

# Maritime Green Summit Sommet des Verts des maritimes

We're Stronger Together  
Nous sommes plus forts ensemble



David Coon  
Leader, GPNB  
Chef, PVNB



Jenica Atwin  
MP, Fredericton  
Députée, Fredericton



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Leader, MLA, GPPEI  
Chef, PV ÎPE

**GREEN PARTY  
NOVA SCOTIA**



On Saturday, March 6, close to 200 Greens gathered virtually via zoom to hear from their Federal and Provincial leaders. The event was created and sponsored by the Green Party of Nova Scotia. The goal was to show that as Greens we are stronger together and examine what issues we have in common and what we hope will be addressed in platforms both provincially and federally. It was also a chance for networking, especially for the three maritime provinces.

The Summit opened with a moderated discussion by David Coon, leader of the GPNB, Peter Bevan Baker, leader of PEI Greens, and Thomas Trappenberg, leader of GPNS.

This was followed by a number of topic specific breakout rooms. After a break the members heard from Fredericton MP, Jenica Atwin, followed by a short question and answer session. The final speaker was Annamie Paul, leader of the Green Party of Canada.

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## Maritime Green Summit Transcript

We want to thank everyone who attended the first Maritime Green Summit in March 2021, we truly are stronger together! Special thanks to our three provincial Green Party Leaders, David Coon, New Brunswick, Thomas Trappenberg, Nova Scotia and Peter Bevan-Baker, Prince Edward Island, to Jenica Atwin, Green Party of Canada Member of Parliament, Fredericton, to Annamie Paul, Leader of the Green Party of Canada, and to Jo-Ann Roberts for her event vision and moderation.

The following document contains a digitally produced transcript, that has been edited and abbreviated for readability, as well as the reports from the breakout room sessions. There are accompanying videos, in English, and audio recordings, in French, which provide complete text of the event.

To watch the replay or listen to the French recordings visit: <https://greenpartyns.ca/replay-and-report-from-the-maritime-green-summit/>

### Welcome and Introductions

**Jo-Ann Roberts:** Well, good morning Greens, it is wonderful gather together in this time of Covid. I think sometimes we feel very alone, and I, I hope, one of the great benefits of the time we spend together today is to realize we're not. And that we are stronger together and we're here for each other, so thank you for coming to begin, I would like to acknowledge that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People. This territory is covered by the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship" which Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) and Passamaquoddy Peoples first signed with the British Crown in 1725. The treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources but in fact recognized Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations.

We're really fortunate to have our three provincial leaders together for this opening panel, and I was thinking, as I was getting ready for this today, how did this come about? And you know as many good things are, came about over a few beers in a pub somewhere up in Fredericton, and we were getting ready and David may correct me on this, but I think it was for the 2017 election and Lois Corbett, who, some of you will know from the New Brunswick conservation Council, a great thinker said, you know, we need to start showing people there is great leadership in the Green movement, and so it was her idea that we try and bring green leaders together and factor to support David in that election which we get to. And then, David and I were having a conversation, about a year ago and David said, you know what we're not pushing our governments to do enough regionally and he said to me the federal platform and the last campaign didn't have a lot for the region, either. And he was right. We put things in that platform, but we hadn't maybe gone and looked at what the regions needed. So that planted a seed. I was meeting with the Nova Scotia greens and said, is there, something I can do to help us as we get ready for what is likely to be a provincial election here this year? And we thought we want the wisdom of our cousins in other provinces, so here we are together and that's how we got here today.

And so, the three leaders are going to discuss what they see as potential for working together topics that are regional in nature, but where we can support each other and I'm going to do this Alphabetically

so I'm going to start with, Peter, and I, I think, Peter you'll remember when you and I shared a ferry to come over to Nova Scotia from PEI to join with 2000 people to oppose the continuation of Northern Pulp, to say it is time to remediate Boat Harbour. And I know that that day, I felt that regional support that Maritimes had come together on one issue and it's kind of for me, it's an idea of where we are stronger together just for those of you who don't know Peter all that well, but I think everybody does. He is known for working together, I was looking back at your background Peter and I didn't know this, that when you were in Ontario you were pushing for the genuine progress index instead of the gross domestic product, and even though you weren't elected you worked with a liberal MP, to bring in legislation, that didn't pass eventually, but worked together so that they would look at the Canada well being measurement bill. And that tells you something about the nature of the person, of course, the famous stories are that, when he came to PEI he was elected in 2015 after having run nine times before that. And then the first green MLA on Prince Edward Island, the third in Canada following David Coon and Andrew Weaver and made political history that we all celebrated. Under his leadership he brought in the first official opposition in the provincial legislature that was green so Peter we're to start with you, we will give you a minute to tell us where you think cooperation goes.

