



August 28, 2025

The Honourable
Minister of Finance
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Champagne,

Re: Recommendations for Budget 2025–2026 – Building a Cleaner, Greener, More Resilient Canada

On behalf of the Conservation Council of New Brunswick, we are pleased to submit recommendations for the remainder of the 2025–2026 federal budget. These recommendations are grounded in decades of environmental expertise and community engagement and are designed to address Canada’s concurrent crises of affordability, biodiversity loss, and climate change, while ensuring long-term economic resilience and public health protection.

We urge your government to adopt these targeted and achievable measures to accelerate the clean energy transition, restore Canada’s ecosystems, adapt to climate impacts, and uphold the rights and leadership of Indigenous peoples. Each recommendation is aligned with Canada’s domestic and international commitments, presenting an opportunity to build a more just, prosperous, and sustainable future.

We thank you for your consideration and welcome the opportunity to meet to discuss these recommendations further.

Sincerely,

Beverly Gingras
Executive Director
Conservation Council of New Brunswick



Budget 2025–2026 Recommendations:

Building a Cleaner, Greener, More Resilient Canada

1. Invest in a Renewable, Resilient Energy Future

Estimated Federal Investment: \$34 billion over 5 years

a. Accelerate the Transition to a Zero-Emissions Electricity Grid

Allocate \$20 billion over 5 years to scale wind, solar, and energy storage projects across Canada. Prioritize Indigenous- and community-led renewable energy development with long-term financing supports, while building interprovincial grid capacity to integrate renewable power. These investments will help reduce emissions, enhance energy security, and meet Canada's 2035 net-zero electricity target.

b. Expand Home and Community Energy Solutions

Invest \$10 billion over 5 years to support deep energy retrofits, electrification of homes (including heat pumps), and community-scale energy efficiency programs. Include dedicated funding streams for renters, low-to-moderate income households, and remote Indigenous communities. Programs should be designed with Indigenous governance and ensure equitable access to efficiency measures.

c. Electrify Public Infrastructure

Invest \$3 billion over 4 years in the electrification of public transit and school bus fleets, prioritizing rural and underserved regions. Allocate \$500 million annually to build a reliable, accessible national EV charging network, including urban multi-unit housing, highway corridors, and northern or Indigenous communities. Ensure smart grid and vehicle-to-grid/home (V2X) integration to manage peak demand and leverage renewable generation.

d. Resource Environmental Assessment Processes

Allocate \$500 million annually to increase capacity for timely, science-based environmental assessments, including Indigenous-led assessments and decision-making. This ensures

renewable energy and infrastructure projects can advance efficiently while upholding strong environmental protections.

2. Integrate Nature Protection and Climate Adaptation

Estimated Federal Investment: \$4.75 billion over 5 years

a. Scale Up Indigenous-Led Conservation and Protected Areas

Invest \$2.5 billion over 5 years in Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs), Guardians programs, and low-barrier conservation funding streams. Support long-term stewardship, ecological monitoring, and co-governance with Indigenous Nations to achieve 30% land and water protection by 2030 under the Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework.

b. Restore and Reconnect Freshwater and Terrestrial Ecosystems

Provide \$1 billion over 5 years to expand the Aquatic Ecosystems Restoration Fund, Habitat Stewardship Program, and large-scale habitat connectivity projects. Prioritize watersheds, wetlands, forests, and wildlife corridors that enhance climate resilience, reduce flood and drought risks, and enable species migration under changing conditions.

c. Embed Adaptation and Resilience in All Conservation Initiatives

Allocate \$750 million over 5 years to integrate climate risk assessments, wildfire and drought planning, and invasive species management into all conservation programs. Focus on nature-based solutions that provide cost-effective disaster mitigation, public health benefits, and enhanced ecosystem services for communities.

3. Align Economic, Trade, and Tax Policy with Climate and Affordability Goals

Estimated Federal Investment & Fiscal Measures: \$3–4 billion annually

a. Reform Fiscal and Tax Policy to Support a Just Climate Transition

Introduce a windfall profit tax on fossil fuel companies, projected to raise \$2–3 billion annually, and redirect revenues to renewable energy, climate resilience, and affordability initiatives. Eliminate environmentally harmful subsidies and reallocate \$3 billion per year to clean energy and nature-based solutions. Tie federal economic supports to climate performance to prevent public funds from supporting carbon-intensive activities.

b. Ensure Climate Equity in Trade and Tariff Policy

Dedicate revenue from carbon border adjustments and import tariffs to Indigenous, rural, and resource-dependent communities affected by the energy transition. Support Indigenous economic sovereignty through direct investments in renewable energy, clean transportation, and environmental stewardship enterprises.

c. Align Financial Systems with Climate and Biodiversity Goals

Invest \$100 million to advance sustainable finance regulation, requiring federally regulated institutions and corporations receiving federal support to disclose climate risks and align with Canada's net-zero and biodiversity commitments.

