

CONSERVATION ACTION

Annual Report
2014 -15

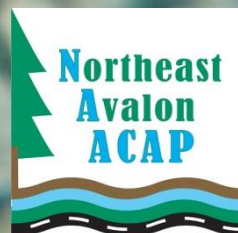


TABLE OF CONTENTS

A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR	2
INTRODUCTION	3
PROJECTS AND PARTNERSHIPS	4
MONITORING COASTAL CHANGE IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE	4
RENNIE’S RIVER WATERSHED RIPARIAN ASSESSMENT	6
WATER QUALITY MONITORING OF REGIONAL RIVERS	7
WORKING TOGETHER FOR RESPONSIBLE EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL WORKSHOP	8
MOVING FORWARD	9
RENNIE’S RIVER WATERSHED REMEDIATION	9
CONTINUED WATER QUALITY MONITORING OF REGIONAL RIVERS	9
THE FUTURE OF NAACAP	10
SPECIAL THANKS	11
NAACAP’S 2014-15 BOARD OF DIRECTORS	12
MEET OUR STAFF	13
APPENDIX A	14
FINANCIAL STATEMENT-MARCH 2015	



A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

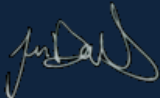
We have had an eventful year over 2014/2015 at the Northeast Avalon ACAP. The NAACAP board of directors, staff and our many volunteers have done much to help promote conservation and an appreciation for the waterways and coastal environments in the region, as well as further develop our vision and goals as an organization. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our partners and supporters over the past year whose support has been essential to the work completed. We look forward to sharing some of these efforts with you in this annual report.

We have continued to engage partners throughout our work, at the local level as well as with provincial and national environmental and water-focused organizations. Some of these collaborative efforts include various partnership projects such as the Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network (CABIN) sampling program with the Miramichi River Environmental Assessment Committee (MREAC) in New Brunswick. We have also sought out opportunities to meet with like-minded groups through regional conferences, such as the Coastal Community University Research Alliance (CURA) at St. Mary's University, Halifax, in addition to engaging with community and regional non-profit groups, educational institutions and municipalities on the Avalon Peninsula. To this end, further outreach and communication strategies have been developed through our strategic planning process, which we initiated in early 2015. Our Strategic Plan will entail four major components, and will see NAACAP through to 2020 as we strive to ensure healthy and sustainable watersheds on the Northeast Avalon.

In the year ahead, we will continue work on the riparian zone of the Rennie's River Watershed and water quality monitoring throughout the entire Northeast Avalon region. Through increasing this environmental knowledge-base, we hope to encourage more informed decision-making regarding the development and implementation of environmental policy. In addition to detailed water quality monitoring, NAACAP will also continue to enable members of the community to conduct independent water quality monitoring through coordinating training and capacity building efforts. Further, as an organization, we recognize the necessity of ensuring the sustainability of our own operations, and have developed a plan that prioritizes funding diversification as a major goal of the next five years, including fundraising and sponsorship endeavours.

We thank you for your continued support in helping us achieve our goals.

Sincerely,



Jen Daniels, Chair
Northeast Avalon ACAP



CONSERVATION ACTION

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

INTRODUCTION

The Northeast Avalon ACAP (NAACAP) is a non-profit organization dedicated to research and conservation action for the waterways and coastal environments in the Northeast Avalon region. Since its inception in 1993, the organization has worked with all sectors and the community at large to enable and promote evidence-based policy development and decision making. This report will highlight the work completed 2014-15 year and what is next to come in the upcoming year and strategically in the next five years.



