



# report

## **Advisory Committee on the Environment Videoconference**

September 28-29, 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 (ACE)  
Videoconference  
September 28–29, 2020**

**PARTICIPANTS**

<b>BCGEU/NUPGE</b>	James Coccola
<b>HSABC/NUPGE</b>	Val Avery
<b>SGEU/NUPGE</b>	Carol Yuzik
<b>MGEU/NUPGE</b>	Charlotte McWilliams Michelle Scebenski
<b>OPSEU/NUPGE</b>	Shawn Burr
<b>NBU/NUPGE</b>	Susie Proulx-Daigle Al Mullin
<b>NSGEU/NUPGE</b>	Peter Perry Paul Cormier
<b>PEI UPSE/NUPGE</b>	Mark Arsenault
<b>NUPGE</b>	Larry Brown, President Len Bush, Managing Director (Office of the President) Sandra Megeney, Administrative Representative Nadia Ibrahim, National Representative

## **1. Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair, Nadia Ibrahim, welcomed participants to the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves. She reviewed the proposed agenda.

Ibrahim welcomed Michelle Scebenski, ACE's newest member, who will be replacing Charlotte McWilliams as the MGEU representative. ACE thanked McWilliams for her work on the committee.

## **2. Opening Remarks: National Report—Larry Brown, NUPGE President**

Larry Brown emphasized the importance of this committee in advising the National Union. As addressing the climate emergency becomes more urgent each time we meet, and we increasingly see how it impacts our members in their jobs, NUPGE welcomes ACE's input on how to respond.

Brown highlighted some recent developments and issues, including increasingly extreme weather events. He identified several court cases around the world, including one in Canada, wherein young people are challenging their governments for violating their rights by failing to act on climate change. He also spoke about the federal carbon tax case before the Supreme Court of Canada. NUPGE will be following these cases.

Brown commented on a research project that NUPGE has done with the Adapting Canadian Work and Workplaces to Respond to Climate Change (ACW) project based at York University. NUPGE is interested in the link between occupational health and safety rights and the environmental impacts of work.

Brown spoke about the recent Throne Speech. Many positive commitments were made, including naming climate action as core to economic recovery, but NUPGE will be watching for follow-through on these commitments, particularly in the federal budget.

## **3. Component Reports**

Participants reported on the initiatives, political climate, and policy developments related to the environment in their respective organizations and provinces. What follows is a summary of the updates and discussion. The written reports are attached in full.

### **Environmental initiatives, campaigns, and resources**

Components are involved in a variety of initiatives related to the environment and climate change. To name a few examples, the MGEU Health, Safety, and Environment Committee will be participating in a research project led by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) Manitoba. The project will look at unions' views and initiatives on Just Transition.

The BCGEU is participating in a multi-union forum where members will have the opportunity to discuss climate change and its impacts on their jobs. It is also organizing regional town halls with members to discuss their experiences and their views on the union's role.

SGEU is conducting a feasibility study on constructing its new office in Prince Albert as a green building. PEI UPSE conducted a member survey on the government's proposed 4-day work week, which may reduce the environmental footprint of workplaces and commutes.

ACE welcomes updates on these and other Component initiatives at future meetings.

### **Political climate and environmental policies, programs, and regulations**

Participants spoke about the political context in their provinces and the impact on environmental and climate issues. The effects of climate change are increasingly being seen across the country, such as the impact on farmers in Saskatchewan and the impact of storms in Atlantic Canada. However, provincial governments are not doing enough on environmental sustainability and climate action.

In provinces like Saskatchewan, the government has focused on challenging the carbon tax, rather than protecting the environment and taking action on climate action. The Manitoba government recently announced additional funds for disaster prevention and resilience, but the projects seem to be more reactionary than truly preventative. In Ontario, the Ford government is actively eroding environmental protections and scaling back climate commitments under the guise of "red tape reduction" and being "open for business," such as with Bill 132 and Bill 197. Participants discussed the challenges of advancing action on climate change when governments are unwilling.

In the recent New Brunswick election, the minority Conservative government won a majority, raising concerns for what is to come. The environment was not a key election issue. BC and Saskatchewan are now in the midst of election campaigns, and it is not yet clear if environmental issues will feature prominently.

