

# Environmental Law Summary Series:

## Overview of Environmental Legislation

This is the first volume of the Environmental Law Summary Series. Each volume will serve as a quick reference resource for Nova Scotians interested in environmental legal issues. This volume summarizes some of the most important federal and provincial environmental legislation, provides a list of contact information and a handy chart that cross-references the legislation with various environmental concerns. Please note that this guide does not cover every piece of legislation that applies to the environment. Future volumes of the Environmental Law Summary Series will more fully explore specific environmental law and policy issues.

### What is Environmental Law?

Environmental law is not a specific type of law, but rather a mix of many areas of law that affect our natural environment and human activity. Environmental law is comprised of federal, provincial and municipal legislation, judicial case law and administrative remedies. This guide focuses on the legislation.

### What is Environmental Legislation?

Environmental legislation refers to acts (also known as statutes) and regulations that govern issues dealing with the environment. Legislation is one part of environmental law. To enforce environmental legislation you have to first determine what legislation applies to your environmental issue and then work with the appropriate government department.

Generally, an environmental act provides a framework for human activity and industrial development. Regulations specify how the act will be implemented. The regulations under each act are not listed in this guide. However, referring to the regulations will clarify how the act works.

All legislation can be found online or through contacting the appropriate government department. The goal of this guide is to help point you in the right direction.

### Who is in Charge of Making Environmental Legislation?

The framework for governmental authority was created by *The Constitution Act of 1867*. The Constitution divides the authority for making and enforcing legislation in Canada between the Federal Parliament and the Provincial Legislatures. Section 91 of the Constitution outlines federal responsibilities, and section 92 lists provincial responsibilities. Because "the environment" was not considered an issue when the *Constitution* was written, responsibilities for environmental issues were not clearly divided between the federal and provincial governments. They are shared according to traditional responsibilities.

Municipalities also have a role in making environmental legislation through the power to create by-laws. A municipality's ability to make environmental by-laws depends on the province they are in, as each province has an act that creates and regulates its municipal governments. For example, Nova Scotia has the Municipal Government Act. Note: This guide does not cover the environmental legislation made by municipalities in Atlantic Canada.

### How is legislation made?

#### Federal:

A piece of legislation starts as a bill. A bill can be public or private - affecting the public more generally, or focussing on

a specific group of individuals.

Bills must be introduced in the Senate or the House of Commons. Once introduced, the bill will be given a first reading in the House of Commons (HoC). At a later date, the bill is given a second reading and Members of Parliament debate the bill and vote on its principles. At the second reading, the MPs decide whether to refer the bill to a legislative, standing or special committee, or to a Committee of the Whole. The chosen committee will conduct an in-depth review of the bill and can call witnesses and experts for assistance. The chosen committee will report back to the HoC with any proposed amendments, and the HoC will vote on the amendments. It will then be given a third reading at a later date where the amended bill is debated and voted on.

If the bill passes the third reading, it is sent to the Senate for review and then is presented to the Governor General (GG). The GG may assent to the Bill in the Queen's name, withhold assent or reserve assent. If the bill is given Royal Assent, it becomes a law. However, it is not in force until a specified date determined by the statute or the GG. Note that different sections of an act may come into force at different times.

#### Provincial:

The procedure for making legislation in Nova Scotia is similar to that of the federal government.

To follow the progress of a bill look for:

- The name of the Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) who introduced the bill (written below the title)
- The date of the first reading - introduction of the bill
- The date of the second reading - debated by MLAs
- The date(s) for discussion by Law Amendments Committee (if a public bill) or Private and Local Bills Committee (if a private/ local bill)
- The date of the third reading - final approval by the House (if there is an Asterisk after the title the bill was amended between first and third readings)
- The date of Royal Assent - when a bill becomes an act because the Lieutenant Governor signed the final version of the bill
- The date of Commencement - when the act takes effect. (Ordinarily the date that it is assented to, but sometimes, on another specified date)

The Chapter No. is the number assigned to each act from that session of the Legislature. The acts appear in this order when they are published in the sessional volumes of the Statutes of Nova Scotia.

