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Sacrificing children's legacy

The dedication of the Mulgrave group in restoring St. Francis River (June 6 article) typifies the many thousands of hours and millions of dollars worth of volunteer labour that is poured into Nova Scotia's damaged and neglected salmon-bearing streams every year by hundreds of caring individuals. These NGO activities are necessary because successive federal and provincial governments have failed to safeguard natural resources.

The irresponsible policies of the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture in refusing to acknowledge the international, credible, independent science, showing proven devastation of wild Atlantic salmon stocks wherever open-pen salmon aquaculture has been sited, is a slap in the face to all those dedicated Nova Scotians who are trying to salvage something for our grandchildren.

Just a fraction of the public funds used to subsidize the highly profitable salmon aquaculture industry could have gone a very long way toward helping volunteers repair our rivers (and stimulate economic activity in rural communities). We have already lost the wild salmon runs in 23 streams, almost certainly due to salmon pens in the outer Bay of Fundy. How much more of our children's legacy are we prepared to sacrifice to this environmentally unsustainable industry?

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