**Peter Bevan-Baker:** Thank you Jo-Ann and welcome everybody, it's lovely to be here I'm looking at my screen, I see I'm only looking at one of five pages. On this page, I see a number of people I recognize and I see from the names popping up in the chat box, but there are a large contingent of Island Greens with us this morning, so welcome to all of you welcome to everybody else and Jo-Ann has so eloquently explained that today, as far as I am concerned, is about connections, connections between us as a green family, connections between us as a human family in this region and beyond, and connections between us in the natural world and it's that recognition of systems and our place in those systems, which I think distinguishes in some ways, one of the many ways that I believe that the Green Party is distinct from the other parties that operate here in Canada.

So, it's a it's absolutely lovely to be here today, I know I only have a couple of minutes I'll be very brief, and I know we have lots of opportunities for dialogue and people to talk together. And I want to get to that I know we have a number of breakout rooms; I think they're the Atlantic bubble was perhaps the example of the Community that we have here that already exists in Atlantic Canada a really distinct and special, cultural and economic place which, while connected, of course, in all in all kinds of ways to the rest of our country and beyond. There is there's something very special about the Atlantic region. And I think it's no surprise that the Atlantic bubble was as successful as it was and endured for as long as it did, and looks like it may well come back in the in the very near future, and I think that is due to a commonality of values and principles and philosophies that guide people who live in this area.

And I think that that those are very special things I do think that there are ways that we can cooperate much more strongly and vigorously as a region. I think of economic ways that we could tie ourselves together harmonizing and raising employment standards, for example, David has been pushing for a transportation. A regional transportation authority here sort of Maritime transportation authority a regional crown Corporation. Which is a really intriguing thought to me transportation, of course, being an essential service, something which is essential for us as human beings, for our economy, for our rural

communities in order for us to live with a degree of equity and of security and dignity, so I think there are many, many ways that we can work together and we already are, but I think I think the Green Party can play a particular role in bringing this region together economically, socially and environmentally as a much stronger unit, I hope we talk about.

We already have talked about indigenous relations, and this is a very live topic, particularly on Prince Edward Island, at the moment our House is sitting currently and this week we have already brought this up in the House. Then necessity of the moderate livelihood fishery to be carried out in a safe manner here on Prince Edward Island and the announcement from DNR for this week, goodness me great a great deal of concern. I think, generally speaking an economy of the future, a green economy is one that's going to be much more local much more regionally. And I think that clearly will necessitate a greater deal of cooperation between the Maritime partners, I think I'm going to stop, I'm already over my two minutes, I want to thank you, Jo-Ann for facilitating this. I want to thank I think Judy and Krista have been enormous forces that have made this event happen this morning, I will speak later thanks for joining.

**Jo-Ann Roberts:** Excellent Peter Thank you so much, and just a reminder, before I go on to David. If you would like to be listening to this session in French, we do have simultaneous translation, if you go to the bottom of your screen next to reactions, you'll see a little world. And it says interpretation and if you click on that you can choose to hear this in French. So, I just want to remind everyone that there is simultaneous translation for this session, and the last session, and then there are options for bilingual workshops in the breakout. So now we're going to go to David Coon, of course, I met David first when he was with the Conservation Council of New Brunswick and kind of the go to person for everything that was good for New Brunswick like the environment, he was an activist, he was an educator. And he was he was a good communicator, I was with CBC so when I would interview David Coon, I would get the straight goods and not always a person who wanted to give me those easy answers and I came to admire him a great deal, and it has been a joy in my life to call him a friend and a colleague within the movement since then. He became leader of the Green Party in 2012 and was elected to the New Brunswick legislative assembly in 2014. The second Green to be elected eventually. Andrew Weaver was elected in BC and then David Coon and for those of us who were around then it was an amazing breakthrough. And it gave us all so much hope, but I also think, and this was personally, I guess, because of the Maritimes or and I was in BC at the time. It said something to the country, it said, you know that we were progressive, we believed in putting a vote where our thoughts and values were, and I think David's always represented that. He was also a collaborative person. In looking back at his biography and I won't go through all of it, but he worked with the commercial fisherman's organizations to establish the Bay of Fundy Fisheries Council, that's the kind of collaborative person David is, and if you talk to him about during Covid, working under Conservative Government, but with the other parties to make sure New Brunswick are well protected, and I think that has been certainly noticed and appreciated, of course after his election in 2018 we had a New Brunswick where we had three Green MLAs and the party is growing, so David Coon over to you.

