

Statement of Endorsement

Édith Doucet

Retired member of the NB Civil Service

As a retired member of the New Brunswick civil service, a former kindergarten teacher and a long-time proponent of best practices in early childhood development, I am happy to give my whole-hearted endorsement to the proposed *NB Bill of Environmental Rights: An Act to Protect Children, all New Brunswickers and Nature*.

Early childhood professionals have known instinctively about the benefits of getting children out in nature, and the relationship between time in nature and happier children. We need to preserve these wild spaces in all their biodiversity. We need to make science-based decisions that keep all New Brunswickers safe and healthy. All children have a right to a healthy environment and should be able to live their lives free from the effects of harmful chemicals and pollutants and be protected from environmental and health risks. For the benefit of present and future generations, we need to ensure that our children and grandchildren will have clean air, clean water, safe and healthy food, safe consumer products and a stable climate in which to live, play, grow, and become resilient to future challenges.

I strongly urge government to pass the *NB Bill of Environmental Rights: An Act to Protect Children, All New Brunswickers and Nature*.