



Coalition for Responsible Energy Development in New Brunswick  
PO Box 104 • Fredericton • N.B. • E3B 4Y2  
<https://crednb.ca> • [info@crednb.ca](mailto:info@crednb.ca)

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Standing Committee on Natural Resources  
Sixth Floor, 131 Queen Street  
House of Commons  
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

By e-mail: [RNNR@parl.gc.ca](mailto:RNNR@parl.gc.ca)

**Brief from CRED-NB for the study on Canada's Electrification, Energy Self-Sufficiency and Domestic Energy Security**

**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's brief for the Committee's study**

New Brunswickers urgently need more affordable, reliable and cleaner electricity as we head into an uncertain future.

Our brief outlines our plan for New Brunswick's electrification, energy self-sufficiency and energy security.



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## **Vision**

We envision a New Brunswick electricity system that provides affordable power solely from clean non-emitting renewable energy. The vision's guideposts are:

- No greenhouse gas or toxic emissions from power generation.
- Local communities participate in electricity project decisions and benefits. (i.e. energy democracy)
- Residents have affordable power prices.
- Businesses have power rates which allow them to operate competitively.
- NB Power has restored its debt-to-equity ratio

## **Key Steps**

The Government of New Brunswick should direct the appropriate government departments and NB Power to deploy policies and programs to ensure the completion of these key steps.

- Engage communities in developing a provincial electricity strategy.
- Implement programs to accelerate the thermal retrofit of buildings and the use of heat pumps as building heating is a primary cause of high power demand.
- Encourage communities to support local power generation for efficiency and robustness.
- Establish a Renewable Energy Development program to help community representatives and project proponents navigate the development process.
- Train local workers with the skills needed to create and operate renewable energy sources and storage sites.
- Deploy wind and solar power as needed to retire non-renewable sources of power.
- Use modern renewable energy techniques to ensure reliability by:
  - diversifying power generation (by location, type and jurisdiction),
  - fully integrating distributed energy sources (e.g. rooftop solar),
  - using short and long duration storage,
  - and implementing customer controlled automatic demand-side management.



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### **Retire NB Power's Dirty and Most Expensive Electricity Generators**

- Retire Belledune generating station, whether coal-fired or wood-fired, by 2030.
- Retire Point Lepreau nuclear generating station by 2032 when the current license expires.
- Retire Coleson Cove oil-fired generating station by 2035.
- After 2035, restrict the remaining combustion/thermal generating stations to emergency peak demand use only.

### **Produce Electricity Only with Renewables**

- Coal & petroleum coke produces 1,200 GWh which can be replaced with 340 MW of wind power.
- Nuclear produces 4,800 GWh which can be replaced with 1,360 MW of wind power.
- Heavy fuel oil & diesel produces 96 GWh which can be replaced with 30 MW of wind power.
- Mactaquac hydroelectric plant needs major refurbishment and produces 2,600 GWh which can be replaced with 740 MW of wind power.

### **Keep Power Reliable**

Using a range of tools to complement wind and solar ensures both a highly reliable and low-cost electricity system. These technologies are better than fossil gas-fired power plants for handling peak demands as they can react faster, have zero-emissions and have lower costs. Using these technologies instead of adding gas-fired peaker power plants ensures emissions and costs continue to go down.

- Use automatic demand-side management (ADSM) to reduce the need for power at peak times. This can provide several 100 MWs of power flexibility especially as electric vehicle charging becomes more common.
- Plan to trade transient wind & solar power surpluses with neighbouring jurisdictions.
- Use battery storage systems for durations of up to several hours and ancillary services such as frequency regulation. Both the cost and environmental impact of batteries continues to plummet as better chemistries are devised. Cobalt-free lithium-ion batteries, the current standard, appears poised to be pushed aside by more robust cheaper sodium-ion batteries by 2030.



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- Use distributed battery storage systems to economically access locally owned battery storage. An example is vehicle-to-grid (V2G) technology which allows electric vehicles owners to sell electricity from their vehicle battery when needed to support the grid.
- Use long duration storage to handle days of low wind and solar power. The massive hydro reserves in Quebec can be called upon for this purpose when battery storage is used to handle overnight heating peaks affecting both provinces. Other technologies include underground compressed air energy storage and iron-air batteries.

#### **Create Financial Stability for NB Power**

- Increase sales through campaign to electrify transportation, building heating, and industrial heating.
- Use the low cost of wind energy to increase profits, especially for power exports. Make New Brunswick an energy storage and balancing hub for the northeastern grid.

CRED-NB appreciates this opportunity to offer our plan for New Brunswick's electrification, energy self-sufficiency and energy security. We trust that this information will assist the Committee's deliberations.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann McAllister, Chair

Coalition for Responsible Energy Development in New Brunswick (CRED-NB)