Participants identified continued privatization efforts as a challenge. For example, Ontario is moving forward on privatizing part of its hazardous waste tracking system. In New Brunswick, the government has been industry friendly.

In PEI, there have been some positive developments regarding environmental policies and programs, such as investment in renewable energy, carbon capture, and active transportation infrastructure. Interestingly, the environment minister has mandated that all government decisions are evaluated through an environmental lens.

There are encouraging initiatives happening at the local level. In BC, there has been active organizing at the municipal level, such as efforts to get local governments to declare climate emergencies. In Nova Scotia, there are many community-based local initiatives, such as a program that recycles plastic bags into building materials, and the

development of eco parks. The history of pollution in Boat Harbour is an example of environmental racism, but the recent remediation initiative shows potential for positive impact.

#### **4. COVID-19 and the Environment**

##### **Just Recovery—Presentation by Catherine Abreu, Executive Director, Climate Action Network Canada**

Catherine Abreu of Climate Action Network Canada (CAN-Rac), a large coalition of civil society organizations, of which NUPGE is a member, presented on Just Recovery.

Abreu spoke about the [Just Recovery](#) principles that were developed by a diverse coalition of civil society actors in response to the pandemic. Spurred by the great work being done and recommendations being put forward by progressive groups in Canada, CAN-Rac helped to convene the process for developing a set of shared principles, modeled on a set of [international principles](#) for a Just Recovery, to connect that work.

The aim was to develop very broad principles as a framework, allowing groups the flexibility to articulate their own demands while showing broad-based support for core principles. Abreu gave an overview of the 6 principles, which can be found on the Just Recovery [webpage](#). They emphasize the need to centre the health and dignity of people and the planet and to address systemic injustices in the recovery.

The principles have been endorsed by approximately 500 organizations. Abreu observed that the principles and the language of Just Recovery shaped the narrative for Canadian civil society calling for progressive change and for governments discussing recovery plans, which was an aim of the principles.

Going forward, CAN-Rac and other facilitators are exploring (and seeking input on) whether the Just Recovery coalition will be a fruitful space to continue the work, such as coordinating on developing policy proposals, or convening roundtables that bring together coalition members to discuss specific priority areas. Abreu noted the value of labour involvement in this work, as labour brings great organizing capacity and expertise.

In the ACE discussion that followed, there was a suggestion that NUPGE circulate information on Just Recovery to the Components and encourage endorsements.

##### **Updates on provincial situations: Obstacles and opportunities**

Building on the discussion during ACE's June meeting, where members' reports highlighted how environmental and climate issues were put on the back burner during the pandemic, participants gave updates and reflections on the current state of play.

It was clear that in most provinces, environmental and climate issues remain on the back burner for governments and, to some extent, have also been sidelined in public

debate. Some participants observed that provincial governments seemed to be using the pandemic as a cover to roll back environmental protections and make cutbacks, etc.

Even in provinces like BC, PEI, and Nova Scotia, where there have been some encouraging positions and policy developments, most attention remains focused on the pandemic. While this is understandable, given the urgency and tragic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis, the climate crisis has not gone away, as participants highlighted.

Participants identified other obstacles presented by the pandemic, such as the impact of emergency orders and gathering limits on demonstrations or other organizing. The move to virtual gatherings also presents challenges for member training and education.

In terms of the environmental impact of the pandemic itself, several participants highlighted the increased waste generated by households, as people spend more time at home, and by single-use items needed for health and safety protection, like masks. There has been a lack of response from governments or employers on this issue.

Participants reported on how many of their members continue to be working from home (WFH). It is not yet clear what will be the environmental impact of increased WFH arrangements, as [NUPGE has observed](#). Some participants reported noticeably lower levels of traffic congestion due to the rise in WFH. However, there are also environmental impacts of WFH, such as the electronic waste associated with technology like laptops, not to mention the impact of mining for materials.

Importantly, ACE members also identified opportunities in the current context. Politically, what was seen as impossible before the pandemic (e.g., investment in public services, or ambitious action and government spending to address a crisis) has proven to be, in fact, possible. There is an opportunity to build upon this and to resist governments' efforts to pursue austerity and cut environmental protections.

