



CENTRE FOR LOCAL PROSPERITY  
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**Thinkers Lodge Retreats on Climate Change,  
Nuclear Crisis and Food Insecurity:  
*Alumni Thinkers Roster (2017 to 2023)***

Updated August 23, 2023

**RETREATS**

This list includes attendees to the following eleven Thinkers Lodge Retreats hosted by the Centre for Local Prosperity:

- [2017 Pugwash 60th Anniversary Retreat on Climate Change](#)
- [2018 Retreat on Climate Change](#)
- [2019 Youth Retreat on Climate Change](#)
- [2019 Indigenous & Faith Leaders Retreat on the Climate Crisis](#)
- [2020 Atlantic Canada: Conversations on an Uncertain Future](#)
- 2020 Centre for Local Prosperity Strategic Planning Retreat
- [2021 Climate-induced Societal and Ecological Breakthrough in Atlantic Canada](#)
- [2021 Summit on Nuclear and Climate Crises](#)
- [2022 Youth High School Retreat for Climate Action](#)
- [2022 Dig In Food Security Strategy Retreat](#)
- 2023 Retreat for the Formation of the Atlantic Food Action Coalition

## **THINKERS** (Alphabetical)

### **David Adler**

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

**2023 Retreat for the Formation of the Atlantic Food Action Coalition**

David has made it his mission to build the social infrastructure needed for a more resilient, sustainable, and inclusive community that is better prepared to face the challenging future that awaits all of us.

Whether it's organizing the SupperNova multicultural potluck for almost 10 years, leading a neighborhood Joint Emergency Management volunteer team, or as co-founder of the Fairview Food Pantry Project, he strives to build connections between different segments of the community so that no one is left behind. All in a context of degrowing the economy through increased local economic activity and cooperation.

He uses his passion for Emergency Management, Business Continuity, climate change adaptation, and community building to assist organizations, and individuals better assess their risks and hazards in a changing climate. And make the changes needed to mitigate those risks to their organization or household.

He is a father of 2, a partner to Jen Graham, and a martial artist, thus far reaching a 2<sup>nd</sup> degree Black Belt at Chimo Tae Kwon Do.



### **Jim Abraham**

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

**2021 Summit on Nuclear and Climate Crises**

Jim Abraham has spent over 40 years studying weather, water and climate. He is currently President of the Canadian Meteorological & Oceanographic Society. As President of ClimAction Services Inc., he and colleagues assist municipalities, including African NS & Indigenous communities, to understand and adapt to climate change and extreme weather. Jim is also involved in some Eco-Justice



initiatives within the Faith community. Jim has managed a wide variety of weather, water, and environmental operational and research programs, including meteorological research and the observing program for all of Canada, including the Arctic. His most proud accomplishment was starting the Canadian hurricane forecast and research program, which included being lead investigator for several reconnaissance flights into hurricanes threatening Canada. He survived. Jim was awarded the Patterson Medal for Meteorology in 2003, the Queens Jubilee Medal in 2013, and a Fellow of the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society in 2017.

## **Elizabeth Allard**

**2018 Retreat on Climate Change**

## **Lauren Anguish**

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**2022 Youth High School Retreat for Climate Action**

Lauren Anguish is a 17 year old female who will be attending Dalhousie University pursuing environmental sciences. She loves to work with youth and adults through means of education. She is a very outgoing and positive individual who loves to take action in her community.



## **Elisabeth Bachem-Jennings**

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**2019 Indigenous & Faith Leaders Retreat on the Climate Crisis**

Elisabeth Bachem-Jennings is a recently retired ordained minister in the United Church of Canada. She is a first generation immigrant from Germany and has served 5 rural churches in over 30 years of ministry focussing on rural ministry, transformative leadership and spiritual direction. Under her leadership her congregations observed an annual



**“Season of Creation”, and were exposed to God talk which honours the earth and our co creatures as part of the divine. She formed an ecology action group at her last church and initiated the clean energy transition of the church building. Elisabeth has raised sheep, chickens, horses, goats and bees and her theology reads occasionally got diverted into something like “Holy Shit” (a primer on manure). Currently she is involved with a group that seeks to establish a conservation /natural burial site in Annapolis county. Newly retired she seeks a still period, where she discerns which of the many draws and demands of family, farm and public life may be most life giving for herself and the Wild she loves.**

## **Lily Barraclough**

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**2020 Atlantic Canada: Conversations on an Uncertain Future**

**2021 Thinkers Lodge Summit on Nuclear and Climate Crises**

**Lily Barraclough is an Environmental Science graduate from the University of King’s College and holds a Master’s of Environmental Studies from Dalhousie University. Her involvement includes research on the ability of the built environment to lead to physical activity in Nova Scotia and reduce the carbon footprints of neighbourhoods, scientific literacy in the context of modern biology, and how art and science can work together to create vocabularies and rituals to help process climate grief. An environmental activist since the age of five, she has been a part of school eco clubs, the Toronto Youth Environmental Council, the founder Canadian Branch of iMatter Youth, the Green New Deal for Canada, the 2019 Thinkers Lodge Youth Retreat on Climate Change, and many other youth initiatives and community climate action projects in rural Nova Scotia. She is committed to organizing for social justice, ensuring approaches that solve climate change also work for justice. She currently works as the Project Coordinator for the Research and Knowledge Initiative Supporting Municipalities with Nature-Based Infrastructure with the New Brunswick Environmental Network, and as a Climate Fellow with Inspiring Communities and is based in Moncton, New Brunswick.**

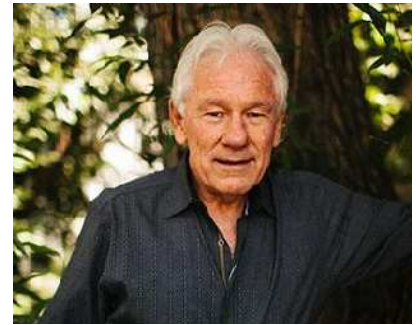


## **David Barrett**

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**2020 Atlantic Canada: Conversations on an Uncertain Future**

When David founded his architecture practice in 1977 in Boulder, Colorado, his love of design was coupled with an ethic of environmental stewardship. From large-scale master planning projects to the architecture of singular buildings, his designs offer a timeless connection to the unique places they inhabit and the people that inhabit them. As Founding Principal and Design Director, the constant among David's designs is "Living Architecture": architecture that is inspired and informed by the patterns exhibited in the surrounding living and natural systems. David has penned articles and given lectures on green design throughout the United States, Canada and Europe. David is currently on the faculty of The University of Colorado's College of Environmental Design.



## **Joan Baxter**

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**2018 Thinkers Retreat on Climate Change**

Joan Baxter is an award-winning Canadian journalist and author, a development researcher and anthropologist, with more than three decades of international experience, much of it on the African continent.



## **Kennette Benedict**

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**2021 Thinkers Lodge Summit on Nuclear and Climate Crises**

Kennette Benedict is lecturer at the Harris School of Public Policy at the University of Chicago and senior advisor to the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. From 2005-2015, she served as executive director and publisher of the Bulletin, the leading scholarly magazine about threats to humanity from nuclear weapons, climate



change, and emerging technologies, and known for its Doomsday Clock. She publishes articles and gives media interviews about nuclear weapons and disarmament, democracy and the Bomb, and global governance. From 1991-2005, Benedict was the director of International Peace and Security at the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, overseeing grant making on a broad international security agenda. She received her BA from Oberlin College and her PhD in political science from Stanford University.

## **Kassidy Bernard**

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**2019 Youth Retreat on Climate Change**

I'm Kassidy Bernard, a 26 year old L'nu and Scottish Two-Spirit youth from We'koqma'q—a community in Unama'ki, one of seven ancestral districts of Mi'kma'ki. I prioritize unlearning colonial standards and embracing my L'nu worldview, which values humour, rest, and community care. I've been actively involved in the student movement since 2016 and currently co-own Patuo'kn Illustration and Design with my sister Kaylyn. I now live happily back home at the foot of Apitusa' after living in Kjipuktuk to attend NSCAD University.



## **Linda Best**

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**2022 Dig In Food Security Strategy Retreat**

Linda Best grew up on a farm in the Annapolis Valley, graduated from Acadia University, was involved with the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital in Halifax as a Medical Microbiologist, Gastroenterology Researcher, author and presenter, and Director of the Capital District Health Authority. She operated an apple orchard on weekends while working at the hospital and founded Frame Plus Art which grew to three stores, a production facility and 10 employees. Awareness of food-related health issues led to research into potential solutions for the decreasing production of food in Nova Scotia. She helped establish Friends of Agriculture and is a Founding Director of FarmWorks Investment



Co-operative Limited, a Community Economic Development Investment Fund. In 2020 she was appointed to the Order of Nova Scotia and in 2021 was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Department of Agriculture and in 2023 received the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal. To date FarmWorks has raised \$5,209,300 and has granted over 150 loans to food-related businesses across Nova Scotia.

## **Pier-Olivier Boudreault**

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**2021 Climate-induced Societal and Ecological Breakthrough in Atlantic Canada**

Pier-Olivier Boudreault is a professional biologist, working as the director of conservation for the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – Quebec section (CPAWS Quebec). His interest in conservation, protected areas and species at risk comes from his work experience at the Parks Canada Agency and non-governmental organisations in Canada and Latin America. He works with governments, indigenous communities, citizen groups, industry and other environmental organizations to achieve CPAWS' vision to protect 50% of our wild spaces and create new protected areas. He has also worked as a freelance journalist and publishes his thoughts in various opinion forums. He is also responsible for the campaign for the protection of the Magpie River at CPAWS Quebec, and coordinated the initiative for the recognition of the rights of the river in partnership with the International Observatory on the Rights of Nature and the Muteshekaushipu Alliance.



## **Robin Bronen**

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**2021 Climate-induced Societal and Ecological Breakthrough in Atlantic Canada**

Robin Bronen works as a human rights attorney and has been researching and working with communities forced to relocate because of climate change since 2007. She is a senior research scientist at the



University of Alaska Fairbanks and co-founded and works as the executive director of the Alaska Institute for Justice, a non-governmental organization that is the only immigration legal service provider in Alaska. In 2022, AIJ partnered with Woodwell Climate Research Center and Harvard's Arctic Initiative to launch the Permafrost Pathways project, which is focused on permafrost thaw impacts to Alaska Native communities and ensuring their human rights are protected as they adapt to these climate-induced environmental changes. The Alaska Institute for Justice houses a language interpreter center, training bilingual Alaskans to be interpreters, and also serves as a research and policy institute focused on climate and social justice issues.

## **Nicole Burkhard**

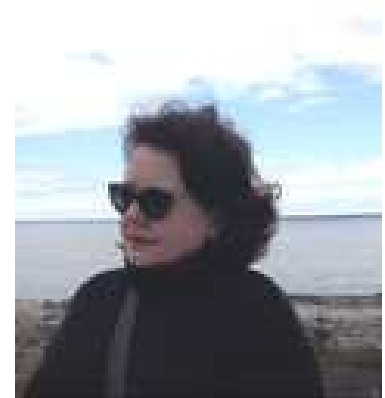
**2023 Retreat for the Formation of the Atlantic Food Action Coalition**

## **Donna Burton**

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**2018 Thinkers Retreat on Climate Change**

**Donna Burton** has spent three decades working primarily as a corporate writer, telling stories or helping others tell stories and publishing them in print and digital media. Donna is currently using film as her media of choice, with a focus on telling stories about the human condition and how we interact with our world.



## **Mya Cameron**

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**2022 Youth High School Retreat for Climate Action**

I'm Mya; an avid climate activist. I strive to inform others on climate change as well as the systemic issues that fuel it. I have worked with schools and local organizations to educate my community on the realities of climate change, and what





steps that we can take both as individuals and as a community to slow climate change.

## **Justin Cantafio**

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2022 Dig In Food Security Strategy Retreat

**Justin Cantafio is a 2023 Nuffield Scholar, a food systems thinker, and farmers' market champion. His professional interests also include relocalization, food hubs, cooperatives, economic recirculation, and institutional procurement. Justin is currently the Executive Director of Farmers' Markets of Nova Scotia, President of Canadian Farmers' Markets, and Chair of the Centre for Local Prosperity. When he's not crafting up ideas to re-localize our economy and promote local businesses, you might find Justin running in the woods, cooking up big hearty meals with friends, or relaxing in his off-grid cabin by the sea.**



## **John Caraberis**

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2020 Atlantic Canada: Conversations on an Uncertain Future

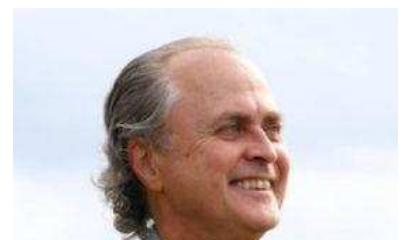
**John Caraberis is a well-respected businessperson and co-owns Basic Spirit, Pugwash, Nova Scotia, with his partner Bonnie Bond, a company that handcrafts fine pewter giftware and wholesales throughout North America. They are passionate supporters and volunteers of the Nature Conservancy of Canada's mission in Nova Scotia and many other local and community projects and fully understand the issues maintaining a viable and sustainable business in rural Nova Scotia.**



## **Claudia Castillo**

2019 Youth Retreat on Climate Change

## **Robert Cervelli**



[robert.cervelli@gmail.com](mailto:robert.cervelli@gmail.com)

**2017 Pugwash 60th Anniversary Retreat on Climate Change**

**Assisted with all other retreats**

For over 35 years, Robert has been rebuilding economic resilience at the local and regional level through his work in community building, local economies and climate readiness. He is a co-founder and Chair of Transition Bay St. Margarets Bay, one of the first Maritimes Transition Initiatives. As a life science tech start-up entrepreneur for over 25 years, he understands the issues related to new business creation and the health of local economies. He manages a teaching centre mini-farm at his home and has over 40 years experience in horticulture and food production. Robert is the Executive Director of the Centre for Local Prosperity.

