



**Special Committee on Climate Change  
Second Report of the Second Session Sixty-second General Assembly**

# **A CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY FOR PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND**

**April 2005**

April 2005

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island:

I have the pleasure to present the final report of the Special Committee on Climate Change on the topic of a Climate Change Strategy for Prince Edward Island.

This report represents a synthesis of the varied input received by the Special Committee through presentations from individuals and organizations with expert knowledge on the subject of climate change, direct public input through scheduled public hearings, receipt of briefs and letters, and research assistance provided by the Climate Change Co-ordinator for the Province of Prince Edward Island.

The recommendations put forth to the Members of the Legislative Assembly from the Special Committee are based on a review of the climate change data and indicators, investigation of best practices on climate change mitigation, and above all, a desire for the best future for our children, grandchildren, and generations to come.

The Special Committee on Climate Change gratefully thanks and acknowledges the many individuals and organizations who took the time to present their views and concerns.

As Chairman, I wish to express my appreciation to the members of the Special Committee who participated in the process. They exhibited an unflinching professionalism and a great spirit of cooperation in carrying out the mandate of the Special Committee.

This report effectively concludes the work of the Special Committee on this issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Collins, MLA  
Chairman  
Special Committee on Climate Change

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## Executive Summary

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The Special Committee on Climate Change was directed by the Legislative Assembly in May 2004 to consult with Islanders and to develop recommendations on a climate change strategy for Prince Edward Island. Wayne Collins was elected as chairman of the Committee in September 2004.

Newspaper advertisements, personal invitations, news media coverage and unsolicited requests to make presentations resulted in a total of 27 presentations at eight public meetings. Presentations and written submissions covered over 80 separate recommendations on issues related to climate change. These included recommendations on renewable energy, transportation, energy efficiency, agriculture, coastal management, forestry, waste management, and enhancing awareness and understanding of climate change. Presenters commonly expressed the need for government to provide strong leadership, build partnerships and provide financial incentives to deal with climate change.

As a result of these discussions the Special Committee on Climate Change has made a series of recommendations which would lead to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, better understanding and cooperation on climate change issues, more efficient use of energy, reduced dependence on fossil fuels, and adaptive strategies to deal with the impending social, economic and environmental impacts of a changing climate.

The Special Committee on Climate Change also participated in the official launch of the Promoting Active Community Transport campaign and, along with the Hon. Jamie Ballem, Minister of Environment, Energy and Forestry, joined in the celebrating the entry of the Kyoto Protocol into international force.

## Introduction

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On May 13, 2004, the following motion, Motion #49, was presented and carried unanimously in the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island:

**WHEREAS** the Government of Prince Edward Island has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the federal Minister of Natural Resources and the Minister of the Environment on climate change;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Special Committee on Climate Change be established and comprised of six members to be named by the Honourable Premier and two members to be named by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition;

**AND THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that said Committee on Climate Change be authorized by this House to meet after the 1st Session of this 62nd General Assembly to consult with Islanders and to develop recommendations back to this House on a climate change strategy for the province.

Permanent members of the Special Committee on Climate Change are:

Wayne Collins, Chairman (District 15, Winsloe-West Royalty)  
Wilfred Arsenault (District 24, Evangeline-Miscouche)  
Jim Bagnall (District 4, Montague-Kilmuir)  
Carolyn Bertram (District 17, Crapaud-Hazel Grove)  
Richard Brown (District 12, Charlottetown-Kings Square)  
Hon. Chester Gillan (Minister of Health and Social Services)  
Wes MacAleer (District 14, Charlottetown-Spring Park)  
Helen MacDonald (District 22, St. Eleanors-Summerside)

Substitute members of the Special Committee included:

Hon. Robert Ghiz (Leader of the Official Opposition)  
Andy Mooney (District 1, Souris-Elmira)

## Public Consultation: Purpose, Process, and Participation

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Prince Edward Island is particularly sensitive to climate change, both as an island province with vulnerable coastlines and due to the important role of natural resources in our economy. The government of Prince Edward Island is committed to addressing climate change and contributing to national and global commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In 2000, the Department of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Environment, and the Department of Development and Technology released its own strategy, *Curbing Climate Change, Prince Edward Island Climate Change First Business Plan, 2000 - 2003*. This document is now dated and a new strategy that is consistent with the values and aspirations of Islanders is needed. As a result, the Special Committee on Climate Change was directed by the Legislative Assembly to consult with Islanders and to develop recommendations on a new climate change strategy for Prince Edward Island.