Vision

**SUSTAINABLE HEALTHY
WATERWAYS ON THE
NORTHEAST AVALON, NL**



Mission

**TO RESEARCH AND PROMOTE
CONSERVATION ACTION FOR THE
WATERWAYS AND COASTAL
ENVIRONMENTS AND TO ENGAGE
COMMUNITIES IN THE
NORTHEAST AVALON**

PROJECTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

MONITORING COASTAL CHANGES IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

During 2014, Northeast Avalon ACAP (NAACAP) collected additional information related to coastal change to compliment previous research. NAACAP gathered general observations of the coastline of Witless Bay and Bay Bulls with photos to compare over time, and also conducted interviews with residents and those that work along the coast to collect information on past coastal changes and perceptions of the impacts of climate change on Bay Bulls and Witless Bay. Along with general observations of the entirety of the coastline, NAACAP conducted surveys at three beaches in Witless Bay: Lower Pond, Main Beach, and Ragged Beach.

Understanding coastal processes and climate change is a complex process due to the vast amount of influencing factors, including the variability geographically, and the somewhat unpredictable nature of extreme weather events. However, there are measures that can be taken to help plan for future impacts with the hope of lessening hardships from them. While it is no one's lone responsibility, the role of various groups, including communities, non-profit organizations, and federal and provincial governments vary. A breakdown of suggested roles is as follows:

Communities

- 1) Undertake or facilitate further coastal monitoring efforts, and ensure that coastal monitoring data is used in planning
- 2) Utilize the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Tool developed by the province to help with climate change adaptation planning efforts (http://www.env.gov.nl.ca/env/climate_change/vultool.html)
- 3) Develop an environmental committee tabled to keep track of and manage provincial initiatives, including the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Tool



**Regional and municipal-not for profit organizations**

- 1) Continue to play a role in facilitating conversation about climate change and the impacts on coastal regions through workshops, forums and community-based research
- 2) Help municipalities and local service districts in adopting environmental committees by establishing easy to use monitoring guides, and by acting as a source of community-based environmental education and support

Provincial and federal governments

- 1) Provide additional support and guidance to communities in planning for climate change and its impacts

This project provides an introduction to the coastal zone of Witless Bay and Bay Bulls, climate change impacts, and the perceptions of residents of the community. Continued monitoring efforts via multi-stakeholder community engagement will help bring the beach to the people and contribute to maintenance of a healthy coastal ecosystem. Proactive planning for coastal areas in the face of climate change will also help to ensure that communities are prepared, reducing the impacts felt. The reports for Bay Bulls and Witless Bay are available on the NAACAP website.





