

**For Immediate Release
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Southwest Nova Interactive Science Atlas Project will offer a new app to map region's resources

A unique, informative app is being developed to help guide the work of scientists, planners, students and land owners. The project is being led by Nova Scotia Community College's Applied Geomatics Research Group (NSCC - AGRG) and the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve (SNBR) Association.

The Interactive Science Atlas app will provide access to georeferenced maps and information that describes local natural resource features. These can include the weather, climate, topography, geology, soils, aquatic systems, land cover, land use, and other natural and cultural features for the southwestern Nova Scotia region.

Cliff Drysdale, Chairman says, "With the global positioning capability of smart phones, users will be able to view natural resource maps and information for their specific location at that time."

He adds that the Interactive Science Atlas will make it easier to access various organizational websites to have a direct portal for resources including maps, research information, policy and regulations.

Quality data sets based on the "Open Science" concept will be added as they become available. Information of interest would include long term climate and atmospheric monitoring findings such as acid rain levels and water chemistry. This information is of particular interest to those working on sustainable resource management working to balance the effects flowing from North American industrial neighbours.

This initiative is supported by the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources with input from additional organizations including Parks Canada, Environment Nova Scotia, regional municipalities, educational institutions and organizations associated with the UNESCO Biosphere Region.

The SNBR is a UNESCO designated and internationally recognized region of natural and cultural heritage and spans five counties - Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth, Shelburne and Queens. It is one of only 16 biosphere reserves in Canada.

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