See page 8 for more information on the provincial and federal process.

# Environmental Legislation in Nova Scotia

Federal legislation generally applies to all Canadians and to environmental issues of national concern, such as those that have impacts that cross provincial boundaries. Specifically, under Section 91 of the *Constitution 1867*, the Federal government has the power to enact laws regarding: navigation and fishing, sea coast and inland fishing, canals, harbours, river and lake improvements, and any projects run by the federal government.

Section 92 of the *Constitution 1867* gives the province power over environmental matters of a local or private nature. This means Nova Scotian legislation applies to individuals and businesses in Nova Scotia, and all provincial government departments, agencies, boards and commissions.

On page 7, you will find an environmental law and issues Cross-Reference Chart. Federal and provincial legislation are listed across the top with common environmental issues listed down the side. The highlighted blocks will tell you what legislation applies to a specific issue. Be sure to check both the federal and provincial charts - there is overlap between them. Please note that this guide does not reflect the fact that some acts deal with more than one environmental issue.

## Pollution Prevention and Sustainable Development

### Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

613.957.0700  
info@ceaa-acee.gc.ca  
www.ceaa.gc.ca/

Environment  
Canada, Atlantic Office:  
Phone: 902.426.0564  
Email: ceaa.atlantic@ceaaacee.gc.ca  
Web: www.ns.ec.gc.ca

### Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA)-federal

Addresses a project's potential adverse effects on the environment before the project begins through environmental assessments.

Goal is to reduce the environmental impact of projects before they are carried out by:

- identifying possible adverse effects
- proposing measures to deal with those effects
- predicting whether the proposed measures will work

Only applies when the federal government is involved in the project – either through funding, issuing permits, if the project is on federal land or where there are interprovincial or international environmental effects.

Public participation is encouraged at most stages of the assessment process.

An online registry of projects undergoing environmental assessments is available at: [www.ceaa.gc.ca](http://www.ceaa.gc.ca)

### Environment Canada Environment and Workplace Health

Phone: 1.800.668.6767  
Email:  
CEPARRegistry@ec.gc.ca or  
enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca  
Web: [www.ec.gc.ca/CEPARRegistry](http://www.ec.gc.ca/CEPARRegistry)

### Health Canada:

Web: [www.hc-sc.gc.ca/](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/)  
For contact info about  
specific concerns:  
[www.hc-sc.gc.ca/contact/index-eng.php#a4](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/contact/index-eng.php#a4)

### Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA)-federal

Goal is to prevent pollution.

The main piece of federal environmental legislation and is focussed on regulating toxic substances.

Divided into 12 parts dealing with: international air and water pollution, pollution prevention, managing wastes, toxic substances, etc.

Participation is encouraged in the enforcement of the Act by:

- Making voluntary reports to the Minister of Environment or the Minister of Health
- Notifying Enforcement Officers of CEPA infringements
- Requesting investigations and interim orders
- Bringing environmental actions

Administered jointly between Environment Canada (the effect of toxic substances on ecosystems) and Health Canada (the effect of toxic substances on people).

### Environment Act - provincial

Prevails over all other environment-related provincial acts and is the main piece of environmental legislation.

Sets standards of allowable pollution and prohibits the release of substances that will have an "adverse environmental effect," unless approval has been given.

Lists activities in its Regulations that require government approval and that relate to specific environmental issues.

Important parts of the Act include:

- Provincial environmental assessment process
- Dangerous goods and pesticide management
- Contaminated sites
- Waste-resource management
- Air quality management
- Environmental Trust Fund
- Registry
- Sustainability Round Table
- Alternative Dispute Resolution Gives the province the power to make regulations about standards, rules, guidelines, or codes to implement the 21 goals.

