

# Bathurst Sustainable Development

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**To: Office of the Clerk  
Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick  
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***Re: BSD Submission to the Select Committee on Climate Change***

To the Select Committee on Climate Change,

Bathurst Sustainable Development is in support of all of the recommended actions as written in the plan entitled: ***Building a Stronger Response to Climate Change***. We commend the Province for taking this positive step to increase our preparedness. Since the release of the document, new scientific data on what is happening to our climate, how it is accelerating and impacting our live support systems, natural resources and citizens both here in NB and across the globe has confirmed once again that "time is of the essence", we must prepare for the coming change and we must do it now.

New Brunswick "must" join the global battle and strengthen our collective efforts to fight climate change in a way and level that is unprecedented in our Provincial history.

We must not only transition our economy immediately to renewable energy sources (wind, tidal, solar, geothermal, hydro) but we also must brace and prepare our communities for climate related increasing temperatures and sea level rise. Maintaining water supplies for human consumption and food production is critical. Modification to both consumption and usage policies, increasing protection of the sources of our fresh water supplies, preparing for additional water supplies from the loss of coastal wells due to salt water intrusion must be our first priority.

## **Our recommendations:**

- New Brunswick needs to increase and maintain both its Provincial and Municipal "emergency response resources" by 70% immediately in all areas of the Province. A mandated minimum increase in emergency preparedness resources should be issued to all Municipalities. NB is facing

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thousands of households and business properties that in a few years will no longer be inhabitable or usable. Coastal neighbourhoods and business areas need to be transition away from the coast. This will take time and resources and we must start today.

- As thousands of our citizens start to abandon their coastal homes we don't want them to move away from NB. There will be a great need and an economic opportunity for new housing options for these citizens and housing renewal in the form of modern, zero waste, affordable, sustainable and accessible unique high rise, mixed use residential buildings.
- We recommend that stable funding be provided to support expansion of existing Municipal transit daily bus systems so that they outreach reach and link to provide expansion of services to all major communities including those in Northern NB.
- We recommend that carbon pricing in NB be implemented in the form of increased toll booths in NB and collection of toll fees as well as increased fees on all forms of fuel purchases to encourage reduction of the burning of fossil fuels and to provide financial resources to support the transition and preparedness of the province and its communities so that they are more "resilient" to the changing climate.
- We recommend that community NPO environmental organizations in all communities work with their Municipal governments and be provided with funding to begin Climate Change Community Monitoring Programs to collect local information on impacts and noted changes to our physical coastal and inland areas, growing seasons, household and business emergency preparedness and impacts from weather related events, reporting of sea level monitoring gauges and annual monitoring of emergency preparedness capacity in each community .
- We recommend that analytical and educational tools to assist in the identification and response to vulnerabilities be developed and that local NPO environmental organizations in each community work with their Municipal governments and be provided with funding to conduct this work in partnership with researchers.
- We recommend that climate impacts be a mandatory consideration of all public funding decisions for roads, buildings and other infrastructure and adaptation in land-use planning.

### **Responses to Questions:**

1. What specific steps are required to help direct the provincial economy toward a low-carbon future? What specific elements of the low-carbon economy should New Brunswick pursue as a priority?
  - Install toll booths along major roadways, charge Carbon toll fees, use the funds collected to transition the Province to 100% renewable sources of energy & help pay for coastal adaptation.
2. What are the most effective methods to influence the behaviours of individuals, households, governments and business to reduce energy waste and advance investment in low-carbon opportunities?
  - Ensure that mandatory recycling and composting programs are available Province wide and not just in the three main urban centers.
  - Ensure that inter community and community wide transit bus and rail service is available across the Province.
3. For what priority areas should New Brunswick seek federal funding in the areas of mitigation and adaptation?

- Relocation or adaptation of coastal infrastructure, expansion of public transit, increases to stand by emergency preparedness.
4. What are the proper roles for individuals, businesses, communities, non-governmental organizations and governments in climate change mitigation and adaptation?
    - The local non-governmental environmental organizations should be engaged and supported to take the lead in working on climate change with the individuals and businesses in their communities in collaboration with all levels of governments.
  5. How do governments ensure that efforts to build resilience remain ambitious and sustained?
    - By providing funding, updated reports on progress and climate change data .
  6. What climate information, science and tools are needed to support decision-making, and what improvements can be made in the way information is collected and disseminated, and services are provided?
    - Availability of Real Time Data
    - Regular updates to citizens on local and provincial progress/ changes
  7. What are the most effective instruments and approaches, including policies, programs, standards, regulations, laws and others to implement strong, complementary adaptation actions within New Brunswick?

#### **New Regulations**

- No new building permits issued in coastal or inland flood zones.
- Make coastal land use policy an enforceable regulation.
- Make protection of "natural infrastructure (dunes, wetlands) a regulation.
- Make a Mandatory Water Conservation Regulation

#### **Programs**

- Provincial wide public transit bus and rail service
- Provincial Carbon Conversion Toll Booths and Collection of fees
- Provincial mandatory composting and recycling in all communities

On behalf of Bathurst Sustainable Development we wish to thank you for this opportunity to collaborate with you finding solutions to the greatest challenge our world has ever faced.

Brenda Kelley,



For Bathurst Sustainable Development

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