## **Crystal Chissell**

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**2018 Thinkers Retreat on Climate Change**

Crystal Chissell is Executive Director of The Global Council for Science and the Environment (GCSE). Prior to joining GCSE, Chissell served as VP of Operations for two climate solutions nonprofits, Project Drawdown and Project Regeneration, and also served as Senior Director of Partnerships for Project Drawdown. In those roles she has worked with government, business, and academic organizations to identify, analyze, and implement a diverse portfolio of effective strategies for reversing climate change, at local to global scales. Her state and local government experience includes serving as Chief Solicitor of the Baltimore City Law Department, as Assistant Attorney General for the Maryland Environmental Service, and as Mayor of Highland Beach, Maryland. Chissell earned a B.A. from Howard University, an M.S. in Environmental Science from Johns Hopkins University, an M.B.A. from the University of San Francisco, and a Juris Doctor from the University of Maryland School of Law.



## **Karalee Ann Clerk**

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**2018 Thinkers Retreat on Climate Change**



**Karalee Ann Clerk is comfortable and happy in a busy writing environment, driven to unearth compelling, interesting and radical ways to transform the ordinary or unexpected into the words that best appeal to a target audience. She has over 25 years' experience in copywriting, marketing, branding and communications spanning a host of industries and organizations including non-profits, universities as well as corporate businesses, in both freelance and contract capacities.**

**She has edited multiple magazines and has taught copywriting, advertising and business writing at colleges and universities for more than a decade. She is also a creative director, overseeing the integration of word and visuals by guiding and collaborating with photographers, illustrators and graphic designers. Karalee holds degrees from Dalhousie University of King's College (MA Creative Nonfiction) and the University of Waterloo (BA Rhetoric and Professional Writing). If you're ever looking for her, check out one of Nova Scotia's rocky seaside shorelines or a forest trail.**

## **Josée-Ann Cloutier**

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**2018 Thinkers Retreat on Climate Change**

**2019 Youth Retreat on Climate Change**

**2021 Thinkers Lodge Summit on Nuclear and Climate Crises**

**2022 Youth High School Retreat for Climate Action**



**Josée-Ann Cloutier brings over 20 years combined experience in the hospitality, health/wellness, education and non-profit sectors wearing several hats in the areas of design, management, organization, research, facilitation, education, consulting along with being a practitioner in the healing mind/body arts. She's entrepreneurially driven having started three mobile businesses. Currently she runs Steam Space guiding somatic sensory connections from a wood-fired sauna in the Annapolis Valley. She's passionate about community well-being, creating opportunities, being in connection, creative design, dance/movement and ecological stewardship. She is a previous CLP staff member serving as Research Associate and Coordinator/Facilitator for Climate Retreats.**

## **Nancy Covington**

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**2021 Thinkers Lodge Summit on Nuclear and Climate Crises**

Nancy Covington, BSc (maths and physics), MD, is a retired Halifax family physician. Growing up in Ottawa during the Cold War era, Nancy was sensitized at a young age to the horrors of a nuclear war and a nuclear winter. She would later label a nuclear weapons catastrophe as the ultimate human-made public health issue. She is a long standing member of both Voice of Women and International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War Canada. As president of Physicians for Global Survival, Nancy and Alexa McDonough with Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament co-sponsored an event on Parliament Hill in 2007. This event introduced parliamentarians to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, which later developed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Nancy's current work includes examining the health implications of nuclear power, and its connections to nuclear weapons and climate change. Nancy and her husband have three children, six grandchildren and a large garden on the ocean near Mahone Bay.



## **Ryhdian Crawford**

**2023 Retreat for the Formation of the Atlantic Food Action Coalition**

## **Donna Crossland**

[donnacrossland1@gmail.com](mailto:donnacrossland1@gmail.com)

**2021 Climate-induced Societal and Ecological Breakthrough in Atlantic Canada**

Donna Crossland is dedicated to managing and restoring healthy Acadian forest through a long career at Parks Canada, as well as through direct involvement in two provincial forestry strategies including the Independent Forest Review by William Lahey. She is part of the Healthy Forest Coalition- Working Group. She has researched



historical forest ecology, natural disturbance processes including fire history, and conducts forest songbird monitoring. Donna also served on the Minister's Advisory Committee for the implementation of ecological forestry recommendations. She has co-authored with Bob Bancroft: *Restoring the Health of Nova Scotia's Forests*. Since 2022, Donna has been assisting the NS Department of Environment and Climate Change and the Medway Community Forest Coop to devise and implement strategies to *conserve* a network of some of the finest, remaining, old growth eastern hemlock forests from the invasive insect, hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA). She trained and led the first Hemlock Conservation 'Strike Team' to actively conserve eastern hemlock in NS and remains a member of the HWA Working Group, consisting of scientists, Mi'kmaq, and other stakeholders. She occasionally shares conversations with barred owls.

## **Brian Czech**

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**2021 Climate-induced Societal and Ecological Breakthrough in Atlantic Canada**



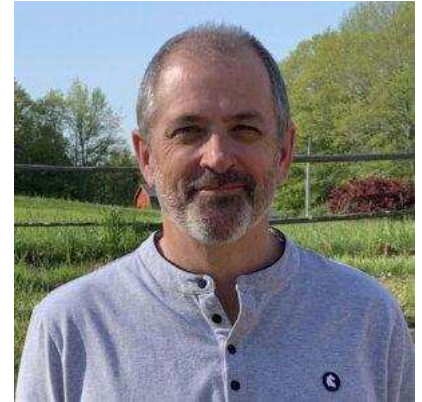
Brian Czech is the founding president of CASSE, the Center for the Advancement of the Steady State Economy (2003), and signed on as executive director in 2017. Czech served as the first conservation biologist in the history of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from 1999–2017, and concurrently as a visiting professor of natural resource economics in Virginia Tech's National Capitol Region. He is the [author of several books](#) including *Supply Shock*, *Shoveling Fuel for a Runaway Train*, and *The Endangered Species Act: History, Conservation Biology, and Public Policy*, as well as over 50 academic journal articles. His primary contributions to ecological economics pertain to the [trophic theory of money](#), the [process of technological progress](#), and the political "[steady state revolution](#)." Czech is a frequent speaker, moderator, commentator, and regular contributor to the *Steady State Herald*. He has a B.S. from the University of Wisconsin, an M.S. from the University of Washington, and a Ph.D. from the University of Arizona. Brian has been designated an "eco-champion" by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, an "eco-hero" by Ecohearth, and one of the "top 100 inspirational leaders" by the Post-Growth Institute.

## Russ Daye

[russ@bloorstreetunited.org](mailto:russ@bloorstreetunited.org)

### 2018 Thinkers Retreat on Climate Change

Russ Daye has served congregations in rural Newfoundland, small-town Quebec, and downtown Halifax. He has also taught at theological colleges and universities in Nova Scotia, Montreal, and Fiji, and has been a congregational development consultant for churches throughout eastern Canada. His Ph.D. dissertation examined processes of national reconciliation in South Africa, Canada and elsewhere. While working in Halifax, Russ cofounded the Transformational Leadership Initiative, which is designed to center BIPOC leadership while developing networks between changemakers in historically marginalized communities. He also cofounded the Minyara Project, which provided medical care and schooling for refugees in camps on the Syrian-Lebanese border. Russ is the author of *Political Forgiveness: Lessons from South Africa*, and the co-author of *Turning Ourselves Inside Out: Thriving Christian Communities*, which was recently released by Fortress Press.



## Sara Demetry

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

### 2020 Atlantic Canada: Conversations on an Uncertain Future

Sara Demetry is a Clinical Social Worker Specialist in St Johnsbury, Vermont. Having more than 29 years of diverse experiences, especially in clinical social work as a counselor and psychotherapist, she use a variety of tools to gain new perspectives on personal challenges in ways that bring out strengths and wisdom. Many of these tools are based on mindfulness approaches in which body sensations, emotions, thoughts and inner experiences are explored.

Sara believes it is a simple fact that all need to have awareness of what is going on within themselves and in their relationships before making choices and decisions about what changes need to be made. Mindfulness approaches help to slow down and take notice, see more clearly what is happening, and evaluate the results, empowering individuals to be more effective in life.



## **Leon DeVreede**

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### **2017 Pugwash 60th Anniversary Retreat on Climate Change**

Leon de Vreede (MCIP, LPP) is a Senior Planner with the Town of Bridgewater, NS, where he supports the award-winning Energize Bridgewater initiative. Under Leon's leadership, Bridgewater's climate and energy programs have been recognized for excellence through awards by organizations including the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities, Efficiency Nova Scotia, and GLOBE. In 2019 he led the team that brought home a \$5 million Smart Cities Challenge grant for Bridgewater's innovative proposal to develop an Energy Poverty Reduction Program. Originally from The Netherlands, Leon has been proud to call Nova Scotia home since 1999, when he came here to study environmental science at Acadia University. In 2015 he was an inaugural recipient of the provincial Clean Climate Leader Award.



## **Walter Dorn**

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### **2021 Thinkers Lodge Summit on Nuclear and Climate Crises**

Walter Dorn is Professor of Defence Studies at the Royal Military College of Canada (RMC) and the Canadian Forces College (CFC). He teaches officers of rank major to brigadier-general from Canada and about 20 other countries. He specializes in arms control, peace operations, just war theory, international criminal law, treaty verification and enforcement, and the United Nations. As an "operational professor" he participates in field missions and assists international organizations. For instance, he was a UN Electoral Officer for the 1999 referendum in East Timor and a Visiting Professional with the International Criminal Court (ICC) in 2010. He also served as a consultant with the UN's Department of Peacekeeping Operations, including in 2014 on the Expert Panel



on Technology and Innovation in UN Peacekeeping. Dr. Dorn previously served as Chair (2008–2013) of Canadian Pugwash, an organization of physical, life and social scientists seeking to reduce the threats to global security. He currently sits on the organization’s Board of Directors. Dr. Dorn seeks to promote international peace and security through teaching, research and service, including field work.

## **Jim Drescher**

[jimdrescher152@gmail.com](mailto:jimdrescher152@gmail.com)

**2019 Indigenous & Faith Leaders Retreat on the Climate Crisis**

Trained as a forest ecologist, Jim Drescher, co-director of Windhorse Farm in Nova Scotia and founder of Nothing Missing Leadership, has been a serial entrepreneur for over 50 years. His teaching and coaching work plays at the confluence of the ancient Buddhist leadership teachings and his family lineage of nature practice.



## **Tara Drozdenko**

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**2021 Thinkers Lodge Summit on Nuclear and Climate Crises**

Tara Drozdenko is the director for the Global Security Program. In her role, she leads the program on federal-level policy changes and a commitment to diplomacy to ensure the United States is a leader in reducing the nuclear threat. Most recently, she served as Acting Executive Director at the Outrider Foundation. She has nearly two decades of experience in the National Security field, managing complex government programs and supervising teams of talented researchers at both the U.S. State and Treasury departments. She earned a Ph.D. in plasma physics and has worked for the U.S. Navy on issues related to Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs) and for the U.S. State Department on Nonproliferation and Arms Control issues.





## **Maria Duynisveld**

**2023 Retreat for the Formation of the Atlantic Food Action Coalition**

## **John Eaton**

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**2017 Pugwash 60th Anniversary Retreat on Climate Change**

**2020 Atlantic Canada: Conversations on an Uncertain Future**

John Eaton, Pugwash Park Commissioner since 2005, provided Thinkers Lodge as site to host the 2018 retreat on climate change and brought with him his experience with community gardens, local sustainability, and energized commitment to partnering Thinkers Lodge and Centre for Local Prosperity in future gatherings. He has lived for 39 years in California. In 2008 he spearheaded the restoration of Thinkers Lodge for next 100 years. He is committed to start holding conferences here that can make positive impact on world. John pays attention to groups that can mesh with spirit with Thinkers Lodge. He is interested in Environmental Issues. Californians have different view than rest of world. California intends to be Carbon Neutral by 2040. The economy is being driven by sustainable solutions. John hopes Pugwash will embrace sustainability.



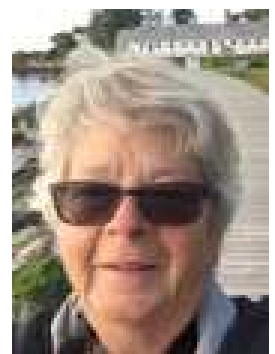
## **Cathy Eaton**

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**2018 Thinkers Retreat on Climate Change**

**2020 Atlantic Canada: Conversations on an Uncertain Future**

Cathy Eaton has served as president of the Cyrus Eaton Foundation which has provided support for CPL retreats for which she provided candid photographs. She was an educator for 35 years who focused on literature that bridged cultures. Her goal is to embrace all she can learn about healing our planet with concrete action and heart. Author of Thinkers Lodge: Its History and Legacy, Cathy interviewed people who worked at Thinkers Lodge and



researched the historical significance of the peace initiators who strove to eliminate nuclear weapons. She is the lodge's historian.

