

My name is Emma Norton, I, like you, live and work in Mikmaki the unceded territory of the Mi'kmaw people. I specifically live in Punamu'kwati'jk or Dartmouth. I am the Director of Communications and Atlantic Canada Organizer with the [Climate Emergency Unit](#). The Climate Emergency Unit is a project of the David Suzuki Institute and we seek to move governments and institutions into emergency mode.

By studying Canada's mobilization for the Second World War and COVID-19, policy researcher and Climate Emergency Unit's team lead, Seth Klein, [has identified five markers of a government in emergency mode](#):

- Marker 1 - Spend what it takes to win, which according to former World Bank chief economist Nicholas Stern and author of the Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change, is two per cent of a government's GDP
- Marker 2 is "create new institutions to get the job done".
- Marker 3 is "move from voluntary change to mandatory change" with clear targets and near term dates.
- Marker 4 is "tell the truth about the severity of the crisis and the measures necessary to combat it".
- Marker 5 is "leave no one behind"

While moving in the direction of several of these markers, Bill 57 does not meet any of them. However, it does have the potential to be a level floor upon which a strong climate plan can be built to take adequate emergency-level climate action. In order to make this Bill stronger and capable of facilitating the climate measures that scientific consensus has deemed necessary to address the climate emergency: it needs a few things

- Better accountability
- A stronger target
- Faster phase out of fossil fuels
- Inclusion of environmental racism

I have a few specific suggestions for Bill 57 as it relates to all of these.

This bill's nearest mandated goals related to greenhouse gas emission reductions are for 2030, namely:

- Item 6.a) to have Nova Scotia's emissions 53% below its 2005 Greenhouse gas levels by the 2030, and the
- Item 7.m) a zero-emission vehicle mandate that ensures, at a minimum, that 30% of new vehicle sales of all light duty and personal vehicles in the Province will be zero-emission vehicles by 2030

We need targets that are sooner than 2030, or an accountability mechanism within Bill 57 that assures us that emissions will be reduced before 2030. A 2040 and 2050 goal is nice, but the world has a carbon budget that we are on track to exceed before 2030. The latest report from the International Panel on Climate Change was released earlier this year, while many of you were in political campaign mode. It had a dire warning: we have only 9 years at our current greenhouse gas emission levels to have a 66% of limiting warming to 1.5°C. Climate scientists urge policy makers to consider the world's carbon budget and what each jurisdiction's and sectors' carbon budget would be. The global carbon budget 400 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions (GtCO₂) as of 2020 with an uncertainty range of plus or

minus 220 GtCO₂. To have a 66% chance of remaining within the budget would require CO₂ emission cuts of about 10% per year globally with other greenhouse gases like methane following a similar pathway.

In Nova Scotia, our 2019 emissions were about 16 Megatonnes. If we assume our emissions are the same today, and if we were to reduce our emissions by 10% a year, as suggested by the IPCC, it would mean Nova Scotia's carbon budget is 104.2 Mt between now and 2030. However, the data tracking for climate and greenhouse gas emissions is under-resourced so that we only know our emissions from two years ago because we rely on the federal government for our greenhouse gas measurements. It is important, when in an emergency, we have up to date information. I suggest the provincial government follow in the footsteps of the BC provincial government and establish its own greenhouse gas inventory.

I know that numbers aren't very compelling, but they are important. I am putting all these numbers on record in hopes that our Premier Tim Houston is listening, as the first time I met the Premier he reminded me that he is a numbers man.

This all brings me to the recommendation that item 8.a) read:

8.1 The Government shall create a strategic plan, prior to December 31, 2022, to be known as the "Climate Change Plan for Clean Growth" that addresses

(a) achieving the greenhouse gas emission targets set out in Section 6 ***through the creation of a provincial carbon budget and provincial greenhouse gas inventory;***

Further to this that the item 8.2 read:

The Government shall release annual progress reports on the plan outlined under subsection (1) **with updated carbon budgets** and review and renew the plan within five years of its release.

