



report

Advisory Committee on the Environment Videoconference

June 15, 2020

The National Union of Public and General Employees (NUPGE) is a family of 11 Component and 3 affiliate unions. Taken together, we are one of the largest unions in Canada. Most of our 390,000 members work to deliver public services of every kind to the citizens of their home provinces. We also have a large and growing number of members who work for private businesses.

Larry Brown, President

Bert Blundon, Secretary-Treasurer

**Advisory Committee on the Environment
Videoconference
June 15, 2020, at 1:00 pm EDT**

PARTICIPANTS

BCGEU/NUPGE	James Coccola
HSABC/NUPGE	Val Avery
HSAA/NUPGE	Jessica (Jessi) Graham
SGEU/NUPGE	Carol Yuzik
MGEU/NUPGE	Charlotte McWilliams
OPSEU/NUPGE	Shawn Burr
NBU/NUPGE	Susie Proulx-Daigle Al Mullin
NSGEU/NUPGE	Paul Cormier
PEI UPSE/NUPGE	Mark Arsenault
NAPE/NUPGE	Antoninus (Tony) Kelly
NUPGE	Larry Brown, President Bert Blundon, Secretary-Treasurer Len Bush, Managing Director (Office of the President) Diane Fowles, Administrative Representative Nadia Ibrahim, National Representative

1. Welcome and Introductions

Participants from 10 Components joined the call, as did Larry Brown, NUPGE President, Bert Blundon, NUPGE Secretary-Treasurer, and 3 NUPGE staff.

The Chair, Nadia Ibrahim, welcomed participants to the meeting and reviewed the agenda. Participants introduced themselves and their roles.

2. National Report

Larry Brown, President, provided an update on NUPGE's recent and ongoing work related to the COVID-19 pandemic response and the economic recovery to follow.

Brown commented on the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in the early days of the pandemic-related shutdowns. It begs the question: "Do we want to go back to normal?" Brown and participants discussed how we collectively will need to go much further to meet our climate targets. Lessons from the pandemic illustrate that we will need to go beyond individual actions, as we need systemic change.

Brown spoke about NUPGE's work to counter the austerity narratives that are emerging in regard to post-pandemic recovery. The discussion with participants emphasized that we will also need to combat "environmental austerity," which threatens cutbacks in environmental protections and regulations.

Relatedly, Bert Blundon, Secretary-Treasurer, highlighted the threat to human rights and labour rights. For example, the Alberta government has passed legislation that undermines the right to protest. Preserving our rights will be crucial to advancing change, including the transition to a more sustainable economy.

3. Component Reports

The Component reports revealed varying experiences across the provinces. There were, however, many common challenges. While more detail can be found in the attached Component reports, what follows is a summary.

Many provincial governments have neglected environmental protection and climate action during the pandemic, or have undone policies and initiatives. For example, Ontario has repealed exemptions for renewable energy projects and suspended aspects of the *Environmental Bill of Rights*. There are several examples in Alberta, including the suspension of industry reporting and environmental monitoring requirements, alongside continued large-scale investments in oil and gas.

In many cases, this represents a continuation of pre-pandemic positions or policies that have failed to prioritize environmental sustainability. For example, the carbon tax has

continued to be a controversial policy, particularly in Ontario, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Alberta. In Newfoundland and Labrador, the government has fallen short on the actual enforcement of environmental policies.

The threat of privatization continues to be a challenge. Examples include the privatization of the Pineland Forest Nursery in Manitoba and the privatization of inspections currently being done within Ontario's environment ministry. Relatedly, the New Brunswick government has prioritized industry over the environment, and has proven to be industry-friendly in its regulatory decisions (e.g., pesticide use).

However, the Component reports also revealed some positive developments and opportunities for advancing environmental protection and climate justice. For example, green energy initiatives are underway in PEI. In BC, the government has said that its climate plan will be integral to its economic recovery from the pandemic.

It was highlighted that the link between health and the environment is something we need to be thinking about. The reliance on single-use items in health care has an impact on the environment. Environmental crises also have significant impacts on people's health and on the health care system. This will be increasingly a concern as climate-change impacts worsen.

