

ecoalert

SUMMER 2019

CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF NEW BRUNSWICK



CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH SPECIAL EDITION

Healthy Climate, Healthy New Brunswickers
A proposal for New Brunswick that cuts pollution and protects health



Dr. Louise Comeau
David Hynes

Dr. Louise Comeau

A NEW SCIENCE-BASED REPORT
by Dr. Comeau
sheds light on the
changing climate in
NEW BRUNSWICK
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editorial

BY LOIS CORBETT

“How are you feeling today?”

That's how our Dr. Louise Comeau begins the Conservation Council's new report on the effect climate change is having on our physical and mental health.

I suspect, since you are reading our membership magazine, that you may at times be feeling concerned, anxious, maybe even overwhelmed by the headlines, reports, and what you see happening in our province, across Canada, and around the world.

This June 2019 edition of *EcoAlert* is focused on climate change and health in New Brunswick.

We bring you an in-depth summary of Dr. Comeau's report, painting a picture of what could — but doesn't have to — come within the next three decades.

We write about the current provincial government's ill-advised moves to lift the moratorium on shale gas fracking, and its reluctance to embrace the benefits and plentiful jobs in cleaner energy developments.

We call on the Premier to protect New Brunswickers from climate change, not the carbon tax. And we report on the victory for sensible public policy in the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal's decision that a national price on carbon pollution is, of course, constitutional.

It's not all doom in gloom in this issue, though. We bring you a feature story from Jon MacNeill about the growing community of New Brunswickers who are already making the shift to cleaner energy and low carbon-footprint living. These New Brunswickers' stories serve as excellent models and 'how-to guides' for us all.

Our intent in this edition is not to add to your worries. It is to impress upon all New Brunswickers the gravity of climate change effects here in our province, on our people. And more than anything, our intent is to spark and support concerted citizen action and change across all levels of government, business and industry.

It is not an easy job before us. But working together, we can achieve a more sustainable province, and prevent the worst of the effects forecast in Dr. Comeau and the IPCC's reports.

Have heart. Have hope. Take action — and make your voice heard.



Lois Corbett is Executive Director of the Conservation Council of New Brunswick



Cover Photo:

Dr. Louise Comeau in her happy place, her property in Keswick Ridge, New Brunswick. Here, she homesteads, raises hens, gardens (extensively!) and connects with nature to help deal and cope with her own eco-anxiety about climate change.

Louise often invites friends, family, colleagues and students to her property to demonstrate practical ways we can all make a small difference while dealing with the big problems of climate change.

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Conservation Council of New Brunswick
Conseil de conservation du Nouveau-Brunswick



“The world is shifting towards integrated energy systems that will be supported by a variety of advanced technologies, most of which will not require fossil fuels.”

- New Brunswick Commission on Hydraulic Fracturing, 2016 report

‘None of these conditions have been met’

In wake of closed-door cabinet decision to lift fracking moratorium regionally, Conservation Council hearkens back to independent commission’s report showing moratorium is smartest policy, reminds government conditions for lifting moratorium have not been met

Photo: Liane Thibodeau

With news breaking in early June that Premier Blaine Higgs and his Progressive Conservative government quietly moved to lift the fracking moratorium in the Sussex region during a cabinet meeting one month earlier, the Conservation Council was taken aback that it must remind the minority government the conditions given by the independent, expert commission on fracking have not been met.

The report from the New Brunswick Commission on Hydraulic Fracturing, released in February 2016, provides clear evidence that a moratorium on the risky, old-fashioned gas development is smart public policy to protect people’s drinking water, air quality, and health and safety in the face of climate change.

Consider what the Commissioners say in their report:

- The challenge and opportunity for economic development today is in clean and low-carbon technologies as governments across the world — including New Brunswick — prepare to deal with the opportunities and challenges of climate change. The Commissioners say New Brunswick must transition away from the old-world economies of resource extraction into a new value-added and knowledge-based era driven by new forms of energy, stating: “The world is shifting towards integrated energy systems that will be supported by a variety of advanced technologies, most of which will not require fossil fuels.”
- The environmental protection and energy regulatory system in New Brunswick is prone to conflicts of interest. The Commissioners highlight significant gaps in the current framework, such as the lack of understanding and mapping of



our groundwater system, and highlight pieces that are broken entirely, such as the failure of the Water Classification regulation for protecting rivers and streams. The current approach means a government department has to have two heads, meaning ministers serve two masters — one that promotes energy projects and another that regulates them. This system leads not only to confusion, anger and distrust but also creates too many unanswered questions, especially with respect to the cumulative effects of energy projects on water, air and public health.

- Nation-to-Nation communication with First Nation communities is sorely lacking and needs years of repair and capacity-building for all involved.

“The Commissioners rightly point out that the world shifted with the signing of the first universal climate agreement and that the real opportunities for jobs and economic growth comes from clean energy and energy efficiency,” says Lois Corbett, Executive Director of the Conservation Council of New Brunswick. “The economic case for renewables grows stronger every month and energy efficiency has long been recognized as a tool for creating jobs and keeping electricity affordable.”

Want to speak out?

Use our *letter-writing tool* to tell Premier Higgs you **DO NOT SUPPORT fracking in New Brunswick.**

Corbett continued: “It’s clear from the Commissioners’ report that New Brunswick’s regulatory and oversight system is prone to conflicts of interest and is at best years away from being ready to handle shale gas development. If we spend 90 per cent of our effort and New Brunswickers’ ingenuity focused on building the clean energy transition then we’d all be much better off than if we continue an endless conversation about fracking.”

Corbett concluded: “The moratorium was the smart public policy decision in 2014 and it remains the right public policy well into the future. The Commissioners outline the crossroads our province — and the world at large — is facing, and it’s hard to imagine a future for new shale gas development in a world committed to protecting our families from climate change. Our best bet for creating jobs right now in New Brunswick is through energy efficiency and clean power technology. That’s the road we need to take, and it’s the road that doesn’t put our drinking water or communities’ health at risk.”

Read the commission’s full report on our website, conservationcouncil.ca

– By Jon MacNeill

Is New Brunswick doing enough to promote its renewable energy sector?

Clean Air Day was June 5, but private energy sector says better education and communication is needed



BY JOE TUNNEY

Whether it's private businesses like Greystone Energy Systems making energy-efficient cooling systems or Saint John Energy expanding its solar and wind capabilities, it's clear clean energy industries are making waves in New Brunswick.

But as we celebrated *Clean Air Day* on June 5 – albeit dampened by the recent news that Premier Blaine Higgs is **allowing shale gas fracking near Sussex** – it's an opportunity to reflect on whether politicians are ensuring the new industry has room to flourish in Canada.

Are we riding those waves of change or have we missed the boat?

"The clean-energy sector is already our present, but it's bound to be even more of our future. And if it remains undiscussed by politicians and the media, then Canadians can hardly be blamed for not recognizing the clean-energy opportunities in their midst, and fearing the worst," wrote Merran Smith, executive director of Clean Energy Canada, in an op-ed piece in *The Globe and Mail* in late May.

"That's a problem in need of a solution," she continued.

Communication an issue

Sarah Arsenault, spokesperson for Fredericton's Naveco Power, sees communication as one roadblock preventing New Brunswickers from exploring greener solutions.

She said Naveco is one of the few cleaner energy developers in the province.

"It's people like us who need to get the word out," she said.

She also said recent **polling** suggests 87 per cent of people who identified as Conservatives across Canada want to see

more investment in renewable energies.