### Nova Scotia Department of Environment

Phone: 1.877.9.ENVIRO  
902.424.3600  
Contact: [emc@gov.ns.ca](mailto:emc@gov.ns.ca)  
[www.gov.ns.ca/nse/contact.asp](http://www.gov.ns.ca/nse/contact.asp)

Regulations and specific  
legislation: [www.gov.ns.ca/nse/resources/legislation.asp](http://www.gov.ns.ca/nse/resources/legislation.asp)

**Nova Scotia Department of Environment**

Phone: 902.424.3600  
Contact: [www.gov.ns.ca/nse/contact.asp](http://www.gov.ns.ca/nse/contact.asp)  
[www.gov.ns.ca/nse](http://www.gov.ns.ca/nse)

## **Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act - provincial**

Sets out the actions the province intends to take to meet the following long-term environmental and economic objectives:

- to demonstrate international leadership by having one of the most sustainable environments in the world by 2020
- to provide certainty to all sectors of the economy through the government's economic development strategy

Lists 21 environmental and economic goals that the government wants to accomplish in order to achieve the objectives, including:

- protecting 12% of the total land mass of the province by 2015
- developing a comprehensive water resource management strategy by 2010
- 18.5% of total provincial electricity to come from renewable resources by 2013
- reducing greenhouse gas emissions to at least 10% below 1990 levels by 2020

Gives the province the power to make regulations about standards, rules, guidelines, or codes to implement the 21 goals.

## **Water**

**Department of Fisheries and Oceans**

Phone: 613.993.0999  
1.800.782.3058  
Web: [www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

Maritime contact info:  
Phone: 902.426.3550  
Email: [info@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:info@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)  
Web: [www.mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca](http://www.mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

**Parks Canada**

Email: [information@pc.gc.ca](mailto:information@pc.gc.ca)  
Web: [www.pc.gc.ca](http://www.pc.gc.ca)

**Nova Scotia Department of Environment**

Phone: 902.424.3600  
Contact: [www.gov.ns.ca/nse/contact.asp](http://www.gov.ns.ca/nse/contact.asp)

**Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture**

Phone: 902.424.4560  
Web: [www.gov.ns.ca/fish/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/fish/)

**Nova Scotia Department of Environment**

Phone: 902.424.3600  
Contact: [www.gov.ns.ca/nse/contact.asp](http://www.gov.ns.ca/nse/contact.asp)  
[www.gov.ns.ca/nse](http://www.gov.ns.ca/nse)

### **Oceans Act**

*Goal is to regulate exploration, exploitation, management and conservation of Canada's oceans.*

Defines Canada's maritime zones, and sets out a management strategy for estuarine, coastal and marine ecosystems.

### **Fisheries Act**

*Goal is to protect fish and their habitat.*

Sections 34-42 deal with fish habitat protection and pollution prevention.

- Without government approval, everyone is forbidden from carrying out activities that are harmful to fish habitat, or placing "deleterious substances" in waters that could come in contact with fish.

### **Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act - federal**

*Goal is to establish a system of National Marine Conservation Areas (NMCAs), which are regions that currently represent 29 distinct marine ecosystems.*

NMCAs are managed and protected for sustainable use by:

- not allowing exploration for minerals or other inorganic matters
- not allowing disposal of any substance in NMCAs without a permit
- allowing fishing, subject to possible conditions

### **Water Resources Protection Act - provincial**

*Goal is to regulate large-scale removal of water from Nova Scotia's major water system, the "Atlantic Drainage Basin".*

Prohibits people from removing water from the geographic area that drains into the Atlantic Ocean, unless the use of the water is specifically allowed under the Act.

There are no regulations associated with this Act.

### **Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act - provincial**

*Goal is to encourage, promote and implement programs that will sustain and improve the fishery, including aquaculture.*

Allows the government to make a public registry of codes of practice for fisheries and aquaculture, and to develop objectives and standards for the protection and wise use of fishery and coastal zone aquatic resources.

