



Ronald Colman and Anne Monette field questions after releasing a study on air quality.

GPI Atlantic Releases Air Quality Accounts

On January 21, 2004, GPI Atlantic released *The Ambient Air Quality Accounts for the Nova Scotia Genuine Progress Index* at a press conference in Dartmouth.

The release of the report garnered media attention, including interviews on CBC Radio's Maritime Noon and the 6pm National News, Global

Television News, ATV Evening News, Eastlink Community News, CKDU Radio, and CBC Television's CountryWide.

Newspaper coverage of the release of the report included a lead front-page story in the Halifax Herald, followed the next day by a lead page 3 story and cartoon, and stories in The Globe and Mail (on-line edition), The Daily News, The Cape Breton Post, and Power Week Canada.

For the full report, the press conference presentation, and detailed press coverage, please click [here](#).

Highlights from the report:

- In the summer of 2001, Nova Scotians seeking refuge from ground-level ozone pollution were better off in downtown Halifax than in Kejimikujik National Park, where ozone levels have been as high as 2.3 times the the Canadian government's maximum acceptable concentration (MAC).
- In 2001, one of the highest ozone concentrations in Canada occurred in Kings County, NS.
- Also in 2001, downtown Halifax had the highest annual average sulphur dioxide concentration of any commercial site in Canada – 2 to 12 times the levels detected in other Canadian cities.
- Air pollutants emitted by Nova Scotians on a per capita basis were higher than all reporting OECD countries.
- NS lakes have been slower to recover from acid rain than those in Ontario, Quebec and Newfoundland.
- Large areas of eastern Canada are still

receiving twice the acid deposition that lakes and wetlands can tolerate without suffering long term damage.

- The frequency of public reporting on air quality in the province has declined sharply. The GPI report is the first assessment of Nova Scotia's air quality to be released at the provincial level in nearly six years - since the provincial government abandoned its State of the Environment reporting.

- A key air quality concern is ground-level ozone. There have been no improvements in ozone concentrations in the province in more than 15 years, and ozone levels in Nova Scotia are higher than the MAC. This means that Nova Scotians are exposed to ozone pollution at levels that can cause harmful health effects.

- Significant damage costs are associated with particular source sectors of air contaminant emissions in Nova Scotia:

- *Fuel Combustion:* Electric power generation by utilities and residential fuel wood combustion
- *Industrial:* Pulp and paper industry
- *Transportation:* Light-duty gasoline vehicles and trucks; heavy-duty diesel vehicles; and marine transportation.



GPI Atlantic's Annual General Meeting

will be held on February 3 at 4pm at 260 Wyse Road, Dartmouth. This edition of the GPINews will serve as the Annual Report.



Farewell and Thank You to GPI Atlantic Managing Director, Bill Turpin, who leaves us on 23 January. We will miss him greatly. Bill has done splendid work in the past 18 months, and his equanimity and good heart have often kept the GPI Atlantic ship on an even keel when we were overwhelmed by work.

Thank You to GPI Atlantic Board member, Leticia Smillie, for her stalwart work in preparing this and previous issues of GPINews.



GPI Down Under....

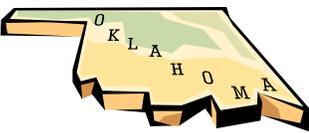
GPI Atlantic Director Ron Colman recently spread the GPI message in New Zealand, where he was hosted by Marilyn Waring, the former New Zealand MP, celebrated for her pioneering work in valuing unpaid work. For the NZ Herald report, [click here](#).

Ron Colman with Marilyn Waring at her Auckland, NZ, home.

Ron describes Marilyn as an inspiration for the work of GPI Atlantic... *"Marilyn was one of the first people to take the complex workings of the*

system of national accounts apart and communicate its deficiencies in a way a person could really understand," Dr Colman said. *"It was quite groundbreaking internationally. I was very greatly influenced by Marilyn's work."*

In New Zealand, Ron met with NZ government officials, local councils, and community groups. He also gave radio and TV interviews, and spoke at Massey University.



... In the USA

Ron presented the GPI in Oklahoma City to U.S.

community health improvement leaders who want to apply GPI Atlantic full-cost accounting methods to assess the costs of obesity.

... and in Bhutan

In February, 2004, Ron will present GPI Atlantic work at an international



conference in Bhutan, where the King has declared his country to be more interested in "Gross National Happiness" (GNH) than "Gross National Product." Ron will discuss with Bhutanese officials the indicators that could be used to measure GNH.



O Canada...