With this mandate, the Special Committee on Climate Change met on September 29, 2004, to elect a chairman and to discuss a work plan. Following the election of Wayne Collins as chairman, It was agreed by Committee members that the Climate Change Coordinator from the Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry, would be invited to make a presentation to the Committee. Erin Swansburg, the Climate Change Coordinator, was later seconded to the Committee to research and provide assistance in preparing the final report.

The Committee further agreed to solicit public input through an advertisement in local newspapers. An advertisement soliciting the views of the public appeared in the *Guardian*, the *Journal-Pioneer*, the *East Prince Graphic*, the *Western Graphic* and *La viox acadienne* on October 6, 2004. Copies of the notices are attached as Appendix A to this report. In addition, comprehensive information concerning the work of the Committee and climate change resource information, including “Prince Edward Island Climate Change Consultation Document – Draft” was posted on the website of the Legislative Assembly<sup>1</sup>.

In October 2004, the Committee met to review the response from the public to the advertisement. Due to limited response from some important stakeholders the Committee agreed to extend personal invitations in November 2004 to high schools, 4H clubs, and youth oriented environmental groups. In addition, the Committee sent letters of invitation in January 2005 to representatives from business, industry, and government. Additional interest was generated through media coverage of the Committee’s work and, as a result, a number of unsolicited requests to appear before the Committee were accommodated.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.assembly.pe.ca](http://www.assembly.pe.ca)

A total of eight public meetings were held as follows:

October 18, 2004, 3 p.m., Coles Building, Charlottetown  
October 28, 2004, 10 a.m., Coles Building, Charlottetown  
November 15, 2004, 7 p.m., Coles Building, Charlottetown  
January 11, 2005, 10 a.m., Coles Building, Charlottetown  
February 3, 2005, 10 a.m., Coles Building, Charlottetown  
February 10, 2005, 10 a.m., Coles Building, Charlottetown  
February 16, 2005, 11 a.m., Coles Building, Charlottetown  
March 10, 2005, 2 p.m., Coles Building, Charlottetown

The public hearings provided a forum for 27 presentations, involving 43 presenters, and one written brief from interested and concerned Islanders province-wide. Of these, eight presentations were from environmental groups, eight from government representatives (municipal, provincial and federal), five from business and industry, three from public citizens, and two from other interested parties. A complete list is attached as Appendix B to this report.

In the midst of public hearings, an interim report was presented to the Members of the Legislative Assembly on November 30, 2004.

The Committee also participated in two different activities to increase climate change awareness in Prince Edward Island and around the world. On January 21, 2005, the Committee participated in the official launch of the Promoting Active Community Transport (PACT) campaign, an initiative of the Youth Environmental Network and the PEI Climate Change Hub Youth Committee. On February 16, 2005, the Committee, along with the Honourable Jamie Ballem, Minister of Environment, Energy and Forestry, joined other communities around the world in celebrating the entry of the Kyoto Protocol into international force.

The Special Committee on Climate Change is appreciative of those who appeared before it to share their knowledge, concerns and recommendations for action and commends them for their obvious commitment to a healthy and sustainable environment for the province of Prince Edward Island.

## Overview of Presentations and Written Submissions

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Presentations and written submissions covered a number of issues related to climate change and a number of common recommendations were provided to guide government in addressing climate change. Presenters commonly expressed the need for government to provide strong leadership on this issue, incorporating climate change into government legislation, policies, and practices. Specifically, the need for government to “lead by example” by incorporating energy efficient practices into government operations was seen as a necessary step to engage municipalities, business, industry, and the general public in climate change mitigation. The need for government to commit more financial and human resources to climate change issues and research was also generally recognized.

Recommendations concerning renewable energy development were commonly presented to the Committee. Many of these recommendations were consistent with the Energy Framework and Renewable Energy Strategy released by the Department of Environment and Energy in June 2004. In addition to the enhancement of wind energy, presenters recommended the enhancement and expansion of biomass fuelled district heating systems with cogeneration of electricity, a re-examination of the potential for hydro power, and promotion of solar energy. Most presenters agreed that government should continue to lead these initiatives.

Many presenters recommended the government of Prince Edward Island support and provide assistance in the implementation of a public transit system, particularly in Charlottetown. Most encouraged government to financially support a transit system, perhaps with contributions from the provincial gas tax or a share of the federal gas tax rebate. Other less fossil-fuel intensive transportation options were also highlighted, with recommendations on the promotion of carpooling, active transportation, and incentives for alternatively fuelled vehicles. Your Committee points out that the government of Prince Edward Island now offers a provincial tax rebate (up to \$3,000) on the purchase of hybrid gasoline-electric vehicles, currently the best incentive in Canada. Presenters also recommended changes to management of the government fleet, with mandatory emissions testing and the purchase of more hybrid vehicles.