Regulates:

- fisheries and aquaculture training, technology and development, lending for fisheries and aquaculture development, sea plant harvesting, licensing and inspecting of fish and fish products, and recreational fishing
- aquaculture practices and the licensing/leasing of aquaculture operations

### **Environment Act**

Part 10 deals with water-resource management and requires the province to establish a water-resource management strategy.

Grants the province power over all water resources in the province – including the designation of protected water areas.

## Species at Risk Public Registry

Phone: 819.997.2800/  
1.800.668.6767  
Email: [enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca](mailto:enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca)  
Web: [www.sararegistry.gc.ca/](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/)

## Species at Risk Public Registry

Phone: 819.997.2800/  
1.800.668.6767  
Email: [enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca](mailto:enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca)  
Web: [www.sararegistry.gc.ca/](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/)

## Parks Canada

Email: [information@pc.gc.ca](mailto:information@pc.gc.ca)  
Web: [www.pc.gc.ca/](http://www.pc.gc.ca/)

## Department of Natural Resources – Wildlife Division

Phone: 902.679.6091  
Contact: [www.gov.ns.ca/natr/contact](http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/contact)  
Web: [www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildlife](http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildlife)

## Species At Risk Act (SARA) - federal

*Goal is to prevent species from becoming extinct.*

Species at risk include any plant, animal, or other organism that is seriously at risk of extinction – Species can be designated at risk under either the federal or provincial program.

Protects all species that are deemed to be at risk (the federal government determines whether a species is at risk).

Once deemed to be at risk under the Act, the government must make a “recovery strategy” and “action plan” for the species, which can include measures to protect the endangered species’ habitat.

See SARA Public Registry: [www.sararegistry.gc.ca/](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/)

This may differ from the provincial registry under the provincial *Endangered Species Act*.

## Canada Wildlife Act - federal

*Goal is to create, manage and protect wildlife areas (also known as National Wildlife Areas).*

National Wildlife Areas are specifically designated to protect migratory birds, wildlife and habitat (especially if the species is designated as ‘at risk’ under SARA).

## Migratory Birds Convention Act - federal

*Goal is to implement the treaty of the same name, under which Canada and the United States coordinate their efforts to ensure long-term conservation of migratory bird populations.*

Protects migratory birds from physical disturbances and hunting.

## Endangered Species Act (ESA) - provincial

*Goal is to protect species at risk from extinction.*

Species at risk include any plant, animal, or other organism that is seriously at risk of extinction – Species can be designated at risk under either the federal or provincial program.

Provides a provincial framework for assessing species, determining whether they are at risk and listing them as at risk – either endangered, threatened or vulnerable.

Once listed, the provincial government must create a recovery team for the species, and start recovery and conservation efforts.

Recovery efforts depend on whether the species is listed as endangered, threatened or vulnerable.

Controls activities that can take place in the habitat of a species at risk.

Prohibits killing or disturbing a species at risk.

See General Status of Wild Species website: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildlife/genstatus/>

ESA registry may differ from SARA registry.

## Wildlife Act - provincial

*Goal is to create policies and programs to maintain diversity of wildlife species at levels of appropriate abundance.*

Regulates hunting, fishing, possession and sale of wildlife.

The province has the property rights in all wildlife, unless granted to individuals through licences or permits.

Determines how hunting/fishing license are distributed.

Prohibits hunting with a licence or permit except during open seasons.

Allows the government to make wildlife sanctuaries, wildlife management areas or wildlife parks.

