

Welcome to the June 2002 Newsletter. We have changed the format of our newsletter, to make it easier for you to access the exciting goings-on at GPIAtlantic.

Thank you for your contribution, which supports our research and the continuing development of the Genuine Progress Index. The GPI is a tool that can redirect public policy towards the basic values we share as Nova Scotians, as Canadians, and as human beings. As an independent, non-profit group, we depend upon your support.

Our newsletters are designed to keep members posted on new research results, the latest GPIAtlantic activities, and policy applications of the GPI.



## We want you!!

We'd like to invite your participation in our new membership/communications committee, or development/fundraising committee. If you can give some of your time to this volunteer work on behalf of GPIAtlantic, please contact us at [membership@gpiatlantic.org](mailto:membership@gpiatlantic.org).

There will also be upcoming opportunities for you to be involved appearing on our website. Stay tuned at <http://www.gpiatlantic.org> for changes to help members become an even bigger part of GPIAtlantic.

## GPI In Atlantic Canada

During this period GPIAtlantic has been actively engaged with the governments of all four Atlantic provinces, particularly on the issue of smoke-free public places legislation: Check out our activities in each province.

[Nova Scotia](#)

[Prince Edward Island](#)

[New Brunswick](#)

[Newfoundland and Labrador](#)

## GPIAtlantic's *The Economic Impact of Smoke-Free Workplaces on the National Stage*

Click below for the national buzz on our Smoke-Free Report.

[Halifax](#)

[Ottawa](#)

[Brantford](#)

[British Columbia](#)

[Prince Edward Island](#)

[National](#)



## NS Legislature Debates on the Forestry Report

The GPIAtlantic Forest Accounts were featured in the NS Legislature's budget debate on April 18 in an exchange between Howard Epstein MLA and Nova Scotia Natural Resources Minister Ernie Fage. Click here to view a [transcript](#) of their discussion.



## Cost of Physical Inactivity

On June 12, GPIAtlantic, in conjunction with Sport Nova Scotia and Recreation Nova Scotia, publicly released its study on The Cost of Physical Inactivity in Nova Scotia at a press conference at the Banook Canoe Club at Banook Lake, Dartmouth. To view the [executive summary](#) from the report, click here.

A sedentary lifestyle costs Nova Scotians \$107 million a year in direct medical care expenditures. Physical inactivity costs the Nova Scotia economy an additional \$247 million each year in indirect productivity losses due to premature death and disability. Adding direct and indirect costs, the total economic burden of physical inactivity in Nova Scotia is estimated at \$354 million annually. The Genuine Progress Index counts health care spending due to physical inactivity as a cost - not a gain - to the economy.

The report found that if all Nova Scotians were physically active, the province would avoid 700 premature deaths and gain 2,200 productive years of life each year, with corresponding gains to the economy.

The total economic savings to Nova Scotia from a 10% reduction in physical inactivity amount to \$24.7 million. Promoting regular physical activity, including provision of adequate access to quality sport and recreation programs and facilities for all Nova Scotians, has the potential to reduce the enormous human and economic burden of physical inactivity.

The GPIAtlantic physical activity results were featured on all three television stations, English and French CBC TV and radio, commercial radio and both major newspapers. To view the June 13 [front-page story](#) in *The Chronicle Herald*, click here.

## Statement on the National Round Table

In partnership with the Atkinson Foundation, GPIAtlantic recently produced the second issue of *Reality Check: The Canadian Review of Well-being*. This issue featured the indicator work of the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy. Click here for [Reality Check #2](#).

On April 26, GPIAtlantic participated in another frustrating meeting of the Round Table's Environment and Sustainable Indicators Steering Committee. Unlike the receptiveness to the GPI work in the Atlantic Provinces, the results of the Round Table deliberations were disappointing. CLICK HERE for GPIAtlantic's [assessment](#) of the Round Table process.



## GPI Goes To School

GPIAtlantic will be featured in a new Environmental Studies textbook to be published this year by Oxford University Press. Preview the GPI [summary](#), as it will appear in the revised, third edition of *Resource and Environmental Management in Canada: Addressing Conflict and Uncertainty*, edited by Dr. Bruce Mitchell, Associate Vice President Academic, University of Waterloo. The text is designed for second year university students specializing in resource and environmental management and planning.



## GPI "Monster" News Flash!!

GPI Atlantic has just officially received charitable status from Revenue Canada, retroactive to January, 2002. This means that all donations to GPI Atlantic are now tax-deductible, and GPI Atlantic can now issue tax receipts. So dig deep, help us fulfil our mandate, and get a very well-deserved tax break at the same time!

## Community GPI Turning Point

Under the dedicated direction of Tricia Mackinnon and Debbie Prince in Glace Bay, a team of 23 has now completed data entry for all Glace Bay GPI surveys, where a remarkable 82% response rate was achieved. On May 16, with our Canadian Population Health Initiative representative from Ottawa present, GPI researchers presented the results on smoking rates to Cape Breton health professionals, government officials, and Glace Bay community organizations. A splendid celebratory lunch was held at Glace Bay's Savoy Theatre to honor funders, staff, and community members.

