

International Ocean Institute - Canada

# IOI-CANADA

Independent Perspectives on Ocean Affairs

## WHO WE ARE

The International Ocean Institute-Canada is a leading member of the IOI network of operational centres and focal points operating worldwide in over 25 countries. IOI-Canada has been based at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, since being founded by Professor Elisabeth Mann Borgese in 1979.

## WHAT WE DO

IOI-Canada's **mission** is to promote responsible ocean governance and the stewardship and sustainable use of coastal and ocean resources in Canada and around the world.

Our **goals** define what we intend to accomplish in fulfillment of the mission. We aim to encourage and develop the potential and capacity of individuals, institutions and communities to foster:

- ❖ a network of individuals dedicated to effective coastal and ocean governance;
- ❖ a network of institutions devoted to coastal and ocean governance, management, education, training, research and outreach; and
- ❖ sustainable and prosperous coastal communities.



Photo credit: NASA

*"The ocean is a medium different from the earth: so different, in fact, that it forces us to think differently ... Fundamental concepts evolved over the millennia on land, like sovereignty, geographic boundaries, or ownership, simply will not work in the ocean medium where new political, legal, and economic concepts are emerging."*

Elisabeth Mann Borgese

*The Oceanic Circle, 1998*

## WHY WE DO IT

Understanding the importance of the sea and the role of knowledge-based governance is crucial to the health of the ocean and hence to humanity. The ocean and its coastal regions are essential to human life as well as the global economy, and are an important source of food. For example, the ocean contains enormous hydrocarbon and mineral resources; 90% of international trade is transported by a myriad of sea lanes; more than half of the world's growing population will soon be living in coastal areas where climate change is already having serious impacts. Other stresses on the ocean from human activities include pollution and over-exploitation of resources. These are all putting the welfare of future generations at risk.



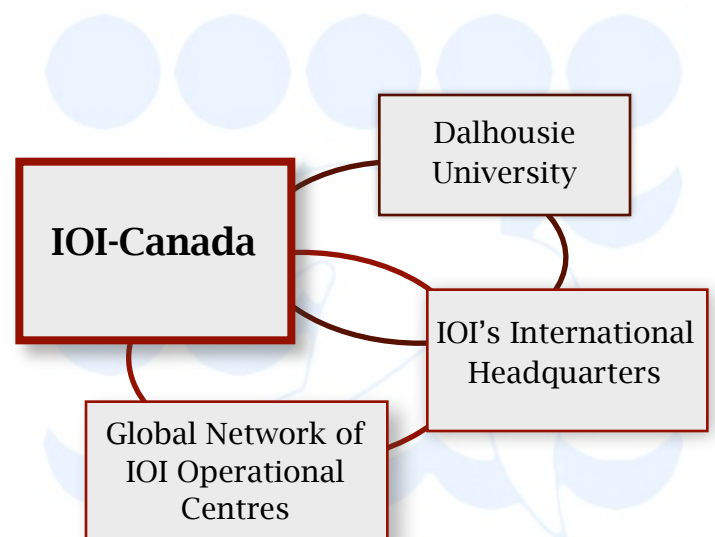
**Elisabeth Mann Borgese**  
1918 - 2002  
Founder of IOI

*"... she has been called the Mother of the Oceans and has been instrumental in encouraging world leaders to rethink our relationship with the oceans and our management of marine resources and relate it to global issues."*

2002 Nobel Peace Prize nomination

## HOW WE ARE ORGANIZED

Registered as the "IOI-Canada Association", IOI-Canada is a not-for-profit organization, federally incorporated under the Canada Corporations Act and governed by a Board of Directors. The Operational Centre in Halifax is staffed by an experienced team of professionals, including Research Fellows and Visiting Scholars who contribute to educational and research activities. IOI-Canada is the regional co-ordinator of the IOI Operational Centres in the Americas, comprising IOI-Brazil, IOI-Costa Rica, IOI-Cuba and IOI-USA. The international headquarters of the IOI are located in Malta ([www.ioinst.org](http://www.ioinst.org)). Financially, the IOI network depends on grants, donations and project funds.





# HOW WE ACHIEVE OUR MISSION AND GOALS

IOI-Canada accomplishes its mission and goals through three main activities: education and training, collaborative research and outreach.

## Education and Training

The development of knowledge, skills and practical experience is fundamental to effective ocean governance. IOI-Canada's foremost activity continues to be the annual **Ocean Governance: Policy, Law and Management Training Program** conducted in Halifax. This eight-week program is aimed at mid-level professionals working in ocean-related fields, primarily from developing nations. It has been delivered each summer since 1981 on the campus of Dalhousie University. In addition to having one of the highest concentrations of marine scientists and institutions in the world, Halifax, being a port city, offers extensive local expertise in naval operations, the offshore industry, shipping, shipbuilding, fishing and tourism.