# Wilderness

## **Parks Canada**

1.888.773.8888

Email: [information@pc.gc.ca](mailto:information@pc.gc.ca)

Web: [www.pc.gc.ca](http://www.pc.gc.ca)

## **Nova Scotia Department of Environment**

Phone: 902.424.3600

Contact: [www.gov.ns.ca/nse/contact.asp](http://www.gov.ns.ca/nse/contact.asp)

Web: [www.gov.ns.ca/nse](http://www.gov.ns.ca/nse)

## **Ministry of Natural Resources – Forestry Division**

Phone: 902.893.6350

Web: [www.gov.ns.ca/natr/forestry/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/forestry/)

## **Department of Natural Resources – Wildlife Division**

Phone: 902.679.6091

Contact: [www.gov.ns.ca/natr/contact](http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/contact)

Web: [www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildlife/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildlife/)

## **Department of Natural Resources – Land Services Branch**

Phone: 902.424.5935

Contact: [www.gov.ns.ca/natr/contact/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/contact/)

Web: [www.gov.ns.ca/natr/thedepartment/landservices.asp](http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/thedepartment/landservices.asp)

## **Department of Natural Resource – Parks and Recreation Division**

Phone: 902.662-3030

Contact: [www.gov.ns.ca/natr/contact](http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/contact)

Web: [www.gov.ns.ca/natr/parks/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/parks/)

## **Canada National Parks Act - federal**

*Goal is to designate representative examples of natural landscapes as National Parks, which are protected for the people of Canada.*

Grants the government the authority to control the activities that occur in National Parks - including the authority to prohibit activities that will impair the wilderness character of the area.

## **Wilderness Areas Protection Act - provincial**

*Goal is to provide a legal framework for establishing, planning, managing and protecting "Wilderness Areas".*

Designates representative examples of Nova Scotia's landscapes and provincially significant areas as "Wilderness Areas".

"Wilderness Areas" can be used for scientific research, education, and some recreation and nature-tourism related activities.

## **Forests Act - provincial**

*Goal is to provide healthier and more productive forests, as well as to encourage the management of privately owned forested areas and maintain or enhance wildlife and wildlife habitats, water quality, recreational opportunities and associated resources of the forest.*

Makes the government responsible for developing forest management programs.

Requires the minister to ensure that wildlife, wildlife habitat, the diversity and stability of the forest ecosystems, and water supply watersheds are managed.

Regulates forest nurseries, forest research, training of silviculture workers, and the prevention and suppression of forest fires.

Wildlife Habitat and Watercourses Protection Regulations made under the Act are aimed at protecting water quality and some elements of wildlife habitat in forested areas.

## **Conservation Easements Act - provincial**

*Goal is to create an option for protecting and preserving private land (land that is not owned by the government).*

A conservation easement is an agreement between a land-owner and an organization.

The agreement:

- gives the organization rights over the land that it would not otherwise have
- can last for a few years or forever
- must be made the purpose of protecting, restoring or enhancing the land

## **Beaches Act - provincial**

*Goal is to protect the beaches and associated dune systems of Nova Scotia for the public. Controls land-use activities on beaches.*

Prohibits the removal of gravel, stone or other material from a beach without permission.

Prohibits destroying natural resources found adjacent to a beach or dumping garbage on a beach.

## **Provincial Parks Act**

*Goal is to develop and maintain provincial parks.*

Dedicates all provincial parks for the benefit of present and future generations.

Allows the government to set aside and reserve Crown land as parks, and directs the government on how to choose which areas should be protected.

Prohibits the removal of forest products from designated parks.

Prohibits the transportation of garbage, hazardous or industrial waste through a provincial park, or to deposit those materials in a provincial park.

