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Message from Co-Chairs

It is our pleasure to report on activities of the Belledune Port Authority's Community Workforce Development Committee from April to December 2024.

The committee was established in 2023 to review the green energy goals of the Port's Master Development Plan, provide a forum for information sharing and feedback, to enable all members to seek out opportunities for community education and workforce development.



In the past year, we have visited communities from east to west in northern New Brunswick, learned about opportunities to develop biomass, hydrogen, wind, solar and battery projects and assessed the potential economic impacts and job opportunities that could result from these projects.

We are proud to release the results of a new report by economist David Campbell, which predicts that Green Energy Hub projects have the potential to be an economic catalyst for the region, generating billions in capital investment, creating thousands of jobs and millions in tax revenue.

In October 2024, we welcomed our new co-chair Katherine Lanteigne to the committee, a Bathurst entrepreneur and champion for economic development who brings fresh ideas and enthusiasm to our work together.

We are pleased that the Port of Belledune is working toward an industrial renaissance for our region and excited about the future.

With six months left in the committee's mandate, we will continue working with the Port to identify challenges and opportunities related to Green Energy Hub Projects, and support plans to create sustainable industry, jobs and growth for decades to come.

Betty-Ann Fortin
Katherine Lanteigne

CWDC Membership

- **Betty-Ann Fortin** (Co-Chair)
- **Katherine Lanteigne** (Co-chair)
- **Jean-Guy Levesque**, Restigouche Regional Service Commission
- **Paul Arsenault**, Chaleur Regional Service Commission
- **Bernard Theriault**, Acadian Peninsula Regional Service Commission
- **Michel Guitard**, Executive Director, CBDC Restigouche,
- **Denis Roy**, Executive Director, CBDC Chaleur
- **Frederick McGraw**, Executive Director, CBDC Peninsule Acadien
- **Chief Terry Richardson**, Chief, Pabineau First Nation
- **Chief Jake Caplin**, Chief, Eel River Bar First Nation
- **Sebastien Hache**, Valores
- **Yannick Theriault**, Chaleur Watershed Group
- **Pierre Zundel**, NBCC CEO/President (CCNB)
- **Dina Lavoie**, Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour



Summary of Activities

May 28, 2024 **Caraquet, NB**

The committee hosted its regular meeting at Centre Culturel, Caraquet, on the first day of Rendez-Vous Acadie-Quebec, a semi-annual conference with regional business and local government leaders celebrating economic cooperation between New Brunswick and Quebec. Port CEO Denis Caron opened the conference with a keynote about the potential benefits of green energy developments for both provinces.

The committee meeting featured presentations from wind energy consultant Justin LaBilloy on the topic of Northern Energy Alliance: A community approach for energy production and John Stronach, Senior Advisor, Natural Gas and Hydrogen Division, Natural Resources Canada, on Atlantic Canada's role in the National Hydrogen Strategy.

August 13, 2024 **Virtual**

Regular committee meeting with progress updates from the Port of Belledune.

October 8, 2024 **Campbellton, NB**

The committee hosted its regular meeting at Canadian Business Development Bank (CBDC) with a presentation from economist David Campbell of Jupia Consultants on the potential economic impacts of Green Energy Hub projects in Northern New Brunswick.

December 3, 2024 **Bathurst, NB**

The committee hosted its regular meeting in Bathurst immediately followed by a public panel discussion and networking event for approximately 50 local business and community leaders focused on 'Economic Growth and the Green Energy Hub,' Panel participants included Michelle Robichaud, President of Atlantica Centre for Energy, economist David Campbell of Jupia Consultants and Belledune Port Authority CEO Denis Caron, moderated by Jennifer Cleversey Moffitt and Julie Pinette of the Port of Belledune.

The event served as a launch for David Campbell's economic impact report 'Port of Belledune: Canada's Green Energy Hub, Revitalizing Northeastern New Brunswick's economy,' prepared for the Community Workforce Development Committee and available on the Port's website. The report models the potential economic impact of five green energy projects under consideration for the Green Energy Hub.

