



Natural Resources



NOVA SCOTIA

Director View

Nova Scotia

Challenges and Opportunities

October 5, 2010

Natural Resources


NOVA SCOTIA

Challenges in Nova Scotia today

- Maintaining priority with shrinking resources
- Fiscal constraints
- Succession planning
- Wildland Urban Interface
- Climate and the changing fire season
- Changing expectations

Recent Fire Events

- Changing the fire landscape
 - Porters Lake/Lake Echo Fire (2008)
 - Spryfield Fire (2009)

Porters Lake/Lake Echo 2008



Natural Resources


NOVA SCOTIA

Porters Lake/Lake Echo 2008



Natural Resources


NOVA SCOTIA

Porters Lake/Lake Echo Fire

- Almost 2000 hectares
- 5000 people evacuated over 3 days
- 2 homes destroyed
- Within the Halifax Regional Municipality
- Wildland fire in their own backyard
- CIFFC Resources (NB & NL)

Traditional Response



Spryfield 2009



Natural Resources


NOVA SCOTIA



Natural Resources



NOVA SCOTIA



Natural Resources



Spryfield Fire

- Approximately 800 hectares
- About 1500 people evacuated over 1 day
- 10 homes destroyed
- Within the Halifax Regional Municipality Core
- Wildland fire on their back door step
- CIFFC Resources (NB)

Different Response

- Two significant fires in consecutive years
- Questions on response
- Media intensity increased
- Thank you, but.....
 - Challenge against HRFE by insurance companies

Weather Events

- Hurricane Juan
- White Juan
- Flooding

Hurricane Juan 2003



Natural Resources


NOVA SCOTIA



Fuel Complications

Natural Resources


NOVA SCOTIA



Flooding 2004

Natural Resources



Forest Strategy

- Three phase approach
 - Public Input
 - Panels of Expertise
 - Strategy Writing
- 2000 participants
- 600 submissions
- Third party involvement

What was said

- Status Quo No Longer Acceptable
- 5 new citizen values:
 - Sustainability
 - Diversity
 - Collaboration
 - Transparency
 - Informed Decision-Making

What will the new Wildland Fire Organization look like?

Today

Suppression

Exchange

Detection

Training

Equipment

Aviation

...

New

Strategic

**Expanded
Partnerships**

Climate Change

Global Dependence

Greater Expectations

Environmental Mgmt

Litigation

...

Natural Resources


NOVA SCOTIA

Opportunities & Challenges on the Horizon

- Have to learn to ‘think outside the fire’
- ‘Strategic’ is the new order of business
- Think nationally; Act locally
- Re-investment in people
- Consider All risk capabilities

Opportunities & Challenges on the Horizon

- Increasing complexity
- Expanded and different partnerships
- Prevention needs more respect
- Litigation and liability
- Continuous learning; after action reviews



Natural Resources



NOVA SCOTIA