On May 21 in Toronto, Ron Colman presented the first Community GPI peace and security results to our second major funder, the National Crime Prevention Centre's (NCPC) Business Action Program. The funders expressed delight with our progress on the Community GPI, with the NCPC representative calling the project "outstanding", and the CPHI representative pronouncing the Community GPI his "favourite" of all CPHI projects. See more details on the [Community GPI](#).

Stay tuned for more news as data analysis and community presentations continue!

## News Briefs

- [GPIAtlantic Report Referenced in Newly Published Book](#)
- [GPIAtlantic Cost of Obesity Report Used in B.C.](#)
- [GPIAtlantic Forest Accounts Tabloid in Shunpiking Reaches 25,000 Nova Scotians](#)
- [Organization of Small Urban Municipalities expresses great interest in GPI](#)
- [GPIAtlantic and Economic Burden of Illness in Canada team host a 2-day workshop](#)
- [GPIAtlantic gives the keynote address to the Canadian Pensions and Benefits Institute conference in Edmonton](#)
- [GPIAtlantic featured in full-page story in Northern Sky News](#)

For more current GPIAtlantic activities, check out our [calendar](#).

## Upcoming Release Dates

See more [details](#), including report authors and researchers.

- June 12: *The Cost of Physical Inactivity in Nova Scotia*
- Sept. 12: *The Cost of Chronic Disease in Nova Scotia* (draft to be presented to the NS Deputy Minister of Health, Health Canada and Dalhousie University on July 25)

- Scheduled for completion, summer, 2002: *The GPI Solid Waste-Resource Accounts; The GPI Air Quality Accounts; The GPI Soils and Agriculture Accounts, Part 2: Soils, Water, Biodiversity; Debts and Assets.*
- Scheduled for completion, fall, 2002: *The GPI Transportation Accounts* and the *Hours of Work* component of the GPI.

Anne Monette and Shelene Morrison will begin a project this summer to organize all the data sets and spreadsheets of GPIAtlantic work to date. This database will allow for easy updating of results and replication of reports for others.



## GPI Admin Update

GPIAtlantic would like to bid a warm welcome to our new board members Anne Monette and Leticia Smillie. Anne is a senior researcher who also helps produce many of our publications. Leticia has taken on the leadership of our new membership committee, starting with this GPIAtlantic news.

The hunt is on for a Managing Director, who will focus on new fundraising and marketing efforts. This new position will help to establish GPIAtlantic on a firmer financial and organizational base. The board-appointed hiring committee is currently reviewing the applicants for the position.

Hearty thanks go out to researchers Jennifer Scott, Anne Monette, Jeff Wilson, Linda Pannozzo, Minga O'Brien, Karen Hayward, Colin Dodds, Gay Harley and Laura Landon for their outstanding research work and recent completion of contracts. These contracts have brought in necessary funds to sustain our operations, and their research brings us closer to a complete set of indicators.

**Due to budgetary constraints, we are sad to announce the departure of three staff members:** Marie Palmer, Community GPI director; Amelia Ireland, administrative assistant for the Community GPI; and Cliff Esler, Webmaster and administrator for GPIAtlantic. All three have made a tremendous contribution to the work of GPIAtlantic, and served with great skill and dedication. Cliff has performed a wide range of administrative duties: maintaining our website and database, coordinating board activities and releasing reports and newsletters, to name a few. Unfortunately, at this time we don't have the money to keep these excellent staffers on board. We wish to thank Cliff, Marie, and Amelia greatly for their first-rate work and wish them the best of luck in the future.

## Hola GPI!

GPIAtlantic in Argentina, Peru and Mexico.

The GPIAtlantic story in Spanish, "Como medimos el progreso" is being published in Buenos Aires, Argentina, by Club del Progreso, [www.clubdelprogreso.com](http://www.clubdelprogreso.com)

Meanwhile in Peru, Professor Rosa Mendoza, the academic director at the Escuela para el Desarrollo, has been using GPIAtlantic's work to help Peruvian professionals deal with development issues. For more information about the organization, see [www.escuela.org.pe](http://www.escuela.org.pe). Professor Mendoza also teaches about the Nova Scotia Genuine Progress Index in two graduate courses at Catholic University and San Marcos University in Lima, Peru.

In Mexico, an article on the Nova Scotia GPI was translated into Spanish by Grupo Zen de Ensenada. See how we look in [Spanish!](#)

## Membership Bonus

New GPIAtlantic members will receive a free copy of the Nova Scotia Ecological Footprint (100 pages) valued at \$35 + HST, as well as subscriptions to GPIAtlantic News and *Reality Check*, and a 25% discount on all GPIAtlantic publications given to members.

Give a membership to a friend and you can download any GPIAtlantic publication for free (value up to \$60).

For membership information please visit the GPIAtlantic website at [www.gpiatlantic.org](http://www.gpiatlantic.org). You can order publications directly from the GPIAtlantic web site at <http://www.gpiatlantic.org/order.cgi>.



The newsletter is a work in progress, so please feel free to send us your suggestions, criticisms or observations. Please contact us at [gpinews@gpiatlantic.org](mailto:gpinews@gpiatlantic.org)