

The following is an open letter to Roland Haché, Minister of Education

Dear Minister of Education

We, the youth of the province, demand that more importance be brought to environmental education in schools.

Now that climate change and other environmental issues are widely known realities, we believe that environmental education should play a more important role in schools. As future voters and global citizens, it is important that we are provided with the opportunity to avoid past mistakes. The environment is something that affects all disciplines; therefore it is illogical to have such a huge gap in learning

There are many ways the environment could be incorporated into the curriculum. For example, in classes where we learn about health and nutrition, we could be taught about the use of pesticides to grow our food and its effects on us and our environment, or the use of antibiotics and hormones used on animals that produce food. Not only should curriculum teach the negative impacts of traditional food production, but also how to minimize or avoid these; such as with local and organic products. In history, we could talk about how our relationship with our environment has changed throughout the years. For mathematics, we could even calculate our carbon footprint! Sometimes science courses do talk about the environment, however, there are other aspects that are just as important, for example, our environment and today's society, as well as politics and economics. From kindergarten to grade 12 and beyond, we are developing to become responsible citizens. An integral part of this process is learning how our actions have an impact in the bigger picture. All aspects of the current curriculum have the potential to include an environmental component, and all subjects are relevant to the environment. Currently, we believe that where the environment does appear, coverage is inadequate.

We believe incorporating environmental examples and knowledge into all aspects of the curriculum at all ages could greatly benefit the students as well as make New Brunswick a positive example for the other provinces. We, the youth of New Brunswick offer our council and guidance on developing a more environmentally aware curriculum.

We trust that you will listen to the voice of the youth.

Thank you

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