Related to WFH, there has been more awareness around the environmental impacts of commuting, and office buildings, etc. In several provinces, provincial parks saw significant increases in attendance this year, which may signal a renewed appreciation of access to green space and the protection of ecosystems. These may be opportunities to expand public awareness of, and support for, environmental sustainability and climate action.

In some cases, there have been grassroots activism and organizing around environmental and climate issues during the pandemic, such as under the umbrella of Just Recovery in Nova Scotia. Across the country, especially where environmental movements are active, like in BC, there are opportunities to build relationships with groups to advance shared goals. There is an opportunity to emphasize that the recovery needs to involve workers, and unions must be at the table.

## 5. Events to Watch

Participants were invited to share any upcoming events, announcements, and actions, that may be of interest to the group.

James Coccola (BCGEU/NUPGE) gave a presentation on the annual Conference of the Parties (COP) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). He gave an overview of its history, process, and negotiations, and of the Paris Agreement, its main elements, and recent developments. Coccola highlighted why this key international climate conference matters to working people. It was significant that Just Transition was included in the Paris Agreement and it is necessary for workers and their unions to be at the table.

The Chair identified some upcoming events at the national level, including the next federal budget and the federal carbon tax case before the Supreme Court.

## 6. Discussion of ACE Priorities

Participants were asked to identify 2 to 3 suggested priorities in their Component reports—whether specific topics/issues, or types of activities to focus on. The committee discussed these suggestions, working within the Terms of Reference.

Participants discussed the importance of coalition building and relationship building with other organizations and activists working on environmental issues. This is important for coordinated messaging and efforts around shared goals. Some identified opportunities to involve and to work with young workers and activists. ACE recalled the idea of a joint conference on young workers and the environment.

It was suggested that ACE contribute to education efforts around environment and climate issues to enhance awareness amongst members and the public. It was noted that education or training are adapting to the COVID-19 context (e.g., virtual meetings).

There was support for identifying ways to work with Components to further their work and goals on environmental issues. One suggestion was for ACE to develop a framework for unions to review their activities through an environmental or climate lens.

Participants expressed interest in continued information sharing and updates regarding collective bargaining. There was a request for Components to share with ACE any specific language regarding the environment or best practices that may be useful to those in bargaining. Collective bargaining updates will be included on the ACE meeting agendas going forward, but participants are also invited to send any updates or language to Nadia Ibrahim ([nibrahim@nupge.ca](mailto:nibrahim@nupge.ca)) for sharing in the meantime.

Regarding future topics for discussion or activity, participants identified single-use plastics, waste generated due to the COVID-19 pandemic, public water fountains, Just Transition, and Just Recovery as areas of interest.



## Component Report Template

### Component: BCGEU

(Please complete all appropriate sections, noting that some questions may not be relevant to your circumstance. You may wish to simply indicate any updates since the June meeting.)

#### 1) Updates on environmental initiatives

- **Component-led campaigns or activities**
- **Research, educational materials, or other resources to share**
- **Community initiatives your Component has participated in**

The BCGEU will be undergoing two important projects before the end of the year:

- 1) We will be hosting a half day forum for union members to come together to learn about the environment, climate change, and working people. This forum is currently in the planning stages but should be held in the fall. This planning is being done with the BCTF and some labour councils.
- 2) We will be conducting a series of roundtables in BC to talk to BCGEU members about their thoughts and priorities when it comes to the environment. Our hope is to hold five of these round tables so that we can understand the regional differences and similarities and ensure that our actions reflect the desires of the membership.

#### 2) Collective-agreement language related to the environment or climate change

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

We are currently in the middle of a snap election.

#### 4) Observations on government or political climate pertinent to the environment

#### 5) 2 or 3 suggested priorities for ACE (e.g., specific topics, issue areas, or types of activities to focus on)

#### 6) Other items or suggested future agenda items

## Component Report

### Component: HSABC

#### 1. Updates on environmental initiatives

- Recently our Finance Committee reviewed our investment portfolio and discovered our investors were not in compliance with the direction we had given them in the past, (as outlined in union policy), to not invest in securities issued by companies with controversy in environmental degradation and our preference to invest in companies with progressive environmental practices and a commitment to complying with environmental regulations. We found we were invested in a company doing fracking and other companies doing fossil fuel extraction. Instruction was given to divest of all energy holdings in the portfolio.
- Our members have submitted 16 resolutions on climate change which will be addressed at our annual convention (postponed in April), taking place November 16-17, 2020.

