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## Rural Innovation Fund Grant Program 2012

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### St. Margaret's Bay Stewardship Association

Robert Ziegler, Tantallon [bob@robertwziegler.com](mailto:bob@robertwziegler.com)  
488-6509

**Project:** *Transition Movement in Nova Scotia* is designed to extend and continue the ground laid in the first year of the through pursuit of the action areas of inauguration of biennial Open Space events; advanced training in the transition methodology; support of demonstration projects; topical gatherings; and documentation and dissemination locally and beyond.

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### Inverness Cottage Workshop Association, Inverness Shean Housing Cooperative

Cindy O'Neill [Inverness.ca@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:Inverness.ca@ns.sympatico.ca)

**Project:** Implement a demonstration of a housing project on municipal land, leveraging local partnerships, enhancing innovation in the building trades, utilizing renewable energy technologies, and ensuring sustainability for housing management staff, all under the supervision of an advisory group for project evaluation.

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### Antigonish Women's Resource Centre & Sexual Assault Services Association

Lucille Harper, Antigonish [lucilleawrc@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:lucilleawrc@ns.sympatico.ca)  
863-6221

**Project:** Building Homes, Building Capacity: The Antigonish Affordable Housing Project will be the first year of implementation of a five-year strategy to develop good quality, energy efficient housing for Antigonish area people who cannot afford market rents.

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## Rural & Coastal Communities Network

Mark Austin, Executive Director [m.austin@xplornet.com](mailto:m.austin@xplornet.com)  
897-8389

**Project:** Sustainable Truro Community Corner (STCC) is a project of community engagement in the implementation of the Town of Truro Community Sustainability Plan. Our next-path opportunity is to be a catalyst for greater community engagement in achieving the vision of Town's Sustainability Charter

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## Musquodoboit Valley Health Foundation

Tom Parker, Chairperson

*Volunteer Project – Phase 3*

**Project:** A key component is to build co-operation amongst community groups. Phase 3 of this initiative is focused on building collaboration amongst community groups. The goal is to develop a strong, co-operative volunteering sector in the Musquodoboit Valley through the creation of a volunteer strategy which includes the development of a micro-volunteering program

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## Governors of St. Francis Xavier University (Extension Department)

Phil Davison, Director

**Project:** To conduct a feasibility study of and develop partnerships around an Innovation/Incubation Centre at StFX in Antigonish will assess internal support, demand and potential (within StFX).

# Rural Innovation Fund Grant Program 2011

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## Tatamagouche Centre with North Shore Project Management Society

Paul Brinkhurst, North Shore Project Management Society [pauljbrink@gmail.com](mailto:pauljbrink@gmail.com)  
657-0171

Steve Harder, West Branch [steve@profilesavalon.ca](mailto:steve@profilesavalon.ca) 351-2214

**Project:** Expand existing asset mapping and hold a series of public planning sessions on the priority topics identified by the asset mapping. <http://www.tatamagouchetoday.com/>

**The North Shore Community Coordination Project (NSCCP)** is an effort to maintain and strengthen the benefits of living on the North Shore through improved communication, cooperation and collaboration between the many small non-governmental organizations dedicated to the people of this region. Like many rural areas in Nova Scotia, our part of the North Shore, from Pugwash through Tatamagouche to Caribou, struggles with issues like services for seniors, retaining its youth, and encouraging sustainable development. At the same time, this region is unique in its ability to attract more people than it is losing – we are growing! The North Shore Project Services Management Society (NSPSMS), and its partner the Tatamagouche Centre, are trying to sustain this growth in healthy ways by facilitating a common awareness between organizations or the issues they share, and providing opportunities for them to come together to build collaborative partnerships. We are building an asset map and linking community calendars along the North Shore to help residents and organizations learn of the assets they have in place. We are using this information to bring group representatives together so they can share their goals, issues and ideas to foster cooperation over competition.



Paul Brinkhurst and Steve Harder

**The NSCCP crosses municipal borders, recognizing that our geography and local history are strong creators of community.** It also seeks to strengthen the North Shore from within, using the resources we already have rather than looking outside the community for solutions. We believe that the people of the North Shore have already created a place that is vibrant, energized and ultimately sustainable and are working to help local groups ensure this remains the case. To contact the NSCCP please email us as [nspsmsmap@gmail.com](mailto:nspsmsmap@gmail.com).

