

## **Information about PEI Watershed Groups 2019**

- 24 non profit watershed groups in Prince Edward Island
- Over 97% of the island is managed by a watershed group
- Grassroots organizations working with local communities
- Relationship builders who partner with industry (e.g., agriculture, forestry, aquaculture), government, academia, non-government organizations, indigenous groups, and communities to complete watershed work
- Received ~ \$1.19 million in 2018 through Provincial Watershed Management Funding
- Leveraged and additional ~\$1.7 million in 2017 from non provincial sources for projects
  - Average 1.4 X leverage rate per groups
  - Some groups leveraged 4X WMF values
- Watershed groups' payroll in excess of \$2 million annually
  - 189 employees (Ranged from 4 – 21 employees per group)
  - 3189 total employment weeks
  - Predominately rural organizations
- Over 12, 000 volunteer hours devoted to watershed groups
- Over 145 public outreach events hosted by watershed groups
- 24, 326 trees planted by watershed groups in 2018
- Thousands of kilometres of stream rehabilitated and acres of habitat restored annually
- Work of watershed groups falls into 4 main categories:
  - Watershed Planning
  - Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement
  - Outreach and Education
  - Research and Monitoring
- PEI Watershed Groups address many environmental issues including:
  - Ensuring adequate clean drinking water
  - Maintaining sustainable ecosystems with healthy populations of plants and animals
  - Healthy environments for all PEI residents

- PEI Watershed Alliance is the umbrella organization for all 24 groups
  - PEI Watershed Strategy directs activities and partnerships
  - Strategy can be found here: [http://www.gov.pe.ca/photos/original/cle\\_wtrshdstrat.pdf](http://www.gov.pe.ca/photos/original/cle_wtrshdstrat.pdf)

**Challenges and needs faced by watershed groups:**

- Need for increased Department of Environment Funding:
  - Currently only 1.76% of the Provincial Budget is allocated to Communities, Land and Environment
- Need for increased Watershed Management Fund dollars
- Need for increased resources including staff
- Need for increased communication and cooperation with government departments
- Environmental concerns such as fish kills, Climate Change, water quality, and poor land-use practices are continuing to affect our island, please help us in conserving and restoring our environment.