

Blaine Higgs, Leader
Progressive Conservative Party of New Brunswick
336 Regent Street
Fredericton, NB E3B 3X4

August 9, 2018

Dear Mr. Higgs,

Like you, your fellow New Brunswickers love their province. Sadly, many decide to leave due to a lack of economic opportunities here at home; many who stay in the province are unemployed¹ or under-employed. To make matters worse, climate change-related events cost our economy millions every year. Canada-wide, costs are expected to rise into the 10s of billions every year as the strength of climate change-related events increase and our infrastructure degrades further².

There is good news. Investing in a low-carbon economy can provide significantly greater long-term prosperity than our current path. Through investments in Energy Efficiency & Conservation, Renewable Energy & Public Transit, and a Just Transition for Workers, we can together move this province onto a different path and into a brighter future.

The Green Economy Network (GEN) has calculated that New Brunswick could create 23,478 person-years of employment over a five-year period through a total public investment of \$1.73 billion in energy efficiency and conservation, renewable energy, and public transit. In addition, targeted public investment in these three priority areas will reduce New Brunswick's annual greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by up to 4.5 megatonnes (Mt). (See attached document.) This investment would provide skilled jobs right here in New Brunswick that cannot be relocated to other jurisdictions, laying a strong foundation for continued growth and prosperity here in the province. Furthermore, the federal government has and continues to commit large amounts of funding to the transition to a low-carbon economy, a boat which could easily be missed if New Brunswick is not proactive.

Therefore, we the undersigned ask that you commit to the following:

- **Energy Efficiency & Conservation:** Devote \$750 million over the next five years to enable New Brunswickers to invest in energy efficiency retrofits in their homes and businesses. This will help New Brunswick families and businesses save on energy costs, while enabling construction companies to hire more workers and provide valuable experience to apprentices.
- **Renewable Energy & Public Transit:** Invest \$779 million over the next five years in renewable energy and \$198 million in the expansion of public transit in the province. Wind, wave, solar, micro-hydro, and tidal power represent significant sources of renewable power for the province that have yet to be fully explored and, at the same time, these industries offer significant employment opportunities in a number of different sectors. The Select Committee on Climate

¹ Employment and Social Development Canada, March 2018. The Labour Market Bulletin for New Brunswick.

² National Roundtable on the Environment and the Economy, 2011. Paying the Price: The Economic Impacts of Climate Change for Canada.

Change (2016) laid out an excellent path for increasing renewables in the province, with recommendations to increase the target for in-province electricity sales from renewable sources to 60% by 2030, to use renewables for heat and power in government buildings, to expand the small-scale community renewables program, and other measures. They also recommended that planning for public transportation, a critical public service, be instituted at the regional level to allow for route integration and improvements in access.

- **Just Transition for Workers:** Invest in post-secondary education to provide trades training for young people and in re-training to ensure a just transition for our current work-force. The low-carbon economy will require electricians, welders, plumbers, construction workers, and many more certified tradespersons from apprentice to Red Seal level. The New Brunswick Community College system prides itself on being responsive to the province's economy in terms of fulfilling training needs and, with the right investment, NBCC and other post-secondary institutions can ensure that we can meet the future labour needs of the low-carbon economy.

We believe these investments will put New Brunswick on a clear path to a low-carbon economy. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Citizens Coalition for Clean Air, Saint John
Concerned Citizens of Saint John
Conservation Council of New Brunswick
Council of Canadians - Fredericton Chapter
Council of Canadians - Kent County Chapter
Council of Canadians - Saint John Chapter
CUPE New Brunswick
EcoVie, Kedgwick
EOS Eco-Energy, Sackville
Green Economy Network
New Brunswick Anti-Shale Gas Alliance
New Brunswick Federation of Labour
New Brunswick Union
New Brunswickers Against Fracking
OCIA-Atlantic
Pays de Cocagne Sustainable Development Group, Cocagne
Penniac Anti-Shale-Gas Organization
Public Service Alliance of Canada
Sierra Club Canada Foundation - Atlantic Canada Chapter
Sustainable Energy Group - Carleton Chapter
Taymouth Environmental Action
Verts Rivages, Shippagan
Water and Environmental Protection for Albert County