

**March 9, 2021**

Email: [endionspei@gmail.com](about:blank) Website: [nspeidiocese.ca/den](about:blank)

Facebook: [Environment Network Diocese of NS & PEI](about:blank)

Welcome to our weekly Enews.  **DEN**,the **D**iocesan **E**nvironment **N**etwork of the Anglican Diocese of NS & PEI, was formed in response to the Fifth Mark of Mission and the latest addition to our Baptismal Covenant which has become our Mission Statement.

*“To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.”*

We educate and encourage avenues of stewardship with weekly news via email, our website, Facebook and articles in the Diocesan Times plus weekly Zoom gatherings. We provide links to other environment groups, encourage the use of Season of Creation in liturgies, provide an opportunity to pray together plus support and teaching through eco-grief sessions. Understanding that you protect what you fall in love with, our Hope & Inspiration Gallery of the Arts celebrates creation and encourages stewardship.



**Thursday Evening Gatherings continue on March 11 via Zoom : Sacred People/Sacred Earth Day of Action**(Nancy Blair & The Rev. Marian Lucas-Jefferies)

Bring your imagination and sense of humour and be prepared to get creative in ways that shout out love for creation and help us develop a deeper spiritual connection with nature in unexpected ways. Prayers, rhyme and song are communication from the heart that speak of our love for and spirit; connection with creation great and small. They can be innovative, different, poetic and maybe even quirky, carrying us through our day and our lives. A way of committing and re-committing ourselves to caring for Creation. We hope that our results will be shared and used in parishes and the broader church.

Green Faith Sacred People Sacred Earth: [https://greenfaith.org/take-action/sacred-people-sacred-earth/?gclid=Cj0KCQiAs5eCBhCBARIsAEhk4r6kNVzFgPyVd-MmBojoZ6Wf\_PXYYFbVHPTYbyh3O-PFCN9sa4mZz3YaAsx0EALw\_wcB](about:blank)

**Community Climate Hub Initiative** The Community Climate Hub initiative has released its annual benchmarking report, The [2020 National Climate League Report](about:blank), measuring progress in Canadian municipalities against 15 indicators of effective local climate action. We would like to invite you to the Atlantic Canadian NCL Launch Webinar, being held March 16th at 7 PM Atlantic, please register [here](about:blank). This webinar will feature how Atlantic Canadian municipalities faired, and focus in on three indicators where they did well, are making efforts and one where they are falling behind, Local Agriculture, Affordable Housing and Electric Vehicles. The 2020 National Climate League report can be found here. Looking forward to seeing you! If you would like to get involved with a community climate hub in your area, sign up at [climatehub.ca](about:blank) or contact Brenna Walsh, the Regional Organiser for Atlantic Canada.

**Sacred People Sacred Earth –** March 11 is the biggest- ever global faith-climate justice day of Action.The dy is organizing grassroots people of diverse religions in support of key demands for climate justice. This day of action is being spearheaded by Green Faith International, a new global, grassroots, multi-faith climate justice alliance. For more info, please visit [https://greenfaith.org/take-action/](about:blank)

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**PWRDF Climate Care – Planting the seeds of Education Focus** In 2020, PWRDF produced a number of resources focused on Climate Action, the 2030 United Nations Sustainable Development Goal #13. The resources showed how climate change intersects with our partners’ work, from health and women’s empowerment to food security, emergency relief and more. We want to continue to promote those resources in 2021, and build on them with the introduction of a three-year education focus called Creation Care: Climate Action. For more information, please visit:

[https://pwrdf.org/planting-the-seeds-of-education-focus/](about:blank)

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**Praying with the DEN Community** Each Friday at 9:30 we host Morning Prayer live streamed on Zoom.  Prayers take shape from different traditions and focus on various aspects of our relationship with Creation. To obtain the link, please email [endionspei@gmail.com](about:blank)

**Ecological Grief:**  The DEN Ecological Grief Support Group takes place on the third Monday of each month, 7:00 to 8:00 pm by Zoom. Next session: March 15th. Do you experience ecological grief…once in a while, once or twice a week… every day? If ecological grief is becoming part of your life, this support group is for you. You are not alone. We will begin each Group with a short presentation about some aspect of ecological grief. There will be lots of time for discussion if you wish.