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

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

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

- The writ was dropped in B.C. on Monday September 21st with Provincial Election Day slated for October 24th. Party platforms for all parties (Liberal, NDP and Greens) have not been revealed yet; should the NDP be re-elected we assume that they will continue with their previously outlined environmental plan: Clean B.C.

#### 5. 2 or 3 suggested priorities for ACE (e.g., specific topics, issue areas, or types of activities to focus on)

- As per ACE Terms of Reference 1.2 “Work with components to further their work and goals on environmental issues.” An approach to this could be for ACE to develop a framework/action plan for unions to use to review how their members/staff conduct union business, set targets to reduce their carbon footprint, and review all policies with a climate emergency lens.

#### 6. Other items or suggested future agenda items

## Component Report

### Health Sciences Association of Alberta (HSAA)

- UCP continues to scrap environmental monitoring throughout the province including, most recently environmental monitoring of water flowing downstream of the province's oilsands facilities along the main branch of the Athabasca River. No need for field studies on wetlands, fish or insects. No more pilot project on the risks posed by tailings ponds. No study of water quality in response to concerns about environmental degradation at Wood Buffalo National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This is serious given the size of our operations, and the likely hood of contamination
- UCP is further trying to revive the coal industry and has rescinded decades old protections against open pit mining along the foothills and border of the Rocky Mountains. The federal government will implement an environmental assessment of the large proposed expansion of one mine located near Hinton, AB.
- There is movement to close many of our provincial parks. Initially the UCP reported that this was due to finances, however, it has recently become clear that the parks set for closure have also been identified as potential sites for resource extraction. This was announced in March, however, it has been revealed that this process started in October of last year.
- As mentioned last time we met, the UCP government is currently undergoing an inquiry into the funding of environmental groups protesting ongoing development and support of the oilsands/extractive energy sector. This money has been coming from the *extremely* expensive "war room". The inquiry was due to wrap up in July, but has since been extended to October 30, 2020.

## Component Report Template

### Component: SGEU

(Please complete all appropriate sections, noting that some questions may not be relevant to your circumstance. You may wish to simply indicate any updates since the June meeting.)

#### 1. Updates on environmental initiatives

**Component-led campaigns or activities**

**Research, educational materials, or other resources to share**

**Community initiatives your Component has participated in**

There is nothing new to report.

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

Many of our components are either in ratification, still in the bargaining process or have signed. I am not aware of any language that is specific to this.

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

Like many other provinces the focus is Covid. Any new policies revolve around this.

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

The government is focused on Covid than anything else. The province is in phase 4B of the re-open plan. Any observations are more to do around the response or in some cases lack thereof to this.

#### 5. 2 or 3 suggested priorities for ACE (e.g., specific topics, issue areas, or types of activities to focus on)

- At some point in time I think a conference is still a great idea. I will have to ponder some more.

#### 6. Other items or suggested future agenda items

## Component Report Template

### Component: MGEU

(Please complete all appropriate sections, noting that some questions may not be relevant to your circumstance. You may wish to simply indicate any updates since the June meeting.)

#### 1. Updates on environmental initiatives

- **Component-led campaigns or activities**
- **Research, educational materials, or other resources to share**
- **Community initiatives your Component has participated in**

CCPA-Manitoba is beginning a new research project that seeks to explore Manitoba union members' understandings, views, and opinions about climate change and energy transition. MGEU Safety Health and Environment committee will review involvement at next meeting.