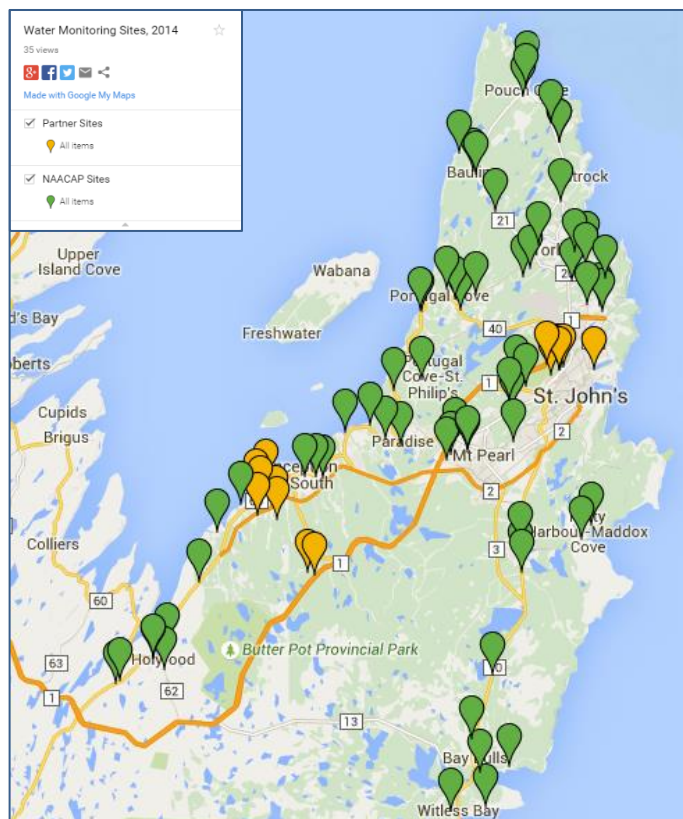
RENNIE'S RIVER WATERSHED RIPARIAN ASSESSMENT

The Rennie's River / Leary's Brook watershed is one of the largest watersheds in St. John's. This project examined the human impacts to the riparian and the instream areas throughout the watershed in order to identify areas needing future remediation efforts. The rivers were divided into sections referred to as reaches for assessment. For each reach, a Visual Stream Assessment Protocol adopted from the United States Department of Agriculture's Stream Visual Assessment Protocol Version 2 was used to score nine assessment factors, which were then averaged to give a ranking of poor, good, fair or excellent. Additionally, the location of garbage and debris and the presence of non-native invasive plants were also recorded.

A total of 25 reaches were assessed and ranked, there were none that received a ranking of excellent, while the distribution of the other rankings was similar. Geographically, the reaches that ranked as good were mainly near the headwater sections with the exceptions being some reaches along Rennie's River and the daylighted section of Kellys Brook. The Visual Stream Assessment Protocol assessment factors most commonly found to be problematic throughout the watershed were a lack of pools, lack of canopy cover, channel condition and bank stability. In addition to the conditions included in the assessment factors, noticeable issues also included the presence of garbage and debris and invasive plants. While these issues were found throughout, there were some areas where their presence was heavier.

Based on the findings of this project and the issues found during the assessment, recommendations were made to improve the ecological integrity and increase the value of the river system for recreational purposes. Recommendations included the removal of invasive plants, the planting of native plants, developing solutions for areas with severe bank erosion, removal and source control of garbage and debris, the development of riverside walking trails, the maintenance of stream crossing structures, and the engagement of business owners in watershed stewardship.





WATER QUALITY MONITORING OF REGIONAL RIVERS

Throughout the Northeast Avalon region, there are many rivers / streams that make up the various watersheds. During the 2014-2015 project year, Northeast Avalon ACAP (NAACAP) began a three year water quality monitoring project. NAACAP conducted water sampling at numerous locations during past projects, but no continuous water quality monitoring was conducted. The provincial Water Resources Management Division (WRMD) has some real time water quality monitoring stations (at Learys Brook, Waterford River, and Outer Cove Brook) and also quarterly sampled sites throughout the region. With this project, we wanted to initiate regular water quality monitoring to fill in some of the monitoring gaps.

Through a partnership with Saint Mary's University's CURA H₂O program, we received a multi- parameter water quality sonde (ie: probe) and other miscellaneous field supplies. CURA H₂O

also has online training modules, geared at improving the quality of community collected data by ensuring that everyone has the same basic level of training, and an online database where data is stored and sample locations mapped.

With the assistance of interns from the Marine Institute's Advanced Diploma in Water Quality and MUN's Memorial Undergraduate Career Experience Program (MUCEP), NAACAP sampled 67 sites throughout the Northeast Avalon. Some of these site locations were altered due to access or potential safety concerns, leaving 58 sample sites. The region was divided into 5 driving routes, with sampling occurring weekly, meaning that all sites were visited on a 5 week schedule. Of the 58 sample sites, 44 were visited the maximum four times throughout the field season, while the others had less visits for varying reasons, including construction at the sites.

Additionally, project partners sampled a total of 17 sites. The partners included students from MUN's Master of Applied Science in Environmental Systems Engineering and Management (MESEM) program, the Kelligrews Ecological Enhancement Program (KEEP) and the Fluvarium (The Quidi Vidi/ Rennie's River Development Foundation).

As part of the project NAACAP also conducted Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network (CABIN) sampling on the Waterford River with the assistance of the Water Resources Management Division of the Department of Environment and Conservation. CABIN is an aquatic biomonitoring program, which uses benthic macroinvertebrates along with traditional chemical and physical monitoring parameters to assess water quality.