There was strong agreement among presenters for the provincial government to provide financial incentives for increasing the energy efficiency of existing residential, commercial and industrial buildings, and for the purchase of energy efficient products. Other provincial governments, municipalities and utilities in Canada provide financial incentives for the purchase of clothes washers, dishwashers, energy efficient boilers, freezers, furnaces, heat pumps, refrigerators, and windows.

There was also strong support for a government-led energy efficiency awareness initiative. Previously, the government of Prince Edward Island provided energy efficiency information through the Comfort Plus (residential) and Smart Energy Management (industrial) Programs. Elsewhere in Canada, provincial governments, municipalities, utilities and non-government organizations are providing energy efficiency information to clients. It was recommended that any awareness initiatives be web-based and include means to recognize residents, businesses and industries that are implementing energy efficient practices.

Agriculture and forestry were recognized as being important sources and sinks for greenhouse gas emissions. Recommendations concerning the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from these sectors included enhanced marketing of locally grown foods, thereby reducing the greenhouse gas emissions associated with trucking in off-island produce and trucking local produce out of the province. As the use of fertilizers on farms can be a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions, enhanced nutrient management was recommended. Enhancing carbon sinks through reforestation, afforestation, maintenance of existing forested land, and enhancing organic content of soil were all highlighted in public meetings. The Environmental Farm Plan Initiative is currently addressing many issues that will mitigate climate change and many farmers are implementing nutrient management plans. Public consultations on a new Forest Policy have also brought concerns over climate change to the forefront and may result in significant measure to both mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Most environmental non-government organizations recommended that the Government of Prince Edward Island increase funding to these groups and work cooperatively to increase public education and outreach and further climate change research. Additional training of government staff in methods to encourage behaviour change was also recommended.

Prince Edward Island is the only jurisdiction in Canada with a province-wide three-stream source separation based waste management system ("Waste Watch"). Diverting compostable material from landfill is a significant step in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. However, presenters questioned the benefit considering the transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions that result from waste collection. Home composting was recommended as an alternative that should be supported and promoted by government. Incineration of municipal waste at PEI Energy Systems prevents the release of greenhouse gas emissions that would otherwise be required for heating many buildings in Charlottetown. However, with Waste Watch the stream of municipal waste delivered to the facility has decreased. Presenters recommended that the waste stream be re-evaluated to increase the amount of municipal waste to pre-Waste Watch levels and allow for the expansion of the district heating system.

Finally, as public hearings progressed, concerns over coastal erosion and sea level rise were more commonly expressed, and, in fact, were the focus of presentations by the Tourism Industry Association of Prince Edward Island, Parks Canada, Environment Canada, and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs. Presenters recommended that additional research to assess the vulnerability of coastal environments and infrastructure was needed and efforts to protect our shoreline be enhanced. To minimize damage to infrastructure, the necessity of better land use planning was highlighted.

## Recommendations Presented to the Special Committee on Climate Change

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Over 80 separate recommendations were made to the Special Committee on Climate Change. Recommendations covered a broad range of topics. As a result, specific recommendations were categorized according to nine separate headings. The following charts summarize the recommendations presented to the Committee for their consideration.

### GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Government must lead by example
2. Incorporate climate change considerations into government legislation, policies and practices
3. Commit more financial and human resources to climate change issues and research
4. Establish a provincial committee to take the lead role in policy development on climate change

### SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Renewable Energy

5. Expand district heating system in Charlottetown and introduce in other communities (e.g. Summerside)
6. Develop and demonstrate additional wind power (40 MW)
7. Promote co-generation in expansion and introduction of district heating systems and industrial applications
8. Promote the growth of oil crops for energy / fuel production (e.g. corn – ethanol)
9. Explore the use of different sources of biomass (e.g. wood, straw, fuel crops, etc.) for energy production
10. Promote solar energy as an alternative energy source
11. Amend Electric Power Act to give capacity for co-generated power and remove term “indirectly” from the definition of “utility”
12. Provide incentives to promote the construction of wind energy projects (e.g. tax holiday, property tax incentives, etc.)
13. Investigate hydro power (including small-scale hydro) as an option for our current and future energy needs
14. Create an environment and opportunities for the private sector to take a leadership role in wind power development
15. Adopt a risk based, common sense approach to regulations to expedite environmental impact assessment
16. Amend land use regulations to classify wind turbines into three classes with accompanying regulations
17. Capture methane gas from the Central Compost Facility