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## St. Margaret's Bay Stewardship Association with Transition Bay St. Margaret's

Robert Ziegler, Tantallon [bob@robertwiegler.com](mailto:bob@robertwiegler.com) 488-6509

Bob Cervelli, Transition Bay St. Margaret's [robert.cervelli@gmail.com](mailto:robert.cervelli@gmail.com)

**Project:** Address community resilience in the face of uncertainties in energy, economy, resources and environment through workshops, community consultation and increased awareness based on the Transition Town model. [www.heartofthebay.ca](http://www.heartofthebay.ca)

**The next ten years will not be the same as the last ten years.** Peak oil, climate change, increasing energy costs, economic instability, resource depletion; these are just a few of the most pressing issues of our time. The Transition Initiative movement, which is spreading quickly around the world, provides a foundation upon which to build a promising future together that is more fulfilling, creative and sustainable. Transition is a process for strengthening community resilience and building sustainability in a post-peak oil world that is uniquely designed by each community based on their local needs and resources.

**The Transition Initiative movement began in Totnes in Devon, England in 2005 and has now spread to hundreds of initiatives in 30 countries around the world.**

These initiatives are based on the premise that we are moving into an increasingly uncertain future, whether because of the exploding debt accumulation in the global economy, the impending peak in world oil production or the impacts of climate change that we are already seeing around us. The Transition movement argues that our communities have become alarmingly dependent on fragile supply chains for most of its basic and essential needs such as food and energy; that is, they are *less* resilient, and have lost the ability to respond to shock from the outside at exactly the time when we need them to be *more* resilient.



Bob Cervelli and Robert Ziegler

**Transition Bay St Margarets was formed in early 2011, and is a group of concerned and active local residents who are dedicated to following the Transition Initiative model.** It is a group of volunteers who have come together with the shared vision of building resilience and sustainability into our community in response to the challenges of global change. The aim of Transition Bay St Margarets, in collaboration with the other Transition Initiatives in the Atlantic Canadian region, is to encourage our citizenry to become involved and empowered, to offer their own ideas and insights, and pitch in to help create a viable and sustainable future for ourselves, our children and all future generations.

**Examples of projects being explored by Transition Bay St Margarets Initiatives include** promotion of local food production and distribution, community-owned energy production, education and skills development for local self-sufficiency, developing transportation alternatives, and building cohesiveness in the local economy. It makes more sense to plan for future uncertainties than to be taken by surprise by them. It is also better to work as a community and to

do so sooner rather than later. Communities that pro-actively empower themselves can adapt successfully to changing times. Visit our website [www.transitionbay.ca](http://www.transitionbay.ca)

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## Rural & Coastal Communities Network

Mark Austin, Executive Director [m.austin@xplornet.com](mailto:m.austin@xplornet.com) 897-8389

**Project:** Establish a collaborative storefront approach to the implementation of Truro's Community Sustainability Plan.

<http://www.truro.ca/community-sustainability-plan.html>

<http://www.coastalcommunities.ns.ca/>



Mark Austin

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## Antigonish Women's Resource Centre and Sexual Assault Services Association with Antigonish Poverty Reduction Coalition

Lucille Harper, Antigonish [lucilleawrc@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:lucilleawrc@ns.sympatico.ca) 863-6221

Katherine Reed, Project Coordinator, [housing.awrc@bellaliant.com](mailto:housing.awrc@bellaliant.com)

**Project:** Produce an action plan to develop environmentally and economically sustainable housing for low income community members. <http://www.antigonishwomenscentre.com/>

**The Antigonish Women's Resource Centre received funding from the Rural Communities Foundation to implement the Antigonish Affordable Housing Project.** The need for affordable housing has been clearly identified by members of the Antigonish Poverty Reduction Coalition, and by participants in the Coalition's various activities. The women's centre will work collaboratively with multi-sector partners in the Antigonish area to develop a five-year plan for creating an attractive, durable, energy efficient, 10-unit apartment building that is conveniently located for its occupants. The initiative will cultivate the community capacity to go on developing more affordable housing, beginning with a series of roundtable discussions throughout Antigonish Town and County. Funding for the construction of housing will be sought from a variety of sources, including corporate and individual donors, foundations, and government. Equity in the form of in-kind contributions such as services, materials, and real estate will be sought. The women's centre also intends to develop one or more social enterprises that will become an additional source of funding over the long term, as more affordable housing projects are developed. The social enterprise(s) will most likely involve



Katherine Reed and Lucille Harper

providing services and/or products that fit naturally with operating rental housing. This will create employment in the community.

