

My name is Bill Zimmerman. I am a retired P. Eng. and I live in Wolfville.

I graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a Masters in Engineering and returned to university to obtain a Masters in Political Science from the University of Hawaii, did further study at the London School of Economics.

In 1972 I attended the first UN Conference on the Human Environment as part of my work on a fellowship studying the importance of human values in technical decision making.

I was on the organizing committee for the People and Energy conference in Halifax in 1975.

My engineering consulting work included nine years with the Institute of Man and Resources in PEI which, among many achievements, established Canada's first wind test site.

I was a participant in the Science Council of Canada's Soft Energy Path Study and a founding member of the Associate Committee on Solar Energy for the National Research Council.

As a Town Councillor in Wolfville from 2004 to 2012, I chaired the UNSM Green House Gas Reduction Committee, which later became the Sustainable Practices Committee, from 2005 to 2007 and served on the Ministers Advisory Council on Energy Efficiency and Conservation 2007-2009 representing UNSM.

I attended UN COP 11 in Montréal representing UNSM in 2005.

I share this with you because while I, like so many millions around the Globe, am also given hope by the inspirational work of Greta Thunberg, I am old enough to be her grandparent and I just wanted you to know that, with my life partner, I have been at this for over 50 years now, in my case both in a professional capacity but also as an active citizen.

I bring this background to this hearing on Bill 213, the Sustainable Development Goals Act.

I must admit that I am troubled by the use of "prosperity" throughout the Bill. The word has connotations of the "fairy tales of eternal economic growth" that Greta challenged in her address before the UN. Thus I take "prosperity" to mean "doing well", in a social context, as "she is **prospering** in that school. "

With my definition of prosperity in mind my comments are as follows:

## Section 1

(c) I would suggest that an “inclusive economy” must provide a base level of income so that most people can actually participate in the economy.

Possibly relevant goals:

Child poverty will be eliminated by 2030.

Minimum wage will reach a living wage by 2030

## Section 2

(h) I would recommend that “economic growth” be replaced with “economy”

## Section 4.

(a) In this section Netukulimk is the key and overriding element. It would be interesting to hear how a Mi'kmaw elder would explain the meaning of Netukulimk.

I certainly endorse the elements and principals subject to my comments on the meaning of an “inclusive economy”.

## Section 6

(b) I am not sure what is meant by “cleaner” energy or transportation.

Does this mean decarbonizing? If so, why not use that term. At the same time, the decarbonizing of transportation and space heating will require significant changes to our energy infrastructure. This would be much easier if Nova Scotia Power was a publicly owned utility.

## Section 7.

(a) Why is this even in the act?

(b,c) I find that stating emissions targets based on a % reduction from emissions in a particular year to be somewhat confusing. In recent discussions I have found people using widely varying numbers for emissions in a given base year. At the same time, the choice of a specific base year can make the reductions more or less impressive. I would endorse adopting the EAC goal of no more than 9.8 MT CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2030 with net zero emissions by 2050.

## Section 8

First, what is “clean” growth and precisely what is “growing”? The “Climate Change Plan for Clean Growth” will be a lynchpin of this act and the process of developing it must include broad and meaningful consultation with the Mi'kmaw People, municipalities and the general public.

What role will the Round Table have in this process? How are appointments made to the Round Table? Does it reflect the population of Nova Scotia?

#### Section 9

There are few details on "The Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund" so it is hard to comment but I am not sure that "competitive opportunities" is the best way to proceed. I would prefer collaboration and co-operation between communities.

#### Section 12

(1) The annual report should be made to the people of the province, not just the House of Assembly.

#### Section 14

This section is the key to the success or failure of the act in producing meaningful progress as there are only three stated goals in the Act (all in Section 7, one of which is essentially irrelevant). Presumably other goals will be developed and presented as regulations. The process of determining these goals is very important and should include consultations as in Section 8.

#### Conclusion

This legislation seems well intentioned but is thin on details of exactly how the government will proceed. The devil is in the "regulations" and the "Climate Change Plan for Clean Growth". There will be difficult choices to make and it is best to have the decision making process as transparent as possible with meaningful participation by the people.