

Recommendations of the Action Committee for Sustainable Land Management

- ✓1. *The Action Committee recommends full compliance with the existing buffer zone and grass headland requirements found in the Watercourse and Wetland Protection Regulations.*
2. *The Action Committee recommends that the ALUS program undertake an organic matter pilot project in the Barclay Brook watershed.*
 - *Currently being developed*
- ✓3. *The Action Committee recommends that the government establish an environmental impact fund in the amount of \$200,000 per year to purchase 'at risk' agricultural land along watercourses to be managed by watershed groups for its natural capital.*
- ✓4. *The Action Committee recommends that watershed groups help identify vulnerable farmland along watercourses for possible purchase by the program.*
- ✓5. *The Action Committee recommends that the Department of Agriculture and Forestry assess land proposed for the program to ensure that it meets criteria for 'at risk' farmland that poses significant risk to neighbouring watercourses.*
- ✓6. *The Action Committee recommends the program purchases should be based upon local land prices plus a small additional amount to compensate the landowner for the inconvenience of securing replacement land.*
- ✓7. *The Action Committee recommends that additional funds be disbursed to watershed groups who accept the responsibilities of managing land under the program.*
- ✓8. *The Action Committee recommends that crop producers should regularly choose pesticide products that meet their field needs but have a lower risk for movement to and toxicity to fish in adjacent streams.*
- ✓9. *The Action Committee recommends that the Department of Agriculture and Forestry regularly examine its pesticide risk factsheet to determine whether there are newer pesticide products available that should be added.*
- ✓10. *The Action Committee recommends that producers should be encouraged to use furrow dammers to reduce soil erosion by minimizing water movement in potato rows.*
- ✓11. *The Action Committee recommends that where possible, potato fields should be set up using GPS and then band sprayed for fungicide and insecticide applications to the tops of developing plants in the hill during the early part of the season prior to full canopy cover and row closure.*
- ✓12. *The Action Committee recommends that all crop production fields in the Barclay Brook watershed be farmed in a manner consistent with the goals and standards set by up-to-date soil conservation and soil protection methods.*

✓13. *The Action Committee recommends that individual landowners and crop producers should incorporate soil management practices necessary to meet soil conservation goals and standards in those fields near streams and wetlands across Prince Edward Island.*

14. *The Action Committee recommends that the Department of Agriculture and Forestry proactively seek out fields across Prince Edward Island vulnerable to soil erosion and runoff that are near or bordering watercourses, and engage with individual landowners and crop producers to design and implement soil conservation plans for erosion control structures and associated soil management practices for these fields.*

- Currently being developed

15. *The Action Committee recommends that the Department of Agriculture ensure that additional resources are available to prepare the necessary engineered management plans to adopt soil conservation practices at at-risk field sites in Prince Edward Island.*

- The Province of Prince Edward Island provides resources through the Canada-PEI Agriculture Stewardship Program under Growing Forward 2, a Federal-Provincial-Territorial Initiative. The commitment of the Growing Forward 2 Program to Canada's agricultural sector, through ASP, helps ensure that the agriculture sector contributes to society's priorities of clean soil, water and air resources and improved biodiversity.

✓16. *The Action Committee recommends that the Department of Agriculture and Forestry have agricultural engineers perform immediate in-depth examinations of the cropping practices used at any field implicated in a fish kill event.*

✓17. *The Action Committee recommends that the Department of Environment, Labour and Justice develop procedures to aid agricultural engineers in assessing fields that are implicated in fish kill events as soon as possible and preferably within a day of discovery.*

✓18. *The Action Committee recommends that agricultural industry organizations and government should work together to expand education efforts to landowners and crop producers to increase their knowledge and implementation of those conservation management practices needed to prevent fish kills.*

The Action Committee continues to meet and work together to implement many of the recommendations. Important recent activities include:

- Agricultural (soil and water conservation) engineers assessed fish kill fields in 2014.
- Agricultural engineers have prepared the needed management plans for fields in the Barclay Brook watershed and they have been implemented by producers.
- Agriculture staff are supporting soil conservation practices and have funded all applications for stewardship projects.
- Agriculture dedicated an extension staff member to assist producers.
- Potato Board, Federation of Agriculture have put out communications to members.
- Potato Board, ELJ have made presentations at producer events.
- Barclay Brook producers have created a voluntary code of practice for soil conservation and pesticide use that includes the use of lower impact pesticide bands spraying.