18. Conduct a thorough study of energy self sufficiency
19. Continue efforts to fund a wind-hydrogen village
20. Develop renewable energy training programs in cooperation with Holland College and UPEI
21. Encourage companies to manufacture alternate energy systems
22. Establish net metering system in cooperation with Maritime Electric Company, Limited
23. Fund greater energy self sufficiency through proceeds from the sale of Petro Canada, Canada Pension Plan investments, the Master Trust and a bond issue from the province
24. Implement criteria for placement of wind turbines to protect natural vistas
25. Include co-generated electricity in proposed net metering system (e.g. district heating)
26. Introduce regulations governing use of electricity for space heating
27. Produce a quality wind map of Prince Edward Island

### Transportation

28. Support / implement a public transit system (i.e. Charlottetown, Summerside and province-wide)
29. Fund public transit initiatives through the provincial gasoline tax or fuel tax rebate program
30. Encourage active transportation (e.g. walk-to-school day and car-free day campaigns)
31. Invest in additional hybrid / fuel efficient vehicles for the government fleet
32. Provide incentives for carpooling and develop a system to match prospective carpoolers
33. Provide incentive for the general public and businesses to purchase hybrid vehicles
34. Conduct a study on public transit or acknowledge the ENTRA study
35. Decentralize retail services and education facilities
36. Encourage changes in driving behaviour through enhanced public awareness
37. Encourage service station owners to provide alternative fuels
38. Ensure vehicles on the road are properly maintained
39. Form a transit authority to run a public transit system
40. Improve fuel efficiency in the heavy duty truck sector
41. Increase the amount of bike paths (e.g. Charlottetown to the North Shore)
42. Introduce mandatory emissions testing for government vehicles
43. Legislate vehicle emissions standards
44. Promote increased fuel efficiency through improved vehicle technologies
45. Promote transit system through various incentive programs, encouraging widespread use of the system

### Energy Efficiency

46. Provide financial assistance (incentives or tax credits) for energy conservation practices (i.e. for retrofitting existing residential, commercial, and industrial buildings, energy efficient products)
47. Create an energy awareness and conservation program (e.g. web-based best practices manual)
48. Ensure that social/affordable housing projects are energy efficient
49. Establish standards for new building energy efficiency
50. Fund energy efficiency initiatives by marketing as pilot programs with potential national application
51. Mandate energy efficient lighting in homes

52. Promote the EnerGuide for Houses Program (Natural Resources Canada)
53. Provide energy efficiency information to new home builders and buyers
54. Start a lawn reduction campaign

#### Agriculture

55. Encourage consumers to purchase locally grown foods (e.g. rewards program)
56. Encourage / mandate nutrient management planning on all farms
57. Encourage crop diversification
58. Examine opportunities for PEI farmers to supply agricultural product for non-tree paper production
59. Increase organic matter of soil

#### Building Partnerships

60. Enhance funding to environmental non-governmental organizations
61. Consider intervener funding for groups appearing before legislative committees
62. Partner with non-governmental organizations to deliver climate change programs
63. Support youth environmental capacity building
64. Work with large emitters to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

#### Coastal Management and Land Use Planning

65. Expand mapping (LIDAR) of our entire land mass (coastline and interior) to determine “at risk” infrastructure, carry out effective emergency planning, and improve agriculture and forest planning
66. Initiate aggressive shoreline protection
67. Eliminate permits for sand removal
68. Re-evaluate land use planning in coastal areas
69. Revisit and modernize legislation concerning land use planning, emergency plans and development in coastal areas

#### Forestry

70. Provide incentives for maintaining and increasing forests and green spaces on private and public land (e.g. carbon credits, direct purchases, landowner agreements, tax breaks, silviculture support, etc.)
71. Include climate change considerations in upcoming forest policy
72. Plant Carolinian tree species in anticipation of climate change
73. Re-evaluate species grown in government nursery with respect to future climate scenarios
74. Research continued viability of southern and northern tree species in Prince Edward Island

#### Waste Management

75. Improve management of waste stream to maximize utilization at PEI Energy Systems
76. Develop a website to promote recycling of used construction material and establish a depot for used materials
77. Encourage home composting
78. Promote the use of 100% post-consumer paper

79. Provide financial incentives for companies that manufacture products with recycled content

*Enhancing Awareness and Understanding*

80. Provide training to government staff in community based social marketing

81. Establish a "Mitigating Climate Change" award for general public, business, government and industry

82. Incorporate climate change education into school curriculum

83. Provide information to the public on greenhouse gas emissions and carbon credit trading

## **Recommendations to the Legislative Assembly**

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The Special Committee on Climate Change has reviewed the presentations and the written brief that were submitted. As a result of these presentations, this Committee recognizes that Prince Edward Island is highly vulnerable to climate change. Over the next 100 years, changes in temperature of 4 to 5 °C and similar or slightly increased levels of precipitation will undoubtedly affect agriculture, fisheries, forestry, and tourism; our major industries. In addition, as an island province with highly erodible coasts, we are particularly susceptible to coastal erosion and sea level rise.

