



Farm Centre
420 University Avenue Room 103
Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island C1A 7Z5
October 28, 2008

Preserving P. E. I.'s Agricultural Land:

Investment Options, Trusts & Ownership Structures

The PEI ADAPT Council invites you to join us, on Thursday November 13, 2008, for an important day of discussion on preserving the land that feeds us; Prince Edward Island's agricultural land.

Agriculture is an important part of PEI's economy. One of every 5 jobs in PEI is agriculturally related. Farmland also offers environmental benefits including wildlife habitat and the potential for groundwater recharge. Local agriculture helps to meet sustainable development goals; and the aesthetic landscapes are important for attracting visitors and for maintaining our high quality of life.

However, over the past 20 years there has been a consolidation of PEI farms resulting in a 40% decrease in the number of farms. Although the average size of remaining farms has increased, resulting in a fairly stable amount of total acreage being farmed, the vast majority of farmers are nearing retirement age and few of them have a succession plan in place. Today, approximately, 90% of new Canadian farmers are small diversified, direct marketing entrepreneurs.

This situation poses a question of an emerging issue. Who will continue to farm, own and control the land?

We will review the history of land ownership on PEI, various options for preserving the land and ways of attracting new investment to help support Island agriculture.

We hope you will join us on Thursday November 13, 2008, listen to our guest speakers, offer your comments and help contribute to an action plan for preserving the land we cherish. The day's schedule runs from 9:30 a.m. until 2:45 p.m. There is no fee and a light lunch will be provided. Please call the ADAPT Council office (902-368-2005) to reserve a space and confirm your participation. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Elmer MacDonald, Chair PEI ADAPT Council

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Where: Farm Centre, 420 University Avenue, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island

Date: Thursday November 13, 2008

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.

9:30 - 9:35 a.m. - Welcome

Elmer MacDonald, Chair PEI ADAPT Council

9:35 - 9:45 - Greetings from PEI Government

Hon. Wesley J. Sheridan, Provincial Treasurer

9:40 - 10:10 - Prince Edward Island History Lesson on Land Tenure

Boyde Beck, Island Historian

PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation

Questions

10:15 - 10:30 - Report on The Land Trust Alliance, 2008 Conference & Training Seminar

Phil Ferraro, Executive Director PEI ADAPT Council

10:30 - 10:45 - Coffee and Nutrition Break

10:45 - 11:15 - Attracting Investment Capital for Island Farmers:

Real Estate Income Trusts (REITs)

Tim Carroll, Associate Professor, Business UPEI

Questions

11:30 - 12:45 - Lunch with Special Guest,

Chris Payne, Nova Scotia Economic Development

Investing in Local Economic Development

Nova Scotia's Community Economic Development Investment Fund

Questions

1:00 - 2:00 - How Land Trusts and Agricultural Easements Can Protect Farmland

Melissa Watkins, Executive Director Ontario Farmland Trust

Questions

2:15 - 2:45 Panel Discussion, Questions and Answers & Next Steps