WORKING TOGETHER FOR RESPONSIBLE EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL WORKSHOP

The Erosion and Sedimentation and Control (ESC) workshop was a half-day event hosted on June 6, 2014 at the Suncor Energy Fluvarium, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador. There were a total of 74 attendees from groups representing all three levels of government, industry, students, environmental organizations, and the general public. The event was opened by Hope Bennett, Chair of Northeast Avalon Atlantic Coastal Action Program, and formal welcome was given by Ted Lomond, Executive Director at Newfoundland and Labrador Environmental Industry Association. Six speakers from government and industry gave 25-30 minute presentations representing their perspectives and experiences with sedimentation and erosion. Subsequently, a product overview showcased some of the control measures detailed in the presentations. Networking time was built into the agenda to allow for new connections to be formed.

One of the main achievements of the workshop, as determined by participant feedback was that it clarified the theory and regulations that pertain to erosion and sedimentation. The new Fisheries Act provides regulatory context for the requirement for ESC because it ensures that "no activity is conducted that causes serious harm to fish that are part of a commercial, recreational, or Aboriginal fishery, or to fish that support such a fishery". Non-compliers may be reported and/or investigated by federal fisheries officers or the provincial Water Investigations Section. Industry presenters knowledgeable in ESC measures provided insight into the practical approaches for ESC planning and implementation and highlighted the importance of carrying out ESC through all phases of construction.

The planning of ESC was identified as a key determinant of mitigation success. Of the three presentations that discussed practical techniques to ESC, all three presenters emphasized the importance of pre-project planning and a proactive approach. Specifically, it is essential to select mitigation strategies and implement them before work is started. Secondly, two of the three presenters on ESC techniques emphasized the importance of ESC maintenance and explained that measures must be followed up on with regular inspection, maintenance and even replacement.



MOVING FORWARD

RENNIE'S RIVER WATERSHED REMEDIATION

Located on the Northeast Avalon Peninsula of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Rennie's River watershed covers approximately 80 square kilometers, and is one of the largest drainage basins in St. John's. Rennie's River, Leary's Brook and their tributaries flow directly through heavily urbanized environments, consisting of housing, commercial and industrial areas. While portions of this watershed have been populated for a long time and some rivers have been degraded, including being buried underground in culverts, other sections, mainly at the western extent of the watershed, have only recently been faced with increasing development pressures. Inevitably with this extent of human developments, there are an abundance of sources of potential disruption to the natural condition of the riparian zone. Sources such as road crossings, storm-sewer runoff, winter road salt use, sedimentation and runoff from land developments, pollution, burial and river re-routing installations can all potentially have negative effects to the natural riparian habitat biodiversity.

The purpose of this project is to remediate these degraded areas as identified throughout the riparian assessment. This will be done through the physical removal of invasive plants and garbage and debris coupled with the planting of native trees, shrubs and grass species. Along with improving native biodiversity, these efforts will beautify the riparian zones. The benefits of a healthy riparian zone will also extend to improve water quality and fish habitat within this urban waterway.

CONTINUED WATER QUALITY MONITORING OF REGIONAL RIVERS

Upon completion of year one of this project, NAACAP was successful in collecting data from numerous sites and engaging partners to assist with this process. As year two begins, NAACAP is interested in engaging more partners and volunteers to conduct regular water quality monitoring in local areas using the training provided by CURA H₂O and shared equipment located at NAACAP's office. The sites visited by NAACAP in year one will be reviewed by the project committee to determine if they represent the region sufficiently. Ideally, the number of sites monitored by NAACAP will decrease with an increase in partner and volunteer monitoring.

In future sampling the use of Testabs for nitrate and phosphate will be removed as it was not found to give precise measurements of these parameters. Ideally, lab testing of samples for nutrients would replace this aspect. Lab testing of metals would also be a good addition to the data collection. Further funding to do so will be explored in upcoming project years. There are also some improvements that can be made to the application of the WQI calculator, including possibly developing guidelines specific to brackish water, and reviewing the guidelines for freshwater so that they are determined to best represent not only freshwater, but freshwater in Newfoundland. For example, the removal of the lower variable in the range for specific conductance, and determination of pH ranges typical of Newfoundland waters could be possible changes. The increase in number of site visits over time and the addition of other water quality parameters would also benefit the use of the index.

