



The Pugwash Declaration

September 30, 2018

The Thinkers Lodge Climate Change Retreat agrees that all people have the right to: live in a healthy environment; have access to clean air, water, nutritious food, and green spaces; the right to know about pollutants and contaminants used and released in their local environment; and to participate in decision-making that will affect their environment. Communities should focus on local food and energy production for adaptation and resilience in meeting basic needs.

Further, the Thinkers affirm that to face this ongoing climate crisis all levels of government must:

1. Examine all Environmental Impact Assessments through a climate change lens, accounting for greenhouse gas emissions, atmospheric temperature and sea level rise, changes in ocean currents, acidity and overall ocean health, loss of biodiversity, and more extreme weather events.
2. Take into account *all* environmental costs and consequences of policy and legislation.
3. Address climate change in their budgets, including both mitigation of and adaptation to the potential harm that global warming causes.

The Thinkers call for the following actions.

What individuals in Atlantic Canada can do:

1. Conduct a home energy assessment.
2. Look for ways to save energy.
3. Know who grows their food, learn (and teach children) to garden.
4. Switch to renewable energy.
5. Change transportation choices.
6. Be mindful of what they purchase.
7. Spread the message about climate change whenever they can.

What communities or municipal governments in Atlantic Canada can do:

1. Make climate change the top priority in municipal planning strategies and land-use bylaws.
2. Offer a municipal financing program for energy efficiency and renewable energy.
3. Focus policy on the local economy.

4. Set a community target for energy efficiency and renewable energy.
5. Facilitate community gardening.
6. Redesign transportation networks to encourage walking, bicycling, and public transit.

With the following requests to provincial governments:

1. Make climate change the top priority of provincial government planning and policy-making.
2. Recognize that the rights of nature are no different from human rights, as has been done in other countries.
3. Incentivize farming practices that reverse climate change and promote good land-use stewardship.
4. Implement and fund a transition to ecological and high-value forestry practices; ban clearcutting, whole-tree harvesting and herbicide spraying.
5. Give landowners incentives for practicing ecological forestry and establishing and managing climate forests.
6. Increase renewable energy targets for the province through, in Nova Scotia for example, the Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act (EGSPA).
7. Remove open-pen fish farms from our coastal waters and inland waterways; support inshore fisheries and land-based aquaculture.

Drafted at the Thinkers Lodge, Pugwash, Nova Scotia by 16 Climate Change Thinkers attending the second Thinkers Lodge Retreat on Climate Change.

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