

Advocacy: Ignite Economic Development Strategy to 2030

To: Ignite Economic Development Strategy 2030 Team

I am writing to you on behalf of the newly founded Fredericton Community Climate Hub. We are an organization in Fredericton affiliated with the Climate Reality Project Canada, with a mandate to empower the community through collaborative efforts, fostering engagement, and creating awareness. Our mandate encompasses mobilizing residents, NGOs, and municipalities to accelerate the development and meaningful implementation of climate adaptation and mitigation plans. We are committed to ensuring these plans integrate a social equity lens, leaving no community behind in the transition towards a sustainable and resilient future.

The overarching goal of the Hub is to accelerate the development and implementation of comprehensive climate adaptation and mitigation plans and create a resilient, environmentally conscious, and socially equitable Fredericton that serves as a model for sustainable community development.

As a climate hub, we see the 2030 Ignite Economic Development Strategy as an excellent place to incorporate a climate justice lens and key climate targets into policy and action, to empower municipal entities in the Capital Region Service Commission to adopt opportunities that increase our prospects for meeting 2030 and 2050 climate targets. The Vision 2030 strategy goal year coincides with the nation-wide and provincially-adopted target to reduce GHG emissions by 50%. Our organization would like to make suggestions for how the Strategy can support municipalities to meet their climate targets, while strengthening the resilience of our communities.

We recommend first that the Strategy incorporate a climate lens in all phases of planning and realization of proposed activities. A key tool for assessing the climate impacts of infrastructure from both an emissions and resilience perspective, a climate lens also helps identify areas of emissions reductions and resilience to climate change, which can benefit communities and promote job creation.¹

Second, in order to meet our climate targets, any new economic strategy must embrace the concept of Clean Growth, defined as inclusive economic growth that reduces GHG emissions, strengthens resilience to a changing climate, and improves the well-being of Canadians;² as well as Low Carbon Growth, wherein growing the economy will require both reducing the emissions intensity of existing sources of growth and supporting new sources of low-carbon growth.³-The Canadian Climate Institute provides a report on 11 data-driven indicators of clean

¹ <https://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/pub/other-autre/cl-occ-eng.html>

²

https://climatechoices.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/11-WAYS-TO-MEASURE-CLEAN-GROWTH_report.pdf

³ <https://climateinstitute.ca/reports/clean-growth/1-low-carbon-growth/#easy-footnote-bottom-1-3566>

growth that can be used by organizations such as Ignite to ensure development plans address climate targets while sustaining growth and healthy, resilient communities. For example, analyzing and addressing the economic costs of climate change and including cost-savings of resilience in economic planning; promoting development and adoption of Clean Energy Technology; or investment in climate-related infrastructure and low-carbon jobs.⁴

Ignite's plans for the 2030 Strategy emphasize that work being conducted in 2024 must be based on community needs. We see this as an excellent opportunity to develop a plan that invests in low-carbon economic development that will enhance the resiliency of our communities, in areas such as food and energy security, climate resilience, energy-efficient housing, sustainable supply chains and small businesses, and shift from extractive industries like oil and gas, including shale gas.

We see Ignite's 2030 Strategy as an excellent place to incorporate Clean Growth and Low Carbon Growth research and practice into economic development for the Capital Region over the next six years. This will not only enhance the resilience and development of our communities, but also empower municipal entities to meet their climate targets. We encourage Ignite to consider our suggestions about and ensure the Development Strategy includes a climate lens approach as well as clean and low carbon growth strategies. The health, safety, and growth of our communities depends on it.

Sincerely,

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