A number of reports touched on the prevalence of working from home (WFH) during the pandemic and its potential to continue in the long term. Participants discussed how WFH may reduce the environmental footprint of work and workplaces. Notably, there are still many considerations when it comes to WFH, including access to child care, who pays for equipment costs, and the environmental impacts of home-based work. It was mentioned that a NUPGE paper on this topic is forthcoming.

4. Concluding Remarks

In closing remarks, Blundon identified a theme through many Component reports: governments put environmental and climate issues on the back burner during the pandemic, instead of seeing the pandemic as an opportunity to create systemic change for a more sustainable economy. This reveals government priorities and the need for us to maintain pressure regarding environmental and climate issues. Blundon highlighted the importance of this new committee, and thanked participants for being part of it.

The meeting report will be circulated when complete.

APPENDIX

Component Reports

BCGEU/NUPGE

1. Updates on environmental initiatives

- **Component-led campaigns or activities**
- **Community initiatives your Component has participated in**

- The BCGEU Environment committee is drafting a strategy to engage in social dialogue with members across BC about a low carbon future. Social dialogue is a key part of a “just transition” and outlined by the International Labour Organization.

- We are currently exploring the idea of partnering with other Unions and labour councils to host an online forum this fall for union activists to come and discuss the intersection of climate and their work.

- Over the last few years, we have been an active member of Trade Unions for Energy Democracy. Over the next few months they will be hosting a series of series of virtual meetings discussing climate, energy, and the pandemic. Although the timing isn’t ideal for people on the west coast, we will be doing our best to have someone participate. More info can be found here:
<https://slucuny.swoogo.com/gtua2020/534516>

2. Collective agreement language related to the environment or climate change

- We are currently drafting language for our pattern language project. This language will be used in future negotiations. We will pass on the language when complete.

3. Environmental policies in your province—recent changes, announcements, or new policies

- CleanBC is the centerpiece of the provincial climate strategy. It was first released in December 2018 and outlines the goals of government around climate targets. This was strengthened in November of last year with the passing of legislation designed to make government more accountable for the outcomes of the program.

- The provincial government has stated the CleanBC will be at the core of the economic recovery and that no current initiatives will be interrupted or delayed however the carbon tax increase was delayed.

4. Observations on government or political climate pertinent to the environment

- The recovery from the pandemic is starting to cause some debate from corporate interests on if some of the climate targets should be amended or regulations weakened. So far government has stated that they are committed to the program.

5. Other items or suggested future agenda items

- Nothing at this time.

HSABC/NUPGE

1. Updates on environmental initiatives

- **Component-led campaigns or activities**
 - **Community initiatives your Component has participated in**
- Over the past 3 months with the COVID-19 pandemic top of mind, HSABC had no new environmental initiatives that they were engaged in. A general observation would be that the pandemic is bringing back old habits which are not environmentally friendly including the use of cars rather than taking transit, the return of plastic bags in retail/grocery stores, and disposable masks and gloves that are contributing to greater amounts of garbage.

2. Collective agreement language related to the environment or climate change

- In our Community Social Services Agreement Article 22.2 states: “The parties agree that a safe and clean working environment is essential in order to carry out work assignments in a satisfactory manner. The Employer commits to investigate the use of environmentally friendly products.”

3. Environmental policies in your province—recent changes, announcements, or new policies

- In 2018 BC created ‘CleanBC’, a plan that would address 75% of the province’s greenhouse gas emissions target, by investing in net zero energy building, electric vehicle infrastructure and incentives, and increasing the efficiency of industrial energy-use. The vision is that CleanBC will provide a blueprint to build the economy of BC, as outlined on the website: “Rising to meet the global challenge of climate change is an opportunity for British Columbia to mobilize our skilled workers, natural resources, and booming technology sector to reduce climate change and create good jobs and economic opportunities across B.C.”

B.C. Premier John Horgan has said recently that the CleanBC plan is a key part of the direction of his government, and, that the foundation of the Pandemic reopening will be CleanBC: “We repeatedly say that there’s no difference between the economy and the environment, they are the same thing, and we need to make sure as we come out of COVID-19 we’re focused on building a clean, green, reduced-carbon economy.”

4. Observations on government or political climate pertinent to the environment

There is relatively strong support for the current BC NDP government, particularly based on its strong performance in leading the province through the COVID-19 pandemic. However, it is a minority government that depends on the support of the Green Party, and a provincial election is required by fall 2021. Should the Liberal Party win the election the CleanBC plan may have a quick demise.