The training program includes lectures, exercises, simulations,



Photo credit: IOI-Canada

***"... the knowledge that I gained from the IOI Course will most certainly contribute towards my future career development."***

Training Program  
Participant, Fiji

***"The course was a milestone in my life. I can think of very few things that have impacted me more ... I am almost a 'New Me'."***

Training Program  
Participant, Sri Lanka



Photo credit: IOI-Canada



*Photo credit: Daniel Abriel, Dalhousie University*

**IOI-Canada's interdisciplinary Ocean Governance Training Program, the IOI network's flagship course, has been offered each summer since 1981 at Dalhousie University in Halifax. The course is open to participants from all over the world, and the Program's alumni number more than 600 members in over 90 countries.**



*Photo credit: Rusudan Grigolia*

participant presentations, field trips and an international round table. Participants are exposed to broadly interdisciplinary subject matter presented in thematic modules such as: Ocean Science; Law of the Sea and Ocean Governance; Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management; Management of Living Resources; Maritime Security, Emergency and Disaster Management; Integrated Maritime Compliance and Enforcement; Oil and Gas and other Energy Sources; Marine Transportation; and Tourism. Practical skills sessions are also included in areas such as Negotiation; Media and Communications; Geomatics and Remote Sensing; and Project Planning and Management.

## Collaborative Research

IOI-Canada promotes and undertakes collaborative research on ocean issues within its host university, as well as with regional, national and international organizations. These activities are supported by its Research Fellows and Visiting Scholars. Involvement of young researchers, other universities, research institutes and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) is encouraged. To date, their collaborative research has been documented in numerous



publications. Recent examples include:

- ❖ **Strengthening Principled Ocean Governance Networks: Transferring Lessons from the Caribbean to the Wider Ocean Governance Community**, involving the Nippon Foundation, IOI-Canada, Dalhousie University's Marine Affairs Program, Marine & Environmental Law Institute, and the University of the West Indies;
- ❖ **Environmental Information – Use and Influence**, a multi-institutional study that surveyed the literature of several marine environmental organizations and documented its use and influence;
- ❖ **Final Report of the Canadian Ocean Assessment: A Review of Canadian Ocean Policy and Practice**, which provided grass roots input, heightened awareness of the oceans, and assisted the Government of Canada;
- ❖ **Towards Marine Ecosystem-based Management in the Wider Caribbean**, the collective experience of scholars and practitioners; and
- ❖ **Ocean Yearbook**, an international publication to which IOI-Canada contributes.



*Photo credit: OYB*

**The annual Ocean Yearbook of the International Ocean Institute is produced in cooperation with Dalhousie University's Marine & Environmental Law Institute and published by Martinus Nijhoff.**

## Outreach

Effective governance, stewardship and sustainable use cannot be achieved solely by professionals in ocean-related disciplines. Health of the ocean depends on public understanding and support. Consequently, IOI-Canada places a high priority on increasing public awareness and education. Its **website** is regularly enhanced to serve the needs and interests of the public. On June 8th annually, IOI-Canada participates in **World Oceans Day** activities in partnership with government agencies, the private sector and NGOs. IOI-Canada organizes the annual public **Elisabeth Mann Borgese Ocean Lecture**, presented by acknowledged experts. It also presents the annual **Ocean Film Festival**, in partnership with the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic in Halifax, among others. IOI-Canada is a regular and active participant in IOI's biennial **Pacem in Maribus** international conferences on ocean governance.

## IOI-CANADA'S FUTURE OCEAN AGENDA

IOI-Canada's strategic plan builds on a distinguished record, and its ocean agenda is designed to meet future challenges. This plan will broaden its international partnerships while strengthening commitments in Canada and abroad. The focus of IOI-Canada's activities will remain on ocean education and training programs, with increased emphasis on new collaborative research and publications, and innovative outreach projects. Realization of these activities relies on strong commitment and generous volunteer support. Sustaining grants, research funds and donations are also needed. Forthcoming initiatives include the following:

- ❖ **developing customized teaching modules and distance learning opportunities as part of IOI's global "OceanLearn" and accreditation program;**
- ❖ **enhancing the existing Research Fellow and Visiting Scholar programs to address topics crucial to ocean governance;**
- ❖ **promoting open discussion forums to explore independent perspectives on current topics in local, national and international ocean affairs;**
- ❖ **initiating peer-reviewed publications such as a series on Ocean Governance;**
- ❖ **strengthening the IOI-Canada Alumni Association which now has more than 600 members in over 90 countries; and**
- ❖ **stimulating and supporting youth outreach initiatives and public awareness in coastal and ocean stewardship.**

Developing partnerships, sound financial support, and adherence to stated mission and goals are crucial for IOI-Canada's success. Several new and clearly defined partnerships will be formed with corporations, academic institutions, public bodies and NGOs. Contributions to existing outreach activities, including the Pacem in Maribus conferences and workshops, will be linked to a new think-tank agenda, planned in cooperation with ocean experts, young professionals and appropriate partner institutions. With continued support and guidance from its advisory and governance bodies, including the Board of Directors, Dalhousie University, and the international headquarters of IOI, IOI-Canada will be well positioned to meet its commitment to coastal and ocean governance in the years to come.

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### IOI-Canada's Commitment

**For thirty years, IOI-Canada has been contributing to coastal and ocean stewardship, both nationally and internationally. Today, the need for excellence in ocean education, training, research and capacity building has never been greater. Through its programs and activities, IOI-Canada is committed to building on its record, addressing these challenges and continuing to advance the vision of its founder.**

For further information please contact IOI-Canada by e-mail [ioi@dal.ca](mailto:ioi@dal.ca) or telephone +1 (902) 494-1977