



Aug. 28, 2020

To leaders in the 2020 provincial election:

With the upcoming 40th New Brunswick General Election on September 14, 2020, the Nature NB, Nature Trust of New Brunswick, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - NB Chapter and Conservation Council of New Brunswick would like to present you with a number of questions around issues that our members are particularly concerned about. We are eager to share your answers with our constituency that collectively accounts for more than 10,000 people.

What will you do to increase New Brunswick's current 4.6% protected land for conservation to the international and national targets of 25% by 2025, and 30% by 2030?

Nature is important to New Brunswickers, and yet the province has only 4.6 percent of its land protected for nature conservation purposes. The current government committed to bring protected areas to 10% by 2020 but that still leaves 90% of the province's land to be used for commercial and industrial purposes. New Brunswick has a low-cost opportunity to be a global leader in achieving the Government of Canada and internationally adopted targets for nature conservation. This should include the implementation of the Restigouche Wilderness Waterway protected area/park, making sure it strongly protects nature, and is done in consultation and partnership with Indigenous Peoples.

We need to develop and implement a New Brunswick strategy to achieve at least 25% protected lands for the province by 2025 and 35% by 2035, and a vision of how we progressively contribute more to protection, in light of nation-wide targets and the need to do our part to halt the biodiversity crisis.

What will you do to protect wetlands, buffers along streams, rivers, coastal habitats and floodplains as well as healthy forests to protect us from flooding due to the changing climate?

Wetlands, buffer zones along streams and rivers, floodplains, and healthy forests all play a role in reducing the risk of flood damage to infrastructure and homes. Coastal developments have harmed many coastal systems, and made them less resilient to sea level rise and other changes. Maintaining these ecosystems will increase our resilience to the impacts from a changing climate. The government has developed a flood risk reduction strategy, a climate change plan, a water strategy, but none of these have ever been implemented in regulations. In addition, while the *Municipalities Act* and the *Community Planning Act* have been updated, we are still waiting for Provincial Statements of Interest that will allow for strong, overarching policy statements aimed at increasing our resiliency.

We need to develop strong regulations around wetlands, buffer zones, and water to reduce risks from climate change, and put in place strong Provincial Statements of Interest to guide future land use management.

What will you do to implement the provincial water strategy?

New Brunswick released a water strategy that includes the protection of all wetlands as important for water conservation and quality. No regulations have been developed so far to take the strategy beyond a policy document, nor has the proposed watershed protection legislation been introduced. The water strategy, if implemented in law, will provide clear direction as to protection for waters and wetlands in the province.

We need to develop strong laws to support the water strategy's goals, and to protect our water resources and wetlands.



Who we are:

Nature NB is a provincial conservation organization comprised of a dozen naturalist clubs from across the province and hundreds of members. Our mission is to celebrate, conserve and protect New Brunswick's natural heritage through education, networking and collaboration.

The Nature Trust of New Brunswick is New Brunswick's provincial land trust, dedicated to conserving land, stewarding the ensuing nature preserves, and engaging the people of our province in conservation and stewardship work. We are a dynamic charitable organization that has established broad support in the province from a wide range of stakeholders, volunteers and donors, while protecting some outstanding natural sites. To date, the Nature Trust has conserved over 9,000 acres on 66 nature preserves, from pristine forests and shorelines, to coastal islands and wetlands, brimming with biodiversity including species at risk.

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – NB Chapter is part of the nation-wide charity CPAWS, with a mission to work with governments, Indigenous peoples and communities to protect more of Canada's publicly managed lands and water – for the benefit of both wildlife and people. We work cooperatively with all parts of society to find solutions to nature conservation challenges and to connect people to the nature that supports us all. CPAWS-NB has led public campaigns that have resulted in over 150,000 hectares of new protected areas in New Brunswick.

Conservation Council of New Brunswick / Le Conseil de conservation du Nouveau-Brunswick established in 1969 and has remained the province's leading public advocate for environmental protection. A member of the UN's Global 500 Roll of Honour, we work to find practical solutions to help families and citizens, educators, governments and businesses protect the air we breathe, the water we drink, the precious marine ecosystem and the land, including the forest, that support us.

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