The National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy (NRTEE) wants Canada to become the first country to adopt a new way of measuring overall economic development and

prosperity. In its proposal to the Federal Government, the NRTEE argues for an expanded system of national accounts to include measures of natural, human, and social capital. The NRTEE believes that including measures of forest cover, freshwater quality, greenhouse gas emissions, wetlands, education, and other indicators, would create a more realistic picture of the true status and of Canada's economy and sustainability of practices. GPI Atlantic played a major role in this initiative as a member of the NRTEE Environment and Sustainable Development Indicators Steering Committee.

Romanow Endorses new Wellbeing Index

In his acceptance speech, upon receiving the International Foundation's Public Service Award, Roy Romanow discussed the importance of new measures of wellbeing in the effort to improve the health of Canadians. His speech recognized the failure of conventional economic indicators to assess national wellbeing:



"The real world is built around a variety of factors, all of which touch each other. It's like when you throw a handful of stones into the water and the ripples from each move out to touch and reshape the others... I sometimes think that GDP must stand for Gross Distortion of Prosperity, because it provides a very misleading picture of our national wellbeing... A real Canadian Index of Wellbeing would engage Canadians in a meaningful debate about what it means to have global-leading quality of life and sustainability. It would provide policy-shapers and decision-makers with the information they need to measure the full benefits and costs of policy changes." Romanow cites GPI Atlantic and *Reality Check* in his speech. To view his speech, [click here](#); to view the Globe and Mail summary of his speech, [click here](#).



GPI hits the books!

The GPI is now cited and described in new texts for Nova Scotia schools. The NS Department of Education will also use GPI Atlantic's *Fisheries and Marine Environment*

Accounts in the Nova Scotia Correspondence Study Program (CSP) for its Global Geography Grade12 classes. The CSP will provide a link to our website and refer students to GPI Atlantic as a research source.

The CSP is also developing a Science 10 course, which will require students to read *Bigfoot Discovered in Nova Scotia*, a 2001 GPI Atlantic article describing Nova Scotia's Ecological Footprint. To view the article, [Click here](#)

EIA Partnership

GPI Atlantic is partnering with AMEC, Jacques-Whitford, ADI, Gardner-Pinfold, and other environmental



engineering and consulting firms in a \$3 million Environmental Impact Assessment to modify the Petitcodiac River Causeway in Moncton to restore fish passage and river flow. GPI Atlantic researcher, Sally Walker, Ph.D, will work on the full-cost accounting component of the EIA, a small piece of the full EIA.

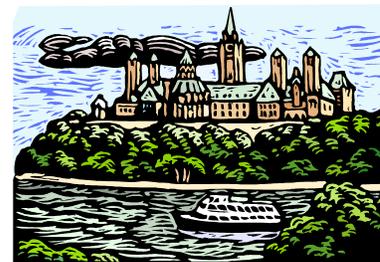
To the best of our knowledge, this is the first Canadian Environmental Impact Assessment to include a requirement for Full-Cost Accounting. This requirement was inserted as a direct result of a GPI Atlantic briefing on the subject delivered to the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the New Brunswick Department of Environment three years ago. GPI Atlantic was mentioned by name in the EIA request for proposals, and its help was solicited by three of the major partnerships applying for this project.

On May 31, at Mt Allison University in Sackville, NB, GPI Atlantic participated in a full-day workshop on the socio-economic impacts of the Petitcodiac Causeway project options, and delivered a presentation on the principles and methods of full-cost accounting.

Factoring Gender into the Health Equation

On October 9th, Health Canada hosted a policy forum which featured GPI Atlantic's *Profile of Women's Health Indicators in Canada (2003)*. Ron Colman's keynote speech highlighted the necessity of factoring gender into health policy decisions..."*Blunt, across-the-board solutions can miss the mark and waste money. Gender analysis allows policy makers to target health dollars more precisely towards high-risk groups.*" For an article about this forum in Health Canada's newsletter [click here](#).

This report has received considerable attention and is being reproduced for distribution at the World Health Organization's meeting on Women's Health in Tanzania, Africa. It was also presented to a WHO conference in Kobe, Japan. To read the report, please [click here](#)



The GPI Debate Heats up...

On June 3 2003, the House of Commons adopted the Canada Well-Being Measurement Act

by a vote of 185 to 46. The motion stated that: "... *that in the opinion of this House, the government should develop and report annually on a set of social, environmental and economic indicators of the health and well-being of people, communities and ecosystems in Canada*".