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## Inverness Cottage Workshop Association

Cindy O'Neill [Inverness.ca@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:Inverness.ca@ns.sympatico.ca)

Jim Mustard [jim\\_mustard@hotmail.com](mailto:jim_mustard@hotmail.com)

Conrad Taves [conradtaves@gmail.com](mailto:conradtaves@gmail.com)

**Project:** Form an Inverness Coalition for Sustainable Housing to develop high quality, energy efficient quality housing for the Inverness District 3 area.

[www.invernesscottageworkshop.com](http://www.invernesscottageworkshop.com)

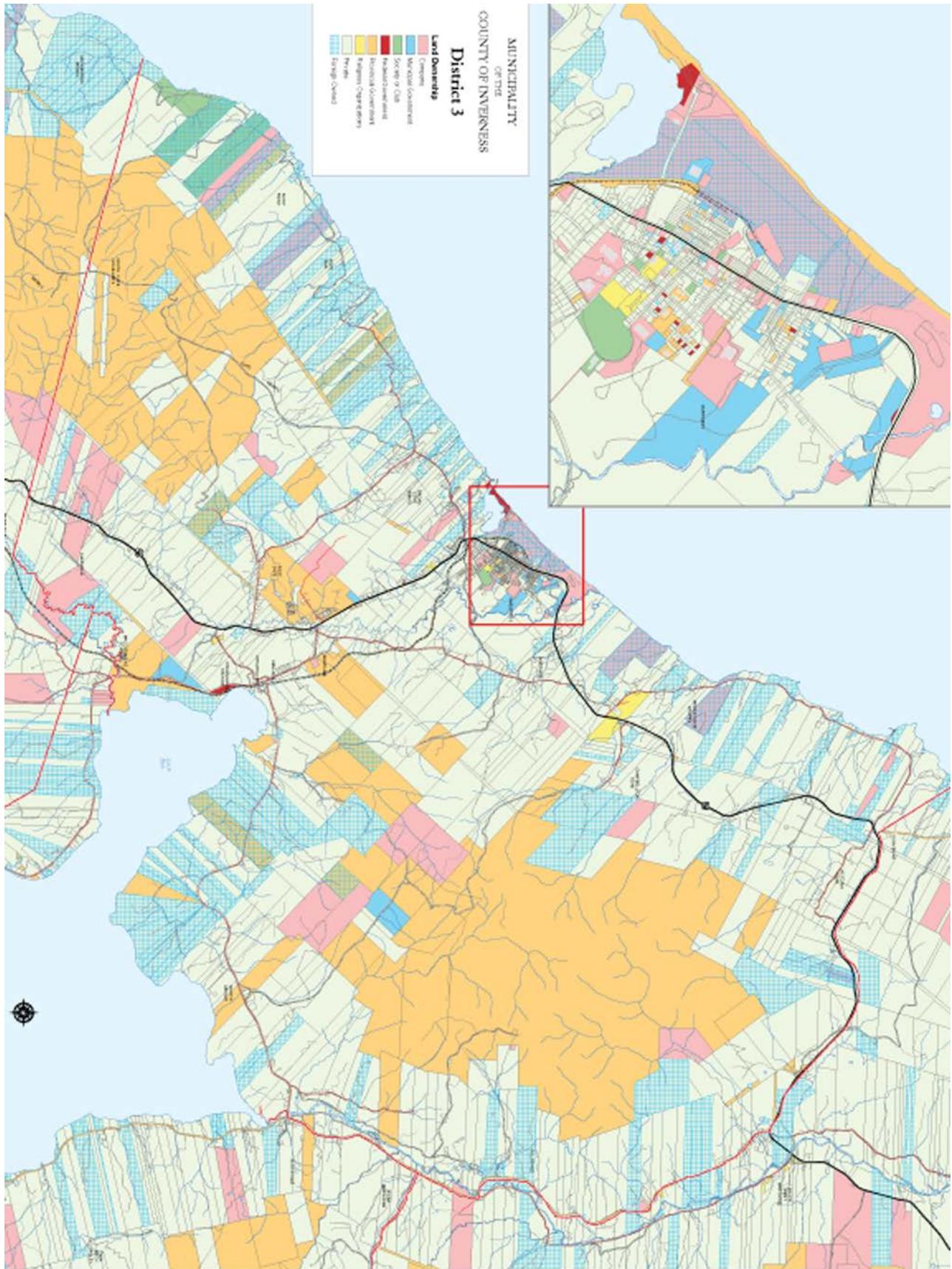


Conrad Taves, Cindy O'Neil and Jim Mustard

**Value Proposition for Inverness:** The next page shows a map provided incentive for Inverness District #3 to mobilize its own assets, and provide framework for ensuring proper governance and foster growth for a community that has faced continuous hardship and has been economically beholden to foreign investment. Over the past year a number of Town Hall meetings have assisted in identifying a number of key priorities that form an emerging Value Proposition to address the demographic challenge posed by the aging population, outmigration of young people and our need to attract and retain families with young children to sustain what we have and develop what we need. Those priorities are:

- Developing a housing plan that includes; high quality, affordable, energy efficient- new homes, apartments, restored heritage homes and public housing.
- Fostering a local economy that supports what we have and develops what we need – Including food security, transportation, local energy solutions: wood pellets, passive solar and water...
- Providing integrated early child development programs and services that seamlessly connect maternal health, infant development, early learning, childcare, pre-school to school. (2008/09, 47% of children entering Primary at the Inverness Education Centre were vulnerable socially/emotionally, physically, cognitively – provided by the department of Education through the EDI)
- Having an updated data base and process to ensure we are able to meet successional and emerging job opportunities. (37 at the ICM Hospital in the next 5 years)

*(See Inverness Ownership map, next page)*



The objective is to address these priorities by forming a credible umbrella body that has open representation from district 3 organizations and individuals to provide transparent collaborative governance that works from identified values and community priorities; to shares assets, form investment opportunities and help to shape ongoing development around the identified number one priority; developing high quality, energy efficient, affordable housing.

**Value proposition and the Question of Housing for Inverness** - *refined as of Town Hall #3, February 2011*: Four emerging issues were identified as key areas of action, to retain and attract families through the following mandates:

1. Create housing that includes high quality, affordable, energy efficient-new homes, apartments, restored heritage homes and public housing.
2. Stimulate the local economy: including food security, energy efficiencies (transportation), and local energy solutions