Minutes of Meeting BPA Community Workforce Development Committee

Date	May 28, 2024 1-4 pm
Attendees	<p>Betty-Ann Fortin, Roger Clinch, Bernard Theriault, Matthieu Girard, Daniel Guitard, Dina Lavoie, Frederick McGraw, Jennifer Cleversey Moffitt, Denis Caron, Mario Pelletier, Daniel Theriault,, Sebastien Hache, Julie Pinette, Rick Hutchinson, Yannick Theriault, Yves Ange, Terry Richardson, Jim Richardson, Chuck Harn, Jean-Guy Levesque, Cyril Simard, Denis Roy</p> <p>Guests: Justin Labillois, John Stronach, Dani Ryan La Cave media</p>
Regrets	Pierre Zundel, Michel Guitard
Review minutes of last meeting	March 20 minutes approved by consensus
Review action items from last meeting	N/A
Meeting Agenda	<p>Welcome and Committee business Green Energy Hub update from BPA</p> <p>Update on activities for 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ UK Biomass Conference & update on biomass test burn and supply options for fuel ○ Rotterdam Conference - Federal hydrogen strategy and investment tax credit ○ Indigenous-led Energy Conference <p>Presentation: Justin Labillois - Northern Energy Alliance</p> <p>Presentation: Federal Hydrogen strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● John Stronach, Senior Advisor, NRCAN

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dani Ryan, • Q and A
<p>Discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biomass test burn at Belledune Generating Station and possible conversion to biomass. What is the potential for local biomass suppliers to provide fuel for the NB Power plant? What are the cost impacts to convert the plant? How can we harvest biomass from the forest in an economic way? These subjects were addressed in March 20 meeting with NB Power and NRED and will continue to be explored as the utility determines whether the project is feasible. • Role of project proponents in explaining potential environmental impacts to the community vs the port and members of this committee: It is up to the project proponents to explain potential project impacts of the community as part of the environmental approvals process. The port plays an important role in ensuring sustainable development for the region but it is not a project proponent. Work is underway to understand regulatory requirements for the projects that are currently being proposed. • Provincial government support for this project: The Port is more advanced in infrastructure to support hydrogen production while NS/NL is more advanced in regulatory approvals and investment commitments. Our government needs to do more to promote the NB-based projects. • Munis/community leaders can do more to share information about wind and other renewable energy projects vs proponents in ways that citizens can understand and support them • This committee can help identify gaps in training and other necessary supports/enablers of the new green economy, including housing, transportation and child care. This can be supported by funding and other incentives from the federal government. • NS and NL projects may receive approvals for federal funding soon, because they have advanced project descriptions through regulatory processes. The hydrogen project at Belledune has not yet advanced to this point.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How to move the conversation beyond this table? Communicating priorities beyond this group - how do we reach youth, newcomers, those who are more difficult to convince? This is a priority discussion for future meetings.
Key Decisions and Action Items	N/A
Next Meeting	August 13, 2024

Minutes of Meeting BPA Community Workforce Development Committee

Date	August 13, 2024, 9-11:30 PM (virtual)
Attendees	Betty-Ann Fortin, Roger Clinch, Jean Guy Levesque, Dina Lavoie, Frederick McGraw, Jennifer Cleversey Moffitt, Denis Caron, Sebastien Hache, Julie Pinette, Rick Hutchinson, Yannick Theriault, Jean-Guy Levesque, Deb Nobes, Paul Arseneault, Cyrille Simard.
Regrets	Pierre Zundel, Michel Guitard, Bernard Thériault, Mathieu Girard, Daniel Guitard, Denis Roy, Terry Richardson, Chief Jake, Diane Arseneault.
Review minutes of last meeting	May 28, 2024 minutes approved by consensus
Review action items from last meeting	N/A
Meeting Agenda	<p>Welcome and Committee business Green Energy Hub update from BPA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on activities for 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ramp up for the Fall Biomass conversion update for NB Power Atlantic Indigenous-Led Energy Symposium update (Sept 18-20 - NSMTC Indigenous-Led Energy Symposium (nsmtcenergy.ca)) Canada committing to \$300 million to support clean hydrogen trade with Germany. (Link: Government of Canada Announces \$300 Million in Port Hawkesbury on Canada - Germany Hydrogen