A number of representatives stood up in support of the GPI, and GPI Atlantic's work towards this goal was noted. Joe Jordan, MP, Liberal, presented the motion and praised the contribution of GPI Atlantic..." *I also want to thank Ron Colman from Atlantic Canada who developed a genuine progress index that I think goes a long way toward solving what types of things we might go about measuring and how we might go about measuring them.* "

Brian Masse and Joe Comartin, NDP members, John Duncan, Canadian Alliance member and John Herron, PC member also discussed the benefits of the GPI and referenced GPI Atlantic's work. After describing GPI Atlantic's work in some detail in his speech to the House of Commons, Mr. Comartin concluded:

"Members can see, then, that the province of Nova Scotia has gone a very long way toward establishing this index and these indicators of social progress that would measure human progress much better than the use of the gross domestic product index does now."

The Sustainability Project has started a campaign to encourage citizens to promote the establishment of a Canadian GPI. To view their campaign, [click here](#).

They're Singing Our Praises...

♪ Margaret-Ann Blaney, the New Brunswick Minister responsible for the Status of Women, wrote to say that she and her colleagues found the GPI presentation and general approach very useful in their roundtable deliberations on reducing wage gap between men and women because it clearly illustrated the "cost of not addressing health and social issues" resulting from the wage gap.



♪ Graham Pollett, MD, Medical Officer of Health, Middlesex-London Health Unit, wrote that the GPI Smoke-free Workplaces report was a 'most important resource', 'very helpful,' and "used many times" in moving City of London (Ontario) to adopt 100% smoke-free public places and 100% smoke-free workplaces.

GPIAtlantic Buzz

🧠 GPI Atlantic is featured in *Resource and Environmental Management*, 3rd edition, a popular textbook. To read the "Expert summary of the Genuine Progress Index," [click here](#).



🧠 GPI Atlantic was one of seven international expert groups invited by the US EPA and Environment Canada to review the indicators used to assess the condition of the Great Lakes. The review took place Oct. 6-8. For more information, [click here](#).

🧠 GPI Glace Bay played an active role in the UCCB conference "Broadening the Definition of Health."

🧠 GPI Atlantic numbers were cited in the *National Post* in a story on the Newfoundland Medical Society advocating 100% smoke-free workplaces in Nfld and Labrador.

🧠 The Chronicle Herald ran a Recreation Nova Scotia ad citing GPI Atlantic numbers on the cost of physical inactivity and urging investment in recreation as an election issue.

🧠 State of the World 2004, a Worldwatch publication in 24 languages, will feature GPI Atlantic's work and will provide a review of some of our reports.

🧠 GPI Atlantic is assisting UNB (Saint John) and FAFU (China) to develop a sustainable development curriculum. Both universities have purchased a full set of GPI Atlantic publications.

🧠 *Ecological Footprint for PEI* was presented to the National Round Table on the Environment and Economy; CBC Radio (PEI) also interviewed GPI Atlantic about this report.

🧠 GPI Atlantic is heading the research and development committee of a new initiative by the Atkinson Charitable Foundation to create a Canadian Index of Wellbeing, and recently presented a proposed preliminary framework for the Index to the ACF Board of Directors in Toronto.

🧠 GPI Atlantic is presented on the Global [Justice Movement website](#) and also featured in their [newsletter](#).

🧠 GPI Atlantic researcher Anne Monette was published in Elements, Online Environmental Magazine. To read her article on the GPI, please [click here](#).

🧠 Chronicle Herald cites *Income Distribution and Women's Health* reports in article.

🧠 *Reality Check: The Canadian Review of Wellbeing*, produced by GPI Atlantic and published by the Atkinson Charitable Foundation, is being promoted in Brasil. Indicator pioneer, Hazel Henderson, who is on the *Reality Check* editorial board, recently gave copies to Brasil's Minister of the Environment and other government officials.

🧠 GPI Atlantic was featured on CBC Saint John on September 29, 2003.

🧠 Guelph University Forest Capital Index design is using GPI Atlantic's forest accounts as an information source and reference.

🧠 GPI Atlantic's Inequity and Disease research was presented to the Canadian Public Health Association conference in Calgary

🧠 Materials from GPI Atlantic's new Air Quality Accounts will be used and referenced in

Environment Canada's upcoming Acid Rain Assessment.

Recent Presentations...