However, this Committee recognizes that significant challenges present significant opportunities. Prince Edward Island, with over 20 years of wind energy research and development, an ambitious strategy for further renewable energy development, and national and international commitments to address climate change, has already demonstrated that we are up for the challenge.

After due consideration and discussion, we respectfully submit to the Legislative Assembly our findings and the resulting recommendations for your consideration.

### **Lead by Example**

While it was recognized that government, business, industry and individual Islanders all have a role to play in mitigating and adapting to climate change, this Committee recognizes that the Government of Prince Edward Island must provide strong leadership on climate change issues and lead climate change initiatives by example. Specifically, this committee recommends the following:

- 1. that climate change considerations be incorporated into government legislation, policies and practices,**
- 2. that resources be re-allocated to climate change issues and research. Namely, an inter-departmental (including agencies and crown corporations) committee, chaired by the Climate Change Coordinator, be established to take the lead role in policy development on climate change. This Committee will report on an annual basis to the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Environment. This report will serve as the basis for initial discussions concerning opportunities for policy development. Immediate emphasis should be given to the re-evaluation of policy and legislation governing land use planning, emergency plans and development in coastal areas**
- 3. that government reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the government fleet of vehicles (i.e. corporate, heavy duty, off-road, and school buses fleets) by:**
  - investing in additional hybrid and other fuel efficient vehicles**

- **considering the feasibility of mandatory emissions testing for all government vehicles**
- 4. that all new provincial government buildings and social / affordable housing projects meet or exceed the Model National Energy Code for Buildings (MNECB)**
  - 5. that government examine the feasibility of mandating a recyclable content (e.g. 35 per cent post consumer waste) for all printing and photocopy paper**
  - 6. that government consider training of staff in community based social marketing**

### **Renewable Energy**

Prince Edward Island has long been a leader in renewable energy, with the establishment of Atlantic Wind Test Site (1981), the Charlottetown district heating system (1983), and the North Cape Wind Farm (2001). The North Cape Wind Farm has continued to expand and now supplies 5 per cent of Prince Edward Island's electricity needs. In June 2004, the Department of Environment and Energy released the *Energy Framework and Renewable Energy Strategy*, deemed by industry experts as the "most progressive renewable energy policy in North America" (Paul Gipe, acting executive director of the Ontario Sustainable Energy Association). Many recommendations made to this Committee reflected specific action items that were highlighted in the *Energy Framework and Renewable Energy Strategy*, and in fact, significant progress has already been made on a number of these recommendations. The Government of Prince Edward Island has since introduced the *Renewable Energy Act*, mandating a Renewable Portfolio Standard of 15 per cent for 2010, allowing for net metering for small renewable energy systems and a guaranteed feed-in tariff for community/wind cooperative and large systems, and restricting large-scale wind developments to designated development areas. The PEI Energy Corporation expects to issue a request for proposals for 30 megawatts of wind in the spring of 2005, with the development to be in place the following year. The Government of Prince Edward Island is also moving towards the use of biofuels for energy production. In February 2005, a request for expressions of interest for the establishment of an oil seed extraction and biodiesel manufacturing plant in Prince Edward Island was issued. This Committee endorses the *Energy Framework and Renewable Energy Strategy* and specifically recommends the following:

- 7. that government continue to pursue the development of wind energy**
- 8. that government continue efforts to acquire federal support for a wind-hydrogen village in western Prince Edward Island**
- 9. that a quality wind map of Prince Edward Island be produced and made readily available to Islanders through the government website**

- 10. that government promote the use of biofuels for energy production and continue to pursue the establishment of an oil seed extraction and biodiesel manufacturing industry on Prince Edward Island**
- 11. that energy production from other sources of biomass (e.g. wood and straw) be explored**
- 12. that methane gas be captured from the central compost facility and used to generate electricity**
- 13. that government, in cooperation with Maritime Electric Company, Limited, establish a net metering system**
- 14. that government, in cooperation with Holland College and the University of Prince Edward Island, support the development of renewable energy training programs**