## **Dayle Eshelby**

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**2018 Thinkers Retreat on Climate Change**

**2020 Atlantic Canada: Conversations on an Uncertain Future**

**2022 Dig In Food Security Strategy Retreat**

Dayle Eshelby draws strength from enduring community growth and development. Dayle is a Lockeport Town Councillor and an Adult Education facilitator. Dayle's involvement in academia include Saint Marys University Adult Education, Research Assistant and Coordinator in a Mount St Vincent University/ Tri-County Women's Centre initiative, over fifteen years at McGill University and President's Roundtable member at the Canadian Association for University Continuing Education National Convection. Locally Dayle was Lockeport's Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) Coordinator and she presently sits on numerous community boards.



## **Yahia Fathalla**

[foudasara@hotmail.com](mailto:foudasara@hotmail.com)

**2019 Youth Retreat on Climate Change**

My name is Yahia Fathalla, I am a 15 year old grade 11 student from Alexandria, Egypt. I am passionate about painting landscapes and admiring nature.

I participated in many art exhibitions and displayed my artwork at the Keshengoodman Goodman Public library in Halifax.

I also play soccer and am part of a soccer club, I enjoy fishing with friends and family as well. I like to work with others and help my school in organizing activities through my role as a student council president. I aspire to be a surgeon in the future.



## **Adam Fenech**

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**2017 Pugwash 60th Anniversary Retreat on Climate Change**

**2020 Atlantic Canada: Conversations on an Uncertain Future**

Adam Fenech has worked extensively in the area of climate change for thirty-five years and has edited eight books on climate change. Presently, Dr. Fenech is an Associate Professor in the School of Climate Change and Adaptation at the University of Prince Edward Island where he developed the curriculum for the world's first undergraduate programme in Applied Climate Change and Adaptation. Dr. Fenech has taught at the University of Toronto as well as the Smithsonian Institution for over 25 years, and lectures regularly at universities across Canada and around the world. He is presently the Director of the University of Prince Edward Island's Climate Research Lab that conducts research on the vulnerability, impacts and adaptation to climate change, where his virtual reality depiction of sea level rise has won international awards including one from MIT for communicating coastal science. He maintains the largest fleet of drones at a Canadian university including the largest drone in the country with a four metre wingspan. Dr. Fenech is featured as one of forty brilliant and influential Canadians in a book published last week titled *Inspiring Canadians: Forty Brilliant Canadians and their Visions for the Nation*.



## **Phil Ferraro**

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**2017 Pugwash 60th Anniversary Retreat on Climate Change**

**2020 Atlantic Canada: Conversations on an Uncertain Future**

**2022 Dig In Food Security Strategy Retreat**

Phil Ferraro and his wife, Nancy Willis, founded The Institute for Bioregional Studies Ltd. (IBS) with a mission to, "Restore Community, Protect the Land and Inform the Earth's Stewards." Phil has a Masters's Degree in Social Ecology from Murray Bookchin's teachings and is a certified Permaculture Designer. He was a founding



member of the Atlantic Canada Organic Regional Network and established one of Nova Scotia's first certified organic farms before moving to Prince Edward Island. Phil currently serves as the CEO of the PEI Farm Centre, and in 2014, he led the creation of the Centre's Legacy Garden. This garden is one of Canada's most extensive urban farms, which he still manages today. Additionally, Phil is developing a small farm in eastern PEI that includes a food forest, vineyard, and solar bioshelter. Both the Centre's Garden and IBS' farm are charitable, social enterprises that donate most of their products to help combat food insecurity. They also use their facilities to run therapeutic horticulture programs for individuals with disabilities.

## **Graham Fisher**

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**2017 Pugwash 60th Anniversary Retreat on Climate Change**

Graham Fisher is the Assistant Provincial Director of Planning for the Province of Nova Scotia, and works for the NS Dept of Municipal Affairs. He has a strong interest in sustainable communities, and climate change adaptation through land use planning. Graham has separate undergraduate degrees in biology and geology and a Masters in Rural and Urban Planning, from Dalhousie University. Over the course of his 25-year career, Graham has developed plans for provincial parks and natural areas, worked with communities on watershed protection plans, developed the NS process for preparing Integrated Community Sustainability Plans, worked with municipalities on Climate Change Adaptation Plans. He also provides guidance to municipal councils respecting the implementation of land use planning policies and planning best practices.

## **Elder Sarah (Sadie) Francis**

**2019 Indigenous & Faith Leaders Retreat on the Climate Crisis**

## **Lily Fraser**

**2022 Youth High School Retreat for Climate Action**

## **Chad Frischmann**

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## 2017 Pugwash 60th Anniversary Retreat on Climate Change

Chad Frischmann is the CEO and Founder of Regenerative Intelligence (RegenIntel), a global advisory superpowered by a network of world class system thinkers and doers creating a virtuous cycle of collaborative intelligence, we enable the effective implementation of the highest impact 'system of solutions' for the planet and for people at scale.



Prior to launching RegenIntel, Chad was the co-author, lead researcher and architect of the Drawdown Solutions Framework, the engine underpinning the *New York Times* best-seller *Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming* (Penguin, 2017), the *Drawdown Review* (February, 2020), and all communications and engagement efforts at Project Drawdown, one of the world's leading resources for climate solutions. Leading a global team of solutionists, Chad designed integrated global tools to assess the world's most effective climate solutions and determine if, when, and how the world can reach "drawdown," the point in time when the concentration of atmospheric greenhouse gasses begins to decline on a year-to-year basis. As the creator and head of Drawdown Solutions since Project Drawdown's inception, Chad was the key spokesperson and coalition-builder dedicated to sharing the message and model of the Drawdown Solutions Framework to the world.

## Vivian Godfree

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### 2018 Thinkers Retreat on Climate Change

Vivian Godfree, long-time resident of Pugwash, has long been an advocate and model for living a small carbon imprint. She and her husband Jeremy have solar panels, a field of wild flowers instead of a lawn, are pescatarians, and use bikes as their primary mode of transportation.



Vivian joined the campaign for nuclear disarmament in the 1960s. After the oil crisis in the 1970s, she turned to conservation. She advocates making links between what people do and what effect it has on the

planet. Little things matter. She brought *Inconvenient Truth* to Pugwash and hoped it would change Pugwash. She loves reusing things - in this photo, she is standing in front of one of the hooked rugs she made with old T-shirts.

## **Daria Goncharova**

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**2022 Youth High School Retreat for Climate Action**

Daria Goncharova was born and raised in a small Siberian city, Mezhdurechensk, in Russia. She received her bachelor's degree in International Relations from the National Research Tomsk State University in 2015 and her master's degree in Political Studies from the University of Manitoba, Canada, in 2018.

Since her graduate studies, she found her passion for community development. She has a diverse employment history working in post-secondary institutions and industry. Daria has also an extensive volunteering experience, including her involvement with Jane Goodall Institute where she co-developed learning resources on Indigenous perspectives and supported climate justice initiatives. In 2021, Daria joined Discovery Centre to lead Canada-wide Inspiring Youth to Climate Action project. Daria is a language enthusiast. She speaks Russian, English, French and Portuguese. In her spare time, Daria enjoys reading and hiking with her partner. She lives in Halifax, Canada.



## **Chris Googoo**

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**2021 Climate-induced Societal and Ecological Breakthrough in Atlantic Canada**

Chris Googoo is the Chief Operating Officer for Ulnooweg Development Group, an Indigenous led organization and Executive Director of The Ulnooweg Indigenous Communities Foundation. His work involves building bridges in various sectors which affect the development of healthy indigenous economies and communities regionally and at a national level.



## **Fyre Jean Graveline**

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

**2021 Thinkers Lodge Summit on Nuclear and Climate Crises**

Fyre Jean Graveline (RSW, PhD, RCAT) is keenly interested in Connections between Spirituality, Healing, Arts, Mother Earth, and Social Change, and welcomes opportunities to explore how these relate to ReConnecting with our Sacred Power as Indigenous Peoples, Women and Two Spirited; Reconcile-Actions between Indigenous and Settler Nations; Enhancing Sustainable Relationships our with Mother Earth; and Restoring Harmony among All Our Relations, especially our most violated, silenced, despised and excluded. We are a prolific eco artist, and an author of several books, *Circle Works: Transforming Eurocentric Consciousness* (1998, 2012), *Healing Wounded Hearts* (2004), and *LIFE as Medicine* (upcoming) as well as many articles and poems. We are currently collaborating on opening a Teaching Lodge in Mi'kmaki offering LIFE as Medicine (Lived, Indigenous, Feminist, Ecological) Healing Arts. If inspired contact through [lifeasmedicine.ca](http://lifeasmedicine.ca).



## **Ben Grieder**

**2019 Indigenous & Faith Leaders Retreat on the Climate Crisis**

**2020 Atlantic Canada: Conversations on an Uncertain Future**

## **Wayne Groszko**

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**2018 Thinkers Retreat on Climate Change**

Wayne Groszko works in Applied Energy Research at the Nova Scotia Community College, running a lab where prototypes of renewable energy and energy storage technologies are built and tested. But what Wayne really wants to explore is the question of how we learn to share more resources for environmental and social benefit. Wayne is involved in cohousing development, which is a shared, community-driven built environment, and has



started a not-for-profit organization (EV4U.ca) to facilitate the sharing of electric vehicles at apartment buildings and affordable housing. Wayne is a frequent speaker at conferences and webinars on sustainable energy, an Adjunct Professor at Dalhousie University, and co-instructor of a course called “Pathways to Sustainable Energy”.

## **Timothy Habinski**

2017 Pugwash 60th Anniversary Retreat on Climate Change

## **Meghan Hallett**

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2023 Retreat for the Formation of the Atlantic Food Action Coalition

Meghan is the mother of two and numerous animals. She has a Masters In Atlantic Canadian Studies and is a passionate believer that we need to understand our collective past from a variety of perspectives to address inequities plaguing today's society. Currently, Meghan is the Manager, Diversity and Social Inclusion with the Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage where she holds responsibility for a variety of grant and recognition programs intended to support and celebrate equity-deserving communities. She is also a published author, and prior to her role with the provincial government has worked as a professional archivist and in the field of heritage building conservation. Dreaming up big ideas in a collaborative environment is one of her greatest skills. And in her down time, she likes to collect old things to give them new uses.



## **Lily Hannah**

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2019 Youth Retreat on Climate Change



## **Vanessa Hartley**

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**2022 Youth High School Retreat for Climate Action**

Vanessa Hartley is an 8th generation Black Loyalist descendant, born and raised in Shelburne, Nova Scotia. From a young age, Vanessa's exposure to anti-black practices in education fostered her voice for advocacy and leadership. Vanessa is passionate about environmental justice, inclusive education and youth empowerment. She is a speaker, community leader, entrepreneur and facilitator. Vanessa serves on the Black Loyalist Heritage Society Board, secretary for the African Nova Scotian Road to Economic Prosperity Youth Council, Atlantic Director for the Sierra Club Foundation Board of Directors, and was the Youth Delegate for the 2022 National Black Canadian Summit. Vanessa speaks nationally about environmental racism and injustice through education and awareness. Her goal is to continue to have challenging and progressive conversations that can change the narrative around environmental racism in Nova Scotia and beyond.



## **Ric Hattin**

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**2020 Atlantic Canada: Conversations on an Uncertain Future**

Ric Hattin has been a professional engineer for 50 years, with expertise in military acoustic systems and marine structures. He is an active community participant in his local area and HRM, and since his 2010 retirement, he continued his community representation on the Capital District Health Authority Ethics Board number 3, retiring in 2015, chaired a Seniors Committee for the local MLA for 3 years, has been vice chair of the Regional Waters Advisory Board for 3 years and was a member of the Bay Treasures Chest Board of Directors for 1 yr. He is very interested in the interactions of our different societies as development pressures continue to



increase, and has an abiding interest in cosmology. He also finds a bit of time to make wine for his friends.

## **Anders Hayden**

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**2021 Climate-induced Societal and Ecological Breakthrough in Atlantic Canada**

Anders Hayden is Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at Dalhousie University, with an emphasis on environmental politics. He is particularly interested in the concept of sufficiency and related post-growth ideas and initiatives. This interest has led him to examine issues such as sustainable consumption, work-time reduction, and the political and policy impacts of alternative measures of wellbeing and prosperity (“beyond GDP” measurement) in Canada, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Bhutan. He is the author of *When Green Growth Is Not Enough: Climate Change, Ecological Modernization, and Sufficiency* (McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2014) and *Sharing the Work, Sparing the Planet: Work Time, Consumption & Ecology* (Zed Books / Between the Lines, 1999). He is the co-editor of the *Routledge Handbook of Global Sustainability Governance* (Routledge, 2020) and *Towards Sustainable Well-Being: Moving beyond GDP in Canada and the World* (University of Toronto Press, 2022).