In the last few months, GPI Atlantic has made presentations to the following organizations:



- ① Nova Scotia Association of Health Organizations annual conference
- ① Nova Scotia Deputy Ministers
- ① Recreation Nova Scotia annual conference
- ① Westmorland-Albert environment conference in Moncton
- ① NS Voluntary Planning Agency Board of Directors
- ① Atlantic Association of Applied Economists, Bank of Canada
- ① Canadian Sustainable Indicators Network
- ① Atlantic Centre of Excellence for Women's Health
- ① Industry Canada, Health Canada, HRDC, Heritage Canada and other agencies via videoconference in Vancouver
- ① Prince Edward Island workshop to initiate PEI Quality of Life Index
- ① Representatives of cooperatives and credit unions from USA, Canada, and UK
- ① University of New Brunswick at Saint John
- ① Atlantic Canada Economics Association
- ① Leadership Roundtable, Hamilton, Ontario
- ① On February 5, 2004, GPI Atlantic will present to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Sustainable Communities Conference in Ottawa.

GPI Report Sets New Funding Priorities

GPI Atlantic's recent report on Inequity and Disease in Atlantic Canada has become the basis of a request for proposals by Health Canada Atlantic Region's Population and Public Health Branch to address and overcome inequities leading to adverse health outcomes in Atlantic Canada. The Health Canada PPHB request for proposals states in part:



"The document "Inequity and Chronic Disease in Atlantic Canada" indicates that social, economic and health inequities are higher in some geographic areas of the Atlantic Region. Higher priority will be given to projects which focus on those areas: Northern New Brunswick, Cape Breton, and Labrador."

Community GPI

 Ownership of GPI Atlantic's Community GPI has been officially transferred to two new societies – GPI Glace Bay Society, under the leadership of long-time Glace Bay resident and UCCB professor, Dr. Peter MacIntyre and Stacey Lewis (executive director, Cape Breton Wellness Society), and GPI Kings Society, led by Richard Hennigar, Dr. Glyn Bissix (Acadia University), and Lila Hope-Simpson. The Community GPI databases are now housed at UCCB and Acadia University.



 Visit the GPI Glace Bay [website](#)

 Community GPI results on Kings County Agriculture and on the relationship between job characteristics and health outcomes in Kings County were presented to a community meeting in Wolfville on November 15.

 Community GPI results on employment and health in Glace Bay were presented to a community meeting in Glace Bay on December 4. Representatives of economic development and employment agencies were present. Funding was received from Health Canada Atlantic Region Population and Public Health Branch. Mike Pennock, research director at Dalhousie University's Population Health Research Unit recently completed an excellent and provocative analysis of the Community GPI employment-health results in a paper that we hope will be published later this year.

 Peter MacIntyre (UCCB) has received a research grant from the Voluntary Sector Initiative to analyze the results of the volunteer work section of the Community GPI survey.

 Reports on Glace Bay and Kings County Community GPI results on tobacco use, peace and security, core values, unpaid caregiving, time use, and the health of discouraged workers were sent to the Canadian Population Health Initiative (which funded the survey work along with the National Crime Prevention Centre).

 Community GPI results will be presented in January, 2004, to a meeting of staff of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), which funded survey analysis, and to the members of the Nova Scotia Inter-departmental Committee on Community Economic Development.

 GPI Atlantic has constructed a Community GPI survey and set up a website for the Halifax Inner City Initiative, after several months of consultations with community groups in the Halifax North End. That survey will be administered in 2004 by the Human Resources Development Association of Halifax.

Recent Reports...

 Cost of Tobacco and Economic Impact of Smoke-Free Workplaces reports for British Columbia, Newfoundland and Labrador, and New Brunswick



 Cost of Chronic Disease in Canada report for Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance of Canada

 Inequity and Disease report for Health Canada Atlantic Region Population and Public Health Branch (GPI researcher Karen Hayward)

 Income and Health (joint research report with York University and University of Saskatchewan (GPI researcher Karen Hayward)

 Women's Health in Atlantic Canada (2 volumes) for Atlantic Centre of Excellence for Women's Health

 Women's Health in Canada for Health Canada's Women's Health Bureau, Ottawa

 Prince Edward Island Ecological Footprint (GPI senior researcher Anne Monette)

 9-volume Atlantic Health Database

Using the new database, we have prepared a summary of cancer incidence and mortality and diabetes trends over a 25-year period in Nova Scotia and Canada, and will be meeting with Cancer Care NS on January 21 to discuss a press release on the subject.

Upcoming Reports...