Ideally, the carbon budget will be written into legislation before the plan is renewed in 2026.

I further suggest that the accountability of the plan be improved by ensuring that a third party, such as an environmental commissioner, reviews the reports. This environment or climate change commissioner could be within the office of the Auditor General. Ontario had an environmental commissioner and I include the wording for the creation of their environmental commissioner in the appendix of my submission (Appendix 1).

That concludes my recommendations regarding accountability.

I support the push from the Ecology Action Centre and their supporters to change the legislated 2030 target to be 58% below 2005 levels. To quote [the Ecology Action Centre](#):

"This target represents the minimum emission reductions required by Canadian jurisdictions in order to do our fair share of keeping global temperature rise to below 1.5°C. This considers Nova Scotia's fair share of reductions, based on the internationally agreed upon understanding that all jurisdictions have "...common but

differentiated responsibilities” based on economic ability, current emissions and historic emissions. “

This would mean that item 6a would read:

6 The Government's targets for greenhouse gas emissions reductions are (a) by 2030, to be at least **58%** below the levels that were emitted in 2005

This concludes my recommendations regarding GHG target improvement. Now to discuss the fossil fuel phase out: António Guterres, the UN secretary general said in response to the report: “This report must sound a death knell for coal and fossil fuels, before they destroy our planet. If we combine forces now, we can avert climate catastrophe. But, as the report makes clear, there is no time for delay and no room for excuses.”

Therefore, Bill 57 must have stronger targets in relation to phasing out of fossil fuels. [A recent report from Efficiency Canada](#) found that 47% of Nova Scotia’s greenhouse gas emissions come from our buildings. Therefore, a good way to reduce our greenhouse gases and reduce our reliance on fossil fuels would be to create a strong efficiency policy.

I recommend that 7b be changed to read:

“to strengthen energy efficiency programs so that all new public and non-profit homes will be net zero energy ready and have electric or zero carbon heating systems; all existing public and non-profit homes will have deep energy retrofits and electric or zero carbon heating systems by 2030; all homes owned by low and modest income homeowners or rented to low and modest income households, will have deep energy retrofits and electric or zero carbon heating systems installed by 2030 with 50% completed by 2026 2.5% of all existing homes will have net zero energy retrofits per year by 2030; and ownership documentation will not be a barrier to meeting these targets in African Nova Scotian communities”

I recommend that goal 7e be changed to read:

“to adopt the 2020 National Energy Code for Buildings and the National Building Code within 18 months of their being published by the Government of Canada and to require all new residential buildings to be net zero energy ready and to have electric or zero carbon heating starting no later than 2025;”

Finally, I recommend that environmental racism be included in Bill 57. Dr Ingrid Waldron has [done extensive research on this topic](#). Her research in Nova Scotia has lead the way in Canada and North America. It is a disservice to her and racialized communities facing systemic discrimination that the phrase “environmental racism” is not in this bill. I recommend that Section 17 read:

17 The Government's goal with respect to diversity, equity and inclusion is to initiate in 2022 ongoing work with racialized and marginalized communities to create a sustained funding opportunity for climate change action and support for **community-based solutions, policy engagement and elimination of environmental racism.**”

Appendix 1:

PART III

COMMISSIONER OF THE ENVIRONMENT, REPORTS, ETC.

Auditor General

49 (1) The Auditor General may exercise the powers and shall perform the duties and functions assigned to him or her under this Act. 2018, c. 17, Sched. 15, s. 6.

Same

(2) Every power possessed by the Auditor General in carrying out his or her functions and responsibilities under the Auditor General Act, and every duty to comply with the exercise of such a power, is also a power and duty under this Act, subject to any necessary modification. 2018, c. 17, Sched. 15, s. 6.

Section Amendments with date in force (d/m/y)

Commissioner of the Environment

50 (1) The Auditor General shall appoint a Commissioner of the Environment who shall be an employee of the Office of the Auditor General. 2018, c. 17, Sched. 15, s. 6.