## **Christine Heming**

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**2017 Pugwash 60th Anniversary Retreat on Climate Change**  
**2019 Indigenous & Faith Leaders Retreat on the Climate Crisis**  
**2020 Atlantic Canada: Conversations on an Uncertain Future**

A writer and educator, Christine is former associate professor for the School of Human Communication Disorders, Dalhousie University and former Consultant in Student Services for the Annapolis Valley Regional School Board. She also has 45 years’ experience as a practitioner, teacher and meditation instructor



in the Shambhala Buddhist tradition. Christine is a Director with the Centre for Local Prosperity.

## **Gregory Heming**

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**2020 Atlantic Canada: Conversations on an Uncertain Future**

**2021 Climate-induced Societal and Ecological Breakthrough in Atlantic Canada**

Gregory Heming is a Co-founder of the Centre for Local Prosperity. He is a philosophical ecologist, writer, climate activist and former elected official. He holds a PhD in Literary Ecology and Northern Studies with special interest in steady-state economics, public policy and ecocide.



## **Yuill Herbert**

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**2020 Atlantic Canada: Conversations on an Uncertain Future**

Yuill Herbert has been a Sustainability Solutions Group Principal for over 17 years. He pioneered land-use and GHG emission planning in Canada, helped introduce the LEED for Homes rating system in Canada, and co-developed the Integrated Design Process course used throughout Canada and the US. Yuill has worked on and led more than forty community energy and GHG plans and models across Canada. He has leading expertise on climate change mitigation and adaptation systems modelling that incorporates energy, GHG emissions and co-benefits. Yuill serves as a director on the boards of the Canada Research Chair on Sustainable Community Development, the Canadian Worker Cooperative Federation and Tatamagouche Community Land Trust.



## **Ray Hickey**

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**2017 Pugwash 60th Anniversary Retreat on Climate Change**

## **Andy Horsnell**

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**2017 Pugwash 60th Anniversary Retreat on Climate Change**

Andy Horsnell is an independent consultant, specializing in social enterprise development. His website is [www.socialenterprisesolutions.ca](http://www.socialenterprisesolutions.ca).

He has worked for over three decades to help community-based enterprises and their local economies to be more resilient, self-reliant, and sustainable. He got his start working in rural Nova Scotia, providing coaching and training to independent entrepreneurs. In the mid-1990s, Andy started working with local non-profit organizations, helping them to start and grow social enterprises that used a business model to directly address important community issues. Since then, He has worked with 100s of community organizations – large and small, rural and urban, for-profit and nonprofit – throughout North America and abroad. As a volunteer, he currently serves as the vice-chair of the Social Enterprise Council of Canada, is a founding director of Just, Good Business (formerly the Social Enterprise Network of Nova Scotia), and served as the chair of the Centre for Local Prosperity. When he's not doing consulting, Andy works with his partner SJ on their sheep farm (Pheasant.Ridge.Farm on Instagram) in beautiful Kempt Shore, Nova Scotia.



## **Bailey Howard**

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

**2019 Youth Retreat on Climate Change**

Bailey Howard attended the 2019 Youth Retreat on Climate Change. At the time Bailey was Chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students in Newfoundland and Labrador and a student at Memorial University of Newfoundland. Since then she returned to school at the College of the North of Atlantic to study journalism and since 2021 has worked as Video Journalist at NTV News in St. John's. As a journalist, Bailey focuses on social issues such as women, 2SLGBTQIA+ and Indigenous issues as well as health care and uses what she learned at the 2019 Thinkers retreat and the student movement,

including the connections made at the retreat to connect with those in climate and Indigenous groups to share their lens on current issues. Bailey has a black lab named Stella and enjoys hiking the East Coast Trail and taking in the beautiful great outdoors in her province.

### **Cecilia Jimenez-Damary**

2021 Climate-induced Societal and Ecological Breakthrough in Atlantic Canada

### **Mary Joe**

2022 Youth High School Retreat for Climate Action

### **Heather Johannesen**

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2017 Pugwash 60th Anniversary Retreat on Climate Change

Heather is an ecological economist and sustainability practitioner. Her work has focused primarily on climate change, energy and water security initiatives. In addition to her consulting practice, Heather was an associate professor at Royal Roads University and Saint Mary's University. These days, Heather is "retired" and continues her work in a voluntary capacity. She joined a housing co-op and is focused on the use of passive energy technologies as well as making homes more resilient to a changing climate. She is interested in growing the co-operative movement and creating urban gardens to help support biodiversity and food security.



### **Stan Johnson**

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2019 Indigenous & Faith Leaders Retreat on the Climate Crisis

Stan Johnson is the Coordinator of the Collaborative Environmental Planning Initiative under the umbrella of the Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources. He has a strong background in economic development and sustainable building practices, and is also a dedicated Montreal Canadiens fan.



## **Angeline Johnson**

**2022 Youth High School Retreat for Climate Action**

## **Oona Johnstone-Laurette**

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

**2022 Youth High School Retreat for Climate Action**

Oona Johnstone-Laurette is a student from Sydney, Cape Breton. Oona advocates for environmental responsibility, social justice, and sustainable development within local communities. She uses various mediums to promote these ideals, such as her artwork, which she pursues in her spare time along with singing and hiking.



## **Madison Law Jones**

**2022 Youth High School Retreat for Climate Action**

## **Jade Law Jones**

**2022 Youth High School Retreat for Climate Action**

## **Shalini Kathirgamathan**

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**2021 Thinkers Lodge Summit on Nuclear and Climate Crises**

## **Gillian Kerr**

[gilliankerr@fastmail.fm](mailto:gilliankerr@fastmail.fm)

**2022 Dig In Food Security Strategy Retreat**

Gillian Kerr is a Post-Doctoral Fellow at Dalhousie, coordinating the Rural Futures Research Centre and working with the 'Perceptions of Climate Change and Social Futures' project. She is also adjunct faculty at Royal Roads University in Victoria, BC where she teaches environmental and ecological economics for decision-making. She recently completed a postdoctoral



fellowship at McGill University in the RESNET research group on ecosystem service research and application across Canada. Her doctoral thesis, “Market-Based Approaches for Environmental Governance: Exploring the Implementation Gap in Alberta” explored governance issues that have impeded that application of MBIs for environmental objectives in Alberta. Her research interests include ecosystem services theory and application for sustainable communities, and the application of ecological economics to enhance sustainable futures. She has recently moved to Halifax from Edmonton, Alberta.

## **Léa Kirchoff**

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2022 Youth High School Retreat for Climate Action

Léa Kirchoff is a grade 12 student planning to study biology at university. She is passionate about protecting the environment and does so by doing small individual actions but also by participating in many projects in her community and volunteering with organizations. She loves the outdoors and enjoys hiking, biking and rollerblading.



## **Laureline Simon Krichewsky**

[laureline@oneresilientearth.org](mailto:laureline@oneresilientearth.org)

2020 Atlantic Canada: Conversations on an Uncertain Future

Laureline Simon Krichewsky is the founder and executive director of [One Resilient Earth](https://www.oneresilientearth.org), an international nonprofit organization that empowers people to become resilient to climate change by growing a resilient and creative mindset, (re-)building communities of support, and restoring the health of ecosystems. For over 15 years, she has worked in Asia and Europe to co-design and lead international cooperation projects in the field of climate change mitigation and adaptation, including with the French Development Agency and the United Nations Climate Change Secretariat. She is passionate about the regeneration of nature and keen to foster synergies between traditional



ecological knowledge, the arts, and science, so as to design and implement transformative climate resilience initiatives.

## **Amita Kuttner**

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**2021 Thinkers Lodge Summit on Nuclear and Climate Crises**

Dr. Amita Kuttner is co-founder of moonlight institute, a non-profit organization that seeks to create frameworks for an equitable and just future, taking into account the realities of the climate emergency, as well as technology, and decolonization. Amita holds a PhD in astronomy and astrophysics from the University of California, Santa Cruz; their research focused on black holes, wormholes, quantum effects, and the early universe. They served as Interim Leader of the Green Party of Canada from 2021 to 2022.



## **Olivia Langille**

**2023 Retreat for the Formation of the Atlantic Food Action Coalition**

Liv was born and raised in what she describes as the "deep dark country woods" of Pictou County (and loved it!). She is passionate about climate change and biodiversity loss mitigation, and has become increasingly interested in how agriculture and food systems impact and are impacted by these phenomena.



## **Joanne Langley**

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**2019 Indigenous & Faith Leaders Retreat on the Climate Crisis**

Joanne Langley is a Professor of Pediatrics (Division of Infectious Diseases) and Community Health and Epidemiology at Dalhousie University, and Head of the





Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases at IWK Health. Dr. Langley's main research interests are in the epidemiology and prevention of respiratory infections, particularly Respiratory Syncytial Virus and influenza, and immunization decision making. She is a member of the Baha'i Community of Halifax.

## **Amy Larkin**

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2018 Thinkers Retreat on Climate Change

2020 Atlantic Canada: Conversations on an Uncertain Future

Amy Larkin, an award-winning entrepreneur, activist and producer, has been at the forefront of the environmental movement for decades. Her 2013 book *Environmental Debt: The Hidden Costs of A Changing Global Economy* revealed the links between our environmental and financial crises – both causes and solutions – and predicted the astronomical costs of climate chaos. From 2014-2016, she served as Vice Chair of the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on Climate Change.



In 2019, Amy co-founded **PR3**, a public-private partnership forging systemic solutions that dramatically reduce plastic production and consumption. PR3 drafted standards for scaling reusable packaging that are now being implemented in eight countries and are enroute for global accreditation. When globally deployed, the move away from single use packaging can reduce the manufacturing of plastic packaging by 90% and cut associated emissions by 80%. It is a solution commensurate with the gravity of both the plastic and climate crises. As Greenpeace Solutions Director, Amy led a radical collaboration with the Consumer Goods Forum (400 of the world's largest brands and retailers) to remove HFCs from refrigeration systems across the sector. This led to the inclusion of HFCs in the Montreal Protocol, and will save us from .5°C of global warming.

## **Scott Leckie**



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2020 Atlantic Canada: Conversations on an Uncertain Future

2021 Climate-induced Societal and Ecological Breakthrough in Atlantic Canada

Scott Leckie is an international human rights legal expert and Director and Founder of Displacement Solutions, a global not-for-profit NGO dedicated to resolving displacement generated by global warming and climate change. He also founded Oneness World Foundation, a research think tank exploring questions of world-centric political evolution and new forms of global governance and world citizenship. He manages the One House, One Family initiative, a project in Bangladesh building homes for climate displaced families.

Scott has written 25 books and over 250 academic articles and reports on issues including land solutions for climate displacement, housing rights, economic, social and cultural rights, forced evictions, the right to housing and property restitution for refugees and internally displaced persons and other human rights themes.

## Susan Lorraine (Szpakowski)

[susan@howwethrive.org](mailto:susan@howwethrive.org)

2020 Atlantic Canada: Conversations on an Uncertain Future

Susan Lorraine (Szpakowski) is founder and co-learner with How We Thrive, a nonprofit that creates opportunities to reimagine and re-story dominant narratives that define our communities, economies and way of life. She has been designing transformative gatherings for the past 23 years, including 12 years as director of the ground-breaking Authentic Leadership in Action (ALIA) Institute.



## Marian Lucas-Jefferies

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2019 Indigenous & Faith Leaders Retreat on the Climate Crisis

The Rev Marian Lucas-Jefferies has served as coordinator of the Diocesan Environment Network, Anglican Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island since the spring of 2012. Rev. Marian also serves/has served as a member of the Anglican



Church of Canada's Creation Matters Working Group, Ecological Justice Circle of Kairos Canada, Kairos Halifax, the ecumenical group For the Love of Creation, is a member of the Council of Canadians and other environmental groups.

## **Neely Marion MacBurnie**

2019 Youth Retreat on Climate Change

## **Sarah McDonald**

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2021 Climate-induced Societal and Ecological Breakthrough in Atlantic Canada

Sarah McDonald is a staff lawyer with Ecojustice. She is a settler living and working in Kjiptuk (Halifax). After working with the organization as both an articling student and summer student, Sarah was hired on as a staff lawyer and hasn't looked back. She grew up in Ottawa and graduated from Dalhousie University's Schulich School of Law in 2016.



## **Isaiah MacKay**

2022 Youth High School Retreat for Climate Action

## **Lil Macpherson**

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2018 Thinkers Retreat on Climate Change

Lil Macpherson was born and raised in Nova Scotia. She is the founder and co-owner of The Wooden Monkey restaurants, located in Halifax and Dartmouth, where serving food with a conscience is the restaurant's mission that has received many awards. Lil is a trained presenter for Al Gore's Climate Change Project and has attended United Nations Climate Change Conferences in Copenhagen, Cancun, and recently Paris. She has travelled the world, from the Slow Food International Conference in Italy to a Chalice sponsor site in Africa but her passion remains on local issues



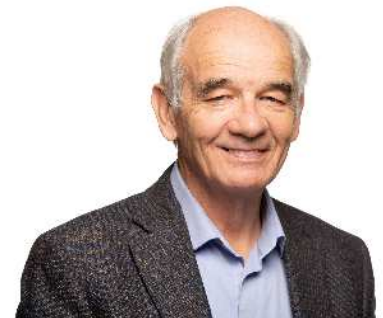
concerning food sustainability and supporting Nova Scotia farmers. Lil has been sharing her message from elementary schools to universities, and private and government sponsored conferences. She is able to get her message across with a sense of urgency while using her sense of humor. She often says that the people she focuses her attention on most are the people that eat food. One of her favorite things to do is retreat to her mountain hide-away and hop on her tractor.