"I think it means that people are looking forward and are excited to have more clean energy opportunities in their province," she said.



A 240-panel solar array at Auenland Farm outside of Sussex. In 2018, 'solar farmer' Frank Jopp said he is expanding the array to 400 panels.

"If we're going to be serious about renewable, cleaner energy, then we're going to need the support of all parties across the political spectrum," said Lois Corbett, Executive Director of the Conservation Council. "Protecting the health and safety of New Brunswickers demands an 'all hands on deck' approach."

And there's more good news for Naveco. It was awarded **a contract** through NB Power's LORESS program in 2017 to build one of New Brunswick's first community-owned, 20-megawatt wind farm near Bathurst.

"But we can't go too far into detail about that," Arsenault said, until everything finalized.

'Right thing to do'

Mark McCann is president of MJM Solar Solutions, based outside of Fredericton, which sells and installs solar equipment. He agrees more can be done to promote the New Brunswick cleaner energy industry.

"There is definitely ground they could cover a little better," McCann said. "We're right next

to Nova Scotia, which in my opinion has one of the best programs in the country right now."

Nova Scotia has a rebate up to \$8,500 for qualifying solar-power systems.

But he doesn't believe New Brunswick is falling behind, just that it could be doing more.

Most of it comes down to education. The return on investment with solar energy takes longer here because electricity is cheaper than in most provinces, he said.

Likewise, most people believe New Brunswick's solar capacity is significantly lower than places like California because of snow.

But a one-kilowatt system in Atlantic Canada produces approximately 73 per cent as much energy as it would in the Golden State, McCann said.

"It doesn't matter as much about snow in the wintertime because you don't have that much sunlight," McCann said. "And in the summertime, our days are significantly longer."

Still, he said even without a rebate system as generous as Nova Scotia's, people are installing the technology.

"Because they feel it's the right thing to do."

But with fracking, not clean energy, back in the headlines, the question remains whether politicians are also coming closer to recognizing the right thing to do. ●



Photo: Nick Hawkins

Canada is once again a world leader in fisheries management and protection

Conservation Council applauds new Canadian *Fisheries Act*, amendments to expand protection for fish habitats, encourage reconciliation

BY JOE TUNNEY

The Conservation Council of New Brunswick celebrates and applauds the successful efforts to improve how our fisheries and oceans are managed with the passage of the new *Fisheries Act* in June.

With long-awaited changes to the Act now passed into law, the country is once again a world leader in fisheries management and ocean protection.

“This is, essentially, a new *Fisheries Act*,” said Lois Corbett, Executive Director. “One that reverses the poor public policy changes made seven years ago and that enshrines modern science-based decisions about fisheries management into law.”

Good news for thousands of sustainable fisheries, tourism jobs in Atlantic Canada

The new changes to the Act reverse amendments made under Bill C-38 that significantly weakened it back in 2012.

New amendments to the Act include improvements like forcing the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coastguard to manage stocks sustainably and develop rebuilding plans if a given population falls below a certain amount. These amendments more broadly define fish habitat, restore previous prohibitions against **“harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat”** and anything that causes **“the death of fish by means other than fishing.”**

Likewise, Indigenous knowledge, the independence of licence holders in commercial inshore fisheries, science and effects on coastal communities and ecosystems must all be considered during ministerial decision-making processes.

Exceptions may be granted for socio-economic reasons, but those reasons must be reported publicly.

“These amendments make Canada a world leader in terms of how our waters are managed,” said Matt Abbott, Matt Abbott, Fundy Baykeeper and Marine Conservation Program Director at the Conservation Council. “Overall, the new *Fisheries Act* is a solid step forward, and the Conservation Council looks forward to working with Indigenous Nations, coastal fishers and others to ensure the new Act is fully implemented and enforced.”

The updated Act also makes clear what projects require ministerial permits, and define a more transparent process by which rights-holders and stakeholders can get involved in the decision-making process.

“To ensure these changes are effective, we are committed to having strong enforcement capacity and increasing the number of frontline fishery (and habitat) officers,” the federal government’s website reads.

The new Act makes great leaps to encourage reconciliation with the incredible diversity of Indigenous people in Canada. This is achieved, in part, by requiring that traditional knowledge is considered for all projects. Further, if a decision might adversely affect Indigenous rights or traditional territories, the federal government is able to create agreements with the Indigenous governing bodies involved.

Importantly for Atlantic Canada, the new Act ensures that independent inshore fisheries remain the backbone of coastal communities.

“This helps strengthen the enforcement of owner-operator policies and fleet separation to better protect jobs and ensure that the benefits of fishing go directly to fishers and coastal communities,” said Anne Fauré, the Conservation Council’s Marine Specialist in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Concerns of the Conservation Council

While this is a landmark move for Canada’s fisheries, the Conservation Council is disappointed senators removed the “water flow” amendment. This proposed component of the new Act was based on the best evidence-based science available and provided clear guidance to regulators. In essence, eliminating this section of the Act opens up grey areas for development within ecosystems that support fish and fish habitat.

“This could have been the hallmark of the new *Fisheries Act* and freshwater habitat protection,” Corbett said. “The free movement of species is incredibly important, and healthy ecosystems require connectivity among and between different water bodies. Many of these ecosystems need immediate attention, with some risking collapse.”

Moving forward, the Conservation Council hopes to see these new amendments strongly enforced, knowing implementation will require feet on the ground and collaboration with all stakeholders.

Abbott, who witnessed the consequences of roll backs to environmental laws made in 2012, adds: “What’s important is that these amendments are upheld not just tomorrow, but the day after tomorrow and 10 years from now.” ●



Photo: James West

Climate Change and Public Health

The forecast is dire – but the solutions we need to slow climate change will make us happier and healthier

BY JON MACNEILL

The sky is clear and the sun is punishing.

A thick layer of ozone ripples above the pavement. No matter how much water you drink, you know you're losing more through your pores whether you're moving or not.

And for a lot of New Brunswickers, a province with more folks over 65 years of age than any other province, activity is out of the question.

It's the fourth 30⁺ day in a row. You're restless. Exhausted, despite having been shuttered inside, blinds drawn, melting in your chair, since the heat wave hit.

You've weathered these days before, over the years. But never in such succession. Never so persistent.

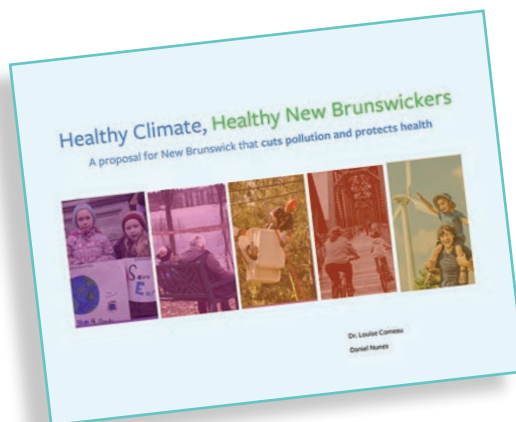
You feel depressed as you realize that there are fewer and fewer of those beautiful, tepid, liberating New Brunswick summer days, and it's not going to get any better.

This is just life now.

An (un)real scenario

But it doesn't have to be this way. The scenario described above is a science-based snapshot of where life is headed in New Brunswick if governments, businesses, industry and citizens don't take serious action to limit carbon pollution causing the climate crisis we're already experiencing.

