



Pre-budget submission to the Government of Canada

February 18, 2021

The Coalition for Responsible Energy Development in New Brunswick (CRED-NB) advocates for responsible energy development to address the climate crisis.

Priorities to protect the environment and address the impact of climate change

The government should **prioritize support for energy-saving building retrofits** in communities across the country. This would reduce the energy consumption, lower the energy bills, increase the comfort of millions of Canadians, and provide work to skilled tradespeople in every community in the country, keeping money circulating within local economies.

The government should **invest in renewable energy**. A [2020 study](#) of 123 countries over 25 years found that countries that invested in renewable energy lowered their carbon emissions much more than those reliant on nuclear energy.

CRED-NB has joined more than 100 organizations across Canada to endorse a [public statement](#) calling so-called small modular (SMRs) “...a dirty, dangerous distraction from tackling climate change.”

The [2020 World Nuclear Industry Status Report](#) shows that investing in new nuclear energy is too slow to address the climate crisis, compared to investing in renewable energy and energy efficiency. No SMRs have yet been built. The models being proposed will take a decade or more to develop.

Nuclear power creates dangerous and toxic radioactive waste, for which no permanent storage facility exists. A recent [CBC story](#) raised considerable concerns about the **negative environmental impacts of the proposed nuclear projects for New Brunswick**.

A [Canadian study](#) found that **energy from small nuclear reactors would be up to ten times more expensive than renewable energy**. Over the past decade, the cost of building solar, wind power and battery storage has gone down dramatically, while the cost of building new nuclear



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reactors has gone up. Small reactors will be even more expensive per unit of power than the current large ones.

Investing in new nuclear reactors is a bad investment for job creation especially compared to an investment in renewable energy. Renewable energy is one of the fastest-growing job sectors in North America. An [American study](#) found that solar energy leads to six times as many jobs as nuclear power for each gigawatt-hour of electricity generated.

When the nuclear reactors have reached their end of life, it will then take more than 50 years to decommission and clean up the toxic radioactive waste the reactors created that remains on the site. **Our young generation and their children will bear that cost ad infinitum.** Federal budgets need to balance both short and long-term revenues and expenses.

We also urge the government to deny the requests by the Government of New Brunswick to allow our provincial utility NB Power to continue to operate the coal-fired energy plant at Belledune after the 2030 deadline imposed by the federal government. Coal is the most polluting energy source we have available. We don't need it in New Brunswick. We have hydroelectric power available right next door in Quebec that we should be accessing instead.

In summary, we urge the government to look at the science and considerable research that points to the benefits of renewable energy and the considerable drawbacks of nuclear energy investments.

Thank you.

We appreciate this opportunity to share our knowledge and analysis.

The CRED-NB team
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