## **Rankin MacSween**

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**2017 Pugwash 60th Anniversary Retreat on Climate Change**  
**2020 Atlantic Canada: Conversations on an Uncertain Future**

Rankin MacSween has worked with New Dawn Enterprises since 1977. He has recently retired as President and CEO of the New Dawn family of companies. Born and raised in Boisdale, Cape Breton Island, Rankin holds degrees from StFX, University of Ottawa, the Merrill Palmer Institute, a PhD from the University of Toronto and holds an honorary doctorate from Cape Breton University. He is a founding member of the Canadian Community Economic Development Network and in 2008 was inducted into the Cape Breton Business Hall of Fame.



## **Tracy Marshall**

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**2019 Youth Retreat on Climate Change**  
**2020 Atlantic Canada: Conversations on an Uncertain Future**  
**2021 Thinkers Lodge Summit on Nuclear and Climate Crises**

Tracy Marshall is from Potlotek First Nation. She is an active member of CEPI Youth, and currently the Youth Coordinator for CEPI. She sits on the Bras d'Or Lakes Biosphere Reserve Association Board of Directors as the youth representative. As a child, she started to learn about melting "ice caps" and was concerned for polar bears, and ever since haven't stopped being an activist for the environment. Not knowing



where to start, she just stopped littering and encouraging friends and family not to as well. The rest was a ripple effect from that moment on. Tracy was a co-organizer of the CLP 2019 Youth Retreat, a Thinker in the May-June 2020 retreat and a trusted advisor. She is working with CLP to collate written transcripts of Elder Albert Marshall's teachings. Tracy is in the Bachelor of Arts and Science in Environment program at Cape Breton University

## **Elder Albert Marshall**

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2017 Pugwash 60th Anniversary Retreat on Climate Change  
2019 Indigenous & Faith Leaders Retreat on the Climate Crisis  
2020 Atlantic Canada: Conversations on an Uncertain Future  
2021 Climate-induced Societal and Ecological Breakthrough in Atlantic Canada

Albert Marshall is a highly respected and much loved Elder of the Mi'kmaw Nation. He lives in Eskasoni First Nation in Unama'ki (Cape Breton), NS, and is a passionate advocate of cross-cultural understandings and healing and of our human responsibilities to care for all creatures and our Earth Mother. He is the "designated voice" with respect to environmental issues for the Mi'kmaw Elders of Unama'ki.



## **Hannah Martin**

2019 Youth Retreat on Climate Change

## **Cathy Martin**

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2019 Indigenous & Faith Leaders Retreat on the Climate Crisis

A member of the Millbrook First Nation in Truro, Nova Scotia, Catherine is an independent film producer, director, writer, facilitator, communications consultant, community activist, teacher, drummer, and the first woman Mi'kmaw filmmaker from the Atlantic region. Catherine's many award-winning documentaries tell the stories of her



nation and include the animation film *Little Boy Who Lived with Muini'skw* (2004), the NFB film *The Spirit of Annie Mae* (2002), and *Spirit Wind* (2000). Her contributions to film, television and digital media in Atlantic Canada were recognized this March with a WAVE Award from Women in Film and Television Atlantic. Catherine has contributed to the development of many programs to advance the education of Mi'kmaq and Aboriginal women and youth, including the certificate in community health at Dalhousie for women in Mi'kmaq, Maliseet, Innu, and Inuit communities; the Indigenous Black and Mi'kmaq Law Program also at Dalhousie; and the Indigenous Women in Community Leadership program at the Coady International Institute at St. Francis Xavier University. As an alumna of the Mount's Master of Education program, Catherine has a longstanding connection with the Mount, currently serving on the Aboriginal Advisory Committee.

## **Bill Martin**

[bill@sixrivers.ca](mailto:bill@sixrivers.ca)

2017 Pugwash 60th Anniversary Retreat on Climate Change

2018 Thinkers Retreat on Climate Change

2019 Indigenous & Faith Leaders Retreat on the Climate Crisis

2020 Atlantic Canada: Conversations on an Uncertain Future

Bill Martin founded Six Rivers News, Radio, and TV to serve the northern half of Cumberland County as a community dubbed Six Rivers to the Sea. He is also the founder and Managing Director of Hope Centre Ministries, while also serving as Pastor of Hope Centre Community Church. Bill focuses on helping people and building a vibrant community. He wants to right wrongs and guide people in successful relationships. Bill is a former chair of the Pugwash Village Commission.

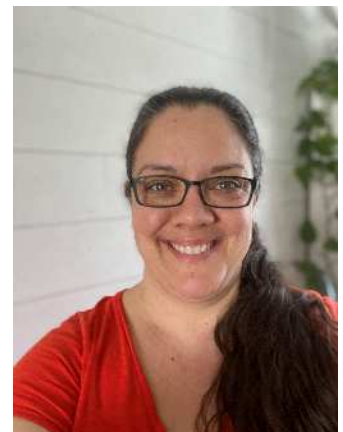


## **Dawn Matheson**

[dmatheson@ulnoowegeducation.ca](mailto:dmatheson@ulnoowegeducation.ca)

2023 Retreat for the Formation of the Atlantic Food Action Coalition

Dawn-Marie Matheson currently works at the Ulnooweg Education Centre as the Food Security Initiative Project



**Coordinator. She lives in Millbrook First Nation which is located just outside of Truro here in Mi'kma'ki with her spouse, 5 beautiful children and 1 fur baby.**

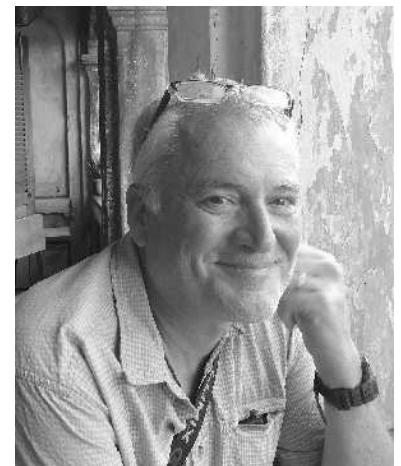
**Dawn holds a Bachelor of Technology degree in Environmental Horticulture from Dalhousie University, as well as a Bachelor of Education from Acadia University. She has a passion for family, culture and food, so learning and sharing new things while gardening is a perfect match for her.**

## **Brooks McCutcheon**

[contact@islandreach.org](mailto:contact@islandreach.org)

**2023 Retreat for the Formation of the Atlantic Food Action Coalition**

Brooks was raised on an artisanal farm in the Berkshires, Western Massachusetts. He holds a BA in human ecology and MA/PhD in cross-cultural clinical psychology. His three sons were raised on the family agroforestry farm. Farm conservation specialization developed into work on ridge-to-reef oceanscapes with family and crew operating a modest research vessel in Vanuatu, Melanesia for half the year and agroforestry farming the other half. From these activities, Brooks and his wife, a cultural anthropologist, founded the non-profit Island Reach (IR) which offers services and allyship for indigenous partners and civil society organizations responding to climate impacts, threats to biocultural resilience, and extractive economic pressures. In 2020 Island Reach Foundation launched the climate resilience film *Immuto (change)*. From his current home in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, Brooks and partner are now offering their expertise and experience to work with activists, member-based organizations, civil society and philanthropists in the Global North interested in biocultural resilience.



## **Bhreagh McKinnon**

[cbu17knd@cbu.ca](mailto:cbu17knd@cbu.ca)

**2021 Thinkers Lodge Summit on Nuclear and Climate Crises**

## **Jason McLennan**

**2021 Climate-induced Societal and Ecological Breakthrough in Atlantic Canada**

## **Paulina Meader**

**2019 Youth Retreat on Climate Change**

## **Sarah Melanson**

[Sarahjmelanson5@gmail.com](mailto:Sarahjmelanson5@gmail.com)

### **2022 Youth High School Retreat for Climate Action**

Sarah Melanson is a youth climate activist from Halifax Nova Scotia. She attended the climate retreat at the Thinkers Lodge in the summer of 2022. In the past she has organized a women's march for climate as well as others when she was a part of School Strike for Climate Halifax. Currently she is focusing on her education. She hopes to study how climate change affects the psychology of people, specifically youth.



## **Elder Joseph Michael**

### **2019 Indigenous & Faith Leaders Retreat on the Climate Crisis**

### **2020 Atlantic Canada: Conversations on an Uncertain Future**

Mi'kmaq Elder Lawrence Joseph Michael is a highly regarded inspirational and spiritual leader within Nova Scotia's Mi'kmaq community, Indigenous communities across Canada, and on Acadia's campus, particularly with students interested in learning traditional knowledge. Most notably, "Joe Mike" was the first Mi'kmaq member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police when he was appointed Special Constable on the Indian Brook First Nation and it was during his 25-year RCMP career that he earned the respect he enjoys today from Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities for his unique contribution to Canada's justice system.



## **Rebecca Moore**

### **2017 Pugwash 60th Anniversary Retreat on Climate Change**

Rebecca Moore is a Mi'kmaq woman who is the Community Energy Campaigner, Ecology Action Centre. She is dedicated to working with Indigenous, African





Canadian and settler communities for energy campaigning. Rebecca is a drummer/singer and has performed for numerous events. Rebecca has been acknowledged for her community efforts by receiving the Premier's Power of Positive award, Leadership in Crime Prevention Award from the Minister of Justice, and the Barry Logan Memorial Award for Volunteer of the Year from the Kiptu Youth Centre.

## **Nouhad Mourad**

2019 Youth Retreat on Climate Change

## **Ethan Neville**

[ethanneville@me.com](mailto:ethanneville@me.com)

2020 Atlantic Canada: Conversations on an Uncertain Future

2022 Dig In Food Security Strategy Retreat

Ethan Neville is a father, film maker and multimedia artist living in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He has worked as an artist, Director, Cinematographer and film Editor since 2001. He is currently working on a long-form multimedia art experiment: Stone Soup Unlimited, the Stone of Kindness project. This art work is based on a hunch, that humanity can evolve out of ignorance and self destruction. With the practice of Kindness, Conversation and Celebration we may attend to our collective ecological, social and scientific imbalances. This work arises out of an ordinary stone found on the shores of Cape Breton, and leads us on a journey into our collective humanity, exploring Sacred Faces and Sacred Places. The Stone of Kindness serves as a sort of living talisman, a conduit into our simple yet profound connection to the earth and each other. Instagram @stonesoupunlimited



## **Nina Newington**

[nina@ninanewington.com](mailto:nina@ninanewington.com)

2020 Atlantic Canada: Conversations on an Uncertain Future



Nina Newington is a writer, gardener, carpenter and forest protector. Her third book, 'Moose Country Doggerel: The Tale of a Blockade', will be published in late 2023. She lives with her wife on the North Mountain in Kespukwitk, District One of the 7 traditional districts of Mi'kma'ki. She has been involved in non-violent direct actions to protect forests in this district since 2019, most recently camping out on a logging road for 6 months in 2021-2022. Learning to identify species at risk lichens has proved helpful and quite addictive.

## **Debbie Nielsen**

[dnielsen@unsm.ca](mailto:dnielsen@unsm.ca)

### **2017 Pugwash 60th Anniversary Retreat on Climate Change**

Debbie Nielsen has a solid foundation in community development and has worked for over 20 years in the field of environmental programming and planning. She holds a Bachelor of Science and a Bachelor of Design in Environmental Planning, and presently works as the Lead Program Manager for the Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund at the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM). Prior to joining NSFM, she worked for several years as an environmental planning consultant and completed a number of climate change projects, including the City of Iqaluit's first impact and adaptation study. In April 2008, Debbie was invited to join Climate Project Canada and became part of the first group of Canadians to be trained by Al Gore to spread awareness about climate change.



