



# 2017 Annual Report



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# 46 years

## A Message from the President

As I mentioned last year poetry is the theme of a 46<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – with enough entries we may have a contest and a reading soon! So please send us some Haiku or a sonnet or a clerihew or any type of poetic verse about “the environment”!

In 2017 the good news story was the cancellation of the Energy East Pipeline Proposal. The Coalition (Citizen’s for a Sustainable Planet, Council of Canadians – Thunder Bay Chapter, Ontario Nature, Fossil-Free Lakehead, Environmental Film Network and Environment North) did its part to broadcast the risks both to water and to the Climate. And what is true for Northern Ontario is also true for British Columbia. The Kinder Morgan pipeline expansion proposal poses the same risks. Canada cannot meet its greenhouse gas reduction commitments with expansion of the oil industry. All sectors, industry, commercial, public sector and individual need to strive toward reductions.

Nuclear waste has always been on our radar but as the Nuclear Waste Management Organization gets closer to selecting a host community our scrutiny increases. Look inside on page 2 to see the work done by board member Dodie Legassick who is passionate about

preventing the geological disposal of nuclear waste – especially in northwestern Ontario.

Sometimes our path whether to support or oppose a development is clear. Other times it requires a careful assessment of the benefits and detrimental impacts. We are in the process of becoming informed about the Noront proposal of a chromite mine in the Ring of Fire and a ferrochrome processing plant in one of four Northern Ontario communities. Benefits include hundreds of jobs and education opportunities especially for First Nation communities.

What are all of the toxic emissions? What level of toxic emissions is acceptable if any? How will greenhouse gas emissions be avoided? What assurances are there for the long term?

To help us understand the issues we have invited Ugo Lapointe the Canada program coordinator at MiningWatch Canada to speak at our AGM.

Our AGM and public presentation takes place on Tuesday, April 24, at the Waverley Library. The AGM will begin at 6:00 PM and the presentation at 7:00 PM. Hope to see you there!

Graham Saunders

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*Join us* on Tuesday April 24, 2018  
 6:00 pm Annual General Meeting  
 7:00 pm “Chromite Mining and the Ferrochrome Processing”  
 at the Waverley Library Auditorium

**Chromite Mining in the Ring of Fire and Ferrochrome Processing in a town near you**

With Guest Speaker **Ugo Lapointe**  
 Canada Program Coordinator

**DATE: TUESDAY, April 24, 2018**  
 Location: Waverley Library Auditorium, 285 Red River Road  
 6:00 pm Come early for the Environment North AGM  
 7:00 pm "Chromite Mining and Ferrochrome Processing"

All are welcome, free admission  
 for more info go to [www.environmentnorth.ca](http://www.environmentnorth.ca)

# Forestry and Mining

## Caribou Science

### "Scientists refute forest industry claims"

was the title of an article by board member Dr. Julee Boan, which was published in the Chronicle Journal in November 2017.

Boreal woodland caribou are a threatened species. In 2013 the Ontario government granted industry a five year regulatory exemption from the requirements of the Endangered Species Act. The province has approved an additional 2 year regulatory exemption. Yet this extension will put the caribou at further risk. The research is clear: the government needs to limit industrial expansion where the management threshold has been exceeded and the caribou are declining.

## FSC update

Last year Dr. Julee Boan joined the Board of Directors of Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Canada. Here is a brief update of their work in 2017.

- Annual General Meeting of FSC Canada Builds Consensus to Raise Forest Sustainability to a New Level
- Responsible forest management vital to ensure effectiveness of new federal boreal woodland caribou protection plan

## Ring of Fire

Noront Resources Limited is the proponent for a nickel-copper-platinum mine, the Eagle's Nest project, in the Ring of Fire area. Environment North has participant funding. Their draft EIS and Terms of Reference are posted on the Noront website.

<http://norontresources.com/projects/permitting-technical-documents/>

Noront is also the proponent for a possible future chromite mine in the Ring of Fire and ferrochrome processing plant in a northern Ontario community. Environment North has begun researching the environmental impacts of a chromite mine and a Ferrochrome processing plant. We plan to examine the environmental record of a plant in Finland. Ugo Lapointe from Mining Watch Canada will speak at the 2018 AGM.