CABIN sampling is also planned for Fall 2015 and 2016. There can then be comparison of annual invertebrate data, along with comparison to reference condition, which will be enhanced when a model is released for Newfoundland.





THE FUTURE OF NAACAP

In March 2015 NAACAP undertook a strategic planning session. Under the facilitation of Mr. George Parsons, the NAACAP Board of Directors and staff participated in a series of exercises, identifying key priority areas and goals to focus on for the coming five years. These priorities include 1)diversified funding; 2)urban streams; 3) community engagement and outreach, and; 4) community collaboration. These priorities will drive the focus of the organization for the next five years.



SPECIAL THANKS TO...

Canada 


Newfoundland
Labrador

Walmart 

CURA H₂O 

 **PENNECON**
LIMITED

amec 



ST. JOHN'S
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR, CANADA


Conservation
Corps Newfoundland
and Labrador

Kelligrews Ecological



Enhancement Program

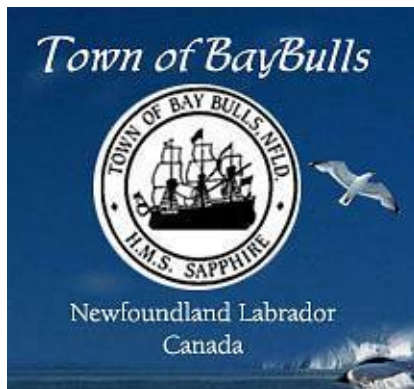

MEMORIAL
UNIVERSITY



EVERGREEN

 **meia.org**
Newfoundland and Labrador
Environmental Industry Association

 **SNC-LAVALIN**
BAE-Newplan



WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!



NAACAP 2014-15 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE



Jen Daniels, Chair
Memorial University of
Newfoundland



Judith Bobbitt, Treasurer
Oceans Limited



Corinna Favaro, Secretary
Government of Newfoundland
& Labrador

DIRECTORS



Hope Bennett
Memorial University of Newfoundland



Fiona Cuthbert
Memorial University of Newfoundland



Faisal Fahd
Memorial University of Newfoundland



Bob Helleur
Memorial University of Newfoundland



Arn Keeling
Memorial University of Newfoundland



Kimberly Orren
Island Rooms of Petty Harbour





Matthew Simms
Marine Institute of Memorial University of
Newfoundland



Bill Stoyles
Cal LeGrow Insurance



Brad Strang
Foxtrap Citizen's Coalition



Brian Whitty
Resident of Torbay

GOVERNMENT LIAISONS

Martin Batterson
Department of Natural Resources

Kyla Brake
Department of Environment &
Conservation

Melanie Irvine
Department of Natural Resources

Stephen Jewczyk
City of Mount Pearl

Kevin Power
Environment Canada

Richard Van Ingen
Department of Fisheries and Oceans

MEET OUR STAFF



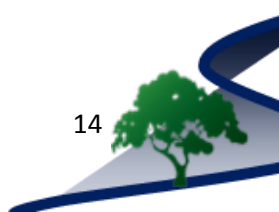
Phoebe Metcalfe
Environmental Technologist



Kailyn Burke
Outreach and Office Coordinator



APPENDIX A



Northeast Avalon ACAP, Inc.
Financial Statements
March 31, 2015

Northeast Avalon ACAP

March 31, 2015

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Financial Statements	
Independent Audit Report	1
Statement of Financial Position	2
Statement of Operations	3
Statement of Changes in Net Assets	4
Statement of Cash Flows	5
Notes to the Financial Statements	6

Independent Audit Report

Partners:

To the Shareholders
Northeast Avalon ACAP

Roger K. Coombs, CA
David M. DuPree, CA

Location:

119 Clyde Ave
Mount Pearl, NL
A1N 4R9

Ph: (709) 745-1200
(709) 579-1005
Fax: (709) 745-1204

Mailing address:

P.O. Box 447
Mount Pearl, NL
A1N 3C4

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Northeast Avalon ACAP, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2015 and the statements of operations, net assets and cash flows for the year then ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not for profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Northeast Avalon ACAP as at March 31, 2015 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not for profit organizations.