Nancy Blair, the Group Facilitator, is a Registered Counselling Therapist (RCT) in Nova Scotia, with a Masters of Education (Counselling) from Acadia University and a Masters of Environmental Studies from Dalhousie University. As a Certified Pet Loss and Bereavement Counsellor, she has extensive experience working with individuals experiencing grief for humans and for non-humans. For further information, contact:  Nancy Blair at [nancyblaircounselling@gmail.com](about:blank)

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**WELCOMING OUR NEW ARTISTS:** We are currently featuring painter Ed Coleman along with three new photographers; Trevor & Darlene Awalt and Lidvald Haugen-Strand. Please click “Like” to follow our page and see all the new offerings. We encourage you to share the link and invite your friends as well.

**CELEBRATING EARTH DAY:** The Gallery has also just launched a new initiative called Art as Poetry and invite original poems to be submitted. We will post these as they are sent and will choose one to highlight on Earth Day. **Please let everyone know we need your poems.**

That poem will become the challenge poem for Poetry as Art. We will invite art in any medium to be created inspired by the poem and the winner will be revealed during the Season of Creation in the fall.

If you would like to submit art or a poem for inclusion in the gallery, please leave a message on the gallery page. [https://www.facebook.com/groups/373394600384260](about:blank) or Email: [endionspei@gmail.com](about:blank)

Our Gallery can also be viewed at: [https://www.nspeidiocese.ca/ministries/diocesan-environment-network/pages/den-hope-inspiration-art-gallery](about:blank)

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**Stations of Creation:** The on line version can be obtained by Emailing [endionspei@gmail.com](about:blank)Other resources can be found on our website: [https://www.nspeidiocese.ca/ministries/diocesan-environment-network](about:blank)

**Diocese of Toronto Creation Care**

Download a “Fast for the Earth PDF: [https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Lent-Fast-2021.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2hijkcxWXD-nHdHysKCR9Pp6yhoWkPgg65ILQhhOjXACo0IdResaG5WwI](about:blank)

**PWRDF Creation Care / Climate Action Lent Resource:** Go to the link below to subscribe and download this resource focusing on 40 days of Lent, 40 days of stories about PWRDF and 40 prayers for the earth. [https://pwrdf.org/get-involved/lent2021/](about:blank)

**Seven Weeks for Water 2021** “The World Council of Churches (WCC) Ecumenical Water Network invites you to use the season of Lent to reflect on God’s gift of water. Since 2008, the WCC– through its “Seven Weeks for Water” campaign – has been providing weekly theological reflections and other resources on water for the seven weeks of Lent and for World Water Day on 22 March (which always falls during the Lenten period). [https://www.oikoumene.org/events/seven-weeks-for-water-2021](about:blank)

**Lent 2021 Children’s Resource from PWRDF** For ages 6-12, this pdf explores Lent and partner stories week by week. [https://pwrdf.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Lent-2021-A-PWRDF-Childrens-Resource.pdf](about:blank)



**DEN Lenten Book Study of Papal Encyclical *Laudato Si’***

The Anglican Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island sponsors a weekly study of the Papal Encyclical ***Laudato Si’***  Wednesday mornings at 10 am throughout Lent by Zoom. The Encyclical represents a moral breakthrough in the literature of Climate Crises. Pope Francis joins the plight of the world’s poor with the destruction of the world’s larger environment. The result is the presentation of a dire moment in the history of Humanity – we are urgently called to repair our only common home and bring dignity to the homeless and voiceless.

