



# Summary of Day I

Common Themes from the Panel and  
Breakout Sessions

# Focus of Day I

- A structure for networking environmental evaluators
- Challenges to making changes in decision-making
- The practicalities of using evaluations and making a difference “on the ground”



# Common themes

# What can evaluations do?

- Evaluation can measure environmental progress, provide an impetus for change and enhance accountability
- Evaluation can help with ‘course corrections’ and be used to demonstrate ongoing value and relevance

# How are environmental evaluations unique?

- Subject matter expertise is important for the evaluation team
- Multiple partners and jurisdictions are usually involved
- Environmental results take a long time to be realized (time scale is an issue)

# What is needed up front?

- Planning and preparing for evaluations up front is valuable and time consuming. Key components include:
  - Clearly defining long term outcomes to be achieved
  - Developing a logic model/outcome map
  - Setting measurable interim benchmarks or indicators
  - Establishing clear accountabilities
  - Engaging all partners

# What is needed along the way?

- Measuring environmental performance takes effort:
  - Systems need to be put in place with resources
  - Management needs to be convinced and served
  - Partners need to be actively engaged in both performance monitoring and the evaluation
  - Proxy indicators (e.g., increased awareness, behaviour changes) can be used to assess progress along the way to outcomes
  - Transparency and credibility (e.g., science-basis) are important

# What are the key challenges?

- Key challenges to environmental evaluation include:
  - Measuring 'on the ground' environmental impacts (moving from assessing 'process' to 'impact')
  - Attribution/determining cause-effect
  - Reconciling priorities across partners
  - Affecting decision-making
  - Affecting organizational change





**Other thoughts?**

# Day 2

- Two presentations from both Canada and US organizations to illustrate the practical and operational perspectives of environmental evaluation
- Open discussion on what we all collectively want to pursue as an EEN
- Lunch
- Field trip of Gatineau Park
- Evaluation Survey to follow