5. Other items or suggested future agenda items

I think health care and the environment have many different levels of crossover. The system contributes high volumes of garbage with single-use items and many of these being plastic. There is also the aspect of climate change (floods, fires, poor air quality) and the toll it takes on physical, and mental health of those impacted.

HSAANUPGE

1. Updates on environmental initiatives

- **Component-led campaigns or activities**
- **Community initiatives your Component has participated in**

No current updates.

Items to be considered:

- Propose membership to AEN
- Add environment piece to monthly newsletter

2. Collective agreement language related to the environment or climate change

Nothing to report

3. Environmental policies in your province—recent changes, announcements, or new policies

Alberta to suspend environmental monitoring requirements

- The province's energy regulator decided earlier this spring that companies no longer have to live up to a wide array of environmental monitoring requirements that are a condition of their licences.
 - The regulator says the decision was made to protect workers and communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - It also says the suspensions were made without any rationale linking specific activities to COVID-19 risks and despite work continuing at energy facilities.
- The suspensions include air, water, land and wildlife measures. Most are vague and have no end date.
- The Alberta Energy Regulator said the suspensions could come off as early as Aug. 15 if two ministerial orders from the province's energy and environment departments are left to expire.
- A dozen conservation and Indigenous groups have written federal Environment Minister Jonathan Wilkinson asking him to force the Alberta government to reinstate environmental monitoring in the province's oil patch. The groups include the Fort Chipewyan Metis Association, the Northwest Territory Metis Nation and the Smith's Landing First Nation. Environmental groups include the Alberta Wilderness Association. The mayor of Fort Resolution, N.W.T., has also signed.

Polluter Pays Principle Law Update

- It remains unclear how Alberta will uphold and promote the polluter pays principle, not only today and tomorrow but well into the future. As individuals and firms alike face dire economic challenges arising from the pandemic as well as low energy prices, the value of a clean and healthy environment is at risk of being marginalized.
- Our province's regulatory requirements adopt the polluter pays principle by placing an obligation on operators to abandon and reclaim sites once a well reaches the end of its productive life. But this regulatory obligation is often not being met due to firms going insolvent without having addressed their abandonment and reclamation requirements.
- Overall there is a need to have greater clarity in how liabilities are assessed and paid for, as well as how the system provides accountability to abandonment and reclamation standards. There is also a need to ensure transparency and public interest oversight in the administration of the liability system.
- As we start to relaunch our economies, with the looming threat of potential future shutdowns, the risks remain significant that our ability to effectively move towards a more robust polluter pays system will be undermined.

Alberta Cancelling long-standing coal policy that provided broad protection to rocky mountain and foothills areas

- On May 15, 2020 the Government of Alberta announced that they were rescinding A Coal Development Policy for Alberta (Coal Policy) which has provided sweeping environmental protections for coal development since the 1970's.
- Concerns about how this will impact Alberta's mountains and foothills along the eastern slopes of the Rockies
- This leaves sensitive headwaters regions and treasured landscapes at risk to the long-term, and in some cases, irreversible, impacts that come with surface coal mining and increased exploration
- As long-standing environmental legislation like the Coal Policy gets scrapped, we need to ensure appropriate landscape protections remain so that we are investing in the long term quality of our drinking water and intact habitat for vulnerable plant and animal species through appropriate land use planning.

The Government of Alberta is investing \$1.5 billion in the Keystone XL (KXL) pipeline to accelerate construction, ensuring it is operational by 2023.

- In the midst of a global health crisis, Premier Kenney has announced that the government of Alberta will subsidize construction of the Keystone XL pipeline, prioritizing the expansion of the oil and gas industry even over its own healthcare system.
- In addition, the government of Alberta will guarantee a \$6 billion loan for the project, which is now expected to cost over \$14 billion to build. All-in-all, the province will have \$7.5 billion in total exposure to this single project.
- Gift to one pipeline company is a reckless use of public money that could be better spent supporting physicians and workers across the province. The price of oil has dipped below \$6, yet with this move the Alberta government is further increasing its exposure to an oil market in free fall.
 - The government of Alberta had pledged a fraction of this amount – \$500 million – for health care costs during this global pandemic.
 - The Alberta government terminated its existing contract with physicians in February, resulting in a system that doctors believe will make it more difficult to treat patients, particularly from vulnerable communities. Changes to healthcare funding have also resulted in more than 400 community clinics either closing or laying off staff.
 - The province announced a \$128 million cut to K-12 education, which will result in 25,000 education workers being temporarily laid off in April, de-railing plans for at-home and remote education