## **Tina Northrup**

[tina@ecelaw.ca](mailto:tina@ecelaw.ca)

### **2021 Climate-induced Societal and Ecological Breakthrough in Atlantic Canada**

Tina Northrup is a staff lawyer at East Coast Environmental Law with a passion for public legal education and community collaboration. Her areas of interest include Aboriginal and Indigenous law, human rights in the context of



environmental and climate justice, and laws relating to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

## **Sebastian Orellana**

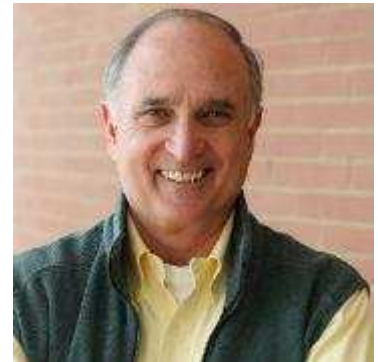
**2019 Youth Retreat on Climate Change**

## **David Orr**

[dorr@oberlin.edu](mailto:dorr@oberlin.edu)

**2021 Climate-induced Societal and Ecological Breakthrough in Atlantic Canada**

David Orr is the Paul Sears Distinguished Professor of Environmental Studies and Politics Emeritus (1990-2017), Counselor to the President, Oberlin College 2007-2017, and presently a Professor of Practice at Arizona State University. He is the author of eight books, including *Dangerous Years: Climate Change, the Long Emergency, and the Way Forward* (Yale University Press, 2017), *Down to the Wire: Confronting Climate Collapse* (Oxford, 2009), *Design with Nature* (Oxford, 2002), *Earth in Mind* (Island, 2004) and co- editor of five others including *Democracy Unchained* (The New Press, 2020), and *Democracy in a Hotter Time* (MIT Press, 2023). He has served as a board member or adviser to eight foundations and on the Boards of many organizations including the Rocky Mountain Institute, the Aldo Leopold Foundation, the Bioneers, the Alliance for Sustainable Colorado, and Children and Nature Network. He has been awarded nine honorary degrees and a dozen other awards. He is a founder of: the Atlanta Environmental Symposium (1972-1974), the Meadowcreek Project (1979-1990), the Oberlin Project (2007-2017), the journal *Solutions*, and of the State of American Democracy Project 2017-present). He headed the effort to design, fund, and build the Adam Joseph Lewis Center which was named by an AIA panel in 2010 as “the most important green building of the past thirty years;” and selected as one of “52 game changing buildings of the past 170 years” by the editors of *Building Design + Construction Magazine* (2016). He



was instrumental in the design and funding for the Platinum-rated Peter B. Lewis Gateway Center (hotel + conference center in Oberlin).

## **Chris Ortenburger**

[chris2575@gmail.com](mailto:chris2575@gmail.com)

**2017 Pugwash 60th Anniversary Retreat on Climate Change**

Chris Ortenburger has had an ecological bent since her childhood in Virginia, enjoying animals and nature, and getting involved in conservation projects. After graduating from veterinary school, she came to Prince Edward Island for a short-term job at the Atlantic Veterinary College. Family life, homeschooling and homesteading were primary occupations for the next years, in addition to volunteer and community involvement. Opposing a misguided highway project in 2012 near the Bonshaw woods was a fast education in citizen-engagement and environmental legal issues, and though the highway was built, she helped form the Citizens' Alliance of P.E.I. to keep communication going and foster positive change. She produces a daily newsletter of events, consultation opportunities, and articles related to democratic and environmental issues. She is currently the Species-at-Risk project coordinator for NaturePEI.



## **Megumi Ozawa**

[ozawamegumi04@gmail.com](mailto:ozawamegumi04@gmail.com)

**2019 Youth Retreat on Climate Change**

Hello my name is Megumi Ozawa and I participated in the 2019 Climate Change Conference and the 2022 PDHS Nuclear and Climate Crises Summit. I just completed my first year of university in a Bachelor of Science at the University of New Brunswick. I am thankful and excited to be a part of such an important community working towards a greater future for everyone!



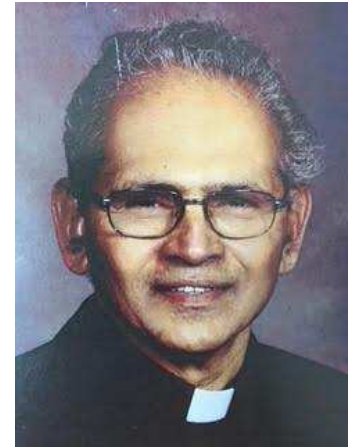
## **Rev George Palamattam**

[palamattam619@gmail.com](mailto:palamattam619@gmail.com)

## **2019 Indigenous & Faith Leaders Retreat on the Climate Crisis**

Rev George Palamattam is a religious priest of the Community of the Carmelites of Mary Immaculate (C.M.I). He did his priestly studies at Dharmaram Pontifical Institute in Bangalore, India (B.Ph), and Pontifical Atheneum, Pune, India (B.Th.). After completing his studies in commerce (B. Com and M.Com), George began teaching as a faculty member in the department of commerce and Business at the Sacred Heart College of the Kerala University, India.

George was ordained priest of the CMI Community in the year 1978, and continued his teaching career under Kerala University. He earned a Ph.D. degree in Educational Administration in 1992. He has served as Principal of two University Colleges in the Kerala State of India. He has also rendered services as member of All India Association of Christian Higher Education in India and as a founding member and president of the commerce Teachers Association of India. Fr. George has held positions as member of National Assessment Accreditation Council of the University Grants Commission of the government of India and joined as chief coordinator for helping Gujrat Earth-Quake victims. He is a public speaker, writer and author. From 2004 onwards, he has been serving the Catholic parish communities in Canada, – as Pastor of Parishes of St. Patrick, St. Lawrence, Holy family and Sacred hearts of the Hamilton diocese.



## **Mackenzie Paris**

**2022 Youth High School Retreat for Climate Action**

## **Clifford Paul**

[cliffordpaul938@hotmail.com](mailto:cliffordpaul938@hotmail.com)

**2022 Youth High School Retreat for Climate Action**

For ten years, Clifford worked with Micmac News. Starting as staff writer and photographer, he eventually became editor. While there, he shared a National Aboriginal Communications Society Award for best news story for coverage of the



Donald Marshall Jr. story. After his stint with MicMac News, he spent the next six years with the Unama'ki Tribal Police as Criminal Records Manager and dispatch trainer. Before joining us at UINR, Clifford worked for the Union of Nova Scotia Indians on the Sydney Tar Ponds and Coke Ovens Clean-up, providing information on proposed technologies to the Mi'kmaq communities affected by the clean-up. As Coordinator of the Moose Management Initiative, Clifford's role is to engage the Mi'kmaq community in drafting a management plan for moose in the Cape Breton Highlands. Clifford is passionate about this project. "This initiative is a shining example of Mi'kmaq self-government put to action as it employs Mi'kmaq jurisdiction with a Mi'kmaq natural resource in Mi'kmaq territory."

## **Lexi Paul**

**2022 Youth High School Retreat for Climate Action**

## **Richard Peisinger**

[richard.peisinger@gmail.com](mailto:richard.peisinger@gmail.com)

**2020 Atlantic Canada: Conversations on an Uncertain Future**

Richard Peisinger is a founder of the international Shambhala Touching the Earth Collective whose mission is to inspire and engage individual and collective action for the rebalancing, protection and celebration of the sacred living environment for all beings. He lives by the shores and forests of Long Lake in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

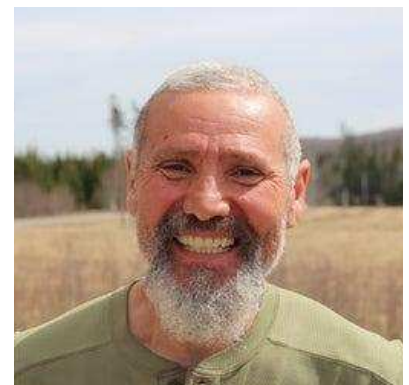


## **Joe Piotti**

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

**2023 Retreat for the Formation of the Atlantic Food Action Coalition**

Joe operates a mixed 200 acre farm/woodlot in Nova Scotia managing Belted Galloway grass fed beef cattle, forest raised Berkshire pigs, pasture raised poultry, a certified organic haskap orchard, Christmas tree lot and woodlot. Before farming, Joe worked in the banking and investment banking industries for over 35 years. Joe's



other agricultural service work included serving on the Council of the Federation of Agriculture of Nova Scotia, and he is currently president of the Haskap Marketing Group, a Co-op consisting of over two dozen farmers throughout the Maritimes, he serves on the board of Organic Nova Scotia and the board of the Atlantic Food Action Coalition. Joe actively farms with his wife (Stephanie) and their two children Luke and Sadie). The family feels blessed to be farming regeneratively improving the land while producing nourishing agricultural products to help feed Nova Scotian families and contributing to food security in the region.

### **Jeff Porten**

2021 Thinkers Lodge Summit on Nuclear and Climate Crises

### **Leanne Prescott**

2022 Dig In Food Security Strategy Retreat

### **Dale Prest**

[dale@growingforests.ca](mailto:dale@growingforests.ca)

2017 Pugwash 60th Anniversary Retreat on Climate Change

Dale is passionate about forests and has dedicated his career to building business models that preserve and restore healthy forest ecosystems. As CEO and co-founder of Growing Forests ([www.growingforests.ca](http://www.growingforests.ca)) Dale led the company to raise over \$700,000 in 2022 from 75 individuals, building a community-owned, for-profit corporation whose mission is to acquire and manage forested properties to build stronger, healthier forests for generations to come. Arising from the dissatisfaction its 7 founders felt watching forest after forest being sold and clearcut in their communities, Growing Forests is a grass-roots, nature-based solution to climate change that shows how community investment can be used to keep forests as carbon sinks while at the same time restoring forests previously degraded through unsustainable forest management practices. Dale has an academic background in soil science and ecology which is firmly planted in



practical experience working in family-owned forestry operations. A proud father and husband, Dale lives in Musquodoboit Harbour, NS.

## **Mary Purdy**

**2023 Retreat for the Formation of the Atlantic Food Action Coalition**

## **William Rees**

[wrees@mail.ubc.ca](mailto:wrees@mail.ubc.ca)

**2021 Thinkers Lodge Summit on Nuclear and Climate Crises**

William Rees is a population ecologist, ecological economist, Professor Emeritus and former Director of the University of British Columbia's School of Community and Regional Planning. He is a founding member and former President of the Canadian Society for Ecological Economics; a Fellow of the Post-Carbon Institute; a founding Director of the OneEarth Initiative; and a Director of The Real Green New Deal. Prof Rees' research focuses on the biophysical prerequisites for sustainability. He is best known as the originator and co-developer (with his graduate students) of 'ecological footprint analysis,' a quantitative tool that shows definitively that the human enterprise is in dysfunctional overshoot—we would need five Earth-like planets to support just the present world population sustainably with existing technologies at North American material standards. Concerned about societal unresponsiveness to worsening indicators, Dr Rees also studies the biological and psycho-cognitive barriers to ecologically rational political behavior. He has authored hundreds of peer reviewed and popular articles on the above topics. Dr Rees was elected to Royal Society of Canada in 2006; his international awards include the Boulding Memorial Award in Ecological Economics, the Herman Daly Award in Ecological Economics and a Blue Planet Prize (jointly with his former student Dr Mathis Wackernagel).





## **Richard Reoch**

[richardreoch@gn.apc.org](mailto:richardreoch@gn.apc.org)

**2021 Climate-induced Societal and Ecological Breakthrough  
in Atlantic Canada**

Richard Reoch has devoted his working life to peace, human rights and the environment. He was the global media chief of Amnesty International, a trustee of the Rainforest Foundation, and active in diverse peace initiatives and other international projects. Raised in a Buddhist family in Canada, he helped launch the Buddhist Humanitarian Project after taking part in a high-level interfaith delegation to the Rohingya refugee camps on the Bangladesh/Myanmar border. His article “Meditating on the Buddha in the midst of Buddhist Terror” was featured in [Lion’s Roar](#), the largest online magazine for Buddhists in the English-speaking world.



## **Maria Rodriguez**

[maria.rodriguez4352@gmail.com](mailto:maria.rodriguez4352@gmail.com)

**2022 Dig In Food Security Strategy Retreat**

Maria Rodriguez was born and raised in Venezuela and emigrated to Canada 29 years ago. After living in Quebec and Ontario, she has called PEI home for the past 13 years. Maria retired after twenty years with the federal public service, where she held a variety of responsibilities, most recently with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada as Manager, Science Policy and Partnerships. She has many years of experience in science-based policy analysis, participatory processes, and partnership development, nationally and internationally, and is a strong advocate for inclusive decision-making processes and the need to create spaces and build capacity for active citizen engagement. Maria holds an agriculture engineering degree from the Central University of Venezuela and a PhD from McGill University, Montreal.



## **Regan Rosburg**

[reganrosburg@yahoo.com](mailto:reganrosburg@yahoo.com)

2017 Pugwash 60th Anniversary Retreat on Climate Change  
2020 Atlantic Canada: Conversations on an Uncertain Future

Regan Rosburg is an interdisciplinary artist who weaves together science, psychology, history, and social engagement. With a passion for studying various ecosystems and biota, her work investigates not only the exquisite intelligence of ecology but also the causes and ramifications of over-consumption. Rosburg is an Associate Professor at the Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design (Lakewood, CO) and is the Artistic Director of Cayo Artist Residency. She has exhibited internationally and nationally. Publications and interviews include the IGI International Journal of Civic Engagement and Social Change, Truthout, CPR News, The Westword, The Shambhala Times (CAN), Elysian Magazine, One Resilient Earth, and the Denver Post. Her residencies include the Arctic Circle Residency (Norway), RedLine (CO), S\*Park (CO), Ayatana (CAN), and the Oak Spring Garden Foundation (VA). She received her BFA from the University of Colorado at Boulder (2000) and her MFA from Lesley University College of Art and Design (2016).



## **Shy Saito**

2019 Youth Retreat on Climate Change

## **Natalya Samoylovskaya**

[natalya.samoylovskaya@gmail.com](mailto:natalya.samoylovskaya@gmail.com)

2021 Thinkers Lodge Summit on Nuclear and Climate Crises

Natalya Samoylovskaya is an associate editor of the Journal of International Analytics and Junior Research Associate at the Center of Euro-Atlantic Security of the Institute for International Studies, MGIMO-University. Research interests include international security, emerging technologies, disarmament issues, theory of international relations.



