

A person in a blue and black plaid shirt and a cap is fly fishing in a river. The fishing line is captured in mid-air, creating a graceful arc. The background is a dense forest with trees showing autumn foliage in shades of yellow, orange, and brown. The water is calm, reflecting the surrounding environment.

Working to Protect N.B. Rivers, Lakes and Streams for 51 Years

What we're doing and what more needs to be done



Our History on Water Protection

- Saint John River (1969)
- Environ. Protection Act (1980)
- Underground Storage Tanks (1987)
- Bay of Fundy
- Bay of Chaleur/Northumberland Strait work
- Clean Water Act (1989)
- Lakes and rivers (2002)
- Shale gas and water (2010-16)
- Comprehensive watershed-based protections , i.e. water classification plus new legislation (2016-2021)



Setting the stage for improvement

- Undertook updated comprehensive public opinion survey, 1st quarter, 2020
- 500+ citizens surveyed
- Results used to both inform our communications strategy and to help empower government
- Released results Sept. 2, 2020
- In partnership with CPAWS-NB, Atlantic Salmon Federation



Top Line Messages

- 80% of those asked said that protecting water quality in N.B. rivers, lakes and streams was important, or very important when govt makes decisions (i.e. forest management plans, Protected Areas)
- Climate change, protecting waterways, protecting forests lead the issues identified by citizens as the most important issues facing N.B.
- 2/3rds of New Brunswickers say they participate in outdoor activities regularly, like canoeing, kayaking, fishing and hunting
- Previous research by CCNB shows citizens strongly believe governments are mismanaging fresh water:
 - 79% of those asked said they were worried about pollution going into rivers, lakes and streams
 - 76% are concerned about water quality



We asked New Brunswickers
what they love about their water



Full polling results available at: conservationcouncil.ca/our-programs/freshwater-protection/

We asked New Brunswickers
what worried them the most



Full polling results available at: conservationcouncil.ca/our-programs/freshwater-protection/

WHAT CONCERNS NEW BRUNSWICKERS ABOUT THEIR FOREST



Endangered species
Lacking protected areas
Low rivers and streams
Clearcuts
Roads
Fires
Climate change
Glyphosate
Pollution

Source: Conservation & Forestry Survey Report, Sept. 2020. Available at conservationcouncil.ca

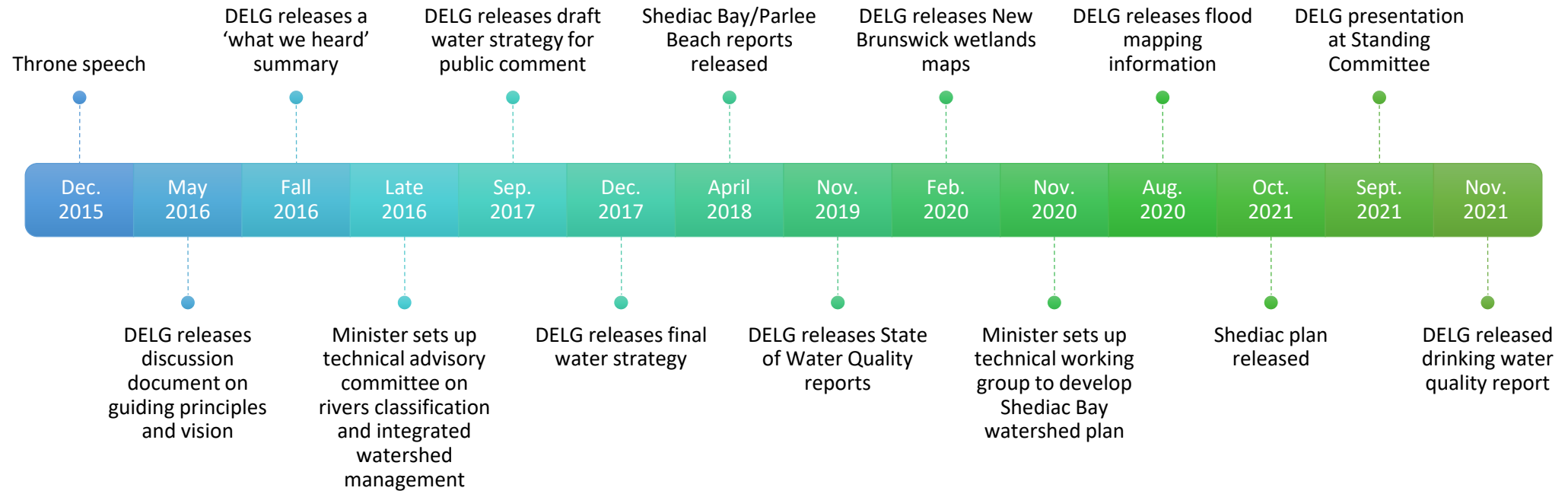
Full polling results available at conservationcouncil.ca