## EXERPTS FROM THE RESPONSE OF CARIBOU SCIENTISTS TO CLAIMS MADE BY THE FOREST PRODUCT ASSOCIATION OF CANADA REGARDING THE SCIENTIFIC UNDERPINNINGS OF THE FEDERAL "CARIBOU RECOVERY STRATEGY"

1. The federal "Caribou Recovery Strategy" is not being implemented too quickly. It was published over 5 years ago and no caribou range plan has been finalized. Of the 51 boreal caribou populations recognized in the strategy 37 are declining. Recovery strategies need to be implemented.
2. There is not a lot of uncertainty in the science guiding the Strategy. Despite the complexity of reasons for boreal caribou decline there is high agreement that the effects of habitat disturbance increases risk of population decline.
3. The research is not out of date.
4. The Strategy incorporates flexibility.
5. Current forest management planning is not always examining all aspects of habitat disturbance and requirements are not consistent across the country.
6. There is no scientific data supporting evidence of boreal caribou recovery in Alberta or Ontario.
7. Boreal caribou populations can be stressed by other types of disturbance other than industrial disturbance.
8. Climate change is a new threat for boreal caribou but does not alone explain the current threatened condition.

For the entire article: [Scientists' Letter](#)

# Nuclear Waste

There are five remaining communities in the site selection process: Ignace, Manitouwadge and Hornepayne in northern Ontario and Huron-Kinloss and South Bruce in southern Ontario.

Borehole drilling began in the Revell Lake area near Ignace in November 2017. These core samples, drilled to a depth of one kilometer, will be analyzed by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization in 2018.

If nuclear waste were to be buried in the Ignace area about two trucks a day would travel to Ignace from southern Ontario for about 38 years. Also she has researched the frequency of truck collisions between Ignace and Nipigon. On average, 32% of all motor vehicle collisions on this stretch of highway involve heavy trucks.

Dodie has begun a public information campaign regarding the concerns surrounding geological disposal and transportation in this region.

To learn more about nuclear waste visit:

1. [Environment North - Nuclear Waste](#)
2. <http://www.nuclearwaste.ca/>

Environment North is opposed to the geological disposal of nuclear waste and nuclear energy. At the [2017 AGM Angela Bischoff presented the Price of Power](#) and discussed that hydroelectricity from Québec is a green and cost-effective alternative. The article [Nuclear costs continue to rise](#) by president Graham Saunders outlines the nuclear contribution to an electricity bill.

# Community Resilience

Environment North's main activity is community environmental education.

As in previous years we supported the Environmental Film Festival.

Northwestern Ontarians are surrounded by freshwater. Board member Scott Harris points out in his article, [Just how precious is our water](#), that we should not take it for granted and we should take steps to ensure freshwater for the future.

Our Environmental Knowledge Seminar Series continued with a presentation by PhD candidate Élise Devoie giving a talk at the about her research: [Studying Permafrost in a Changing Climate](#).

Board member, Karen Peterson, outlines her concerns about Bill 139, in her article, [The Ontario Municipal Board, Appeal Tribunals and Complex Social and Environmental Impacts](#). This article discusses issues surrounding the provincial government's transitioning from the OMB to Local Planning Appeal Tribunals from a Northern Ontario perspective and with regard to unorganized townships.

The Canadian Federal Government failed to meet:

1. The 1992 Rio target
2. The 2005 Kyoto target

Canada will fail to meet the:

