

NEWS RELEASE

SOUTHWEST NOVA BIOSPHERE RESERVE ASSOCIATION RECEIVES GOVERNMENT OF CANADA INVESTMENT

For Release August 26th, 2009 11:00am

Annapolis Royal, NS - Greg Kerr, Member of Parliament for West Nova, on behalf of Canada's Environment Minister Jim Prentice, today announced \$285,000 in funding over five years to support the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Association (SNBRA).

This funding is part of a \$5 million commitment by the Government of Canada to support 14 of 15 biosphere reserves in Canada and the Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association. The SNBRA will use the funds to support community-based initiatives aimed at balancing conservation and development, as well as supporting local economies and communities of the region.

"Today's announcement reflects the Government of Canada's commitment to protecting our rich biodiversity across the country," said Mr. Kerr. "Canada's biosphere reserves are excellent examples of community-based initiatives that protect our natural environment while ensuring the continued growth of the local economy in an ecologically sustainable way."

"The Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve has been in place since 2001. With the new Environment Canada funding, we have been able to hire a Project Coordinator and begin to address regional concerns related to youth engagement and the creative rural economy," said Dr. Bob Maher, Chair of the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Association. "The new funding will strengthen our national biosphere reserve network as well as the environmental non governmental organizations network in Southwest Nova Scotia."

Biosphere Reserves are areas designated and recognized internationally by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) for demonstrating practical approaches to balancing conservation and development. Biosphere reserves are composed of one or more core protected areas, a buffer area in which activities compatible with conservation occur, and a large area of co-operation where sustainable resource management practices are promoted and developed. The Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve is comprised of Kejimikujik National Park and Historic Site, the Tobeatic Wilderness Area, as well as the five counties of Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth, Shelburne and Queens.

The Government of Canada's investment will facilitate activities and projects within the Southwest Nova region related to conservation, sustainable development and capacity building. Additionally it will help with co-ordination of projects such as community engagement, sustainable tourism, and promotion of other sustainable economic activities.

Contact information:

Maegan Power-Noble
Project Coordinator
Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Association
Email: Maegan.Power-Noble@nsc.ca
Phone: (902) 825-6392 Fax: (902) 825-5479
Web: www.snbra.ca

