



March 14, 2019

Mr. Sam Arnold
samarnold3@gmail.com

Mr. Arnold:

I want to thank you for your letter of concern pertaining to climate change dated February 17th. The transition to a low-carbon economy will enable Canada to meet its national commitments within the Paris Accord. I want to assure you that the New Brunswick government is committed to being part of the solution to this global challenge.

Our province has already made significant progress in lowering emissions and is on track to contribute its share to helping Canada meet its 2030 emissions goal. This is mostly due to closures of coal and oil-fired plants; incorporation of wind energy; restructuring the forest sector; and investments in energy efficiency.

We intend to go even further by continuing to implement the comprehensive plan: Transitioning to a Low-Carbon Economy – New Brunswick's Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP). The CCAP is a made in New Brunswick approach created by environmental leaders, political parties, and industry, that is already showing results. The plan calls for a greater emphasis on renewable energy, a broad-based and coordinated approach to energy efficiency in homes and businesses, and a phase-out of coal-fired electricity. It also focuses on initiatives related to education, awareness, capacity building and adaptation planning.

The transition to a low-carbon economy has begun with some sectors being able to respond quickly by adopting clean technologies and renewable energy sources. For other sectors, the transition will require an approach that is balanced, taking into consideration the energy needs and economic realities of today.

Natural Resources Canada indicates that oil plays a dominant role in meeting the world's energy needs and will for decades to come. Even with investments that Canada and other countries are making in renewable energy, energy efficiency and other measures to support the low-carbon economy; the International Energy Agency's Outlook expects the global economy will continue to rely on oil into the next half century. Canadian oil produced and processed under strict regulatory regimes and with sustainable development and emission reduction commitments can be an important supplier of energy with a lower carbon intensity than other global oil sources. Alberta is losing \$80 million a day on its oil because we do not have a national pipeline to move it to market. Provinces have a responsibility to each other and all of Canada would benefit from seeing Canadian oil enter global markets.



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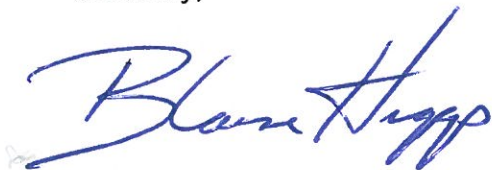
The transition to a low-carbon economy does present both opportunities and challenges for New Brunswick. As a government, we are working to ensure the Province and New Brunswickers can benefit from opportunities to become more efficient in the use of energy to power homes and businesses, implement renewable power generation, and encourage innovation in technologies, such as smart grid to facilitate additional energy gains in electricity service. The development of the province's natural resources, such as natural gas, can provide lower-carbon fuel alternatives for energy intensive sectors and opportunities for good jobs in New Brunswick.

To address the challenges facing New Brunswick, we need to strengthen our economy. This will allow government to spend less on debt and have more money to invest in the services New Brunswickers want. We will seek to allow responsible development of the province's natural resources, while respecting emission targets, promoting clean technologies and low-carbon energy sources to enable clean resource development and provide an opportunity for the private sector economy to grow.

New Brunswickers will be able to benefit from jobs and investments during the transition to greener economies. As a province, New Brunswick will do as much as it can to combat climate change. Implementing New Brunswick's Climate Change Action Plan will help to ensure that the necessary actions are taken to support both economic growth and greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

Again, thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts on this important matter. I can assure you we are taking the issue of climate change very seriously.

Sincerely,



Blaine M. Higgs

- c. Jeff Carr, Minister of Environment and Local Government
Mike Holland, Minister of Energy and Resource Development