UCP Government revokes right for environmental protest

- Alberta's bill 1
- Hefty fines for protestors
- Unaffordable for grassroots initiatives

4. Observations on government or political climate pertinent to the environment

Conservative UCP government frantic

- To say these are “challenging times” is a gross understatement. Borders closed, energy prices in the basement, propping up the economy with public funds, and supporting individuals and firms to weather the pandemic driven economic storm.

Multiple environmental legislation changes with no public consultation, little notice, and no alternatives

5. Other items or suggested future agenda items

- Need to lobby the government for clean energy solutions in the context of a market recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic
- Consistent messaging/ communication across NUPGE components
- Social location intersectionality with the environment (i.e. Race and environment, poverty and environment)

MGEU/NUPGE

1. Updates on environmental initiatives

- **Component-led campaigns or activities**
 - **Community initiatives your Component has participated in**
- *November 2018 – mini campaign including a signed petition against Pineland Privatization (Pineland Forest Nursery)*
- *May 2017 – Bill 24 Red Tape Reduction and Government Efficiency Act – public presentation - specifically public and semi public drinking water suppliers report on the condition of their infrastructure and water supplies. Not a campaign but spoke against it at Legislature.*

2. Collective agreement language related to the environment or climate change

- **Red River College:**
Winnipeg EcoPass
1. *The Employer shall implement a City of Winnipeg Transit – EcoPass bus pass discount program for all staff at downtown campuses, effective January 1, 2011. The discount shall be at the sixty percent (60%) level.*
 2. *Effective July 1, 2014 the same City of Winnipeg Transit – EcoPass bus pass discount program shall be extended to staff located at the Notre Dame Campus.*
- **University of Winnipeg Students Association:**
Article 33 Transit Passes 33:01 Winnipeg Transit purchases shall be subsidized by the Employer up to an annual maximum of three hundred dollars (\$300.00).

3. Environmental policies in your province—recent changes, announcements, or new policies

Fiscal Measures:

1. **Carbon Tax**

- *The Government of Manitoba introduced a Carbon Tax in the 2020 budget at a flat \$25/tonne, which will bring in \$218M of revenue in 2020/21 and escalating to \$271M in 2023/34.*

<u>Fuel Type</u>	<u>Green Levy Rate Per Unit</u>
Gasoline	5.30 ¢/L
Diesel	6.74 ¢/L
Natural Gas	4.74 ¢/m ³
Propane	3.87 ¢/L

- However, the government simultaneously announced another cut to the Provincial Sales Tax (PST), which will cost the provincial treasury \$243M in 2020/21 and \$346M in 2023/24. (This has been temporarily suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- If implemented, these measures combined will result in a net loss of \$25M in 2020/21 rising to \$75M in 2023/24.

	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2021/22</u>	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>2023/24</u>
Green Levy - July 1, 2020	\$218M	\$284M	\$278M	\$271M
Sales Tax Rate Cut to 6% - July 1, 2020	\$(243)M	\$(326)M	\$(337)M	\$(346)M
Fiscal impact	\$(25)M	\$(42)M	\$(59)M	\$(75)M
Note:	• A negative amount is a cost to government and a benefit to taxpayers.			

2. **Climate and Green Fund:** In 2018 the government announced a \$40 million fund made available for projects to help reduce emissions and adapt to climate change. Projects could include public and active transportation, natural restoration such as wetland restoration, energy efficiency for buildings and waste and recycling programming

In 2020, the government claims to have spent 150 million on green projects including:

- \$103 million for the clean-up and monitoring of contaminated orphan and abandoned mine sites throughout the province;
- \$50 million to preserve wetlands through the GROW Trust;
- nearly \$8 million to clean up contaminated sites, like abandoned gas stations; and
- \$3 million contingency for recommendations regarding lead mitigation.