### **Transportation**

Over 40 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions in Prince Edward Island are transportation related and reducing these emissions will be a significant challenge. Historically, Prince Edward Island has been more dependent on automobiles than any other province. Prince Edward Island has the most intensive network of highways of any Canadian province, the least developed urban transit infrastructure, the most auto-dependent tourism industry in the country, and a heavy dependence on trucks to move our valuable agricultural and fisheries products in, out and about the province. In addition to these realities, many cultural considerations also contribute to our reliance on unsustainable transportation practices. Many Islanders prefer living in rural communities and thus commute daily to the municipalities of Charlottetown and Summerside for work and/or leisure. In addition, more Islanders are choosing to drive light duty trucks primarily for personal transportation rather than for commercial or industrial applications. Recognizing these challenges, the Committee recommends the following;

- 15. that all levels of government be encouraged to collaborate in a positive fashion to investigate the feasibility of establishing a convenient, reliable, and affordable public transit system for interested municipalities**
- 16. that government encourage active transportation, by promoting walk-to-school and car-free day campaigns, increasing the number of dedicated bicycle paths, and embarking on a shoulder paving program on routes that lead to recreational destinations for the safe conveyance of cyclists and pedestrians**
- 17. that all levels of government and private developers incorporate active transportation strategies into future developments where applicable**

- 18. that government incorporate messages on fuel efficient driving practices (i.e. anti-idling, regular vehicle and tire pressure maintenance, etc.) in public service announcements made by the Department of Transportation and Public Works**
- 19. that government continue to provide a provincial tax rebate incentive (up to \$3,000) for the purchase of hybrid gasoline-electric vehicles**

### **Energy Efficiency**

In Canada, the generation of electricity, through the burning of coal, oil, natural gas, and other fuels, is the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. By using less energy at home or at work, Islanders can take action on climate change and save money. The Government of Canada has invested significant resources in the promotion of energy efficiency through the “One-Tonne Challenge” campaign and offers a suite of incentives to homeowners, and institutional, commercial, and industrial facilities through the EnerGuide for Houses program, Energy Innovators Initiative (EII), and Commercial or Industrial Building Incentive Programs (CBIP and IBIP). In fact, in the 2005 Federal Budget, an additional \$225 million was allocated over five years to the EnerGuide for Houses program in hopes of quadrupling the number of homes undertaking energy efficient retrofits. This Committee feels that the Government of Prince Edward Island can educate Islanders on the benefits of energy efficiency through the promotion of these federal campaigns and by cooperating with local organizations. Specifically, this Committee recommends the following:

- 20. that government, in cooperation with other organizations, declare an annual “Climate Change Day” that promotes climate change issues and energy efficient practices, through a concerted, media intensive campaign. The efforts of business, government industry and the general public to reduce greenhouse gas emissions should also be recognized in conjunction with this event**
- 21. that the Climate Change Coordinator consult with Maritime Electric Company, Limited and the City of Summerside and work together on an energy efficiency campaign that would provide Islanders with information on energy conservation**
- 22. that the Climate Change Coordinator collaborate with the Department of Education to examine ways to incorporate climate change information into the existing provincial curriculum and introduce a special award for renewable energy and climate change projects at science fairs**
- 23. that government utilize summer youth employment programs to deliver a mobile energy efficiency and climate change display at high traffic venues throughout the province**

- 24. that government, in cooperation with the construction industry, educate builders on incorporating energy efficient designs into new residential and commercial construction**
- 25. that the provincial and federal governments collaborate to pilot building designs that aim for greater energy efficiency through the incorporation of alternative fuels (e.g. hydrogen)**

### **Agriculture**

Agricultural practices are significant contributors to climate change in Prince Edward Island. Activities, such as enteric fermentation, manure management, and inappropriate nutrient management, resulted in the release of 380,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions in 2003. However, of greater importance, the agricultural industry stands to be substantially impacted by changes in average climate. Although there is some speculation about positive effects, such as a longer growing season and yield improvements, there is more concern about the effects of water stress and increased prevalence of pests and disease which will present a significant challenge. As a result, this committee recommends the following:

- 26. that government encourage major grocery retailers to purchase and highlight locally grown produce**
- 27. that government encourage the adoption of nutrient management plans and support organizations, such as the Soil and Crop Improvement Association, that seek to educate farmers on sustainable farming practices**

### **Building Partnerships**

This Committee acknowledges and commends the good work of environmental non-government organizations in Prince Edward Island and recommends the following:

- 28. that government continue to work cooperatively with non-governmental organizations to achieve common goals for public education and outreach and climate change mitigation**