3. The 2020 Copenhagen target
4. The 2030 GHG emission target and Paris commitment of:

**523 Mt**

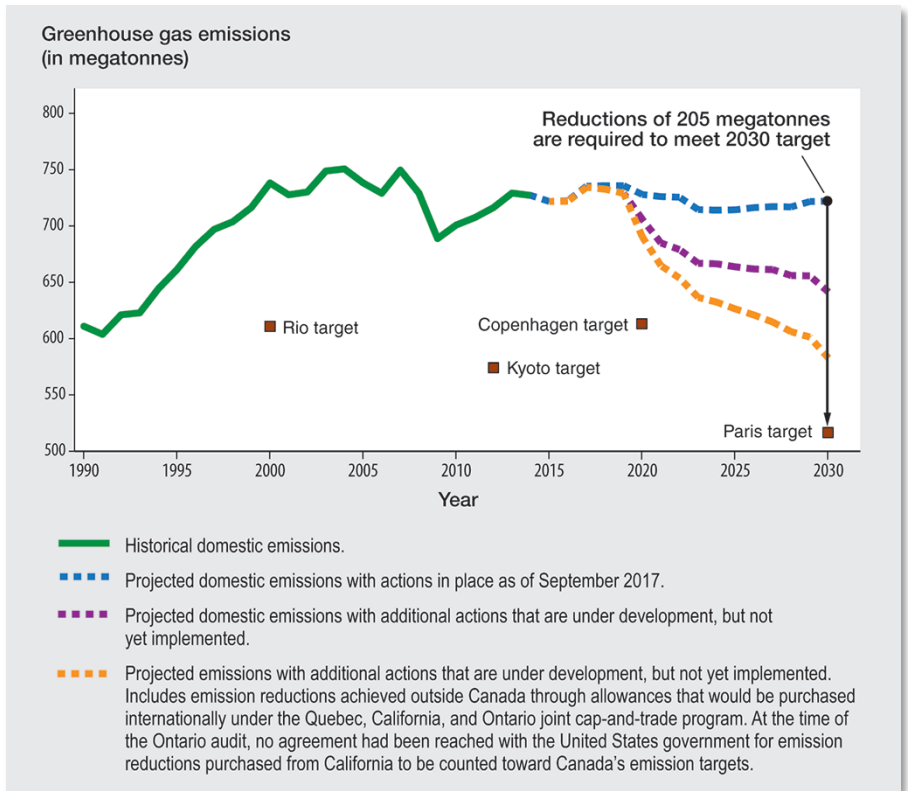
Where are we now? **732 Mt in 2015**

Who is on track?

In Canada: The provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are on track for their 2020 target. Ontario and Quebec may be on track depending on the accounting mechanism in their alliance with California.

In the United States: fourteen states, known as the Climate Alliance are roughly on track with the Paris commitment.

The European Union is on track to meet its 2020 commitment but not the 2030.



Source: Perspectives on Climate Change Action in Canada: A Collaborative Report from Auditors General, March 2018

# Climate Change

## WEB LINKS

Explore the [Climate Atlas of Canada](#)

Municipality  
**THUNDER BAY**

Projected change in mean  
**Number of +30 °C days**  
High Carbon / More global warming

1976-2005	2051-2080
2.4	21.1

Up  $\uparrow$   
**+18.7**



Graham Saunders enjoys the ice

In 2017 work on the Energy East pipeline proposal continued. Board member Karen Peterson submitted a letter to the National Energy Board regarding the Energy East Pipeline and the environmental assessment process.

In April, board member Lucy Laframboise's article, [Something to Think About](#) was published in the Chronicle Journal. It was a review of the book by environmentalist, George Marshall that proposes humans are to some degree hard-wired to ignore climate change? But humans also have the ability to anticipate threats and the wish to survive.

Environment North many others in Thunder Bay (and around the world) for the Climate Walk from Hillcrest to Waverley Park on Saturday Apr. 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The photo on the front of this report was taken on that day. There was lots of sunshine and many enjoyed the games and activities. A main theme was to highlight the risks to water and to the climate of the Energy East Pipeline Proposal.

There were many cheers later in 2017 when the Energy East proposal was cancelled!!

Now the Kinder Morgan pipeline is the concern. Environment North does not support the expansion of oil pipeline capacity. The federal government's positions of supporting this pipeline with expansion of

the oil and gas industry and at the same time being committed to the Paris agreement are incompatible. They claim to be able to do both but the Auditors General report (see graph above) points out that even if everything the government proposes in the Pan-Canadian Framework was implemented (a big if) the plan falls short by 66 megatons.

See the following 2017 reports for more info:

- [Act or be Acted Upon: the case for phasing out Alberta's Sands](#) a new report by Gordon Laxer who was the speaker at the 2016 AGM.
- David Hughes questions the assumed economic benefits in his report [Will the Trans Mountain Pipeline and tidewater access boost prices and save Canada's oil industry?](#) and in his commentary [Faulty assumptions, including tidewater price premiums, basis for Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline approval](#)

Environment North participated in a Climate Change Forum at Lakehead University in September 2017. Themes included climate impacts on the Lake Superior watershed, the Bio-economy and Climate Mitigation and also Community Awareness.



# 2017 Financial Report

<i>Receipts</i>	2017	2016
Donations: Individual	\$ 58.00	\$ 58.00
Donations: Corporate	38.04	598.55
Project Fundraising	0	240.00
Grants/Project Funding	0	0
Memberships	615.00	470.00
Other (interest)	131.49	142.90
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$784.53</b>	<b>\$1509.45</b>

Graham Saunders (president)  
 Karen Peterson (vice-president)  
 Lea Matyuska (treasurer)  
 Susan Grinstead (secretary)  
 Kirsten Annis  
 Julee Boan  
 Scott Harris  
 Lucy Laframboise  
 Dodie Legassick

Dodie Legassick joined the Board of Environment North in the summer of 2017. Her main area of interest is nuclear waste disposal and informing the public about concerns regarding deep geological repositories and the transportation of nuclear waste. She is a retired teacher.