#### 2. Collective-agreement language related to the environment or climate change - no changes since last meeting

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

Sept 14<sup>th</sup> – Recycling and Waste diversion programming – providing funding for:

- Mother Earth Recycling (MGEU Safety, Health and Environment toured this facility and posted a web story encouraging members to divert mattresses from landfill to this recycling facility (for profit)),
- Manitoba Association of Regional Recyclers (MGEU committee members have attended their conferences)
- Public and Private compost facilities – MGEU Safety, Health and Environment committee is reviewing composting programs in urban and rural areas.
- Product Care Association – household hazardous waste in Northern MB
- Cleanfarms – agricultural plastics , reduce on site burning

July 23<sup>rd</sup> - \$15 million for Disaster Prevention and Climate Resilience projects in Wpg metro region

- 12 project to receive money to build up local infrastructure that will better prepare municipalities to withstand the impacts of natural disasters and extreme weather events. Majority are to minimize flooding damage not preventative.

July 9<sup>th</sup> - New Conservation and Climate Fund that will provide up to \$600,000 this fiscal year to organizations for local green initiatives that support key priorities of the *Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan*, must include one or more of

- climate and green technology, water, and nature and resilient landscapes.

Deadline is July 31<sup>st</sup> – no concrete information on how it was handed out or awarded.

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

Have not seen any development on climate related issues as COVID 19 has dominated the news, and Legislative Assembly has not sat, and delayed till October, will keep you posted as our Premier is self-isolating due to lunch.

#### **5. 2 or 3 suggested priorities for ACE (e.g., specific topics, issue areas, or types of activities to focus on)**

Education for members and public.

Involvement of young members – capitalize on groups already working on issues.

Preference for limiting how many issues we focus on to avoid watering down our effectiveness.

#### **6. Other items or suggested future agenda items – none at this time.**

## OPSEU Component Report

### Component:

1. Updates on environmental initiatives
  - Component-led campaigns or activities
  - Research, educational materials, or other resources to share
  - Community initiatives your Component has participated in

No updates at this time

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

None that I am aware of since June 2020

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

- Under Bill 132, the *Better for People, Smarter for Business Act, 2019* the government is proposing to amend section 14 of Ontario's Environmental Protection Act. The amendment on the surface appears minor in nature, changing the word "may" impair to "likely" impairs, but in reality this could significantly impact inspectors' oversight and enforcement powers, and pose a threat to the health of Ontarians and the health of their environment.
  - Through Bill 197 (COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act, 2019) the government is using economic recovery to strip environmental protections and stakeholder input for Environmental Assessments in Ontario. On this matter the government has already been found to be in non-compliance with its own rules around postings to the Environmental Registry. Stakeholder groups have launched a judicial review of the government's decision not to consult with the public prior to enacting this legislation.
  - The government is proposing to allow a 3rd party, non-governmental, not for profit organization (Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority) oversight in the tracking of Hazardous Waste in Ontario. Currently this is performed by public servants working in the Hazardous Waste Inventory Network (HWIN) program.
4. Observations on government or political climate pertinent to the environment
    - Here is Ontario's current political climate as it relates to the environment - the province has enacted measures that erode environmental protection, including cancelling renewable energy projects; weakening conservation programs; diluting endangered species protections; implementing changes to hazardous waste management; scaling back climate change commitments; introducing non-governmental, third-party inspectors; stripping powers from the Environmental

Commissioner; removing stakeholder engagement in environmental assessments, and temporarily suspending public input through the Environmental Registry of Ontario.

5. 2 or 3 suggested priorities for ACE (e.g., specific topics, issue areas, or types of activities to focus on)

- Single use plastics
- Management of waste associated with COVID19 health and safety protections

6. Other items or suggested future agenda items

- Public water fountain initiative

<https://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2017/12/01/567294632/to-burst-the-bottle-bubble-fountains-in-paris-now-flow-with-sparkling-water>

[https://www.eutouring.com/map\\_drinking\\_water\\_fountains\\_paris.html](https://www.eutouring.com/map_drinking_water_fountains_paris.html)



## PEI UPSE Component Report Template

### Component:

(Please complete all appropriate sections, noting that some questions may not be relevant to your circumstance. You may wish to simply indicate any updates since the June meeting.)

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

- Donations made to the Sierra Club and Nature PEI as part of the *UPSE Has a Heart* program
- PEI UPSE recently conducted a survey on a reduced work week (i.e. a 4 day week). 500 members of the Civil Service Bargaining Unit responded. Support for the idea was positive in many cases but many Members do not want to have reduced pay and therefore this would likely require a longer work day. The survey was in response to a government raising the possibility as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A reduced work week could result in a significant decrease in the use of automobiles and likely some decrease in government heating and electricity costs.