How bad will it get? What will it mean for



Download *Healthy Climate, Healthy New Brunswickers*.

everyday life in New Brunswick? Who will suffer the most? Can we do anything about it?

These questions are tackled in the Conservation Council's new report from Dr. Louise Comeau, **Healthy Climate, Healthy New Brunswickers: A proposal for New Brunswick that cuts pollution and protects health**, released in late June.

A spoiler for you: there is hope. There are concrete actions we can take to change the stark forecast described above and in the report.

But first, a look at what scientific research and health data in New Brunswick predict about life in the picture province between 2021-2050.

The bad news

You may not think climate change is a public health issue. With the overwhelming focus on environmental degradation, species loss, and damage to public and private infrastructure, you could be forgiven. But when we combine existing research from sources such as the Canada Climate Atlas and New Brunswick Health Council's community health profiles, among others, we get a sobering story indeed.

This is what Dr. Comeau does in her report, the first comprehensive look at how climate change will affect the physical and mental health of all New Brunswickers, but particularly the very young, seniors, the isolated, and those living on low incomes.

In her report, Dr. Comeau combines climate projections and existing community health profiles for 16 New Brunswick communities, including the Edmundston, Campbellton, Dalhousie, Bathurst, Caraquet, Miramichi, Moncton, Sackville, Sussex, Oromocto, Fredericton, Minto, Woodstock, Grand Falls, St. Stephen, and Saint John areas.

How's the weather out there?

New Brunswickers aren't used to hot, 30⁺ days, let alone long stretches of them. But that's what the data say is coming in the immediate- to medium-term.

Continued on page 6...

Comeau's analysis shows that each of the communities listed above will experience between 122 to 300 per cent more 30+ days in the summer over the next 30 years if we don't come together to eliminate the heat-trapping pollution causing global heating.

Fredericton, for example, can expect at least 20 of these scorching days a summer, compared to the 1976-2005 average of eight — up 150 per cent.

Bathurst could experience at least 14 hot days by 2021 to 2050, up from an average of six. The Miramichi and Minto regions will have 20 scorches, Oromocto will have 21 (up from 9), Woodstock will have 15 (up from six), St. Stephen will have 11 (up from 4) and the Sussex area will have 12 (up from 4), to name a few.

This is a big departure from what is normal. Temperature influences natural cycles, our lifestyles and our physical and mental health.

We know heat waves, for example, can cause death in the elderly or sick as seen in recent years in **Europe**, the **United States** and **Québec**. And then there's the reality of hotter conditions exacerbating existing health conditions, or helping to cause them.

Health researchers from around the world find that climatic changes affect and contribute to cardiovascular disease and respiratory conditions (more air pollution, greater frequency of and more extreme forest fires, droughts and dust storms), allergic reactions (especially ragweed), cancer, traumatic injuries, vector-borne illnesses (from disease-carrying insects; think black-legged ticks), food and water-borne illnesses (contaminated water, prime conditions for bacterial growth), malnutrition, and mental health (being displaced from your home, grief from losing cherished possessions and property, and extreme weather-induced stress, anxiety and depression).

More frost-free days — but don't get excited yet

Comeau's analysis shows higher average temperatures, especially in spring and winter, increase the number of frost-free days per year. In New Brunswick, that means between 19-22 more frost-free days a year between 2021-2050, compared to the 1976-2005 average.

But don't get excited yet.

Warmer temperatures increase the risk of exposure to ticks carrying Lyme disease and pave the way for the expansion and establishment of other **tick species and diseases**. We're seeing this already, especially in southern New Brunswick. In 2017, there were 29 confirmed cases of Lyme disease in the province, up from eight cases reported the year before.

More intense rainfall events, more extreme floods

Increases in temperature means more precipitation is forecast for New Brunswick in the coming decades. That's because warmer air holds more moisture. Scientists calculate that for every one degree Celsius increase in temperature, the atmosphere can hold seven per cent more water.

What does this mean? Comeau's analysis shows we are likely to experience less frequent but much more intense precipitation events, increasing the annual total volume of precipitation across the entire province.

This will mean more intense rainfall, more snow, and increases in **snow depth** — adding to spring freshet worries and flood risk. It also means more freezing rain causing winter flooding and ice jams, and ice-on-snow cover making walking dangerous, especially for seniors.

New Brunswick experienced record-breaking floods along the Wolastoq (St. John) River in 2018 and 2019, partly caused by above average snowpack and rain (at least partly due to our changing climate). There are, of course, other factors, such as land-and-forest use, and poor development planning in flood plains that, combined with natural variability and super-charging by climate change, increases the probability of extreme events, including flooding.

Projections show we're likely to see the amount of rain in spring increase seven to nine per cent in the immediate to medium-term, with the amount of snow, rain and

freezing rain in winter increasing eight to 11 per cent (with the higher amounts in northern communities).

Recently, University of Moncton hydrologist **Nassir El-Jabi** told CBC he estimates frequent but minor floods could see water levels increase 30 to 55 per cent by 2100 in New Brunswick, and extreme floods like those in 2018 and 2019 could be 21 per cent bigger by 2100.

As Comeau writes in her report, "It is getting hotter, wetter, extreme, and less safe because greenhouse gas levels are not where they need to be and we are not changing the way we do things."

Feeling down and out

We know young children and adults are increasingly anxious about climate change, as demonstrated by the global **School Strike for Climate** movement started by 16-year-old Greta Thunberg in Sweden. This winter and spring students in Fredericton, Moncton, Campbellton, Edmundston, Saint John and Sackville **joined the movement**, walking out of school to protest government and industry inaction on climate change.

Mental health professionals are increasingly worried about the psychological effects of climate change. Climate change effects such as flooding and extended power outages can undermine well-being and cause eco-anxiety, a "chronic fear of environmental doom."

Continued on page 7..

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Beyond the immediate stress and anxiety of disasters fueled by climate change, the chronic mental health affects these events bring about is even more frightening.

According to the American Psychology Association, these effects include post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, suicide, substance misuse, strained social relationships, aggression, violence, and feelings of helplessness, fear and fatalism — among others.

What does this all mean?

If you are a senior or single parent living on low income, in an under-insulated home with no air conditioning, you are more at risk from extreme heat and extreme weather events. You might not have a vehicle to leave home, or you may have fewer social contacts to reach out to if the power goes out.

A senior woman living alone on a low income, with one or more chronic health issues, and who has few social contacts, is especially vulnerable to the mental and physical health effects of extreme events made worse by climate change.

A person with asthma is more at risk from hotter days and more smog (heart and lung-damaging ground-level ozone).

New Brunswick generally has low levels of smog-related pollution. Communities like Saint John, Belledune and Edmundston, however, that house industrial operations (pulp and paper, coal-fired power, lead smelting, and oil refining), experience close to maximum levels for fine particulate matter and higher levels of smog.

Katie Hayes, a leading researcher focused on the mental health effects of climate

change, points out in her **recent paper** that the mental health effects of climate change are accelerating, “resulting in a number of direct, indirect and overarching effects that disproportionately affect those who are most marginalized.”

The good news — a better scenario

The sky is clear and the sun is punishing.

The mercury has breached 30 degrees, and you remember, 20-odd years ago, reading about the dire forecast that these days would become more and more the norm. You're grateful that action, from communities to the highest levels of government and industry, didn't let things get that bad.

All the same, on this day, you're choosing to stay inside. You just can't handle the heat like you could in your younger years.

But it's beautiful inside. Specialized doors and windows, combined with a super-insulated attic, basement and walls, means you are comfortable no matter how hot or cold it gets outside.

