

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Parrsboro, Nova Scotia, Canada - Tuesday July 31, 2012

Fossil Rich Sediments to Be Recovered from Site of Canada's Oldest Dinosaurs

In 2000 and 2004, two major excavations of dinosaur bones from the sandstone cliffs along the shores of the Bay of Fundy recovered the skeletons of as many as six dinosaurs. These are the oldest dinosaur bones in Canada, and the skeletons remain in the collections research lab at the Fundy Geological Museum in Parrsboro, Nova Scotia.

New dinosaur specimens remain to be collected, and research at the site is ongoing. The erosion of the sandstone cliffs is very rapid, with the cliff eroding at one meter (3.5 feet) per year. Last month an important exposure of ancient lake shoreline became visible and is actively eroding. The sediments are particularly important as they have produced teeth of very rare mammal-like reptiles and early theropod dinosaurs.

Dr. Tim Fedak has been researching the dinosaur sites since 1997: "This is one of the most significant fossil exposures I have seen at the dinosaur research site over the past fifteen years I've been studying these cliffs". These sediments and fossils represent the immediate rebounding of life after a global environmental catastrophe and mass extinction, 200 million years ago as the supercontinent Pangaea was torn apart.

Fedak is conducting fieldwork over the next several weeks to document and collect representative samples of the exposed sediments being lost due to erosion.

The Earthquake Dinosaurs website (<http://earthquake-dinosaurs.ca>) was launched in January of 2012 to allow those who were interested to learn about and join in the discovery of Canada's oldest dinosaurs. The affiliated Facebook page (<http://facebook.com/EarthquakeDinosaurs>) has recently exceeded 1600 Likes, and provides special updates and links to videos or high-resolution images of the cliff taken only days before.

Dr. Fedak completed a PhD (Biology) at Dalhousie University in 2007, focused on vertebrate palaeontology and the dinosaurs from the Bay of Fundy, and he maintains a Research Associate status with the Nova Scotia Museum. Fedak conducts research at the provincially protected Parrsboro Special Place under a research permit granted by the Nova Scotia Museum.

Those in the media interested in more information or arranging an on site interview, can email <mailto:research@earthquake-dinosaurs.ca> or (902) 225-9964.

###