Duties

(2) The Commissioner of the Environment shall exercise the powers and perform the duties delegated to the Commissioner by the Auditor General under this Act. 2018, c. 17, Sched. 15, s. 6.

Absence

(3) If the Commissioner of the Environment is absent or unable to fulfil his or her duties, the Auditor General may designate in writing an employee of the Office of the Auditor General to fulfil those duties. 2018, c. 17, Sched. 15, s. 6.

Section Amendments with date in force (d/m/y)

Reports

51 (1) The Auditor General shall report annually to the Speaker of the Assembly with regard to the operation of this Act, and the Speaker shall lay the report before the Assembly as soon as reasonably possible. 2018, c. 17, Sched. 15, s. 6.

Same

(2) The annual report may include,

(a) a review of progress on activities to promote energy conservation;

(b) a review of progress on activities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

(c) any matters that the Auditor General considers appropriate. 2018, c. 17, Sched. 15, s. 6.

Same

(3) The annual report may, in the Auditor General's discretion, be included in the Auditor General's annual report prepared under section 12 of the Auditor General Act, 2018, c. 17, Sched. 15, s. 6.

Section Amendments with date in force (d/m/y)

Employees continued

52 (1) The employees who work in the office of the Environmental Commissioner immediately before the day section 6 of Schedule 15 to the Restoring Trust, Transparency and Accountability Act, 2018 comes into force and who are offered and accept employment with the Office of the Auditor General shall continue to be employed on such terms as may be determined under section 20 of the Auditor General Act, 2018, c. 17, Sched. 15, s. 6.

Same

(2) The employment of the employees described in subsection (1) is not terminated or severed, including for the purposes of the Employment Standards Act, 2000, and the employment of the employees immediately before and after the day section 6 of Schedule 15 to the Restoring Trust, Transparency and Accountability Act, 2018 comes into force is continuous for the purposes of calculating an employee's length or period of employment. 2018, c. 17, Sched. 15, s. 6.

Section Amendments with date in force (d/m/y)

Transfers

53 (1) Subject to subsection (2), the rights, obligations, assets and liabilities relating to the office of the Environmental Commissioner, as they exist immediately before the day section 6 of Schedule 15 to the Restoring Trust, Transparency and Accountability Act, 2018 comes into force, become rights, obligations, assets and liabilities relating to the Office of the Auditor General on that day. 2018, c. 17, Sched. 15, s. 6.

Exception

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply in respect of the rights, obligations, assets or liabilities relating to the employees who work in the office of the Environmental Commissioner immediately before the day section 6 of Schedule 15 to the Restoring Trust, Transparency and Accountability Act, 2018 comes into force. 2018, c. 17, Sched. 15, s. 6.

Section Amendments with date in force (d/m/y)

Non-application of successor rights and sale of business rules

54 Any rules respecting successor rights or the sale of a business set out in the Crown Employees Collective Bargaining Act, 1993, including but not limited to section 10 of that Act, and the Labour Relations Act, 1995, including but not limited to section 69 of that Act, do not apply with respect to the transfer described in subsection 53 (1). 2018, c. 17, Sched. 15, s. 6.

Section Amendments with date in force (d/m/y)

Protection from liability

55 (1) No cause of action arises, no proceeding may be brought and no remedy is available or damages, costs or compensation payable in connection with any amendment made by Schedule 15 to the Restoring Trust, Transparency and Accountability Act, 2018 to this Act or anything done or not done in accordance with those amendments. 2018, c. 17, Sched. 15, s. 6.

Same

(2) Subsection (1) applies whether the cause of action on which a proceeding is based arose before or after the day that subsection comes into force. 2018, c. 17, Sched. 15, s. 6.

Proceedings set aside

(3) Any proceeding referred to in subsection (1) commenced before the day that subsection comes into force is deemed to have been dismissed, without costs, on that day. 2018, c. 17, Sched. 15, s. 6.