You catch the glint of sunshine from the windshield of your electric car parked in the driveway. It's charging from your rooftop solar panels and sleek battery bank on the wall, hidden by a painting from your favourite local artist.

Even if you need more power than your panels and bank provide, you rest easy knowing it's coming from a public utility powered entirely by renewable energy sources.

The coal-and-gas-fired power plants of yesteryear have long been shuttered, their workers enjoying a new gig in booming cleaner energy and technology sectors.

You hardly even think about air quality, not like you used to, when you lived next to Canada's next to Canada's largest oil refinery in Saint John.

Cancer rates are down across the board, including in places like the Port City, Edmundston and Belledune, once dogged by heavy, polluting industries.

You get up, head to the kitchen, and make a sandwich for lunch from vegetables grown just one block away, at one of several community gardens dotting the landscape.

You smile. This is life now.

A new way on

There is no way around it — our lives depend on energy, and always will. But we can control whether this energy comes from sources that pollute our climate and negatively affect our health, like coal, oil and gas, or sources that offer a much better balance with what our planet can sustain. This is a choice we can make.

Today, it's a choice we must demand.

Dr. Comeau's report, along with the Conservation Council's climate action plan released in 2016, provide a blueprint for achieving the much healthier, happier scenario described in the section above.

Solving climate change will in turn fix so many social, environmental, health and labour problems that we can't just look at it as a crisis — but a tremendous opportunity to get things right.

Yes, the science-based projections are dire.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) says we've got about 10 years to get serious about solving the problems of climate change. And, even then, we'll still be dealing with some of the effects.

But we can get it right; we can limit the suffering. We must not despair, and we must not be discouraged.

So what can you do right now?

Talk about climate change. Read the recommendations in Dr. Comeau's report and share them with everyone you know.

By all means, do what you can in your home, life and workspace to limit the carbon pollution you add to the atmosphere. But the changes we have to make are bigger than better insulation and energy-efficient appliances.

Dr. Comeau's report encourages everyone interested in protecting public health from the immediate and looming effects of climate change to speak out and demand action from politicians, businesses, and industry.

There is a better way forward. It's going to be hard work, but together, we can get there. ●

NEW BRUNSWICK IS NOT DOING ITS PART TO Fight Climate Change

Weather is becoming more extreme and we're worried about it.

From floods, to ice and wind storms, to heat waves, we know this is not how it used to be. Climate change is damaging the places we care about.

For the love of New Brunswick, we need to prepare for a future with less pollution and safer communities.

Since 2014, **New Brunswick damage from extreme weather events (flooding and ice storm) has cost the province more than**

\$170 MILLION



New Brunswick has the **3rd highest per capita** emissions in Canada after Alberta and Saskatchewan. Canada itself ranks in the top ten global emitters in the world and on a per capita basis we rank 4th. **Doing our part means doing our fair share.**

We need to **rebuild our energy system** and we can do it over the next five to 10 years. But to get there we need a **plan based on clear targets.**

The provincial Government says it is **committed** to implementing the **2016 provincial climate action plan** but wants to abandon its science-based **greenhouse gas reductions targets.**

How is that doing our part to fight climate change?

The province is abandoning science in favour of the **less acceptable federal target of 30% below 2005 levels by 2030.** Canada has already agreed that this target must be **stronger by 2020** if we are to slow climate change.

Failing to reach science-based targets **does not protect New Brunswickers' health and well-being** and **fails to prepare the province** to thrive in a world with low-carbon-footprint economies.



In 2016, the province of New Brunswick committed to lowering greenhouse gas emissions **35% below 1990 levels by 2030** (to 10.7 million tonnes, MT, which is about 45% below 2005 levels, the federal base year).



The province also committed in its *Transitioning to a Low Carbon Economy: New Brunswick's Climate Action Plan* to being **80% below 2001 levels** (to 5 Mt, which is 75% below 2005 levels, the federal base year).



Our 2030 reduction target is in line with what the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** says is required to keep global average temperature increases to no more than **1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels** but our 2050 target is not. **By 2050, the world needs to be net zero to stave off the worst effects of climate change.**



The good news is that New Brunswick **succeeded in meeting its 2020 target of 10% below 1990 levels by 2020** (14.8 Mt) and achieved this goal by 2016.

But we must do more.

WHY A CARBON TAX IS FAIR TO New Brunswick



The federal carbon pricing system leaves the average New Brunswick household better off because the **Climate Action Incentive** exceeds what an average household will pay. In rural New Brunswick there is a 10% top up and there are grants for small business, the school and hospital and municipal sector.

Atlantic Provinces have a carbon price.



Nova Scotia



Prince Edward Island



Newfoundland and Labrador



New Brunswick

In **New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland and Labrador** the price on transportation fuels is the **same as the federal schedule** (4.4 cents on gasoline in 2019). Nova Scotia opted for a cap and trade system. Newfoundland and Labrador and Prince Edward Island have **reduced excise taxes on fuel** so that the incremental price increase is lower (1 cent/litre in 2019), while Nova Scotia's system has **weak reduction requirements** generating about 1 cent/litre in costs. Each of these provinces also negotiated an exemption with the federal government for home heating fuel.



New Brunswick did not negotiate with the Government of Canada and could have. The province could have lowered fuel excise taxes to bring our incremental cost to the same level as other Atlantic provinces and chose not to.



New Brunswick, **instead of getting with the program**, has chosen to make matters worse by **taking the federal Government to court.**



New Brunswick can implement a made-in-New Brunswick carbon-pricing program for consumers and industry in 2020 that meets federal requirements and lets the province decide how to spend the money. Not doing so is a choice, a political choice that does not help New Brunswickers prepare for climate action or to **keep our families and communities safe.**



A better PLAN



Exempt home heating fuels and invest in **home retrofits, fuel-switching.**



Invest in fuel-switching to biofuels in forestry operations and heating applications.



Regulate New Brunswick's largest polluters to at least the level set by the Government of Canada. The federal output-based pricing system is fair to industry, especially emission-intensive and trade-exposed industries. The carbon price schedule is the same as that paid by consumers, and like consumers, there are rebates of at least 80 percent (or higher for some sectors like steel). This leaves a price signal for emissions above this level that encourage emissions reductions and investment in clean alternatives.

NEW BRUNSWICK IS NOT ON TRACK TO Lower emissions by 45% by 2030

...unless it fully implements its **climate action plan** and **complies with federal regulations**



There is little evidence the province is implementing its **comprehensive climate action plan** which requires **significant investments** in **infrastructure, efficiency, clean electricity and electric vehicles.**



Instead, we are **wasting taxpayers' money** fighting the federal government in court.



What we should be doing is **implementing our climate action plan** and **fully complying with federal regulations**, including **carbon pricing, phasing coal out of electricity production**, phasing in **lower-emitting fuels** (clean fuel standard), strengthening **efficient building standards**, implementing targets for **electric vehicle sales**, and increasing use of **renewable energy.**



New Brunswick needs a **plan for the long-term.** A plan that sets the course to a **ZERO-EMITTING SOCIETY** over the next **15 to 30 years.**



A made-in-New Brunswick plan should **REGULATE INDUSTRIAL, ELECTRICITY AND HOUSEHOLD EMISSIONS** in line with our science-based targets spurring innovation and modernization of our economy and communities.