3. Provide integrated early child development programs and services that seamlessly connects maternal health, infant development, early learning, childcare, pre-school to school.
4. Have an updated data base and process to ensure we are able to meet successional and emerging job opportunities.

#### **How can a responsive housing project respond to these core issues?**

In designing this housing development, the Shean Housing Coalition (SHC) seeks to address all four of these core needs, with the following response:

1. Emphasizing high quality we underline that affordability is determined by the life cycle of the building, and the costs of not only construction, but operation and maintenance. High quality ensures that this project is an investment in the future of Inverness, and serving as a benchmark for continued development of quality spaces to raise families.
2. This investment has larger implications beyond creating affordable shelter, from instigating new channels of governance for smart development to the implementation of innovative technologies and sustainable growth. The proposed project seeks to review and consider a host of energy efficient measures to minimize demand on the energy grid and decrease the daily costs of living on the homeowner. By investing in a local energy solution that employs a network distribution system, the community incentive towards sustainability dramatically improve.
3. By developing communities that work to integrate local residents surrounding the development site, you reinforce the infrastructure that services specific needs. Development that employ shared amenities, and respect linkages to surrounding institutions and demographic groups foster the kind of development that create vibrant, healthy and sustainable communities.
4. The housing project will be included in the number of transparent processes we can learn from and improve on. It will serve as a benchmark for future housing projects, to continue the growth and development of the community through its built environment - which is informed by an integrated responsive network controlled and governed by its citizens. It will be part of a growing asset base to empower the local community.

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## Lunenburg County Community Fund (part of the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia)

Jim Barkhouse, Chair LCCF [jimb@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:jimb@ns.sympatico.ca) 275-4541  
Allison Kouzovnikov, ED Community Foundation of NS, Halifax  
[ak@cfns.ca](mailto:ak@cfns.ca) 490-5907

**Project:** hire staff to support and facilitate the working groups established as a result of the Vital Signs report in relation to health and wellness, economy, literacy and declining youth population.  
<http://www.lunenburgcountycommunityfund.ca/>



Jim Barkhouse

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## Bay St. Lawrence Community Centre

Amy Fraser-MacKinnon, St. Margarets Village [amy@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:amy@ns.sympatico.ca) 383-2334

**Project:** carry out a community visioning process and create an action plan for communities from Meat Cove to Aspy Bay. <http://www.baystlawrence.ca/>