



Coalition for Responsible Energy Development in New Brunswick
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Standing Committee on Natural Resources
House of Commons
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6
By e-mail: RNNR@parl.gc.ca

Brief for the RNNR Study: Canadian Energy Exports

Introduction to CRED-NB

The Coalition for Responsible Energy Development in New Brunswick (CRED-NB), a volunteer community-based organization formed in May 2020, provides education to the public and advocates for responsible energy development to address the climate crisis. CRED-NB represents more than 20 citizen groups and businesses and more than 150 individuals across New Brunswick, listed on our website: <https://crednb.ca/about/>

CRED-NB Position: Canadian energy exports should not include electricity generated by nuclear energy because of the heavy costs borne by Canadians.

1. Nuclear energy is subsidized by Canadian taxpayers and ratepayers

Since our formation, CRED-NB has been concerned with the high cost of nuclear energy in New Brunswick. Nuclear fission is the most expensive way to produce electricity. Ratepayers in New Brunswick are subsidizing nuclear energy primarily through higher rates. The New Brunswick government also gives funds directly to NB Power to subsidize the cost of nuclear energy, most recently last week in the 2026 provincial budget: \$9.9 million to the utility to prepare for future nuclear development. The cost of producing nuclear energy is also heavily subsidized by taxpayers in Ontario.

The price at which the electricity is sold does not take these public subsidies into account. If nuclear energy is exported as electricity, those costs must include a premium to ensure that Canadian taxpayers are compensated for the subsidies they are paying for the nuclear plants.



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2. The risk of nuclear accidents is borne by Canadians living in proximity to nuclear plants

Nuclear energy always carries the catastrophic risk of reactor meltdown. The high cost of nuclear power is explained in part by the protocols and staff employed to ensure that a meltdown never happens. However the risk is always there, borne by those living in proximity to a nuclear plant. The cleanup costs from the [2011 Fukushima disaster totalled about US\\$200 billion](#) and the estimated costs from the [1986 Chernobyl accident reached as high as US\\$700 billion](#). The Canadian Government sets a [liability limit for civil damages for each facility of \\$1 billion](#) which means the remainder of the risk is assumed by taxpayers and those in the region of a nuclear facility. Producing nuclear energy for electricity exports means that the risks of a catastrophic accident are borne by Canadians for electricity used outside the country.

3. The risks and costs of managing nuclear waste from Canadian reactors rest with Canadians

There are huge risks and costs related to managing the radioactive waste produced by nuclear plants in Canada that will remain toxic for hundreds of thousands of years until the radioactive elements degrade to a safe level. These risks and costs are also borne by Canadians, even though the electricity produced will be used by those living outside the country if that electricity is exported.

Thank you for considering our concerns.

Ann McAllister, Chair, CRED-NB