	<p>Alliance - Canada.ca)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Atlantica Center for Energy will be launching the results of their literacy on energy campaign. <p>Presentation Public opinion and market research results and insights from 2022-2024– Deb Nobes</p> <p>Digital Media presentation – Rick Hutchinson</p> <p>Open discussions</p>
<p>Discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The committee would like to be notified in advance about milestones for Green Energy development. and would like a timeline of events and timing for development when projects are known. ● Share MDP Plan with committee (Master Development Plan 2022-2052 Port of Belledune (portbelledune.ca)) ● Make sure our communication is clear and precise. ● Give the committee the tools to talk about our development (ex: cheat sheet, etc) ● Make sure we adapt our message to the different groups (youth, boomers, family, etc.) ● Use a very basic language, make it easy to understand. ● The committee’s mandate also includes events. Discussion was made around a series of open house events around the region. A plan will be draft and presented at the next meeting.
<p>Key Decisions and Action Items</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<p>October 8, 2024</p>

Minutes of Meeting BPA Community Workforce Development Committee

Date	October 8, 2024 9h00-12h00 CBDC Restigouche
Attendees	Charles Harn, Dina Lavoie, Denis Roy Frederick McGraw, Sebastien Hache Michel Guitard, Jean-Guy Levesque Betty Ann Fortin, Nancy Savoie (CCNB), Julie Pinette, Denis Caron, Jennifer Cleversey Moffitt, Deborah Nobes Guests: David Campbell, Jupia Consultants
Regrets	Bernard Theriault, Matthieu Girard, Paul Arsenault, Terry Richardson
Review minutes of last meeting	August 13 minutes approved by consensus
Review action items from last meeting	N/A
Meeting Agenda	<p>Green Energy Hub update from BPA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Infrastructure upgrades at the Port completed - improvements to terminals and plans for bulk conveyor system powered by electricity ● Update on potential plan to convert NB Power plant to biomass at Belledune and potential to produce torrefied pellets in the region ● Update on two potential hydrogen projects and long-term SMR potential ● Update on plans to host community-based open houses on GEH and green energy. <p>Timing - as soon as possible. Presentation of draft findings of economic impact assessment results by David Campbell of Jupia Consultants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The report considers the impacts and benefits of five potential green energy and related projects for the regional and provincial economy and will be shared as final product with the committee at the next regular meeting.

<p>Discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Status of lease agreements with the port and proponents ● \$300 M support from Canada and recent news stories. ● Where do the pellets come from now (black and white pellets)? The resource is there but do the companies have the capacity to produce? Need to make sure we have the infrastructure to support this new industry. ● How do you plan to transport hydrogen? Immediate demand is Europe via shipping. Medium to long term demand is to use it here to decarbonize existing industry and develop cleaner heavy industry (e.g. Atholville mill). ● How to move the conversation beyond this table? Communicating priorities beyond this group - how do we reach youth, newcomers, those who are more difficult to convince? This is a priority discussion for future meetings ● Will we have the types of jobs that will be required? What will be the workforce profile? This will come from the proponents. The next version of the report will be more specific but ultimately the answer will have to come from the proponents. ● How to make sure communities benefit from developments on Crown land - including municipalities and Indigenous communities? This will need to be negotiated. ● Open houses - please consider having them sooner than later. Before the holidays.
<p>Key Decisions and Action Items</p>	<p>Follow up on discussion and plans to host open house/public events as quickly as possible.</p>
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<p>December 3, 2024</p>

Minutes of Meeting BPA Community Workforce Development Committee

Date	December 3, 2024 12:00-2:00 13 Barrels, 215 Cunard Street, Bathurst, NB
Attendees	Betty Ann Fortin, Katherine Lanteigne, Dina Lavoie, Denis Roy, Frederick McGraw, Bernard Theriault, Julie Pinette, Denis Caron, Jennifer Cleversey Moffitt, Deborah Nobes Guests: David Campbell, Jupia Consultants, Michelle Robichaud, Atlantica Centre for Energy
Regrets	Paul Arsenault, Terry Richardson Sebastien Hache, Jake Capelin, Nancy Savoie (CCNB) Jean-Guy Levesque, Michel Guitard
Review minutes of last meeting	October 8 minutes approved by consensus
Review action items from last meeting	Update on community open house events planned for early 2025
Meeting Agenda	<p>Green Energy Hub update from BPA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Master Development Plan update and progress timeline ● Update on GEH projects: Hydrogen, Battery, Biomass, Access agreements, Site studies and partnership with FN communities. ● Update on terminal improvements ● Update on new 25-year lease agreement signed with QSL ● Update on plans to host community-based open houses on GEH and green energy.
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● None (panel discussion and networking event immediately followed meeting)
Key Decisions and Action Items	None

Next Meeting	February 2025
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