## **Olivian Sanderson**



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

### **2022 Youth High School Retreat for Climate Action**

Olivian Sanderson grew up in Pugwash, NS. She attended the Youth Climate Action Retreat held at the Thinker's Lodge during the summer of 2022. Olivian has a passion for the environment, and the outdoors. She is presently studying commerce at Saint Mary's University.

### **Christine Saulnier**

[christine@policyalternatives.ca](mailto:christine@policyalternatives.ca)

### **2017 Pugwash 60th Anniversary Retreat on Climate Change**

Christine Saulnier is Director of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives-Nova Scotia. She has a doctorate in Political Science from York University. She leads the living wage calculations for communities across Atlantic Canada and serves as a co-author of the annual child and family poverty report cards for Nova Scotia. She has written extensively, and given commentary on a range of other public policy issues including fiscal policy, labour markets, and child care policy. She serves on the Steering Committee of Child Care Now Nova Scotia, and Campaign 2000 (national coalition to end child and family poverty). She served on the Board of the NS Health Coalition and Adsum for 10 years.



### **Michael Shuman**

[shuman@igc.org](mailto:shuman@igc.org)

### **2017 Pugwash 60th Anniversary Retreat on Climate Change**

Michael Shuman is an economist, attorney, author, and entrepreneur, and a leading visionary on community economics. He is an Adjunct Professor at Bard Business School in New York City. He is also a Senior Researcher for Council Fire, where he performs economic-development analyses for states, local governments, and businesses around North America. He



is credited with being one of the architects of the 2012 JOBS Act and dozens of state laws overhauling securities regulation of crowdfunding. He has authored, coauthored, or edited ten books. His two most recent books are *Put Your Money Where Your Life Is: How to Invest Locally Using Solo 401ks and Self-Directed IRAs* and *The Local Economy Solution: How Innovative, Self-Financing Pollinator Enterprises Can Grow Jobs and Prosperity*. One of his previous books, *The Small Mart Revolution: How Local Businesses Are Beating the Global Competition* (Berrett-Koehler, 2006), received a bronze prize from the Independent Publishers Association for best business book of 2006. A prolific speaker, Shuman has given an average of more than one invited talk per week, mostly to local governments and universities, for the past 30 years in nearly every U.S. state and more than a dozen countries.

## **Melena Siannas**

**2022 Youth High School Retreat for Climate Action**

## **Melinda Simon**

**2022 Youth High School Retreat for Climate Action**

## **Av Singh**

[av@fs-cannabis.com](mailto:av@fs-cannabis.com)

**2017 Pugwash 60th Anniversary Retreat on Climate Change**

Av Singh is one of the leading proponents of regenerative organic cannabis production being engaged in cannabis projects across six continents. Dr. Singh has authored over 200 peer-reviewed papers, chapters, and extension articles and has been an invited speaker to over 600 workshops, conferences, symposia as well as guest-lecturing at over 30 universities in Canada, the US, the UK, and India. Av has had the privilege of visiting over 2500 farms across five continents which has shaped his extension of holistic, system-based design solutions. Emphasizing a union of traditional knowledge with science, Av works with growers to cultivate an appreciation of plant:soil interrelationships. Currently, Av serves as Cultivation Advisor within the



cannabis industry with Flemming & Singh Cannabis and Lav & Kush Consulting having clients in over 20 countries. Dr. Singh has recently joined the Global Decarbonization Team working on a variety of projects seeking to sequester carbon. Av is a long-time member of the Canadian Organic Growers and the National Farmers' Union, as well as the Vice- President of Régénération Canada. Av is also a faculty member at Earth University ([www.navdanya.org](http://www.navdanya.org)) in India where he delivers courses on agroecology and organic farming and a faculty member at the Nova Scotia Community College delivering a course on cannabis production.

## **Gordon Slade**

[gordonslade@shorefast.org](mailto:gordonslade@shorefast.org)

**2017 Pugwash 60th Anniversary Retreat on Climate Change**

Gordon Slade is a leader in the sustainable economic development of Newfoundland and Labrador. After an early career in fisheries conservation, in 1975, he was appointed the provincial Deputy Minister of Fisheries. In 1987, Mr Slade became Vice-President, Newfoundland Division, for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA). He also served as Co-Chair of the \$300 million dollar (CAD) Canada-Newfoundland Offshore Development Fund. In 1988, Mr Slade established The [Battle Harbour Historic Trust](#) to protect the history and culture of the intact salt-fishing village of Battle Harbour. Mr Slade has been awarded the Order of Canada for his community work. Mr Slade's latest project is the renaissance of the remote region of Fogo Island and Change Islands with the [Shorefast Foundation](#). He is developing partnerships with governments, communities, and local residents to preserve local traditions, while developing a model for the sustainable management of rural communities internationally. He received an honorary Doctorate Degree from MUN in 2014 and was invested into the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador in 2020.



## **Carolyn Sloan**

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

**2021 Climate-induced Societal and Ecological Breakthrough in Atlantic Canada**



Raised in the Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia, Carolyn Sloan is a community builder, inclusion advocate, writer, and artist with a love of rural life. Over this next year, she is looking forward to serving as Provincial Lead of Education and Training for the Nova Scotia Division of the Canadian Mental Health Association, as well as co-chair of Just, Good Business Nova Scotia, which strives to support a thriving social business ecosystem across the province. In her spare time, Carolyn volunteers with the Halifax Contra Dances Community Group and is developing a social purpose business that combines her love of art, community inclusion, and food. She is looking forward to moving back to the Annapolis Valley this summer.

## **Josh Smee**

[josh@foodfirstnl.ca](mailto:josh@foodfirstnl.ca)

2023 Retreat for the Formation of the Atlantic Food Action Coalition

Josh is the CEO of Food First NL, a provincial nonprofit organization that works with communities in Newfoundland & Labrador to ensure everyone has access to affordable, healthy, and culturally appropriate food. Passionate about systems change and the power of collective action, Joshua has taken a lead role in many coalitions and campaigns. He co-chairs the provincial Food Security Working Group with the Government of NL and sits on the province's Health Accord Task Force.



## **Leticia Smiley**

[smillil@halifax.ca](mailto:smillil@halifax.ca)

2023 Retreat for the Formation of the Atlantic Food Action Coalition

Leticia Smillie is a food systems planner with the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM), co-chair of the Halifax Food Policy Alliance, and member of the Halifax Mobile Food Market and the Food Communities Network Steering Committees. Leticia graduated from Dalhousie with a Master of Urban and Rural Planning, with a particular focus on community engagement in planning



practice. Her recent work has focused on increasing community involvement and impact in designing communities that promote arts, culture, and health. Leticia is leading the development of JustFOOD Halifax: an action plan for the Halifax Region, which is being co-developed by the municipality and the Halifax Food Policy Alliance.

Prior to working for HRM, Leticia was an eco-entrepreneur, operating a cleaning company that used environmentally friendly products and practices as well as a cloth diaper service. When not working, Leticia's personal life also focuses on community, creativity, and wellbeing. Leticia teaches Zumba dance fitness, creates wearable art through combining vintage textiles with wool, and is building a small house using as many repurposed materials as possible.

## **Telsey Smith**

2022 Youth High School Retreat for Climate Action

## **Louis Sobol**

2019 Youth Retreat on Climate Change

## **Janis Steele**

[contact@islandreach.org](mailto:contact@islandreach.org)

2023 Retreat for the Formation of the Atlantic Food Action Coalition

I am cofounder and director of Island Reach, a small international nonprofit organization committed to advancing community-driven biocultural resilience. My passion for exploring relationships between people and their natural, social, and built environments led me to pursue a BA in Human Ecology and then an MA/PHD in cultural anthropology. I have since raised three wonderful sons, created and run an artisanal forest farm, worked as a documentary filmmaker and adjunct university professor, and sailed three oceans to engage with communities on the frontlines of the climate emergency. I recently moved to Cape Breton, having repatriated to Canada after 30 years in the US. It was very moving for me to attend a recent gathering at Pugwash and the



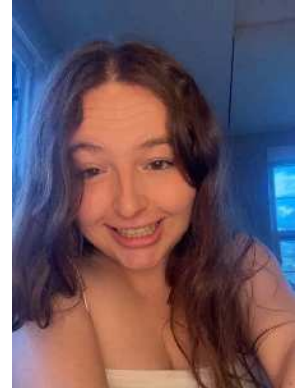
Thinker's Lodge, having been at the 38<sup>th</sup> Pugwash Conference in Dagomys USSR in 1988 as a member of a film crew working on an anti-nuclear film. My most recent project involves working with rural women in Bangladesh, helping advance agroecological practices and livelihoods.

## Cadence Steeves

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2019 Youth Retreat on Climate Change

Hi everyone! My name is Cadence Steeves, and I am going into my second year of a Bachelor of Arts at the University of New Brunswick. I attended the 2019 Youth Retreat on Climate Change as a 15-year-old high school student at Pugwash District High. Since then, I have worked on different climate and peace related projects, including a petition to declare Pugwash District High a nuclear-weapon-free zone. I look forward to connecting with all of you in the near future!



## Danielle Stodilka

2021 Thinkers Lodge Summit on Nuclear and Climate Crises

## Everett Stone

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2022 Youth High School Retreat for Climate Action

Everett Stone has been in the TV and entertainment for over a decade now, and has covered a lot of ground in that time! He's filmed around the world in places such as the jungles of Costa Rica, the conflict torn neighborhoods of Belfast, New York fashion week and more. You can see his work on the TV series Transition Garden, and the internationally distributed series Hope for Wildlife, and Wild Wild east. Add in numerous music videos for artists such as Dave Carroll, Fortunate Ones and Christina Martin, and you have a man who has spent A LOT of time behind a camera.





## **Simon Stonebridge**

**2022 Youth High School Retreat for Climate Action**

**Acadian, musician and climate advocate since a young age.**

## **Paul Strome**

[paulstrome@yahoo.com](mailto:paulstrome@yahoo.com)

**2018 Thinkers Retreat on Climate Change**

**2020 Atlantic Canada: Conversations on an Uncertain Future**

Paul Strome has lived with First Nations, Inuit and Metis for a significant part of his life. As a child he lived in a small Cree/Inuit village called Fort George (Chisasibi) on the east coast of James Bay. He returned to work in the Northwest Territories/Nunavut for a number of years prior to graduating from the University of Waterloo (Anthropology). After graduation he worked in the Northwest Territories/Nunavut as an educator, immersed in the culture, language, and geographic parameters with Inuit for years. He has seen first hand how indigenous people of Canada are treated.



After he moved to southern Ontario as an educator, he ran the extra-curricular Outdoor Education Club in addition to his classes, in one of the largest high schools in Mississauga, Canada. He trained and took students on canoeing, hiking, climbing, snow-shoeing and dog-sledding expeditions. He has canoed/kayaked many of Canada's Heritage Rivers and has lived in or travelled to every province and territory in Canada which has broadened his concerns about environment and social concerns, while intensifying his love and admiration for Canada. As an elder and David Suzuki Ambassador he has championed the Blue Dot Movement in Unama'ki (Nova Scotia). He collaborates and networks for the common good with other like-minded individuals and organizations. He is well-known as an environmentalist/social activist throughout Unama'ki and has met personally with many municipal, provincial and federal politicians to encourage them to adopt sustainable environmental and social changes to address climate change. He has also done the same at schools, community colleges, libraries, community halls and Cape Breton University. Paul is retired

and currently lives in Antigonish, Nova Scotia with his wife Joanne and his little dog Meesha.

## **Ashley Swan**

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**2023 Retreat for the Formation of the Atlantic Food Action Coalition**

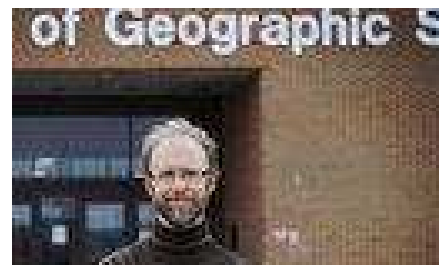
Ashley Swan is a member of Colchester County with a background in Therapeutic Recreation. After being a stay at home mom of 4 for many years Ashley and attending Maggie's Place Family Resource Centre Colchester she became a volunteer and then staff member and continues to work there today. Ashley connected to multiple organizations in Colchester facilitating in a variety of programming for all ages. With a passion for food security initiatives she works as Food Program Facilitator for both Maggie's Place and Colchester Community Support Society. Ashley piloted the Portapique Market in June 2022, which is a Farmers Market as well as a food security initiative to support access to local food, where she continues to work as Executive Director. She also sits on the board for the Portapique Hall and works to support the Portapique Community Build Up + project. This includes starting a community pantry and community garden as well as plans for a variety of programming in the future. Ashley is President of the North Shore Community Connection Society. Ashley has a strong connection to mental health initiatives including support for family members of those struggling with acute mental illness. She is a member of the LGBTQQIP2SAA community and supports many youth and young adults in rural Colchester.



