

# Provincial Flood Risk Reduction Strategy Workshop

January 29, 2014

Report by Mary Ann Coleman – New Brunswick Environmental Network, Tim Ambery – Falls Brook Centre, and Mark D’Arcy – Friends of the UNB Woodlot

On January 28, 2014, the Department of Environment and Local Government, in consultation with an inter-departmental working group, hosted a workshop with the purpose of gathering input on the province’s strategy to address flood risk. There was a diverse group of participants including several NGOs. Through the NBEN delegate selection process, Tim Ambery, Falls Brook Centre, and Mark D’Arcy, Friends of the UNB Woodlot, were selected as delegates. During the workshop, it was noted that the government has an aggressive timeline on developing the strategy and that there is a commitment from the Minister and the Premier.

For Tim Ambery, the highlight of the workshop was having such a diverse group of individuals at the workshop to discuss flood risk reduction, from employees at all levels of government, to representatives from industry such as insurance and real estate, as well as emergency planners like fire chiefs, and academic institutions and NGOs. So many different groups together allowed for discussion and understanding of the needs of each group with regards to flood risk reduction.

From the Falls Brook Centre viewpoint, having a region-wide strategy is key to adapting to a changing climate and those involved are doing positive and important work. That work needs to be expanded in two ways:

- 1) Covering more of our communities over a larger geographical area, particularly addressing rural areas;
- 2) Speeding up the process of putting risk reduction strategies into place (largely through increasing collection and access to data).

For its part, Falls Brook Centre will incorporate the information from the workshop into its climate change adaptation program, as it connects with members of its community. Falls Brook Centre will continue to build on the momentum provided by the workshop and further develop the partnerships formed with some of the other stakeholders who were in attendance.

Mark D’Arcy noted that the severity of climate change has left no choice but to address many of the flooding risk factors. Deforestation, wetland destruction (both upstream and municipal), watershed fragmentation, and increases in impervious surfaces are all major factors that have been proven to increase the volume and speed of rain runoff. He expressed hope that these are prominent in the Flood Risk Reduction Strategy. Mark noted that business leaders are saying that we must act now or face catastrophic damage from climate change and that all of us have a responsibility to protect our communities and prevent loss of life. He provided quotes from leaders, including, "This is the year to take action on climate change. There are no more excuses. If we fail, our children and grandchildren will ask us why we didn't act when it was still possible to do so." - *World Bank President, Jim Yong Kim, January 23, 2014*

**Powerpoints from the Workshop**

[Overview of NB Province Flood Risk Reduction Strategy, Stakeholder Workshop Government of New Brunswick, January 28, 2014](#)

[Summary of Analysis and Research to Support Strategy Development, Stakeholder Workshop, New Brunswick Government, January 28, 2014](#)

[Overview of Draft Objectives and Actions and Outcomes, Stakeholder Workshop, Government of New Brunswick, January 28, 2014](#)

**Post workshop Documents**

[Building a Flood Risk Reduction Strategy for New Brunswick, Report on the Stakeholder Workshop – January 28, 2014, Draft, March 6, 2014](#)

[New Brunswick's Flood Risk Reduction Strategy, Department of Environment and Local Government, 2014](#)