Up-to-the-minute science is matched with moral lessons of the world’s teachers. One of the most powerful messages in the duty passed on to all serious people – Hear the cry of the poor; hear the cry of the Earth. This book will make you a climate activist or will indeed make you a better activist. The book is available as free download: [http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco\_20150524\_enciclica-laudato-si.html](about:blank)

Join us this Wednesday morning at 10am. Email the facilitator ([brucelanghus@gmail.com](about:blank)) for the Zoom link.

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**All Saints Cathedral Lenten Journey with the Poetry of Mary Oliver** – every Friday during Lent, 3:15 to 5 pm. Please send an email to Debbie Fice ([widgetsbeads@gmail.com](about:blank)) to receive your study guide and the weekly emails with the poems for the week.



**Sustainable Future** Right now, decision makers in Ottawa are deciding how to allocate billions of our tax dollars, with a new federal budget just around the corner. In this moment, Canada has a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to rebuild a society that prioritizes collective wellbeing over profit for the few, and recognizes that our own health relies on the health of the ecosystems that sustain us.  This letter to MANY of our federal leaders has a great deal of detail of what should be done.

[**https://ecologyaction.ca/tell-federal-government-invest-equitable-sustainable-future?fbclid=IwAR07Y17qHFYoenBAohBMBi\_VCCiareDaZ73KK5JJ9j-TZLtrW31y7N\_3hFM**](about:blank)

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**Annapolis Waterkeepers “**Over the last thirteen years, a construction debris dump found its way into the very top of our watershed and now is expanding”.See their fb page [**https://www.facebook.com/AnnapolisWaterkeepers/posts/115585150572311**](about:blank)) or go direct to the petition.

[**https://www.change.org/p/department-of-environment-nova-scotia-stop-asbestos-and-other-unknown-health-hazards-from-being-dumped-in-arlington-west-ns?utm\_content=cl\_sharecopy\_23847725\_en-CA%3A4&recruiter=3497262&recruited\_by\_id=02b9f9c0-dc0c-012f-7197-4040ea65fa16&utm\_source=share\_petition&utm\_medium=copylink&utm\_campaign=psf\_combo\_share\_initial&utm\_term=share\_email\_responsive&fbclid=IwAR0Kr9qv9Ohp4WOFpk26YtXg94ttkT4jrpjyp7\_qxQq4uRoXYXKYOsXJLMI**](about:blank)

**Pan American Silver’s Escobal** Speaking out against this mine has always been dangerous, but we are in the midst of a spike in violence. Over the past two months, six members of the peaceful resistance to Pan American Silver’s Escobal mine have suffered attacks and death threats. In January, Julio David González Arango was shot at his home by armed assailants. *In Guatemala, this Canadian mining company gained control of the Escobal mine where operations had been suspended because the country’s supreme court ruled that a local indigenous community had not consented to the operation.*

[**https://earthworks.salsalabs.org/escobal-feb21-eng/index.html**](about:blank)

**Net-Zero Emissions Accountabilty Act** The Council of Canadians have a petition to strengthen the Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act (Bill C-12) with many great suggestions.

[https://canadians.org/action/petition-net-zero](about:blank)

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**Developing Creation Care Ministry**   
After 15 years of experience helping Christians in Canada with the ecological transition in their church, Norman Lévesque, M.Th. has launched the new online course **DEVELOPING CREATION CARE MINISTRY: Complete training to establish this new ministry in your church**. The course only costs $60 for 8 hours (approx.) of online training at your own pace.[https://creationcare.teachable.com/p/creation-care-ministry](about:blank)

There is also a **FREE** course, **Greening Your Church: 10 proven steps to inspire your faith community towards sustainability.** The course lasts less than one hour, at your own pace, and you keep access to review it months later if you want.

