



October 27, 2021

Honourable Blaine Higgs
Chancery Place
P. O. Box 6000
Fredericton, NB
E3B 5H1
Canada

Dear Premier Higgs,

We are writing to offer the Conservation Council of New Brunswick's thoughts on opportunities to advance climate action in the upcoming legislative session. We understand this will be a busy session given your priorities for municipal and health-care reform. Keeping New Brunswickers well-served by local government and healthy also requires we pay attention to their energy and environmental needs. As you know, our climate is changing rapidly, degrading municipal and electricity infrastructure and mental and physical health through heat waves, ticks, flooding and extreme weather.

New Brunswick's climate action plan reaches the five-year mark this December and requires a review and update. We urge you to use this opportunity to fill gaps in the current plan, particularly as it relates to electricity policy and reform. As the world rapidly replaces fossil fuels with non-polluting energy, our economies will increasingly become more electrified. This means building on current provincial strengths to replace our fossil-fuel power plants within the next 10 years. We note the timeline because the rapidly declining global carbon budget will lead to significantly deeper emissions cuts, well beyond our current national and provincial trajectory. New Brunswick needs to prepare for the rapid transition to a near-zero world over the next decade and beyond.

We urge you to prioritize the review of the province's climate action plan, including ensuring adequate consultation with Indigenous rights' holders and stakeholders through consultation and review of options by the Legislative Committee on Climate Change and Environmental Stewardship. We believe consultations should begin before December 2021 to develop options for Legislative consideration before March 2022 so new initiatives, including relating to electricity policy and programing and electrification of transportation and industrial processes can be included in carbon pricing spending allocations in fiscal 2022-2023.

With respect to showing our commitment to climate action internationally, we urge New Brunswick to join British Columbia, Alberta, and Ontario as members of the global [Powering Past Coal Alliance](#) launched by Canada and the United Kingdom.

Respectfully,



Lois Corbett
Executive Director



Louise Comeau
Director Climate Change and Energy Solutions

Cc:

Hon. Michael Holland, Minister of Natural Resources and Energy Development;

Hon. Gary Crossman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change;

Keith Cronkhite, CEO NB Power