A Framework for Action**"

The importance of Ocean Literacy (OL) in the school system and the public at large, is no longer a point of controversy, it's an imperative. See the upcoming COP 26 agenda and the Decade's Programmes and Projects...the topic of OL receives significant attention.

Climate change is of course a major component of any OL training and education. A publication this month by UNICEF, the UN Children's Fund, provides a stark reminder that "the Climate Crisis is a Child Rights Crisis" with its "Children's Climate Risk Index".

On a more positive note, there are some encouraging developments in Nova |Scotia:

1. The proposed focus on OL for the next year by the NS Institute of Science, thanks to the effort of the Editor of their Proceedings, Peter Wells. An editorial by Wells et al., in the recently published Proceedings, outlines the OL proposal. I think the editorial has been circulated to the Steering Committee members.
2. The establishment of an OL Working Group by the very active Cliffs of Fundy Geopark, with which BoFEP has been in contact.

**Proposed Actions by the OL Working Group**.

1. Identification of Steering Committee members interested in joining the Ol Working Group.
2. Identification of potential collaborative organisations in the region to provide a more cohesive and influential approach to OL promotion.
3. Identify locally relevant OL resource material e.g. Sondra's BoF book for school children.
4. Actively engage the Faculties of Education at NS Universities re customised training on OL for teachers.
5. Actively engage the Provincial Department of Education, the ultimate authority of Education curricula in schools, re the incorporation of OL in the curricula for all grades.
6. Prepare an OL panel for the BoFEP Workshop scheduled for 2022.

There are some interesting challenges for the OL Working Group but actions will undoubtedly be more important than words.

Respectively Submitted,

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