### **Coastal Management and Land Use Planning**

Prince Edward Island is particularly sensitive to climate change, both as an island province with vulnerable coastlines and due to the important role of natural resources in the economy. Prince Edward Island's shores are highly sensitive to sea level rise due to a thousand years of slow submergence (i.e. sinking) and the highly erodible nature of our shores. Our vulnerability is further heightened due to the number of Islanders living in coastal communities and depending on the ocean's resources and tourism to make a living. This Committee recognizes the limited

success of shoreline protection efforts and is convinced that the best approach to protect coastal infrastructure is through effective land use planning. To that end, the Committee recommends the following:

**29. that there is an urgent need for complete digital elevation mapping of Prince Edward Island, with particular emphasis on our coastline, to determine “at risk” infrastructure, carry out effective emergency planning, and improve agriculture and forest planning. Government is encouraged to work with federal government counterparts to pursue the implementation of a major, Island wide study**

**30. that government continue to monitor coastal sand mining and ensure that sand removal, where necessary, is done in an environmentally sustainable fashion**

### **Forestry**

Forests and green spaces are of great value to Islanders and provide wildlife habitat, watershed enhancement, economic opportunities and beauty to our landscape. With climate change, forestry will face similar challenges and opportunities as agriculture. However, unlike agriculture, forest planning requires significant long range planning. Trees planted now, may require at least 40 years before suitable for harvest compared to agricultural crops, which are planted and harvested annually. As a result, there is an urgent need for the incorporation of climate change into current forest planning on Prince Edward Island. This Committee recommends the following:

**31. that the Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry include climate change considerations in the development of a new forest policy**

**32. that government evaluate the continued viability of existing tree species in Prince Edward Island and re-evaluate tree species grown in the government nursery with respect to future climate scenarios, giving appropriate consideration to the growth and planting of more southerly species (i.e. Carolinian tree species)**

### **Waste Management**

Landfills, in many provinces, are a major source of greenhouse gas emissions. In Prince Edward Island the province-wide implementation of Waste Watch has significantly reduced greenhouse gases from this source. However, Waste Watch has also reduced the amount of municipal waste that is incinerated at PEI Energy Systems. Municipal waste, in addition to wood waste, incineration, fuels the Charlottetown district heating system—the largest commercial district heating system in Canada--preventing the release of greenhouse gas emissions that would otherwise be emitted. This Committee recommends the following:

**33. that the Island Waste Management Corporation work with PEI Energy Systems to seek solutions to the dwindling waste stream**

**34. that the Island Waste Management Corporation examine methods to reduce transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions that result from waste collection**

## CONCLUSIONS

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The Special Committee on Climate Change has consulted with Islanders and developed recommendations on a new climate change strategy for Prince Edward Island. The Committee recognizes the vulnerability of Prince Edward Island to climate change and the significance of these recommendations to future generations of Islanders. It has made recommendations that reflect the importance of developing strategies which will help Islanders gain a better understanding of the issues of climate change through research and education and adapt to the impending social, economic and environmental impacts.

The Committee also recognizes the key role that all Islanders will play in the reduction of green house gas emissions. These recommendations are designed to meet the challenge of getting people involved in initiatives such as reducing the consumption of fossil fuels and other energy efficiency programs.

The importance of the leadership role that government must play was also emphasized. There are opportunities for all levels of government, business, industry, and individuals to encourage innovation and work cooperatively to improve the local environmental quality through the implementation of a strategy that responds to climate change.

The Special Committee on Climate Change would like to thank all the participants who have made this report possible. The Committee would especially like to thank the people who made presentations and submissions, as well as the public for their support in dealing with climate change. These were critical to the development of the Committees recommendations and will be crucial their successful implementation.



Legislative Assembly  
of  
Prince Edward Island

*Special Committee on Climate Change*

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**Public Hearings  
Climate Change Strategy for  
Prince Edward Island**

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The Special Committee on Climate Change has been directed by the Legislative Assembly to consult with Islanders and develop recommendations on a climate change strategy for the province.

The Standing Committee invites organizations or individuals interested in making their views known on this matter to contact:

Office of the Clerk  
Province House  
PO Box 2000  
Charlottetown, PE C1A 7N8  
Tel: (902) 368-5972  
Fax: (902) 368-5175  
E-mail: [majohnston@gov.pe.ca](mailto:majohnston@gov.pe.ca)

The deadline for responding is October 15, 2004.

A schedule of hearings will be established after the level of public interest has been determined. Additional information is available at [www.assembly.pe.ca](http://www.assembly.pe.ca)

Wayne Collins, MLA  
Chairman, Special Committee on Climate Change

[www.assembly.pe.ca](http://www.assembly.pe.ca)



Assemblée législative  
de  
l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard

*Comité spécial sur le changement climatique*

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**Audiences publiques**  
**Stratégie sur le changement climatique**  
**pour l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard**

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L'Assemblée législative a chargé le Comité spécial sur le changement climatique de consulter les Insulaires et d'élaborer des recommandations visant une stratégie sur le changement climatique pour la province.