Chartered Professional Accountants



Northeast Avalon ACAP

Statement of Financial Position
March 31, 2015

	2015	2014
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash	\$ 52,253	\$ 38,550
Accounts receivable (Note 2)	7,753	9,313
Prepays	2,102	2,146
	\$ 62,108	\$ 50,009
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 2,260	\$ 2,544
Net Assets		
Unrestricted net assets	59,848	47,465
	\$ 62,108	\$ 50,009

Approved on Behalf of the Board:

_____, Director

_____, Director

The accompanying notes are an integral
part of these financial statements.

Northeast Avalon ACAP

Statement of Operations

For the Year Ended March 31, 2015

	2015	2014
Revenue		
Environment Canada	\$ 73,800	\$ 73,800
Department of Environment and Conservation	12,000	-
Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture	7,000	-
Department of Advanced Education and Skills	5,320	-
Walmart - Evergreen grant	3,750	-
Other revenue	3,239	-
Service Canada	2,715	2,718
Shared rent revenue	1,326	3,634
Department of Business, Culture and Rural Development	1,001	-
Memorial University - Harris Centre Project	-	4,081
	110,151	84,233
Operating expenses		
Salaries and wages	67,307	77,897
CCNL Green team and intern	6,000	3,020
Office and operating supplies	5,839	1,861
Rent	5,171	6,614
Travel	2,909	1,085
Insurance	2,301	2,250
Honorariums	2,200	-
Professional fees	2,000	3,130
Meeting expenses	1,543	544
Telephone	1,264	1,307
Website	670	705
Training and workshops	450	549
Bank charges	113	73
Harris Centre project	-	3,764
	97,767	102,799
Net income (loss)	\$ 12,384	\$ (18,566)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Northeast Avalon ACAP

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

For the Year Ended March 31, 2015

	2015	2014
Net assets, beginning of year	\$ 47,464	\$ 66,031
Net income (loss)	12,384	(18,566)
Net assets, end of year	\$ 59,848	\$ 47,465

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Northeast Avalon ACAP

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended March 31, 2015

	2015	2014
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Net income (loss) for the period	\$ 13,433	\$ (18,565)
Decrease in accounts receivable	511	101
(Increase) decrease in prepaids	43	(308)
Decrease in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(284)	(946)
TOTAL CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	13,703	(19,718)
Net cash increase (decreases) in cash and cash equivalents	13,703	(19,718)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	38,550	58,268
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	\$ 52,253	\$ 38,550

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Northeast Avalon ACAP

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended March 31, 2015

1. Significant Accounting Policies

Nature of business

Northeast Avalon ACAP (the "organization") is a not for profit organization incorporated under the laws of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador on December 18, 1992. The organization's objective is to promote and assist activity in the development of a comprehensive environmental management plan for those areas of land draining to St. John's Harbour and Quidi Vidi Harbour and to promote the cause of environmental protection and awareness generally.

The organization is covered by Section 149(1)(L) of the Income Tax Act and is not subject to income taxes.

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting standards for not for profit organizations.

Financial instruments

The organization recognizes and measures financial assets and financial liabilities on the balance sheet when it becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument. All transactions related to financial instruments are recorded on a settlement date basis. All financial instruments are measured at fair value on initial recognition. Measurement in subsequent periods depends on whether the financial instrument has been classified as held-for-trading, loans and receivables, held to maturity, available for sale or other financial liabilities.

Revenue recognition

Sales revenue is recognized in accordance with the accrual basis of accounting, which is when it is earned and measurable.

Use of estimates

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates and may have impact on future periods.

Northeast Avalon ACAP

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended March 31, 2015

2. Accounts receivable

Accounts receivable consist of the following:

	2015	2014
Environment Canada funding	\$ 7,380	\$ 7,380
HST rebate	373	1,933
	\$ 7,753	\$ 9,313
