

Liette Vasseur

Member 1999-2002

(former Chair 2001)

Liette Vasseur

Chaire d'Etudes K.C. Irving en Développement Durable

Université de Moncton

Pavillon P.A. Landry, local 126

Campus de Moncton

165 Rue Massey

Moncton, NB E1A 3E9

Courriel: vasseurl@umoncton.ca

Regarding NAFEC, I am very disappointed to learn that the Ministers have decided to discontinue these funds. I strongly support the comments of my former colleagues of the JPAC that this is a great mistake. Over the years, I have been able to discover the great results and new ideas that have come from several of the NAFEC projects. They have helped communities and community groups integrate environmental issues at a broader level that would not have been possible under regular funding agencies. These projects have led to improve collaborative efforts between communities of different countries and enhance environmental cooperation in North America in a way that the "business as usual" have not been able to do. Asking people in communities of North America about the NACEC, most are not very well aware of the actions and efforts but they know about NAFEC. The elimination of these funds will have negative consequences to the NACEC as the support of communities will decline.

Considering the various activities of the NACEC, I feel that there are several other places that can be rationalised without endangering the functioning of the organisation. NAFEC is a small part of the global budget and its elimination shows that there is certainly a greater problem within the organisation. Usually an organisation that works well does not eliminate the programs that have brought positive perception and successful results.

I therefore add my voice to the others in my disappointment and the need to keep the NAFEC.