<i>Expenditures</i>	2017	2016
Charitable programs	\$ 1,154.52	\$ 1,770.35
Meeting & Communication	1,261.86	1,109.93
Fundraising, Conferences	0	0
Salary & Benefits	0	0
Membership Fees Paid	0	0
Honorariums	0	0
Professional Fees	0	0
Banking Fees	30.00	12.50
Other disbursements	0	0
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$2,446.38</b>	<b>\$2,892.78</b>

*Are you interested...*

*in becoming a Board member?*

If you are interested in becoming a board member or have any other inquiries please contact us by email or connect with a board member.

([environmentnorth@gmail.com](mailto:environmentnorth@gmail.com))

<i>2017 Assets</i>		<i>2017 Liabilities</i>	
Bay Credit Union PCA	\$ 3,241.46	Lake Superior Initiative	\$ 392.11
Bay Credit Union Term	10,963.51	Climate Initiative	440.46
Profit Sharing Account	126.32	Food Initiative	186.60
		Enduring Property	13,312.12
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,331.29</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,331.29</b>



Looking out over McKellar Point, part of the new property protected by Nature Conservancy Canada

# Acknowledgements

The board members of Environment North thank all of the members and donors for their ongoing interest and support. It is greatly appreciated!

Each year we thank the Chronicle Journal for publishing our monthly articles on environmental issues that affect Northwestern Ontario.

And yet again a big THANK YOU to all the members of the "Coalition" and your tireless efforts to protect the water and climate.

## We welcome new members!

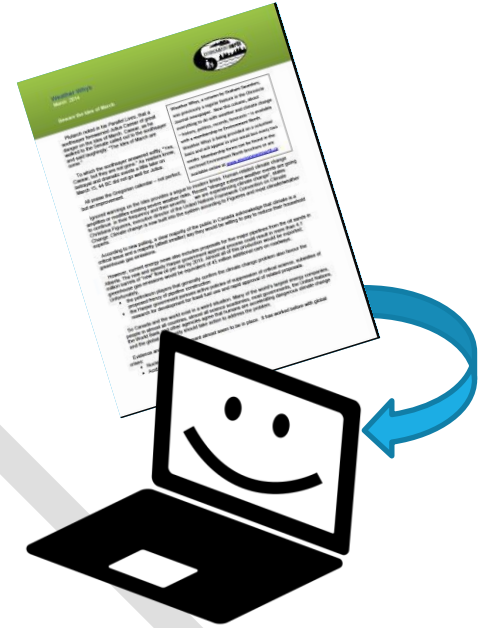
If you are interested in becoming a member of Environment North please fill out the membership form available on our website. (membership fees are charitable donations)

Included with your membership:

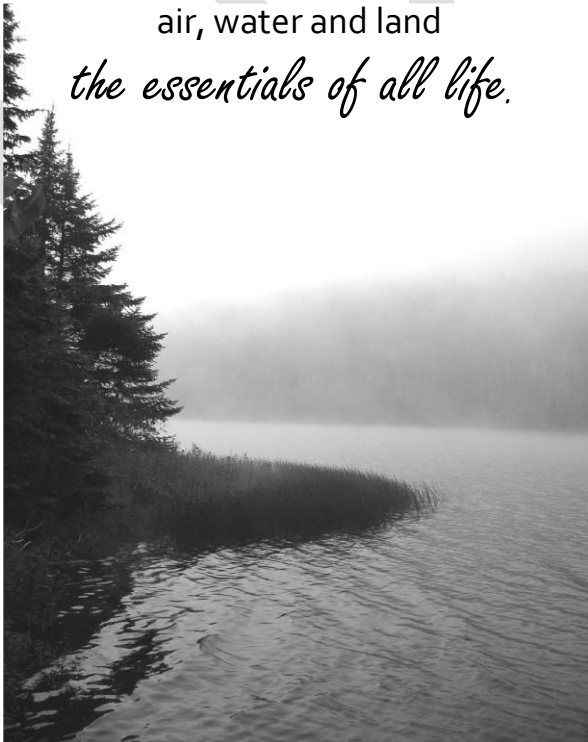
### "Weather Whys"

A regional weather, climate and environmental newsletter by Graham Saunders.

*Weather Whys* is delivered right into your electronic mailbox.



**Environment North's** specific actions revolve around respect and shared responsibility for air, water and land  
*the essentials of all life.*



A regional non-government charitable organization focused on environmental sustainability

Environment North  
P.O. Box 10307  
Thunder Bay, P7B 6T8

[environmentnorth@gmail.com](mailto:environmentnorth@gmail.com)

[environmentnorth.ca](http://environmentnorth.ca)