# Transportation

## Transport Canada

Transport Canada  
Phone: 613.990.2309  
Email: [webfeedback@tc.gc.ca](mailto:webfeedback@tc.gc.ca)  
Web: [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca)  
**Fisheries and Oceans Canada**  
Phone: 613.993.0999  
Web: [www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

Maritime contact info:  
Phone: 902.426.3550/  
1.800.782.3058  
Email: [info@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:info@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)  
Web: [www.mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca](http://www.mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

**Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal**  
Phone: 902.424.2297  
Web: [www.gov.ns.ca/tran](http://www.gov.ns.ca/tran)

**Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal**  
(Vehicle Compliance)  
Phone: 902.424.3602  
Web: [www.gov.ns.ca/tran](http://www.gov.ns.ca/tran)

## The Canada Shipping Act

*Goal is to govern the activities of vessels within Canadian waters and control marine pollution.*

Regulations under the Act prohibit the discharge of pollutants from ships such as the:

- Oil Pollution Prevention Regulations - prohibiting the discharge of oil
- Pollutant Substance Regulations - prohibiting the discharge of substances such as mercury and lead
- Garbage Pollution Prevention Regulations - prohibiting the disposal of garbage

## Dangerous Goods Transportation Act - provincial

*Goal is to prohibit the movement of hazardous substances on public highways unless all safety measures set out in the Regulations are met.*

"Dangerous goods" are defined in the Regulations and include: explosives, gases, flammable solids, oxidizing substances, poisons substances, corrosives, and miscellaneous products  
Establishes power to inspect vehicles/trucks for dangerous goods.

## Motor Vehicle Act - provincial

*Goal is to control the unauthorized use of motor vehicles on public roads, and the pollution caused by motor vehicles.*

# Workplace

## Nova Scotia Department of Labour and Workforce Development

Phone: 902.424.5301  
Contact: [www.gov.ns.ca/lwd/contact](http://www.gov.ns.ca/lwd/contact)  
Web: [www.gov.ns.ca/lwd](http://www.gov.ns.ca/lwd)

## Occupational Health and Safety Act - provincial

*Goal is to outline employers' obligations to employees, and the employees' obligations to each other with respect to health and safety issues.*

An employee can refuse to work if he or she has reasonable or probable grounds to believe that working conditions endanger health or safety.

# Other Legislation

Other federal legislation that relates to environmental issues but are not included in this guide (<http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/>):

- Access to Information Act
- Agricultural and Rural Development Act
- Alternative Fuels Act
- Atlantic Fisheries Restructuring Act
- Canada Agricultural Products Act
- Canada Marine Act
- Canada Oil and Gas Operations Act
- Canada Petroleum Resources Act
- Canada Transportation Act
- Canada Water Act
- Coastal Fisheries Protection Act
- Energy Efficiency Act
- Energy Monitoring Act
- Food and Drugs Act
- Forestry Act
- Hazardous Products Act
- Navigable Waters Protection Act
- Pest Control Products Act
- Plant Protection Act
- Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act

Other provincial legislation that relates to environmental issues but are not included in this guide ([www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/legc/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/legc/)):

- Agricultural Marshland Conservation Act
- Agriculture and Marketing Act
- Agriculture and Rural Credit Act
- Beaches and Foreshores Act
- Crown Lands Act
- Ditches and Water Courses Act
- Energy Resources Conservation Act
- Energy Efficient Appliances Act
- Farm Practices Act
- Forest Enhancement Act
- Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act
- Municipal Government Act
- Off-highway Vehicles Act
- Parks Development Act
- Petroleum Products Pricing Act
- Petroleum Resources Act
- Petroleum Resources Removal Permit Act
- Pipeline Act
- Provincial Mineral Act
- Special Places Protection Act
- Trails Act
- Underground Hydrocarbons Storage Act
- Water Act

# Cross-Reference Chart

## Federal:

	Canadian Environmental Assessment	Canadian Environmental Protection Act	Oceans Act	Fisheries Act	Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act	Species At Risk Act	Canada Wildlife Act	Migratory Birds Convention Act	Canada National Parks Act	Canada Shipping Act
Pollution Prevention & Sustainable Development										
Workplace Safety										
Coastal										
Federally owned Land (Public/Crown)										
Provincially owned land										
Environmental Assessment										
Contaminated Sites										
Transportation										
Mining; Oil & Gas Activity										
Air Quality										
Marine Waters										
Fresh Water										
Forests										
Development										
Toxic Substances										
Waste Management										
Drinking Water										
Management										
Wildlife										
Fish										

