



# CANE-AIIE

Canadian Association of Nurses for the Environment  
Association d'infirmières et infirmiers pour l'environnement

January 30, 2024

The NB Environmental Rights Caucus:

Marg Milburn, Chair, The Climate Reality Project

Sam Arnold, Sustainable Energy Group, Carleton County

Bonnie Hamilton Bogart, Voices for Sustainable Environments and Communities

Gordon Dalzell, Citizens Coalition for Clean Air

Denise Melanson, Council of Canadians, Kent County

Saadia Hara, NBEN Coordinator

Annika Chiasson, Executive Director

NB Environmental Network

232 Botsford St., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Moncton, NB. E1C 4X7

## ***CANE's Support for NB's An Act Respecting the Right to a Healthy Environment***

Dear NB Environmental Rights Caucus and Ms. Chiasson:

The Canadian Association of Nurses for the Environment (CANE) is the national voice for nurses across Canada, and our mission is to improve planetary health within and beyond the nursing profession. We represent over 200 nurses in all regions of Canada and work closely with other healthcare organizations, such as the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment and the Canadian Coalition for Green Health Care. We are a nursing speciality group of the Canadian Nurses Association and work closely with them to advance nursing practice, protect the environment, and advance human health.

Nursing's mandate states that purpose of nursing work is to promote human health in all domains of life. Here at CANE, we understand that the environment is a critical component of health; if the environment is being threatened, human health is also

being threatened. Thus, our nursing ethics call upon us to respond to and support planetary health, a concept that refers to interconnectedness of human health and the health of our natural world. When we advocate for planetary health, we are advocating for human health and the health of all natural systems.

We are living through challenging times. Due to human activities and the burning of fossil fuels, our natural world is at risk. These risks directly threaten human health as well. The same pollutants being emitted into our atmosphere are the same pollutants that harm our lungs and hearts. The extreme weather events associated with climate change are the same events that destroy fragile human infrastructure. The damage being done to our environment negatively impacts the health of everyone, however, those who are most vulnerable are often older adults and children. These are all domains of concern for CANE and our members.

CANE is in full support of the *New Brunswick Act Respecting the Right to a Healthy Environment*. We understand that this Act represents years of intentional, coordinated, and thoughtful action from relevant experts and advocates. Children, who have contributed little to the environmental crises we are now experiencing, are disproportionately bearing the burden of our actions. This Act can help protect them from future harms, and CANE is fully in support of this.

We will support this bill and advocate for its approval in various ways. Primarily, our support will be demonstrated through our social media channels, information sent to members (especially members in New Brunswick), and we will request support from our extensive environmental health networks. If needed, we are willing to speak to the press about this issue as well.

With respect and solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maya R. Kalogirou', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Maya R. Kalogirou PhD, RN  
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President | Canadian Association of Nurses for the Environment  
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