3. Emissions Reduction Targets

- Manitoba is setting 5-year carbon savings accounts that will run from 2018-2022, 2023-2027 and 2028-2032. They have included a list of possible measures to reduce carbon emissions (below), however, the targets do not appear to be a high priority for this government.

4. **Observations on government or political climate pertinent to the environment**

Manitoba's economic policy under the PC government has been erratic and unfocused. After including carbon pricing in their 2016 election platform, developing the Climate and Green Plan in 2017, and introducing legislation enacting a carbon tax, the Premier abruptly changed course. Then in 2020, the Premier suddenly re-announced a price on carbon with a subsequent PST decrease. While the carbon tax is a small step in the right direction, the flat 25 dollars per tonne price will likely have limited impacts on overall emissions. On top of this, the government has not made clear plans to reinvest in green projects and large industrial emitters and agricultural sectors are exempt from paying a carbon tax.

Brief History of Climate Policy in Manitoba:

1. 2016- PC's run in the provincial election on a vague election promise to introduce a price on carbon.
2. 2017- MB Government releases the [Climate and Green Plan](#)
3. March 2018- Manitoba introduces Carbon Tax in [Bill 16, the Climate and Green Plan Implementation Act.](#)
4. October 2018 – After a disagreement with the PM, Premier Pallister scraps the Carbon Tax
5. March, 2020 - The Manitoba government re announces a flat \$25-per-tonne Carbon Tax while reducing the PST to six per cent.
6. The measure to lower the PST has since been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

5. **Other items or suggested future agenda items**

- Refer to “Projected Emissions Reductions” table on next page.

Projected Emissions Reductions

The table below outlines initial greenhouse gas mitigation initiatives the Manitoba government is considering to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the province and the range of projected emissions reductions that could result.

Initiative	Description	Estimated Cumulative Emissions Reductions (tonnes) 2018- 2022
Carbon Price	Flat \$25 per tonne carbon price	1,070,000
5% biodiesel mandate	All diesel sold at pumps in Manitoba would be required to contain at least 5% biodiesel content.	360,000 – 431,000
Efficiency MB	A new stand-alone agency to reduce electricity and natural gas consumption in the province through innovative products and programs, including green heating and green buildings.	342,000
Organics Diversion	Establishing an organics diversion target of 100,000 tonnes and adopting measures to support the waste diversion target.	270,000
Coal Phase Out	Phasing out Manitoba's last remaining coal unit ahead of schedule.	45,000 – 187,500
HD Truck Retrofits	A heavy-duty (HD) diesel truck retrofitting rebate program.	150,000
ODS Recovery	Implementing measures to optimize management of end-of-life white goods containing ozone depleting substances (ODS) and halocarbons.	60,000
Electric Buses	Replacing 100 diesel city buses with clean electric buses.	47,000
Low Carbon Government	Adopting measures to reduce emissions in government buildings, transportation, and waste streams.	30,000 – 38,500
Agriculture Best Management Practices (BMP)	Supporting on-farm BMPs that reduce agriculture emissions.	16,750 – 33,500
Displacing Propane in Churchill	Displacing propane heating with electric heating in up to 200 Churchill homes.	3,000 – 6,000
TOTAL CUMULATIVE EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS (TONNES)		2,393,750 - 2,635,500
TOTAL NON-PRICING CUMULATIVE EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS (TONNES)		1,323,750 - 1,565,500

These projections are estimates only and will be refined as part of each Carbon Savings Account process with more detailed modelling considering their interactive effects and other economic factors.

OPSEU/NUPGE

1. Updates on environmental initiatives

- **Component-led campaigns or activities**
- **Community initiatives your Component has participated in**

OPSEU has been campaigning to stop the privatization of inspections currently being undertaken by inspectors in the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP). This change in enforcement and provincial oversight started with the previous government under their Waste Free Ontario Act (Bill 151) which included language to divert inspection programs and waste tracking from the MECP to a non-governmental third party agency.

This desire to reduce provincial oversight continues on with the current governments “Red Tape Reduction” and “Open for Business” policies and initiatives.

2. Collective agreement language related to the environment or climate change

OPSEUs Unified Collective Agreement has no language related to the Environment or Climate Change.