Le Comité spécial invite les organismes ou les personnes intéressées à faire connaître leur opinion à ce sujet en communiquant avec :

Bureau du greffier  
Province House, C.P. 2000  
Charlottetown (Î.-P.-É.) C1A 7N8  
Téléphone (902) 368-5972  
Télécopieur (902) 368-5175  
Courriel : [majohnston@gov.pe.ca](mailto:majohnston@gov.pe.ca)

La date limite est le 15 octobre 2004.

L'horaire des audiences sera défini une fois que l'intérêt du public sera connu. D'autres renseignements se trouvent à l'adresse [www.assembly.pe.ca](http://www.assembly.pe.ca)

Wayne Collins, MAL  
Président, Comité spécial sur le changement climatique  
[www.assembly.pe.ca](http://www.assembly.pe.ca)

## APPENDIX B:

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### List of Presenters at Public Hearings:

- October 18, 2004** Ms. Erin Swansburg, Climate Change Coordinator, PEI Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry
- October 28, 2004** Mr. John TeRaa  
Mr. Raymond Loo, Mr. Rob Sharkey and Mr. Wesley Johnston, representing the Prince Edward Island Environmental Coalition  
Mr. Tony Reddin, representing the Atlantic Chapter of the Sierra Club of Canada  
Mr. Bill Drost  
Mr. David Boyce, representing the Southeast Environmental Association and the PEI Climate Change Hub  
Mr. Ken Bingham, representing the Malpeque Federal riding NDP Association  
Mr. Lennie MacPherson and Ms. Olive Bryenton, representing the Public Transit Coalition  
Ms. Brenda Penek and Ms. Leslie Hartling, representing the Bedeque Bay Environmental Management Association  
Mr. Peter Meggs and Mr. Michael Zinck, representing the Town of Cornwall
- November 15, 2004** Mr. Daniel Gaudet, representing the Youth Committee of the PEI Climate Change Hub  
Mr. Jason Kun, representing the Youth Environmental Network  
Ms. Julie Matheson and Mr. Willie Horne, representing Charlottetown Rural High School
- January 11, 2005** Mr. Jason Kun, representing the Youth Environmental Network
- February 3, 2005** Mr. John Gaudet, Mr. Robert Younker, and Ms. Kim Griffin, representing Maritime Electric Company, Limited  
Hon. Jamie Ballem, Minister of Environment, Energy and Forestry  
Mr. Wayne MacQuarrie, representing the PEI Energy Corporation
- February 11, 2005** Mr. Scott Smith, representing Cavendish Farms  
Mr. David Godkin, representing PEI Energy Systems  
Mr. Don Cudmore, Ms. Judy MacDonald, Mr. Tom Rath, and Mr. Gerald Bryenton, representing the Tourism Industry Association of PEI  
Mr. David Lipton, Mr. Michel Bujold, and Ms. Darlene Upton, representing Parks Canada

Mr. Douglas Coles and Ms. Kathy Hambly, representing the Greater  
Charlottetown Area Chamber of Commerce  
Mr. Stu MacFadyen, Deputy Mayor, and Ms. Donna Waddell, representing the  
City of Charlottetown

**February 16,** Mr. Réal Daigle, representing Environment Canada  
**2005**

**March 10,** Mr. Ron MacMillan, Deputy Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs  
**2005** Ms. Sandra Boswell  
Mr. Tyler Wright and Mr. Alan Rennie, representing the Soil and Crop  
Improvement Association  
Mr. Bill Glen, representing the Department of Environment, Energy and  
Forestry

## APPENDIX C:

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### Special Committee on Climate Change Permanent Members:

Wayne Collins, Chairman (MLA District 15, Winsloe-West Royalty)

Wilfred Arsenault (MLA District 24, Evangeline-Miscouche)

Jim Bagnall (MLA District 4, Montague-Kilmuir)

Carolyn Bertram (MLA District 17, Crapaud-Hazel Grove)

Richard Brown (MLA District 12, Charlottetown-Kings Square)

Hon. Chester Gillan (Minister of Health and Social Services)

Wes MacAleer (MLA District 14, Charlottetown-Spring Park)

Helen MacDonald (MLA District 22, St. Eleanors-Summerside)

### Special Committee on Climate Change Substitute Members:

Hon. Robert Ghiz (Leader of the Official Opposition)

Andy Mooney (MLA District 1, Souris-Elmira)