

Introduction: While Nova Scotia has a rich outdoor tradition, our enjoyment of and connection to nature is at risk.

We are increasingly disconnected from nature, the greater outdoors community is fragmented, and the outdoor sector has not evolved with changing demographics and trends.

WHEREAS No one provincial body or network exists to connect and represent all aspects of the outdoor and nature sectors;

WHEREAS nature deficit disorder and outdoor free play are increasingly recognized as critical to improving early childhood development; and

WHEREAS researchers and practitioners recognize the value of the outdoors in improving our mental and physical well-being; and

WHEREAS personal connections to nature is critical in fostering a wilderness conservation ethic; and

WHEREAS the Government of Nova Scotia has made land conservation a priority with its commitment to protect 12% of Nova Scotia's landmass by 2015; and

WHEREAS nature and outdoor recreation are part of an active healthy lifestyle; and

WHEREAS Nova Scotia has strong provincial outdoor recreation organizations and trails movement; and

WHEREAS outdoor recreation practitioners would benefit from a hub connecting all things nature-based and outdoors;

BE IT RESOLVED: That Recreation Nova Scotia will support the advancement a provincial body and network whose purpose is to strengthen Nova Scotia's Outdoor Culture, by engaging the RNS membership and non-traditional partners.

Moved by: Sandra Fraser
Seconded by: Andre Bouchard