



Environment Ministers to meet Tuesday to discuss Climate Plan: Groups urge focus on coal phase out, home heating, and carbon pricing

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K'KIPUKTUK (Halifax) --Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, will meet the Atlantic region's environment ministers August 9th in Halifax to discuss climate change solutions. The Conservation Council of New Brunswick (CCNB) and the Ecology Action Centre (EAC) urge ministers to agree to a strategy that would see the region make a just transition to a prosperous, low-carbon economy for Atlantic Canadians.

Atlantic Premiers have committed the region to cutting greenhouse gases by 35% to 45% below 1990 levels by 2030. "One of the most important actions ministers can take is to commit to investments that modernize our electricity system. We need to accelerate investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy and phase coal out of electricity production before 2030," says Louise Comeau Director of Climate Change and Energy Solutions at the Conservation Council of New Brunswick.

Over the last decade, Nova Scotia has been a leader in tackling climate change particularly with respect to energy efficiency and renewables. "I'm worried that Nova Scotia's successful climate change legacy is being eclipsed by other jurisdictions as we continue to hold the status quo." says Stephen Thomas, Energy Campaign Coordinator with the EAC. He added, "Nova Scotia is well positioned to be doing more, including phasing out coal-fired electricity by 2030 and supporting Nova Scotians transitioning off home heating oil. Carbon pricing is another tool for the province to effectively reduce emissions, and Nova Scotia needs to do more to see this federal priority as an opportunity for our province."

The Ministers are meeting in preparation for a First Ministers' meeting in the fall.

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For More Information :

- See Conservation Council of New Brunswick proposed climate action plan: <http://www.conservationcouncil.ca/our-programs/climate-and-energy/>
- See Ecology Action Centre's submissions to the Climate Action Plan: <https://www.ecologyaction.ca/news/national-climate-submissions>