[https://creationcare.teachable.com/p/10-steps-to-greening-your-church](about:blank)

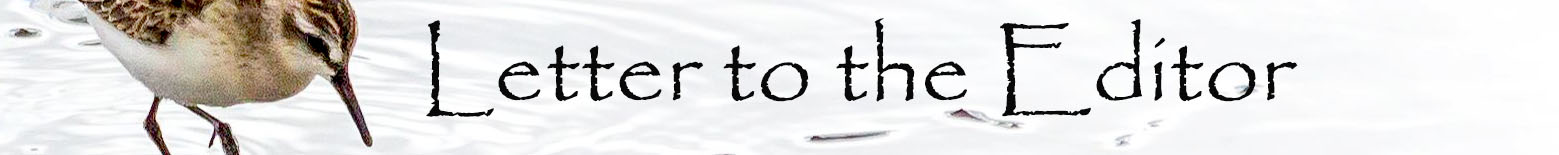
Mr. Norman Lévesque is also working on other online courses, like Transmitting ecological values in the Bible, Harvesting the ecological values in Christian Tradition and Cultivating a Christian eco-spirituality.Try a course while we patiently wait for the pandemic to end, and share it with interested people around you.

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**Indigenous Sovereignty & Energy Justice Webinar** has been postponed until March 25th. To register please got: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\_u6gNw82MQbi-hAfnOXjoig](about:blank)

**Sacred Earth Community** Click on the link for more information and resources exploring how every spiritual tradition needs to contribute to healing the earth. [https://www.sacred-earth.net/a-vision-of-earth-community](about:blank)

**Funding for Renewable Energy project** may be available from the Diocese. Please see the application here: https://www.nspeidiocese.ca/pages/administration-policies



Dear Marian,

We are looking for organizations and community leaders across the country to sign on to a letter to Prime Minister Trudeau and Eastern Canadian leaders, asking for their help to stop the construction of Gull Island megadam in Labrador.

We think there are just and timely solutions to climate change  - but this is not one of them. The impact on downstream communities of such a dam through methylmercury is an unacceptable risk.

Last week, the Magpie River in Quebec was given rights by communities around the river. Hopefully this is part of an emerging understanding of the relationship with the land and waters as recognized and upheld by Indigenous People, and a growing acknowledgement of the need to protect nature as we tackle climate change.

A report on the Atlantic Loop proposal for electric connectivity in the region  is due for release later this month, and our fear is that this will subsidize Gull Island. For this reason, we are looking timely for sign-ons, on or before March 15th .

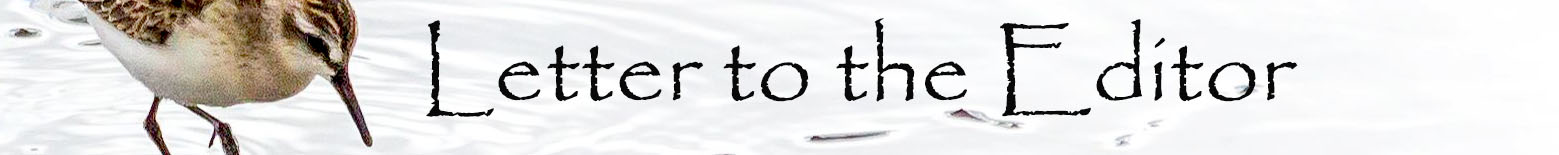
I hope you can sign on behalf of your organization, or share with your network for groups to sign on. Here's a link to the letter and form to sign on for your group:

[https://forms.gle/TVwhzGeWhehq5Ktq6](about:blank)

If there are organizations or leaders who are not part of the DEN who you think should sign this letter, please pass on this message.

All the best,

Gretchen Fitzgerald  
On behalf of  
  
Roberta Benefiel, Grand Riverkeeper, Labrador  
Gretchen Fitzgerald, Sierra Club Canada Foundation  
Joan Saxe, Sierra Club Maine  
North American Megadam Resistance Alliance (NAMRA)



ANNAPOLIS WATERKEEPERS SEEKS YOUR SUPPORT!

We are tiny rural communities that live in the shadow of the Arlington toxic waste dump. We stand against our own MLA who has betrayed us, some of the largest corporations and contractors in Nova Scotia, who defile our living space daily, and a myriad of profit-driven consultants and contractors. Our homesteads have been sold to the highest corporate bidder by Nova Scotia Environment to create yet another Nova Scotia “Sacrifice Zone.”