Article 31A.11.1 reads *The Employer shall continue to make reasonable provisions for the safety and health of its employees during the hours of their employment. It is agreed that both the Employer and the Union shall cooperate to the fullest extent possible in the prevention of accidents and in the reasonable promotion of safety and health of all employees.*

3. Environmental policies in your province—recent changes, announcements, or new policies

In November 2018 the new government introduced its Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan which they purport outlines effective and affordable ways to protect our air, land and water and reduce litter and waste while lowering greenhouse gas emissions and helping communities prepare for climate change. This plan does not support a carbon levy/tax but other items that have not been fully explained. In addition the government established an official day of action on litter (May 12).

In December 2018, the Ontario government passed the Green Energy Repeal Act which amended the Planning Act to repeal exemptions that existed for renewable energy undertakings from most land use planning instruments and restore municipal planning authority related to the siting of renewable energy generation facilities.

April 2019 - Ontario Parks joins the Ministry of the Environment - this conflict (as the ministry regulates activities at the parks i.e. sewage and drinking water) was raised at the Ministry Employee Relations Committee table.

April 2019 - Species at Risk responsibilities transferred from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to the Ministry of the Environment.

Spring 2020 - Under the Emergency Management Civil Protection Act the government introduced an Emergency Order that suspends postings on the Environmental Registry under the Environmental Bill of Rights.

4. Observations on government or political climate pertinent to the environment

Ontario government environmental programs are assessed under the current governments “Red Tape Reduction” and “Open for Business” policies and initiatives.

Covid19 has allowed the government to focus on how we do work including telework and the digital workforce. This in turn will allow the government to reduce its carbon footprint through telework agreements and a reduction in real estate (i.e. office space).

5. Other items or suggested future agenda items

None to suggest at this time.

NBU/NUPGE

- 1. Updates on environmental initiatives**
 - **Component-led campaigns or activities**
 - **Community initiatives your Component has participated in**
- 2. Collective agreement language related to the environment or climate change**
- 3. Environmental policies in your province—recent changes, announcements, or new policies**

The current PC government is not focused on the environment. They are focused on industry, often to the detriment of the environment.

For instance, Tom MacFarlane, the deputy minister at the Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development, is now also the deputy minister at the Department of Environment and Local Government. This is a direct conflict of interest.

For instance, Glyphosate is probably the most publicly well-known example. The Department of Environment and Local Government regulates it, they're responsible for the Pesticides Control Act, and they have the authority to not sign permits that would prevent its use on Crown land. However, the Department of Natural Resources is fully behind its continued use. The Premier always sides with industry in these types of situations and it appears he has installed someone who will carry out his will in the civil service.

The Premier and cabinet did this while the public was distracted by COVID-19. Usually, when deputy ministers are shuffled into different portfolios, there's an announcement. No press release was issued for this change.

4. Observations on government or political climate pertinent to the environment

Premier Blaine Higgs is a former executive with Irving Oil and his background has followed him into public life. He was unwilling to suspend the Legislature in the face of the pandemic until he got his budget passed, which contained a large tax break for the Irving refinery in Saint John, it was only after this got done that focus was paid to COVID-19.

He has continually fought with Ottawa on carbon pricing. He's focused mainly on industry in our province as a means of bettering the economy and is in favour of shale gas development. His recent insensitive comments regarding an Indigenous woman who has killed by police during a wellness check does not bode well for talks with NB First Nations which have opposed efforts on shale gas development.

The environment has never been, nor does it seem likely to be a priority for the Premier or his government.

5. **Other items or suggested future agenda items**

PEI UPSE/NUPGE

1. **Updates on environmental initiatives**
 - **Component-led campaigns or activities**

CONVENTION RESOLUTION 11/SINGLE USE PLASTICS

Submitted by Local 6

WHEREAS UPSE single use plastics are an unnecessary pollutant, and

WHEREAS UPSE should be a proactive leader in our community;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that UPSE commit to eliminate all single use plastic products from its office, and union related functions and events.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UPSE require its partners, such as catering companies, to do the same as a condition of hiring for service.