An economy fueled by **CLEAN, RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY MADE IN NEW BRUNSWICK** and **POWERING EFFICIENT BUILDINGS, TRANSPORTATION AND INDUSTRIAL SYSTEMS** is a better plan for New Brunswick.



Now I'm Making Plans

2019 Eco Buildings Tour inspires change and hope

BY JON MACNEILL



Josée Green speaks to a crowd inside her Fredericton home. Josée says she took advantage of a lot of NB Power's incentives and rebates while gradually making her home a shining example of energy efficiency.

Josée Green didn't want to save the world when she first started her journey toward energy efficiency and renewable energy. She didn't even really care about saving money.

She just wanted to keep her kids safe and warm.

"It was December, we lost power for three days and I had to sleep under blankets with my son on my skin to keep him warm," Josée says from the kitchen of her super-energy-efficient home on Crockett Street in Fredericton, which sports a full array of solar panels on the roof.

"After that storm, we knew we needed almost like a doomsday plan. So we started to address those needs and that really woke us up to energy use and conservation.

"It arose out of a crisis, and then, just naturally, it turned into a hobby of wanting to do more, walk the walk, talk the talk, and really be part of the change."

Green's was the last house I visited during the Conservation Council's



Josée Green's daughter and son (far right) play in the yard of their super-energy-efficient home complete with rooftop solar panel array.

Pathway to a Cleaner Future: Eco Buildings Tour on June 1. Nearly two dozen homeowners and businesses opened their doors to a public eager to learn about people in their neighbourhood already making the shift to cleaner energy living in the face of our changing climate.

After that storm seven years ago, Josée started down a path that could serve as a model for a lot of us wondering what we can do to cut our home energy costs and our carbon pollution footprint.

She and her husband knew they wanted to install solar panels eventually, but that

type of investment only made sense if they reduced their energy consumption as much as possible first.

They installed a heat pump and wood alternate heat. All LED lighting. Low-flow shower heads. Energy-efficient appliances. Super-insulated doors and windows.

"And then, eventually, we got to a point where our usage was down enough that solar made sense."

In 10 years — the time it takes to pay off the panels — her only power bill will be the \$30 service charge and HST on the small amount of electricity they may draw from NB Power.

The panels have a warranty for 25 years, translating to roughly 15 years of nearly free power.

"And by then, hopefully batteries will make more sense. So maybe Power Walls [made by Tesla] are part of what you can lease from NB Power. Maybe you can use the battery in your car to store your power. All that smart grid innovation piece, hopefully, in a few years, will make a lot more sense."

....Story con't on page 12



Edee Klee was skeptical when her partner, Garth Hood, told her they wouldn't need a wood furnace in their retrofitted Century Passive House. "I thought, 'Well, I'll have to see it to believe it,' but it was true. And I don't miss it [a furnace] at all. You don't realize that the reason you gravitate toward the fire is the comfort, the warmth, but when everywhere is comfortable, there's no need for that."

'This is my forever home' — a model for N.B.'s old housing stock

Josée Green's modern, energy-efficient-to-the-nines home is where I ended my day on the tour. But I started 70 kilometres downriver in Gagetown, at a home like many in New Brunswick, decades-upon-decades old.

Garth Hood and Edee Klee's two-storey home was built in 1916, but if you knew what they paid for heat last winter, you'd never believe it. Heck, they hardly can.

"It just blew our minds. We only spent \$200 for heat," Edee says, with a tone that lets you know she's still trying to wrap her head around it. But the answer to how it was possible, of course, is what's wrapped around the century-old home.

Garth and Edee wanted to maintain the character and charm of the 20th century homestead, so instead of tearing up the inside walls and mouldings to retrofit for energy efficiency, they built out.

Sixteen inches of insulation were added to the exterior of the home, giving them R50 walls. The home is heated primarily with a geothermal preheat/precool system, so they only need one baseboard heater on the first floor to get the entire house through the coldest snaps of winter.

"I know," Edee says when my jaw drops. "It's insane."

The home's super-efficient doors and windows retain the sun's heat. Two layers of a special membrane act as 'lungs' so moisture and condensation aren't an issue in such an airtight envelope.

The retrofit resulted in a 90 to 95 per cent reduction in energy usage — and some pretty solid perks for what was once an old, drafty home.

"The fact I can walk around in barefeet in the middle of winter, I'm thrilled," Edee says. "It's just the comfort."

And then the savings! Garth, who lives and breathes Passive House design, calculates in 10 years they'll have saved \$18,000 in energy and heating costs. In 25 years, the couple will have saved \$105,000.

As I make my way downstairs to carry on with the **Eco Buildings Tour** — a bit dizzy with thoughts of all I could do with a cool \$100,000 (goodbye student loans, hello med school for my surgeon-obsessed daughter) — I meet Tim



Tour participants Tim and Angela Sanford at Edee Klee and Garth Hood's 100-year-old retrofitted home. Behind them you can see the 16 inches of insulation added to the home's exterior to preserve its charm and character inside. The strip of felt-looking material to the right of Tim's head is one layer of a special membrane that helps moisture escape, so mould isn't a concern given the home's airtight envelope.

and Angela Sanford. They've just arrived and, as it happens, are planning to build a Passive House for their retirement home.

They're the first of several people — from close-to-retirees to young families looking to build their first home — who tell me they're on the tour because they have concrete plans to build a Passive House in the next year or two.

"I'm cheap," Tim says bluntly, with a chuckle. "We're both engineers. I like low-operating costs."

"And energy efficiency is important to us, as well," Angela says. "It's nice reducing your carbon footprint and being more globally conscious in building. And something like this home, it just shows that it can be done, even in our climate, that if you set yourself up properly, you can enjoy the benefits."

....Story *con't* on page 13



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Dorothy Diamond's happy place, her super-insulated sunroom. After her dryer broke, she installed an extendable drying rack to let the sun take care of that task, too.

‘Every home needs a sunroom’

One step inside Dorothy and Tony Diamond's Passive Solar Home outside Stanley, and you can tell the couple is really excited for curious minds to visit.

Their spacious, naturally-lit, one-storey home is filled with notes encouraging participants to try different ways of doing common household tasks and save money — all while reducing their carbon footprint.

The Diamonds' home is heated by a geothermal in-floor radiant heating system, installed in 2005 and likely one of the first of its kind in the province.

Well water, the same they use for drinking, is pumped in through the heat pump, stored in a hot-water tank and run through pex pipe encased in a layer of concrete under the floor.

“It's lovely,” Dorothy says. “You don't have any baseboards. You don't have radiators. You don't have air blowing around with dust in it. There are so many reasons; it's worth every penny. It's a more expensive heating system to install, but we've had no maintenance issues in 15 years.”

Her favourite place is the home's super-insulated sunroom, which also helps heat the rest of the home in the winter.

“You can sit here and read. The sun just pours in. Plus, it helps psychologically. In our really long winters, it's nice to have a sunroom where you can sort of pretend you're outside. Just put on a bathing suit and sit out there,” she says with a chuckle.

Outside in the Diamonds' backyard, where the couple raise chickens and hens, keep bees, tap maple trees and grow a gorgeous garden, I meet Lee McLean.

Her husband Tom has been in the media lately, advocating for the widespread adoption of electric vehicles in New Brunswick. The McLeans own two EVs and Lee quips that she calls her husband “the

poster boy for electric cars in N.B.”

“Some people buy a retirement property, we bought electric vehicles,” she said, adding they took advantage of the federal government's new rebate incentive for their second EV. “It's a different approach, but we're going to travel that way, instead of fly, so we have a smaller footprint.”