- **Research, educational materials, or other resources to share**
- **Community initiatives your Component has participated in**

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

None

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

- PEI has made great advances in renewable energy over the past twenty years and will continue to do so in the future. 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 2019 PEI explored 3 potential wind farm sites and since then the province has announced that two sites will be developed over the next few years.
- This month, the federal government announced plans to give support for an Atlantic Loop which will aim to increase the transmission capacity for exportation of wind generated power. It is believed the estimated \$30 million initiative will reduce the use of coal as a source of electrical generation.
- The province is moving to protect 7% of the land area as conserved or protected by Jan. 2021. The current projection is to move from 3.6 % to 6.5 % by the end of Dec 2020. This is a challenging goal with 90% of PEI land holdings in private ownership.
- A Carbon Capture, tree planting program, was started this spring and private landowner uptake is low.
- A school lunch program started this fall providing school lunches to students for \$5.00 or what you can afford. This is interesting in two ways single-use plastic consumption/use is up due to Covid-19 and students are complaining and asking why.

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

- The PEI Government continues with a minority of elected MLAs led by the Conservatives with the Green Party and the Liberals holding the remaining seats in the legislature. A Liberal MLA has resigned recently and a by-election will likely occur in October to determine the new MLA for the district. If the Conservatives win the election it is possible that they may have sufficient seats to have a majority. The Speaker though, is currently a Conservative.
- The Government has been quite functional due to the efforts of the Premier to ensure some level of collaboration Relations between the government and PEI UPSE have been functional and courteous in most cases. President Jackson was appointed to the Premier's Council which has a mandate to address the economic future of PEI post-COVID-19. The Premier's Council has been meeting since May. PEI UPSE will submit a position paper on many of the key issues related to post-COVID-19 economic restructuring.
- In regard to the environmental mandate in PEI, the Environment Minister has been mandated to ensure that all government decisions are evaluated through an environmental lens. Furthermore, the Minister has been directed to ensure members of the Green and Liberal caucuses are appropriately consulted on major issues and legislation.
- As of late March of this year, many provincial government employees began to work from home. Special leave was provided for those without access to childcare and for staff who are required to self-isolate. Other measures included cancelling public consultations and non-essential travel. Upon the relaxation of COVID measures a number of government employees (approx. 30 per cent)

have continued to work at their residence. This has resulted in significantly less use of automobiles and reduced use of government office space and demands for parking.

- The government continues to push for employee telework arrangements and has contracted its Legal Council to deliver an educational on the topic to employees on behalf of the Public Service Commission.
- The government continues to use federal assistance to develop more Active Transport routes around the province with a lot of emphasis in the greater Charlottetown area.
- The Government announced this week that the newest school to be built will be 'Net-Zero' School for 23 million dollars. The building will have the latest technologies for insulation, geothermal and solar energy. It is hoped the structure will be an educational tool as well as providing a facility to educate students.
- The Climate Change Institute has offered to conduct research on the effects deep water wells on stream flows within affected watersheds. This is in response to increased call on removing the 18 year old Deep Water Well Moratorium currently in effect on the Island by the agriculture community.

**5. 2 or 3 suggested priorities for ACE (e.g., specific topics, issue areas, or types of activities to focus on)**

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

Not at this time.

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**Component Report**

**Component:** NAPE

1. Update on environmental initiatives:

Plastic bags are now phased out in many of our retail stores / supermarkets.

2. N/A

3. Environmental policies — recent changes :

Changes were made to Govt Depts in NL

NEW :

Department of Environment, Climate Change & Municipalities Protected areas function moved to this Department from the former Department of Fisheries & Land Resources.

Details are available on NL Government website

[www.gov.nl.ca/releases/2020/exec/0910n05-2/](http://www.gov.nl.ca/releases/2020/exec/0910n05-2/).

4. N/A

5. Suggested priorities for ACE:

Development / encouragement for component for Climate change initiatives for resulting job protection in transition to green economy.

6. N/A



## 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)

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