CONVENTION RESOLUTION 12/CLIMATE CHANGE

Submitted by Local 6

WHEREAS the federal and provincial government have committed to building a climate change research centre and school in the North Shore community of St. Peter's Bay, and

WHEREAS the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has warned there is only a dozen years for global warming to be kept at a maximum of 1.5 degrees Celsius beyond which even half a degree will significantly worsen the risks of drought, floods, extreme heat, and poverty for hundreds of millions of people;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that UPSE do its part to fight climate change by lobbying the provincial government to research and invest in making PEI a self-sustaining province (that uses renewable energy sources) within twelve years.

CONVENTION RESOLUTION 14/CONVENTION KITS

Submitted by Local 6

WHEREAS UPSE convention kits/packages use a substantial amount of paper, and

WHEREAS some members may prefer to use a computer, phone or a tablet to interact with their convention kit;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that UPSE begin to offer convention materials in either digital or paper format.

CONVENTION EMERGENCY RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS: UPSE recognizes that we must lead by example to combat climate change.
And, _____

WHEREAS: UPSE spent nearly \$16,000 on fuel and electricity in the last fiscal year.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that a commercial energy audit be arranged for the UPSE office within three months. _____

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that UPSE implement energy efficient upgrades as recommended in the audit to demonstrate our commitment in combatting climate change.

- **Community initiatives your Component has participated in**

Donation made to the Sierra Club and Nature PEI as part of the UPSE Has a Heart program

- 2. **Collective agreement language related to the environment or climate change**

None

- 3. **Environmental policies in your province—recent changes, announcements, or new policies**

- Early in 2020, the City of Summerside and the Province of PEI announced a \$69 million plan for a solar farm. The project will include a new 21-megawatt solar farm and battery storage facility. Construction of the farm is to begin this year and be completed in 2 years or less, creating 200 jobs. The City already has already installed more than 1500 solar panels to assist in providing power for City facilities.
- In February the Provincial Gov't announced it wishes to work with municipalities on more green energy proposals. At the same time they want to negotiate with Maritime Electric on ways to keep rates at current levels if demand decreases.
- In April Environment Officers, Health and Environment Inspectors were reassigned to Covid-19 duties. As restrictions get reduced staff are being returned to normal duties.
- Major sewage treatment improvements/redirection to Charlottetown treatment facility from neighboring Stratford continue. The Stratford facility had a leak in early June shutting down shellfishery for a week to 10 days.

- We are in year two of a Federal Provincial agreement to conserve more greenspace/Natural Areas within the province protecting them from Development.
- As of Late March of this year, all provincial government employees who can work from home are doing so. Special leave is available for those without access to childcare and for staff who are required to self-isolate. Other measures include cancelling public consultations and non-essential travel. (UPSE supports the working from home initiatives for environmental and health benefits provided the same does not negatively impact members hours of employment or incomes.

4. **Observations on government or political climate pertinent to the environment**

Within the province we are still having fish kills, soil erosion issues and high demand on ground water for agriculture irrigation. Industry continues to pressure Gov't on influencing the *Water Act Regulations*.

5. **Other items or suggested future agenda items**

None

NAPE/NUPGE

1. Updates on environmental initiatives

- **Component-led campaigns or activities**
- **Community initiatives your Component has participated in**

No update available.

2. Collective agreement language related to the environment or climate change

Example: General Service Collective Agreement, Article 48: Safety and Health 48.05
"The mandate of the OH&S Committee shall be expanded to include environmental issues."

3. Environmental policies in your province—recent changes, announcements, or new policies

Greening Government Action Plan
2019-20

4. Observations on government or political climate pertinent to the environment

More focus based on public demand for protection

5. Other items or suggested future agenda items

Need to lobby governments to encourage green sustainable energy program development in post-COVID economy



NATIONAL UNION OF PUBLIC AND GENERAL EMPLOYEES

- B. C. Government and Service Employees' Union (BCGEU)
- Health Sciences Association of British Columbia (HSABC)
- Health Sciences Association of Alberta (HSAA)
- Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union (SGEU)
- Manitoba Government and General Employees' Union (MGEU)
- Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU)
- Canadian Union of Brewery and General Workers (CUBGW)
- New Brunswick Union of Public and Private Employees (NBU)
- Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union (NSGEU)
- PEI Union of Public Sector Employees (PEI UPSE)
- Newfoundland & Labrador Association of Public and Private Employees (NAPE)

The National Union of Public and General Employees is an affiliate of the Canadian Labour Congress and a member of Public Services International.

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