I'm excited to see what I can grow

Down the road a ways in Durham Bridge, I pull into Andrew and Anna Mathis' home, which much like every other stop so far, is a happening spot. Eleven cars line the drive.

Andrew has designed a greenhouse powered by a ‘climate battery’ to heat and cool the space, allowing produce to grow year-round. He designed the greenhouse at *The Ville* in Fredericton, which last winter produced tomatoes in February, and is focusing his PhD research on this type of system.



Andrew Mathis inside his climate-controlled, year-round greenhouse. A project two years in the making, Mathis is growing his first crop this season in special, German-design, ‘hugelkultur’ raised beds. Sprouting up around him are yellow beans, tomatoes, peppers and hot peppers, arugula, basil, spinach, peas, cilantro, parsley, chives, lavender, borage, and “a couple other things I can't remember right now!”

The greenhouse is a work-in-progress, but next year he hopes to introduce an aquaponics system into the mix. It would allow fish raised in tanks half in the ground, half in the greenhouse to produce waste that would feed nutrients to his plants. He can then eat the fish to get some extra protein out of the greenhouse.

“It's a copy of a natural system in nature and doing this reduces the water usage of growing plants by 90 per cent,” Andrew tells a crowd of us gathered in the space, which has special-glazed windows facing the winter solstice sun to maximize its passive solar heating potential in colder months.



“It just makes sense, if you're building your house, why wouldn't you do it the right way right from the first?” says Derek LaCombe, pictured here with his wife, Marilyne, and son, Antoine. The young family plans to build their own Passive Home in the near future.

Comfort, savings, peace of mind — all within reach

I met Derek and Marilyne LaCombe with their three-month-old Antoine, at our post-tour gathering at *The Ville*. The couple took the tour because they plan to build a Passive Solar Home within two years. And because seeing is believing.

“We can read and amass our knowledge, but there's nothing like being able to see it, touch it, feel it,” Derek says. “To see exactly how triple-glazed windows work. There's nothing like actually seeing the thickness of it in person.”

Pauline and Ken Methot, who live on Crockett Street in Fredericton, just down the way from Josée Green's place, are also at the meet-up.

I'd met them about an hour earlier leaving the Mathis' greenhouse, where Ken told me how neat it was seeing the sustainable living concepts he read about as a kid in his father's copies of *Harrowsmith Magazine*, finally taking root in New Brunswick.

“It was all well and good to read about it as a kid, but it's another thing to be out on this tour and actually seeing it put into practice,” the licensed carpenter says. “That's the hope for our society.”

“It was interesting to see that somebody on our own street was really embracing this technology,” Pauline adds. “Because you know, people think that it's really expensive and not worth it to do this kind of stuff in their homes. Before today, I was one of those people. Not anymore. Now I'm making plans.” ●



We'd like to thank the Academy, Mother Earth

The Conservation Council of New Brunswick has won NB Power's 2019 Legacy Award!

The award recognizes an organization's long-standing commitment and contribution to energy efficiency in New Brunswick, and it's a special treat to win during our 50th anniversary.

"We appreciate being recognized for the hard work done by the Conservation Council and its members over the past 50 years," said our Executive Director, Lois Corbett. "And we will continue to do that good work, together, for many more years to come." The ceremony was held as part of NB Power's *Energizing Efficiency Conference* in Moncton this spring.

NB Power noted the Conservation Council's Climate Change and Energy Solutions Program, our publications, video series, public meetings, and victories on critical public policy over the years as reasons for winning the award. We share this honor with you, our dedicated supporters. See our Facebook page to [watch a video](#) on the award.



Our Learning Outside program is growing!

Our **Learning Outside** program is reaching more students and teachers than ever before with the good news that you can have fun outside all the while hitting critical learning objectives typically accomplished in the classroom! **Learning Outside** expanded this year, with Project Director Nadine Ives welcoming the addition of Jonna Karhunen, whose passion for outdoor education is as inspiring as Nadine's. The team reached more than **2,300 students** and more than **40 teachers** across five schools between Fredericton and Saint John. They also presented at the Department of Education's *Spring Symposium* and had a popular booth at the 2019 Canada-Wide Science Fair, where an estimated 8,000 people (including 5,000 students) visited Fredericton this spring! In the upcoming academic year, the program hopes to expand to middle and high schools and will launch a new salmon education program.

Keep posted to learningoutside.ca and our Facebook Page, Learning Outside - CCNB for more news and updates!



April flowers, May protests

While spring is a time for gardening and cleaning, it's also a time for telling the powers that be that the youth won't stand by as their planet dies. In March, more than 250 protesters stood on the steps of the Legislative Assembly in Fredericton as part of the **Fridays for Future** movement. It's estimated approximately 1.4 million students protested from more than 2,000 cities that day. Students in Moncton, Sackville, Campbellton, Edmundston and Saint John also skipped class to protest. "We call on the government to take action so that we and the younger generation can live long enough to practice the education that we are receiving in schools right now," said Yana Titarenko, a Mount Allison Student who helped organize their local event. Again, on May 10, 250 people stood on the steps of the legislature, demanding elected representatives inside take urgent action on the climate crisis. Many were École Sainte-Anne students, while others came all the way from Woodstock to make their voices heard under the **Fridays for Future** banner. The Conservation Council of New Brunswick will participate in another protest this fall. Stay tuned.

A note to parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles: the Conservation Council has launched a youth environmental group that is meeting at Conserver House every Thursday, 6-8 p.m., this summer. Email info@conservationcouncil.ca for more details.

Declaring a climate emergency in New Brunswick



New Brunswick municipalities from north to south have declared climate emergencies in light of the changing environment. Edmundston was first, making its declaration in late February.

“We see the impact on the ground, we see the cost of that,” Mayor Cyrille Simard told CBC.

Moncton and Bathurst soon followed and while Saint John common council hasn’t officially declared one, Saint John Mayor Don Darling has repeatedly told media the city is in a climate emergency.

“Everything we do now, we’ll have that question,” Coun. Donna Reardon said. “How will it affect climate change?” Stay tuned to our website for updates on climate emergency declarations in New Brunswick and abroad. As of this writing, 611 **jurisdictions and local governments** in 13 countries have declared climate emergencies.



“How many letters will it take?”

Conservation Council Executive Director Lois Corbett spoke to a crowd of nearly 100 New Brunswickers who gathered in Saint John on May Day (May 1) to demand that J.D. Irving stop spraying Crown land with glyphosate-based herbicides. “I only have one question for the premier of New Brunswick: two years, 3,000 letters later, Premier Higgs, how many letters will it take?” Corbett said. “Thirty-five-thousand New Brunswickers have signed a petition calling on the Legislature to stop spraying our Crown forest. Premier Higgs, how many more signatures will it take?” Learn more about our work to stop herbicide spraying on our website.

Sun sets on weak federal environmental assessments

With amendments to Bill C-69 being rejected on June 11 in Ottawa let us hope the sun has set on the days of weak environmental assessments. “Canadians now expect to be able to participate in impact assessments and the less robust these assessments become, the more discord there is,” said Scott Kidd, a longtime Conservation Council member with a background in environmental law. Kidd spoke on the council’s behalf at the Senate committee meeting in Saint John on April 25. The bill would change how major infrastructure projects are evaluated by the federal government. Only 62 out of 187 of the Senate’s industry-fueled amendments were accepted by the environment ministry. In our submission to the committee, Kidd noted how much the bill improved upon the current *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012*, with: the bill’s recognition of the respect owed to the rights of



Indigenous peoples; the list of factors that require an assessment, including a project’s contribution to sustainability and its effect on climate change; and, the requirement that the Minister and/or Cabinet provide written reasons as to why they consider a project to be in

the public’s interest or not. While it seems the Senate’s attempt to gut the bill failed, Alberta Premier Jason Kenney said he would launch a constitutional challenge if it passed as written. We stand ready to ensure that the ship has sailed on weak environmental assessments. You can see our **full submission** on our website.