What does N.B. need to protect freshwater?

- Modern, comprehensive water protection strategy and regulations/legislation
- Watershed-based integrated management plans, and, in some instances sub-watershed plans
- Strategic partnership with federal government departments like Environmental and Climate Change, Fisheries and Oceans



Timeline of the current water strategy



Update: NB Water Strategy Progress, 2020-21

- Release of updated flood maps, August 2020
 - watching for new online flood hazard maps for coasts and rivers, fall 2021
- Release of State of NB water report, late 2019, key issues include blue green algae, invasive species
 - emerging concerns include pharmaceuticals, flame retardants
 - watching for updated report, 2022
- Release of new wetland reference maps, early 2021, to be updated annually
- Release of municipal drinking water quality technical report, Oct. 2021
- Release of Shediac Bay Watershed Plan, fall, 2021



No progress (yet), on key recommendations

- Regulating water quality standards
- Updating forest management plans to protect rivers and streams
- Comprehensive watershed protection planning legislation/regulations — i.e. major update to *Clean Water Act*
 - Shediac Bay plan positioned as a 'voluntary pilot' by the gov't



Federal measures

- \$1-Billion commitment, August 2021
- Establishing Canada Water Agency
 - CCNB commented on draft paper, stressing, especially, transboundary watersheds
 - Working with other groups, Canadian Coalition for Healthy Waters
- *Fisheries Act* guidance, regulations, cumulative effects and fish habitat protection policy
- Toxic reduction plan, CEPA updates
- Plastics bans



Moving Forward: Key Activities Freshwater 2021-22

- **Work collaboratively with First Nations**
- **Meet with Minister(s) and officials**
- **Brief MLAs and MPs**
- **Work collaboratively with groups along St. John (Wolastoq) River re: Canada Water Agency**
- **Work collaboratively with watershed caucus of the NBEN**
- **Push for fed/prov agreement, freshwater protection**
- **Work with national coalition, *Fisheries Act* regulations (cumulative effects, habitat protection)**
- **Update CCNB's freshwater website materials**



2020 N.B. Executive Council (Cabinet) Members / Watersheds

Legend

- 1 - Acadian Peninsula Composite
- 2 - Chaleur Bay Composite
- 3 - East Fundy Composite
- 4 - Fundy Isles Composite
- 5 - Inner Bay of Fundy Composite
- 6 - Miramichi River
- 7 - Nepisiquit River
- 8 - Northumberland Strait Composite
- 9 - Petitcodiac Composite
- 10 - Restigouche River Basin
- 11 - Saint John River Basin
- 12 - St. Croix River Basin
- 13 - West Fundy Composite

Members of the Executive

- (46) Margaret Johnson - Carleton-Victoria
- (43) Dominic Cardy - Fredericton-Hanwell
- (41) Jill Green - Fredericton North
- (37) Mary Wilson - Oromocto-Lincoln Fredericton
- (33) Dorothy Shephard - Saint John Lancaster
- (29) Hugh J.A (Ted) Flemming - Rothesay
- (32) Arlene Dunn - Saint John Harbor
- (28) Blain Higgs - Quispamsis
- (31) Trevor Holder - Portland Simons
- (27) Gary Crossman - Hampton
- (30) Glen Savoie - Saint John East
- (26) Tammy Scott-Wallace - Sussex-Fundy-St. Martins
- (24) Mike Holland - Albert
- (21) Ernie Steeves - Moncton Northwest
- (18) Daniel Allain - Moncton East
- (23) Bruce Fitch - Riverview