4. Strengthen Community-Based Climate Action

Estimated Federal Investment: \$5 billion over 5 years

a. Support Indigenous-Led Climate Adaptation and Infrastructure

Provide \$2 billion over 8 years for Indigenous-led climate risk assessments, adaptation planning, and the construction of resilient local infrastructure such as fire breaks, flood defenses, and emergency shelters. Funding should be flexible, long-term, and co-developed to reflect self-determination and reconciliation principles.

b. Empower Local Governments to Implement Climate Solutions

Invest \$2 billion over 5 years to support municipalities in implementing integrated climate action plans, with emphasis on nature-based infrastructure, clean transportation, and urban greening. Include technical assistance and outcome-based incentives for small and rural municipalities to overcome capacity barriers.

c. Invest in Resilient and Healthy Infrastructure

Dedicate \$1 billion to shovel-ready infrastructure projects that reduce climate risks and provide co-benefits for health, nature, and local economies, including cooling centers, green stormwater systems, and wildfire buffer zones.

5. Invest in Environmental Literacy, Health, and Equity

Estimated Federal Investment: \$1 billion over 5 years

a. Support Indigenous-Led Environmental Education and Knowledge Transmission

Allocate \$250 million over 5 years for Indigenous-led, land-based education programs that promote ecological knowledge, cultural practices, and climate resilience skills, with multi-year funding to build long-term capacity.

b. Build Climate and Environmental Literacy Across Canada

Invest \$150 million over 3 years to expand environmental and climate education across K–12 and post-secondary curricula, and develop green skills training programs for youth, newcomers, and equity-deserving groups.

c. Strengthen Public Health and Climate Resilience

Provide \$500 million over 5 years for air quality monitoring networks, clean air shelters, and climate-health infrastructure in regions facing wildfire smoke, extreme heat, or flooding.

Focus on vulnerable populations, including seniors, children, and those with chronic health conditions.

d. Advance Environmental Justice Through Institutional Reform

Invest \$100 million over 5 years to establish an Office of Environmental Justice with Indigenous leadership and a community grants program, to monitor pollution, enforce standards, and support local environmental health initiatives.

6. Combat Misinformation to Safeguard Democracy, Public Health, and Climate Progress

Estimated Federal Investment: \$425 million over 5 years

a. Develop a National Strategy to Counter Climate and Health Misinformation

Invest \$200 million to design and implement a coordinated, cross-departmental strategy for identifying, preventing, and responding to misinformation campaigns affecting climate, biodiversity, and public health.

b. Fund Trusted Messengers and Community Outreach

Allocate \$100 million to support Indigenous knowledge holders, scientists, health professionals, and youth leaders as trusted public communicators through digital and community-based engagement programs.

c. Support Indigenous and Community Media

Provide \$75 million to expand Indigenous-owned media and local journalism to produce culturally relevant, evidence-based content that counters disinformation and builds public awareness.

d. Strengthen Public and School-Based Media Literacy

Dedicate \$50 million to public campaigns and school-based media literacy programs teaching Canadians how to evaluate sources and understand misinformation tactics.

7. Address Toxic Chemicals and Contaminated Sites to Protect Public Health and Ecosystems

Estimated Federal Investment: \$2.625 billion over 8 years + \$300 million annually

a. Renew and Strengthen the Chemicals Management Plan

Invest \$300 million annually to permanently fund and expand the CMP, with capacity for cumulative exposure assessment, vulnerable population protection, and integration of Indigenous Knowledge in decision-making.

b. Tackle PFAS, Glyphosate, and Other Harmful Substances

Allocate \$100 million over 5 years to phase out glyphosate in forestry and agriculture, and \$150 million over 5 years to implement a national PFAS reduction strategy, including wastewater treatment and public health monitoring.

c. Accelerate the Remediation of Contaminated Sites

Provide \$2 billion over 8 years to reduce the backlog of high-risk contaminated sites, prioritizing Indigenous-led cleanups and restoration of ecologically and culturally significant lands.

d. Improve Public Transparency and Monitoring

Invest \$75 million to create a publicly accessible database of toxic substance use, PFAS and glyphosate contamination, and site remediation progress, along with community-based monitoring programs.