NOMINATE YOUR ECO-HERO!

THE MILTON F. GREGG AWARDS

ARE BACK WITH 15 NEW CATEGORIES!



Don't forget to book Oct. 12th off in your calendar. The **Milton F. Gregg Awards** are once again upon us. The awards have been presented by the Conservation Council since 1981 to deserving individuals and organizations who have contributed to protecting New Brunswick's environment. We've expanded the Milton F. Gregg Awards in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Conservation Council this year, allowing you to nominate your **"ECO-HERO"** across 15 categories. **See categories and full details on our website.** Submissions are due July 31, 2019. The awards will be presented during a gala on Oct. 12 at the Beaverbrook Art Gallery. Meanwhile, our Southeast Chapter is once again calling for nominations for its 4th annual **Beth McLaughlin Environmental Journalism Award**. Journalists from all media are invited to **submit their works** that promote in-depth and thoughtful coverage of environmental issues. Beth McLaughlin, founder of the Southeast Chapter of the Conservation Council, was a teacher, writer, social activist and active citizen.

With climate change emergency upon us, Saskatchewan court rules *carbon tax is constitutional*

It didn't take long for the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal to determine that the federal government does, indeed, have the constitutional authority to take action on climate change in provinces that choose not to meet minimum national standards for large polluters or carbon pollution pricing.

The Court issued its 3-2 decision on Friday, May 3, saying the federal government has a right to take national action on climate change — a problem that poses such a genuine threat to Canadians that it can be classified as an "emergency."

The New Brunswick Anti-Shale Gas Alliance (NBASGA), which includes the Conservation Council, was granted intervenor status in the court case, as was the New Brunswick government.

Jim Emberger of the NBASGA says the decision means provinces still remain free to exceed federal standards, but they cannot set lower standards for themselves. "We hope this is a first step in Canada's adoption of serious climate crisis planning." We couldn't agree more, Jim.

N.B. Premier Blaine Higgs said that he will

be "consulting with the Attorney General to determine the most effective means to continue our opposition." We have yet to hear whether or not N.B. will pursue its losing legal arguments or choose instead to take further action to protect the health of its citizens and the environment.

The past weeks have seen enormous worldwide climate concern. Protesters closed down London for a week. The UK Parliament declared a 'climate emergency' (as did many cities and states globally, including Edmundston in New Brunswick). Spain elected a government running on a Green New Deal platform, and US Democrats listed climate as their top electoral concern. On the day the Court made its decision, students in New Brunswick and across the world marched and rallied once again to get government's attention.

Amidst repeated 'once-in-a-generation' or 'historic' floods and storms, we need to recognize that we are all in this together, and we must act together accordingly.

-with files from NBASGA

- By Jon MacNeill



Our new book is a must-have
for New Brunswickers who
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This book serves as the definitive field guide for native tree species in New Brunswick, includes great tree trivia questions, information on how our changing climate will affect the trees we love, and heartfelt stories from New Brunswickers who share a deep appreciation for nature!

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Protect us from climate change, Premier Higgs, not the carbon tax

BY LOIS CORBETT

Premier Blaine Higgs should take a stand to protect New Brunswickers from climate change. This is the fight he should be waging.

New Brunswickers know climate change is real and is affecting our lives already. From ice and wind storms, to heat waves, to floods, we know this is not how it used to be. Climate change is damaging the places and hurting the people we care about.

Not doing anything about it is getting increasingly expensive, too — **since 2014, damage from extreme weather events has cost the province more than \$170 million.**

New Brunswickers want action on climate change. A 2018 poll showed that 91 per cent of New Brunswickers think climate change is a problem, with 65 per cent calling it a “serious problem.”

Economists say putting a price on carbon pollution, be it through a cap and trade system or carbon tax, is one of the most cost-effective ways of reducing the pollution that is unbalancing our climate.

In early May, the Court of Appeal in Saskatchewan ruled that a carbon tax is well within the constitutional jurisdiction of the federal government.

New Brunswick argued, and lost, against the carbon tax in the Saskatchewan case. Premier Higgs has said he will wait and see whether New Brunswick will launch its own court case.

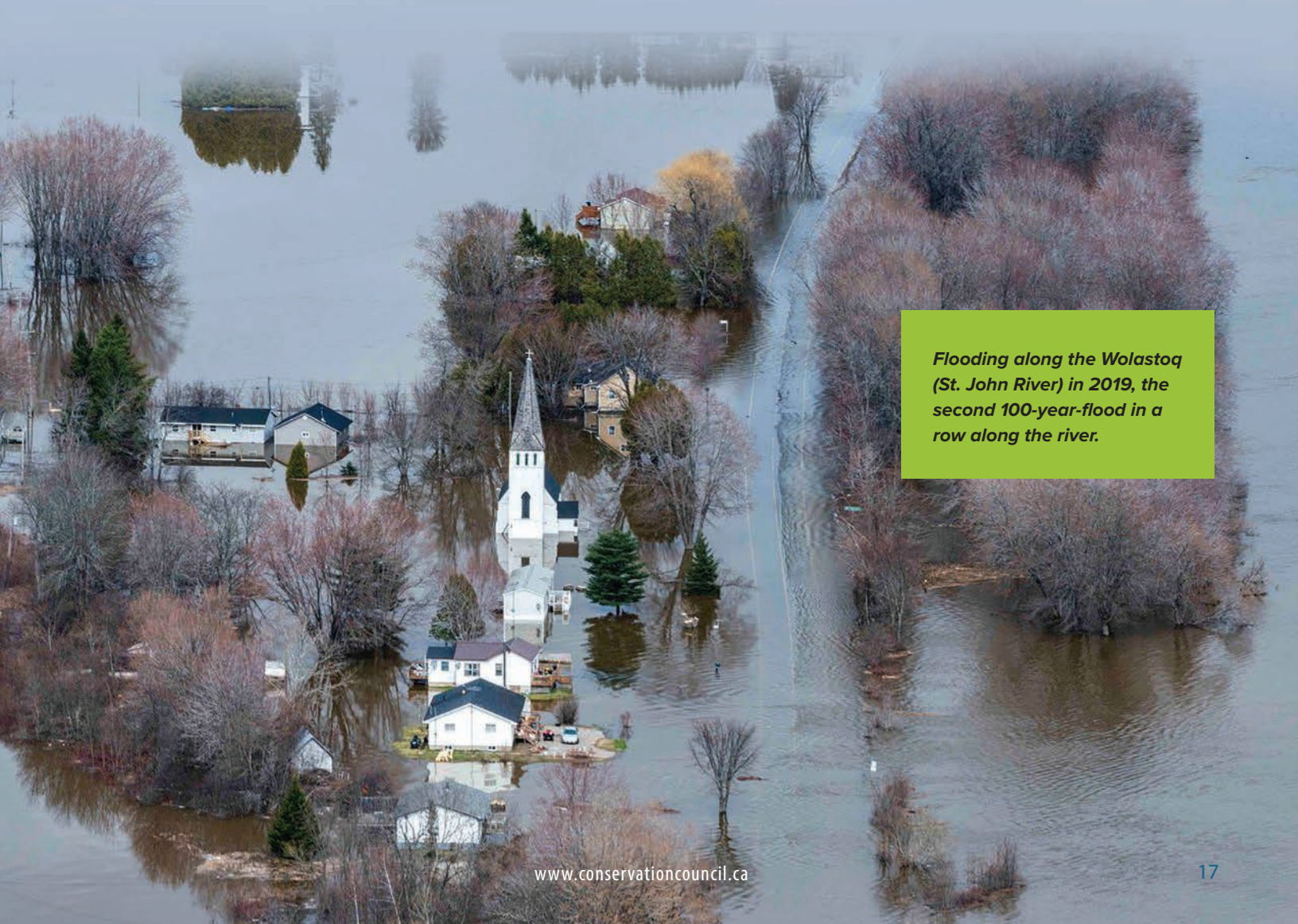
With respect, I’d rather see him intervene with strong action that protects our communities and our health, instead of spending citizens’ tax money fighting the federal government in court.