We are determined and will resist.

We are encouraged by many heroic communities and persons who have risen to stand against the horrendous environmental damage inflicted by destructive business practice. Determined citizens have stopped clearcuts, strip mines, fish farms, and countless other horrific environmental sins.

It is not so easy for Nova Scotians to revolt against the uncaring powers of government and business. Twenty generations of hardscrabble existence have taught Maritimers the prime value of cooperation. We know that we will need our neighbour’s help someday, and she will need ours. It is hard to strain this dependence by calling out and confronting evil.

We can only find the courage by understanding that failing to challenge puts the survival of our families, communities, and planet at risk. Without challenge, there can be no liberty, security, or equality.

In the Maritime way, we ask for your help, and promise to return the favour. The battle for environmental justice will be won by the cumulative power of many small victories that create global environmental change!

Here are some things you can do:

1. Like, follow & share our page ([**https://www.facebook.com/AnnapolisWaterkeepers**](about:blank)).

2. Invite your friends to do the same.

3. Check out our videos, pictures, groups and comment, like & share.

4. Sign the petition (awareness tool only).([**https://www.facebook.com/AnnapolisWaterkeepers/posts/115585150572311**](about:blank))

5. Send your own version of the following letter to [premier@novascotia.ca](about:blank) ([**https://www.facebook.com/AnnapolisWaterkeepers/posts/120056213458538**](about:blank))

LET'S MAKE SURE OUR ENVIRONMENT MINISTER HAS A CLEAR MANDATE - WE DEMAND AN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION INTO ACTIVITIES AT ARLINGTON HEIGHTS DUMP

6. Want to do more? Get in touch by messaging or emailing us.

LETTER TO THE PREMIER - FEBRUARY 13, 2021

\*\*\*Following is an excerpt from our letter to our new Premier sent three weeks ago now. There has not yet been a reply...\*\*\*

*"I write with a request and suggestion as a follow up to our brief telephone conversation in January re: the Arlington Dump. In this correspondence, I assume the role of community spokesperson.*

*As you will recall, we have verified, and Nova Scotia Environment has admitted, that large amounts of prohibited material (auto-fluff) have been dumped at Arlington for a period of years. Also, we are told by a former employee that these illegal shipments were not recorded in the regular dump tare receipts.*

*We filed our first formal complaint about fluff dumping on Nov. 1st, 2018, though we suspected that fluff was being dumped as early as 2015.*

*Then Minister Miller acknowledged the fluff dumping but said it was tested (for metals only) quarterly and was “considered to be safe for current use.”*

*We reiterated our complaints in 2019.*

*Minister Wilson eventually responded that fluff was, in fact, not considered safe for disposal in gen. one landfills, and that he would not be allowing the practice to continue. He reassured us that the impermeable soil at Arlington would protect our downgrade communities.*

*The idea of impermeable soil at the dump is a falsehood perpetrated in the original permit application of 2004; the claim was never verified by NSE. However this falsehood, which is easily disproved, is consistently repeated and cited as support for all subsequent NSE approvals at Arlington. However, the fluff continued to flow in defiance of the Minister’s order to cease and desist. A third request for explanation was met with correspondence from Adrian Fuller, who assured us that the department’s rigorous inspections had “found no outstanding problems at Arlington,” case closed.*

*Throughout this long process, NSE has responded with inconsistent, contradictory, incomplete, and misleading replies. A recent CBC interview with Lori Skaine (*[*https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/autofluff-environment-landfill-construction-and-demolition-1.5895320*](about:blank)*) only compounds the confusion; she claims that NSE discovered the illegal auto-fluff in a routine inspection at Arlington in November 2020, and advises that an investigation is “ongoing.”*