Through 2003, work has been proceeding on several core GPI reports on key components of the Nova Scotia Genuine Progress Index. Drafts of these reports have been reviewed by experts and they are now in the very final stages of completion. To be released early in 2004 (lead researchers and authors in parentheses):

- The GPI Solid Waste Accounts (Jeff Wilson, Sally Walker)
- The GPI Work Hours Accounts (Linda Pannozzo)
- Debt, Assets, and Wealth in Nova Scotia (Colin Dodds)
- Four volumes of the GPI Soils and Agriculture Accounts – Water resources, Livestock health, Employment, and Rural Community Resilience (Jennifer Scott). Jennifer undertook extensive interviews and seven rounds of group consultations with Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island farmers for the last two of these reports.

Watch the [GPI Atlantic web site](#) for these new reports and for media coverage.

Reality Check

The latest issue of *Reality Check: The Canadian Review of Wellbeing*,

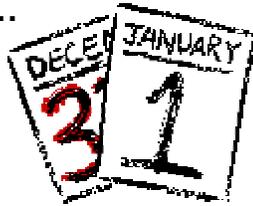


December 2003, produced by GPI Atlantic in cooperation with the Atkinson Charitable Foundation is now available ([click here](#)). The issue focuses on the mixed blessings of technology, and includes in-depth articles on industrial fishing, food production, and the true costs of driving and automobile dependence. The next issue (Feb-Mar. 2004) will focus on measuring the true costs of air, water, and solid waste pollution.

New Year's Resolutions...

GPI Atlantic priorities for 2004 include:

- ≥ Completion of the GPI Transportation component – targeted for release in Fall, 2004. Funded by the Moving on Sustainable Transportation program of Transport Canada.
- ≥ Continuing research on the GPI Education component, under the direction of Dr. Andrew Harvey (St. Mary's University). GPI researcher Karen Hayward has undertaken an extensive literature review. Indicator selection will begin at a half-day expert consultation to be held at St. Mary's University this winter.
- ≥ Beginning research and data collection in early 2004 on the GPI Energy component, under the direction of Dr. Larry Hughes (Dalhousie University). Both the education and the energy research are funded by a research grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. In 2005-06, the same SSHRC grant will fund integration of all the GPI results and the development of the integrated Genuine Progress Index for Nova Scotia
- ≥ Waiting for results of application to the Canadian Foundation for Innovation for a database development grant, which would enable us to integrate all the GPI components into a single database. We will find out in February, 2004, whether we are successful. If we are, Anne Monette will work on this project.
- ≥ Working from January to June, 2004, we will work closely with Hans Messinger, Statistics Canada, to develop a detailed design framework for the proposed Canadian Index of Wellbeing, consulting along the way with indicator experts from throughout Canada. The work is funded by the Atkinson Charitable Foundation, and the draft framework document will be presented to the Atkinson Charitable Foundation board of directors in June, 2004.
- ≥ We received a contract to replicate GPI Atlantic's Cost of Chronic Disease report for the other Atlantic Provinces (PEI, NB, and Newfoundland and Labrador), with funding from Health Canada and from the Health Departments of the three provinces. Due to our own current work overload, we have passed this contract on to our close research partner, the Population Health Research Unit at Dalhousie University. PHRU will undertake this work in the Spring of 2004.



≥ GPI Atlantic is just beginning a major 20-month research project to investigate the relationship between changing labour force patterns and health outcomes, as part of a nationwide inquiry into the Health Impact of Economic Change; funded by a Health Canada research grant. Lead researcher will be Sean Rogers, who will work under the supervision of Dr. Lars Osberg and Dr. Shelley Phipps of Dalhousie University's Economics Department. Dr. Kent Gustavson of Jacques-Whitford Consulting will do the project management. We will be using the Community GPI databases and the Newfoundland Community Accounts in addition to Statistics Canada data. Other project partners include Dr. George Kephart, Director of PHRU, Dr. Carol Amaratunga, University of Ottawa, Dr. Andrew Harvey (St. Mary's University), Dr. Glyn Bissix, Acadia University, Dr. Peter MacIntyre, UCCB, Dr. Doug May, Memorial University, and Alton Hollett, Director of Statistics, Newfoundland and Labrador. The project began in January, 2004. Initial research will be undertaken by Mike Pennock (PHRU), Dr. Andrew Harvey, and GPI Atlantic researchers. Karen Hayward will conduct a literature review.

≥ Waiting for results of application to the Nova Scotia Gaming Foundation for funds for an initial literature review on Cost of Gambling studies. This may form the seed for a proposal for an extensive study on the Cost of Gambling in Nova Scotia.

≥ Proposing to Health Canada's Women's Health Bureau to develop women's health indicators for Canada, in partnership with the Women's Health Research department of the University of Ottawa.