## Provincial:

	NS Environment Act	Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act	Water Resources Protection Act	Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act	Endangered Species Act	Wildlife Act	Wilderness Areas Protection Act	Forests Act	Conservation Easement Act	Provincial Parks Act	Dangerous Goods Transportation Act	Motor Vehicle Act	Occupational Health and Safety
Pollution Prevention & Sustainable Development													
Workplace Safety													
Coastal													
Federally owned Land (Public/Crown)													
Provincially owned land													
Environmental Assessment													
Contaminated Sites													
Transportation													
Mining; Oil & Gas Activity													
Air Quality													
Marine Waters													
Fresh Water													
Forests													
Development													
Toxic Substances													
Waste Management													
Drinking Water													
Management													
Wildlife													
Fish													

## For More Information

To find a more in-depth explanation about the formation of federal laws please see the federal government's Depository Services Program and the Guides to Government Information:  
<http://dsp-psd.pwgsc.gc.ca/Reference/guides-e.html>

The Nova Scotia Legislative Library produces the progress of bills and tracks them through the various stages. To find a more in-depth explanation about the formation of provincial laws please see House Business: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/LIBRARY/index.html>

To find the full text of the federal and provincial Acts and Regulations go to the:  
**Canadian Legal Information Institute at:** [www.canlii.ca](http://www.canlii.ca)  
**Federal Department of Justice:** <http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/>  
**Nova Scotia House of Assembly:** [www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/legc/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/legc/)

Please see A Guide to Environmental Law for Nova Scotians edited by Peter W. Mushkat for the Legal Information Society of Nova Scotia and Clean Nova Scotia, for a more comprehensive overview of environmental law ([www.legalinfo.org](http://www.legalinfo.org)). It formed the basis of this overview.

The Canadian Environmental Law Association provides legal analysis on environmental issues:  
[www.cela.ca](http://www.cela.ca)

## East Coast Environmental Law Association

This guide was developed with the assistance of the East Coast Environmental Law Association (ECELAW).

ECELAW is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide legal advice to individuals and organizations to ensure environmental laws are effectively used. ECELAW also conducts research and offers advice on how to improve environmental laws that affect this region. ECELAW delivers these services through collaboration among students, academics and practitioners.

ECELAW was incorporated in April 2007 and is currently made up of 12 board members.

## Environmental Law Students' Society

Dalhousie's Environmental Law Students' Society (ELSS) will work with ECELAW to produce future installments of the Environmental Law Summary Series. The ELSS is comprised of law students with an interest in environmental law and advocacy.

Suggestions for future issues? **Contact the ELSS at [elss@dal.ca](mailto:elss@dal.ca)**

## Further Reading

Jamie Bendickson, *Environmental Law*, 2nd ed. (Toronto: Irwin Law Inc., 2002)

Elaine Hughes, Alastair R. Lucas and William A. Tilleman, *Environmental Law and Policy*, 3rd Ed. (Toronto: Edmond Montgomery Publications Limited, 2003)

David Boyd, *Unnatural Law: Rethinking Canadian Environmental Law and Policy* (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2003)

Peter Mushkat ed., *A Guide to Environmental Law for Nova Scotians*, (Legal Information Society and Clean Nova Scotia, 2000)

This volume was created for the **Nova Scotia Environmental Network's** (NSEN) Legal Toolkit Project which was generously funded by the **Law Foundation of Nova Scotia** (<http://www.nslawfd.ca/>).  
To contact NSEN: phone 902.454.6846; fax 902.454.6841; email [nsen@cen-rce.org](mailto:nsen@cen-rce.org); web [www.nsen.ca](http://www.nsen.ca)