*Because of these inconsistencies, we ask that you AUTHORIZE YOUR NEW ENVIRONMENT MINISTER TO APPOINT AN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATOR with a mandate to get to the bottom of activities at Arlington.*

*We ask that the mandate be broad enough to encompass all aspects of the dump, including original approvals which we believe should be revisited for a variety of very important reasons, including:*

*1. No Public Involvement - NSE never considered a single word of public comment in any of the approvals issued for Arlington Heights. This is a clear breach of the public trust. We do not believe that any project should proceed without community assent.*

*2. Completely Inappropriate Location for Haz-Mat Disposal - Arlington Heights sits at the common apex of three watersheds with a combined area of 450Ha. A large wetland on a mountain shelf was drained to accommodate dump construction. That wetland sourced the water supply for four brooks, and served as the drinking water reservoir for an entire community. [As mentioned above, false and misleading information was supplied by the proponent in approval applications and ERs. And, NSE abandoned its duty of diligence by way of inadequate and ineffective assessment, inspection and enforcement. We certainly hope that the permit holder was not emboldened to violate AH terms and conditions in the mistaken belief that she enjoyed patronage protection. We also hope that NSE’s less than rigorous performance on the AH file was not the result of a similar misconception. From your work at Otter Lake and Harrietsfield we expect you are just as offended by the assault of 100,000,000 tons of carcinogenic and highly mobile Auto-fluff components, (we estimate that 70% of the dump contents are fluff), as we are.*

*The Arlington and St. Croix Cove watersheds are not yet destroyed, but they will be if we do not act. We believe that there is a huge political upside to enforcing Environmental Justice at Arlington. An investigation would dramatically show that you are ready, willing and able to right past wrongs and stand up for Environmental issues. Actions speak louder than words. Such a commitment would go a long way to staunching the Liberal Environmental wounds that have opened in Annapolis County. If the Liberal party cannot win Annapolis, it cannot win government.*

*Finally, we ask for additional updates of the Environment Act. The policy of burying asbestos waste (called “safe” by proponents) is repudiated by modern research and experience. It is time to stop the asbestos shuffle, where toxins are simply moved from one undesirable location to another, usually a vote-poor rural area. We have the technology to render asbestos waste completely harmless; why do we not use it?*

*As you may suspect, there is much more to this story. Hopefully, we will be given the chance to express our concerns in detail before your appointed investigator.*

*Sincerely,*

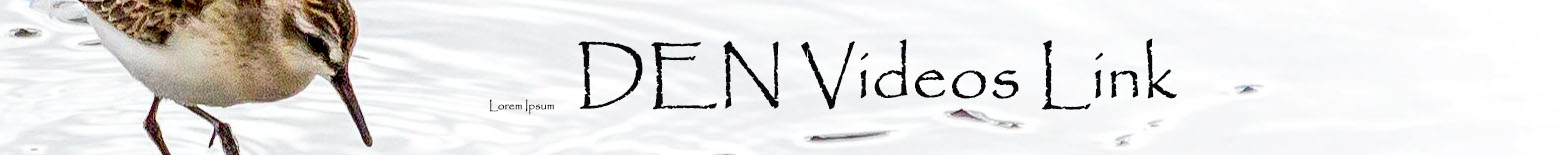
*James McCurdy, on behalf of*

*Annapolis Waterkeepers"*

[**www.facebook.com/annapoliswaterkeepers**](about:blank)

[**www.annapoliswaterkeepers.ca**](about:blank)

[**annapoliswaterkeepers@gmail.com**](about:blank)



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| Green Burial [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e9Y2lTmJkxQ](about:blank) |



Lord Jesus,  
the earth is yours and you have commanded the winds and the sea;  
help us to leave behind our consumer demand for plastics and move towards behaviours that are environmentally healthy;  
help us to follow your lead in caring for the world you love.  
Amen.

Rt Revd David Urquhart, Bishop of Birmingham

**Deadline for Submissions is Friday before publication. Email them to** [**endionspei@gmail.com**](about:blank)