## **Ed Symons**

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**2020 Atlantic Canada: Conversations on an Uncertain Future**



Ed Symons teaches Geographic Information Systems (GIS) at the Centre of Geographic Science (COGS), at the Nova Scotia Community College, in Lawrencetown, Nova Scotia. Within the program, Ed leads his students on the use of GIS technology and local data to investigate issues related to resilience and environmental sustainability through mapping projects. His courses allow learners to use a geographic approach to investigate topics such as climate change, maintaining biodiversity, ecological forestry, local food security and issues related to land use and community design.

## **Hailie Tattrie**

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**2019 Youth Retreat on Climate Change**

Hailie Tattrie (she/her) is a PhD student, an educational sociologist, an educator, and an activist. She grew up only 20 minutes down the road from the Thinkers Lodge and even helped to plan the first-ever Centre for Local Prosperity Thinkers Retreat there. Hailie is passionate about social justice issues, workers' rights, climate justice, and so much more. You can learn more about Hailie and can contact her through her website [hailietattrie.com](http://hailietattrie.com).



## **Susan Tooke**

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**2017 Pugwash 60th Anniversary Retreat on Climate Change**

Susan Tooke is a visual and media artist whose work is focused on the environment. She has received several awards, including the Established Artist Recognition Award in 2015 from the Province of Nova Scotia. Her work has been exhibited in solo and group shows in Canada and the United States. A celebrated illustrator, her artwork for children's literature has resulted in multiple awards, including four Lillian Shepherd Memorial Awards for Excellence in Illustration. An active advocate for artists' social and economic rights, she has served as National President of Canadian Artists' Representation/Le Front des artistes



canadiens (CARFAC). Susan received her Bachelor of Fine Arts from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia with further studies in the Master's of Media Arts program at the New School in New York City.

## **Elder Ron Tremblay**

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**2019 Indigenous & Faith Leaders Retreat on the Climate Crisis**

Ron Tremblay is his colonial birth name, but he is known as “spasaqsit possesom” (spuz-akw-zid buz-za-zum) - morningstar burning. He is a citizen of Wolastokuk (Wa-lus-da-gook). Being the youngest of 10 children of the late Doris Sappier and Raymond Tremblay, spasaqsit possesom grew-up surrounded by Wolastoqey (Wa-lus-do-kway) Language spoken fluently. spasaqsit possesom credits his mother Doris and grandparents Madeline LePorte and Louise Sappier for his genuine love of Wolastoqey language and he also acknowledges that they provided him the true teachings of life.



After moving to Fredericton in 1991 he befriended several elders from local area. The two main elders Ulsonuwit Sqot (Harry LaPorte) and Sagatay (Gwen Bear) guided him deeper into his Wolastoqey traditional ways. After years of involvement in various ceremonies with his teachers, spasaqsit possesom gained wisdom and knowledge of “Wolastoqey way of life”. Still today, Tremblay practices the traditional ways of Wolastoqewiyik. In November of 2016, he was installed as traditional Wolastoqewi-Grand Chief. The mandate of Wolastoqey Grand Council is to protect and preserve Wolastokuk, their non-ceded traditional homeland, waterways, ceremonies and language.

## **Eric Tusz-King**

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**2019 Indigenous & Faith Leaders Retreat on the Climate Crisis**

Eric Tusz-King was a founding member of EnerGreen Builders Co-operative, Open Sky Co-operative, and Beausejour



Renewable Energy Co-operative, all in Sackville, New Brunswick. He is currently working to develop a housing co-operative and affordable housing projects in Sackville. He is a co-operative developer and diaconal minister in The United Church of Canada, Eric is a husband and father in a family of four children and four grandchildren with his wife, Margaret Tusz-King.

## **Andrea Vandenkoer**

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2017 Pugwash 60th Anniversary Retreat on Climate Change

2022 Dig In Food Security Strategy Retreat

Andrea Vandenkoer has what you want in a project or event coordinator, a videographer, and an award-winning filmmaker – a background of international travel, music, theatre and digital arts that have led her and her company The Visual Blueprint Productions (and Theme Room Films co-partner) to become a visual story-telling force to be reckoned with. Her quick sense of humour, clarity and fiercely compassionate nature will find you wanting to see your event come to life under her skilful guidance or your own story told through the lens of her camera.



Andrea has produced, directed, edited, coordinated and filmed for documentaries, live events, promotional videos, fiction, animation, and numerous research projects. Her independent films often result in screenings at local and global venues with official selections for International Film Festivals and featured at educational institutions, conferences and events. The Centre for Local Prosperity documentary Climate Change and the Human Prospect produced and directed by Andrea earned her a Women in Film and Television Atlantic Best Director nomination at the 2019 Screen Nova Scotia Awards.

Andrea is a proud member of Canadian Cinema Editors (CCE), Atlantic Filmmakers Co-operative (AFCOOP), Women in Film & Television Atlantic (WIFT-AT), and the Documentary Organization of Canada (DOC).

## **Annika Voltan**

[annika@ions.ca](mailto:annika@ions.ca)

## **2020 Atlantic Canada: Conversations on an Uncertain Future**

**Annika Voltan is the Executive Director of Impact Organizations of Nova Scotia (IONS), where she works to develop the capacity and influence of the community impact sector. She was previously the Executive Director of Inspiring Communities where she worked to help grow the field of systems change through fostering activities related to nesting social change initiatives, evaluation and learning. Annika has experience working across federal and provincial government departments, academia and the business sector. She has a PhD in social entrepreneurship and has research interests in networks and social innovation. Annika has three young children and can be found exploring nature and the local craft beer scene.**



## **Mitch Wallerstein**

[mitchel.wallerstein@baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:mitchel.wallerstein@baruch.cuny.edu)

## **2021 Thinkers Lodge Summit on Nuclear and Climate Crises**

**Mitch Wallerstein is president emeritus of Baruch College of the City University of New York (CUNY) and is now appointed as a University Professor at CUNY. In this capacity, he teaches graduate courses in the Marxe School of Public and International Affairs at Baruch College on “International Security and the Liberal World Order” and on “The Policy Implications of Global Climate Change.” Dr. Wallerstein previously served as Dean of the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs of Syracuse University, as Vice President of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Counterproliferation Policy, and as Senior Defense Representative for Trade Security Policy. He was responsible for formulating US defense policy to counter nuclear, biological and chemical weapons proliferation, as well as national security export controls, and he helped found the Senior Defense Group on Proliferation at NATO. Mitchel Wallerstein received his A.B. degree from**



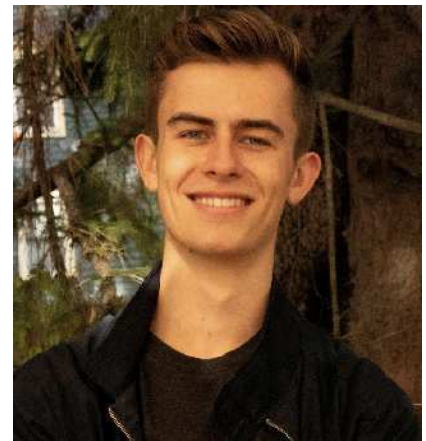
Dartmouth College, and he earned his M.S. and Ph.D. at M.I.T. He is a long-time member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

## **Shane Ward**

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**2021 Thinkers Lodge Summit on Nuclear and Climate Crises**

Shane Ward sits on the leadership team of International Student/Young Pugwash, where he leads the organization's flagship Third Nuclear Age project, and coordinates Student Young Pugwash-UK, facilitating and engaging in Track 2 dialogue with a focus on NATO and emerging technology. He has been published and spoken publicly on the US-UK security relationship. Shane holds a BA from Bates College.



## **Natalie Weder**

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**2022 Dig In Food Security Strategy Retreat**

**2023 Retreat for the Formation of the Atlantic Food Action Coalition**

Natalie is driven to address the environmental and social crises we are facing, and believes community empowerment is vital in this aim. In an effort to connect people to planet, she has led student clubs devoted to getting youth outside and acting against climate change. With a BSc in biology from Acadia University, she now works as a research scientist at a biotech company producing renewable omega-3 supplements. She is a board member with Centre for Local Prosperity, and is co-chair of the Food Secure Canada Youth Caucus. She spends her free time hiking, watching birds, and growing vegetables.



## **Talia Weiss**

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**2021 Thinkers Lodge Summit on Nuclear and Climate Crises**

**Talia Weiss is a researcher in particle physics and technology ethics, currently pursuing a Physics PhD at Yale University, where her research centers on measuring the mass of a fundamental particle. Talia previously received an M.A. in Political Science from the University of Chicago and a B.S. in Physics from MIT. She has written and spoken on the history of scientific self-regulation, lessons learned from the case of Nazi nuclear physicists, and how scientists who invented gene editing technologies viewed the ethics of their research. In 2018-19, Talia developed a program for the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists which fostered conversations among researchers in disparate fields with common areas of concern—climate, nuclear, and emerging technology policy. As an undergraduate, Talia worked for the MIT Washington Office, where she reported on federal R&D policy developments for university leadership.**



## **Gregor Wilson**

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

**2018 Thinkers Retreat on Climate Change**

**Gregor Wilson has worked most of his life in tourism, eco-tourism and the adventure tourism industry in locations such as Japan, Gwaii Haanas National Park, Banff National Park, New Brunswick and across Nova Scotia.**

**He is a principal at Ski Wentworth and works on four-season tourism development in the area. Gregor is a founding member of Sustainable Northern Nova Scotia, Protect Wentworth Valley, and his heart will always be with the Nova Scotia Nature Trust where he was a very active board member for nearly a decade.**



## **Matthew Winchester**

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

**2023 Retreat for the Formation of the Atlantic Food Action Coalition**





**Matthew is Agriculture & Agribusiness entrepreneur and computer scientist with a passion for data. He is an Acadia University Alumni, based in Halifax and is the current CTO at FoodByte. FoodByte is a software start-up that developed business-friendly software to help food processors and food exporters comply with new federal food safety regulations. Additionally, Matthew assists companies navigate the journey of moving into food safety and helps to transition them into companies that use their manufacturing data to self improve. As Matthew says, “We live in a data-rich world and it only makes sense that we leverage it as a resource to enhance our own ventures.”**

## **Irene Woodard**

[irenewoodard24@gmail.com](mailto:irenewoodard24@gmail.com)

**2019 Indigenous & Faith Leaders Retreat on the Climate Crisis**

Irene Woodard is a GreenFaith.org Fellow and is the Vice-Chair on GreenFaith’s Board of Directors. GreenFaith, established in 1993, is one of the world’s oldest interfaith environmental organizations. As GreenFaith’s first Buddhist Fellow in 2011, she later represented GreenFaith at Standing Rock. Her work with GreenFaith has included convergences in Rome, New Orleans, COP23 and COP25, and she recently marched with Joan Fonda in Washington DC Fire Drill Friday. Irene Woodard is the owner of True Blooms, a floral business using seasonal, fresh, local plants and flowers. Irene is a co-founder of The Shambhala Touching the Earth Collective, and a senior teacher in the Shambhala Buddhist tradition. She was Director of Practice and Education, 2013-2018, at Sky Lake Shambhala Meditation and Retreat Center. She is a new Grandmother of Amelia and adoring mother of adult children, Charles and Catherine. A baker, poet, artist, and friend, she is endlessly committed to the care of the Earth.



## **Li Xiao**

[campaigns@scsu.ca](mailto:campaigns@scsu.ca)

**2019 Youth Retreat on Climate Change**



Li Xiao (they/them) is the Equity Services and Policy Coordinator at the Scarborough Campus Students' Union. As the former Nova Scotia Chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students and past President of the King's Students' Union, they are passionate about free education and climate justice! They have a MA in History with a specialization in Ethnic, Immigration, and Pluralism Studies from the University of Toronto. They enjoy learning about Traditional Chinese Medicine and spending time with their cat and dog!

## **Samantha Young**

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2023 Retreat for the Formation of the Atlantic Food Action Coalition

## **Abdallah Yousri**

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2019 Indigenous & Faith Leaders Retreat on the Climate Crisis

Imam Abdallah Yousri is originally from Cairo, Egypt. He got his Bachelor and Masters degree in Islamic Law from Al-Azhar University with Honour. He serves as the Imam and Executive director of Ummah Society, the largest Muslim Charity in Atlantic Canada. Ummah Society has 50+ employees, operates three Mosques across Nova Scotia, a private school, a licensed daycare and a sports center. Imam Abdallah is a board member of the National Canadian Council of Imams. Imam Abdallah won many awards including The Lieutenant Governor's Faith in Action Award 2019, the house of assembly distinguished Award 2020 and the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Award 2023. These awards honour exceptional individuals whose work is driven by their religious commitment to the faith tradition to which they belong.



## **Melanie Zurba**

[Melanie.Zurba@dal.ca](mailto:Melanie.Zurba@dal.ca)

2021 Thinkers Lodge Summit on Nuclear and Climate Crises



Melanie is a professor at Dalhousie University and head of the Community-Engaged Colab. Her work focuses on projects that are developed and implemented in collaboration with communities. Professor Zurba has worked collaboratively with Indigenous communities in Canada and abroad on projects focusing on co-management of species and protected areas, shared forest tenure agreements, land use and occupancy mapping studies, food sovereignty, health promotion and wellbeing, and land-based learning and curriculum development. Her work has also contributed to public discussion on what “reconciliation” means in Canada through her work on learning and relationship building through the shared-governance of land. Professor Zurba is also interested in how global policy frameworks affect community participation in the day-to-day management of the environment.