

## CCNB Recommendations for the Government of Canada's Budget 2024

Throughout its 54-year history, the Conservation Council of New Brunswick (CCNB) has strived to increase awareness of environmental issues and advocate for solutions by conducting research, educating the public, and implementing interventions. We at the CCNB are committed to promoting solutions that are socially, environmentally, and economically responsible.

Canada has witnessed unprecedented climate-related disasters, including wildfires, floods, and warming oceans. Urgent action is needed to mitigate these risks, protect communities, and enhance public health. Investing in environmental initiatives and energy efficiency programs not only mitigates climate change but also enhances affordability, improves public health, and promotes social equity. In addition, Canada's natural spaces and species are in a dangerous decline. We must act now to halt and reverse nature's decline in Canada. Below, we provide recommendations for the Government of Canada to consider when developing Budget 2024. The proposed measures align with the goals of Budget 2024 and demonstrate Canada's commitment to sustainable development.

1. **Nature Protection and Recovery:** Allocate funds to implement Canada's commitments under the Global Biodiversity Framework. The budget must include funding for permanent funding to support Indigenous-led conservation and eliminate subsidies that harm our environment. Our experience working with the Peskotomuhkati Nation at Skutik on watershed-wide fish passage and habitat improvement efforts funded first by the Coastal Restoration Fund and now the Aquatic Ecosystems Restoration Fund is a powerful example of how effective funding programs such as the AERF can be in generating significant restoration, and the resulting climate resilience, across Canada. We recommend continued and increased investment in programs such as the AERF.
2. **Marine and Freshwater Resources:** Allocate funds to protect and restore marine and freshwater areas to ensure the preservation of their biodiversity and ecological integrity. We recommend increased funding for marine conservation

planning, MPA network planning, and inland watershed management planning particularly for those coastal and freshwater systems most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and to activities that damage their resiliency.

3. **Forest Resources:** Allocate funds to protect and restore our degraded forest ecosystems, particularly the Wabanaki (Acadian) forest. The Wabanaki forest is one of Canada's most endangered temperate forests and yet, traditionally, Atlantic Canada has only received 2.5% of all environmental funding nationally and has the lowest percentage of protected areas in the country. The government must invest in saving this forest ecosystem now before it is too late.
4. **Electrify Public Transit and School Buses:** Allocating funds towards electrifying public transportation and school buses is essential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality, especially for our youth.
5. **Climate-Resilient Homes:** Invest in affordable home energy solutions to mitigate climate impacts and reduce household expenses. These measures should help home renters as well as homeowners.
6. **Home Energy Affordability Assistance Program:** Launch a nationwide Home Energy Affordability Assistance Program for low-to-moderate-income home renters and owners in Canada.
7. **Renewable Electricity Grid:** Allocate resources for transitioning to a zero-emissions electricity grid based on renewables (wind, solar, and storage).
8. **National Adaptation Strategy:** Implement the National Adaptation Strategy to enhance resilience to climate impacts.
9. **Municipal Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Plans:** Allocate funds to empower local municipalities in implementing tailored adaptation and mitigation strategies to address climate change impacts and reduce greenhouse gas emissions within their communities.
10. **Just Transition:** Support workers and communities affected by the shift to low-carbon solutions. Invest in training and green job creation.
11. **Office of Environmental Justice:** Establish an Office of Environmental Justice to address environmental inequalities.
12. **Environmental Literacy, Education and Training:** Invest in Canadian youth, the green economy, and our environment by funding programs that increase Canadian's understanding of and appreciation for the natural world, issues impacting our environment and health, and solutions for our climate and biodiversity crises.
13. **Windfall Profit Tax:** Introduce a windfall profit tax on the fossil fuel industry to fund environmental investments. A windfall tax could provide a substantial boost in funding for clean energy and infrastructure investments by levying additional charges on the profits of fossil fuel companies.

We also plead with the government to not invest or subsidize any fossil fuel infrastructure and to identify, and eliminate or redirect subsidies that harm nature or Canada's growing green economy.

Further resources to consider for Budget 2024:

[Green Budget Coalition: Recommendations for Budget 2024](#)

[Efficiency Canada: Climate and Affordability in Budget 2024](#)