Now that the court has weighed in, the Premier can put climate action, including putting a price on pollution that meets federal requirements and lets the province decide how to spend the money, front and centre.

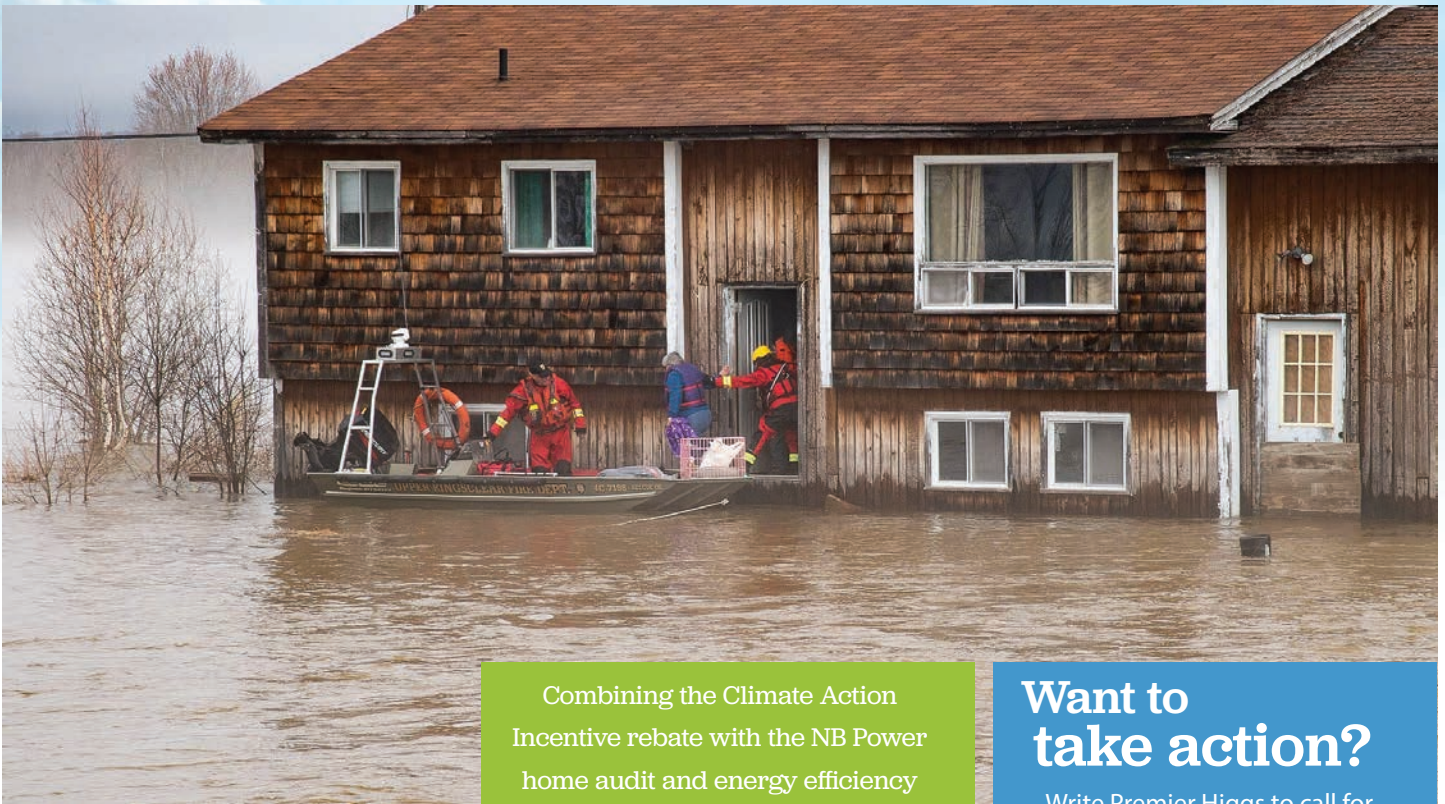
He could negotiate with the federal government to get home heating fuels exempt, as the other Atlantic provinces did. He could cut other provincial taxes, such as the excise tax (as our neighbours in P.E.I. and N.L. did), to allow Atlantic carbon prices to rise in lockstep.

A carbon price rebate similar to what consumers receive means that 20 per cent of emissions (and less for some industries) have a carbon price, a level not harming competitiveness.

....Story con't on page 18



Flooding along the Wolastoq (St. John River) in 2019, the second 100-year-flood in a row along the river.



Premier Higgs should regulate New Brunswick's largest polluters to at least the level set by the federal government. The federal output-based system is fair to industry, and works well with New Brunswick's export-driven industries. A carbon price rebate similar to that which consumers receive means that 20 per cent of emissions (and less for some industries) have a carbon price, a level not harming competitiveness.

Premier Higgs should complement this plan, of course, by fully implementing the province's climate action plan, including phasing out coal-fired electricity by 2030, phasing in lower-emitting fuels (clean fuel standard), strengthening efficient building standards, implementing targets for electric vehicle sales, and increasing our use of renewable energy.

Not doing so is a choice — a political choice that does not help New Brunswickers prepare for climate change or to keep our families and communities safe.

Doing as much as we can means New Brunswick makes the deep cuts in pollution that scientists tell us are required and invests in infrastructure and other adaptation measures to keep our families and communities healthy and safe.

As it stands today with the federal carbon price in New Brunswick, independent analysis from the Parliamentary Budget Office confirms that the majority of New Brunswickers will come out ahead. In 2019, the average household in N.B. will receive **\$256** through the **Climate Action Incentive**, which is greater than the cost of the carbon tax for most households.

Combining the Climate Action Incentive rebate with the NB Power home audit and energy efficiency incentives can put all households even further ahead. There are also grants for small businesses, schools, hospitals and municipalities.

Want to take action?
Write Premier Higgs to call for serious action on climate change in New Brunswick. Find our climate action letter campaign at conservationcouncil.ca

New Brunswickers have the skills needed to build the renewable energy system almost all of us want. Premier Higgs can show true leadership in championing the diversification of our economy away from one that is powered by energy that is bad for our health (coal, oil and gas) and toward

one that relies mostly on solar, wind and other renewable sources.

In doing so, Premier Higgs will join the growing list of leaders creating opportunities for workers, businesses and communities in a low-carbon-footprint world. ●



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