

Climate Watch NL Makes Open Submission on Upcoming NL Climate Change Strategy

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With climate change an increasingly urgent priority for Newfoundland and Labrador, Climate Watch NL is happy to see government efforts to develop a new climate change strategy and has submitted a series of recommendations to assist in the strategy's effectiveness and implementation. Climate Watch NL is a network of concerned citizens that envisions a minimal carbon economy for Newfoundland and Labrador by 2050.

The open submission, which has been sent to the provincial government and climate change office is available to read in full here: http://www.climatewatchnl.ca/resources/Climate-Watch-NL-Submission_To_Provincial_Government.Feb-2.pdf

“This submission highlights numerous solutions that are parts of the puzzle of addressing climate change,” says steering committee member Dr. Ian Simpson, “we need to approach climate change as a serious concern for human health and related hazards, both now and in the future.”

Climate change impacts in NL are already particularly noticeable in some communities and, as countries and organizations world-wide make the shift to renewables, our provincial economy is still highly dependent on the fossil fuel industry. The submission proposes a series of policy recommendations intended to help green and diversify the provincial economy, encouraging the creation of new jobs and opportunities, while also assisting communities who are attempting to adapt to the impacts of climate change. A focus on community-focused renewable energy (such as wind, tidal, and solar), justice-oriented carbon pricing, training for workers entering the green economy, the encouragement of electric cars, and logistical support for communities already facing climate change impacts are among the highlights of the submission. The submission also calls for a cultural approach to tackling climate change, building off existing sustainable practices.

“There is a lot of growing concern about climate change in the province, with impacts already being experienced,” states Chris Short (another member), “it's very important government approach this

issue in a proactive way.”

The submission was developed in direct consultation with Climate Watch NL’s policy advisory committee, which brings together experts in environmental policy and science. The organization hopes to continue to inform climate policy and encourages the public to become involved in discussions on climate change. More information on Climate Watch NL can be found on their website www.climatewatchnl.ca and on social media.

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