



February 29, 2024

The Hon. Ernie L. Steeves  
Minister of Finance and Treasury Board  
P.O. Box 6000  
Fredericton, NB E3B 5H1

**Re: Pre-Budget Consultations 2024 – Recommendations from the Conservation Council of New Brunswick**

Dear Minister Steeves:

On behalf of the Conservation Council of New Brunswick (CCNB), please accept the attached submission as part of the Government of New Brunswick's pre-budget consultations. We thank the government for the invitation to share our recommendations on how to best support New Brunswickers during these challenging times and in the future.

The Government of New Brunswick is projecting its fourth consecutive budget surplus. While the government has touted this as a triumph, these surpluses are coming at the cost of the health and well-being of New Brunswickers. This poor fiscal planning has led to neglect of people and the environment. We are facing a climate crisis, a biodiversity crisis, an affordable housing crisis, and a health care crisis, and we strongly urge the government to reinvest in programs that benefit their constituents and the environment.

We ask the government to consider climate change and its impacts on New Brunswickers when making budget decisions for 2024. Every decision we make or don't make is a climate decision. Therefore, we ask the government to invest in our green economy and eliminate all subsidies that harm nature.

Importantly, we must acknowledge that there are Canadians living in energy poverty. Many of these people have to make the difficult choice between buying groceries or paying their heating bills. The government must do more to address environmental inequalities, support workers and communities affected by a shift to low-carbon solutions, and protect our most vulnerable citizens.

Please get in touch with me if you would like to discuss our submission in detail.

Sincerely,

Beverly (Bev) Gingras  
Executive Director  
Conservation Council of New Brunswick

Enclosure: CCNB Recommendations for the Government of New Brunswick's Budget 2024

CC: Matt Abbott, Marine Program Director  
Moe Qureshi, Director of Climate Research and Policy  
Corey Robichaud, Director of Communications