

## **Project Summary:**

Developing best practices for climate change adaptation is a priority for the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme (MaBP), which covers 651 biospheres worldwide. Inspired by this program, residents around the Bras d'Or Lake founded a local biosphere reserve association. With 1300 km<sup>2</sup> of shoreline, the lake is already feeling the strong effects of sea-level rise, extreme weather events and reduced winter ice cover. The Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve Association (BLBRA) is learning about adaptation by doing it, and has knowledge to share; but it also needs ideas and guidance from other sources. It has been chosen by the Canadian Biosphere Reserve Association to host the 2019 Annual Meeting of the 18 Canadian biosphere reserves. The goal of this project is to take advantage of this gathering by hosting a climate change adaptation forum that will gather, synthesize and distill a range of adaptations that are being trialed and adopted across the country. To do this, the BLBRA will draw on analytical and interpretive expertise from Cape Breton University. The partners will publish a best practice report.

### *Projected Benefits*

If the partners can gather information from participants, organize it according to established criteria for key informant interviews and analyze it in the context of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change predictions, then the result should be a knowledge product of considerable significance. The Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere includes four First Nations, so the knowledge gathered will include aboriginal traditional knowledge. Members of the BLBRA will also gain expertise in gathering and communicating knowledge on climate change adaptation.

## **About the Community Partner**

The Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve Association was founded by volunteers in 2009, and received United Nations designation as Canada's 16th biosphere reserve. The volunteer association now has 140 active members, an elected board of governors, and a broad community of interest in the educational, recreational, citizen science and social enterprise activities it undertakes through the 3,600 km<sup>2</sup> biosphere.