**David Coon:** I'm pleased to be here today, and speaking to you from the unceded territory of Wolastoqiyik people and the former village of Pointe Sainte-Anne in Fredericton, this is a we only have a brief moment, but let me say this, that that globalization has not been kind to the Maritimes. The level of cooperation among our three provinces, is probably at an all time low. The Council of Atlantic Premiers is a mere shadow of itself, it pretty much well does very little other than manage its legal responsibilities for the Maritime Atlantic Harness Racing Association and the Maritime Organization for higher education and then organizes a few meetings among the premiers on a schedule.

So, what strikes me is prior to globalization, as has been the case through various waves, the direction or trajectory that we were heading in many ways, was towards something that lines up with the values of so many people in the Maritimes. Whether First Nation, Acadian or other settlers, is the commitment to greater local self reliance community based economic development and connection to the environment that is actually born out and what we do every day, and how we farm, how we manage our wood lots how we fish and carry on our business at the level of our communities and the level of our households. That pretty much got blown out of the water by globalization, but it does represent in so many ways the real Green Deal, the green project for our region, and we've got broad shoulders to stand on in our history, whether it's First Nation, Acadian or anglophone we have and I haven't got the time to kind of set that up but it's the case and it runs through each of our provinces and we need to recapture that and build on it. To help move our region forward to a real Green Deal for our communities and our people and for the environment here in in our region, it requires some institution building, because, while the values that I think of most Maritimers and peoples in the Maritimes line up nicely in that broad way where on one hand an awfully independent bunch but on the other hand, we care deeply for each other and work together when necessary and that's always been the tension. But it's a it's a great basis to before, but to do that we need to build some institutions that help move us towards a real Green Deal whether it's on transportation, becoming more self sufficient and renewable energy or food or moving our economy towards one that's fundamentally based on local enterprise, small business cooperatives social enterprise. That those are the kinds of things that we need new institutions to work towards, or and I guess renovate existing institutions that are region wide to better serve those purposes I'm sure I'm over time.

**Jo-Ann Roberts:** Thank you David and now we'll go to Thomas Trappenberg. Thomas is known as kind of the well-known face of the Greens in Nova Scotia he has a long history with the Green Party both federally and provincially. He served as the inaugural President of two federal EDAs here in the province. He represented Nova Scotia on the Federal Council of the Green Party of Canada, he has run as a federal candidate and a provincial candidate since 2006 you may be starting to push Peter Bevan baker's record Thomas, I don't know. But he also has a day job, he's a professor of computer science at Dalhousie University holds a PhD in physics and is well respected around the world, not just here in Canada or Nova Scotia for his pioneering work in intelligence and computer learning. And he loves motorcycles, is a star at karate, there's so much about Thomas when you get to know him and he is of course the leader here of the Green Party of Nova Scotia and we're hoping, because we have an election coming up where he will be running in South shore St Margaret's, never forget to get the political plugin, that we're hoping we will have that breakthrough that we will have a green voice here in Nova Scotia, Thomas.

**Thomas Trappenberg:** Thank you so much, and yes, the next election will be my 10th election Peter, so I can't beat you, but at least I hoped to be on par in how many times I run, any help? Thank you all so very much that you are all here, let me start by pointing out that I think we are all here because we want to address the climate emergency and because we want all beings to have a decent living. This goal requires actions on all kinds of levels. Greens are a big family as has been pointed out, and this is true, on the global scale. I was just in contact with the Green member of the European Parliament and a German Green MP about the LNG plants and no, Germany does not support this as it is sometimes made the impression. Here here's another example of green collaborations. When we were so worried last year about the violent dispute about fisheries, I was so happy that Annamie reached out and as she has considerable experience in nation-to-nation talks. I was so happy that she wanted to hear our take, and she respected or suggestions in addition Jenica, was able to chime in with very thoughtful contributions, this was really important for us here.

But let me thank, in particular to the New Brunswick and PEI Greens, David and Peter, who actually came to our AGM some years ago when Jessica Alexander and I were confirmed. As the leadership team we actually rescued, resurrected GPNS and the fabulous energy of your teams have been a strong motivator for us it was just wonderful, many of us have seen have been there during the elections, and this is a really big motivator for us. We are now at the point where we need your active help. I give you a particular example, as you might know the Federal Government announced on December 10 of last year that all open pen fish farms on the West Coast must be gone by June 2022. In contrast, there are plans to drastically increase fish farms in Nova Scotia, we are wondering why our Atlantic coast is worth less than the BC coast.

One of the main operators in Nova Scotia is actually Cook Aquaculture which is from New Brunswick and we know that, of course, you have similar situations. More over, the ocean has a strong federal mandate, and it is important to bring our federal cousins into the mix. Just to be clear, the Green Party of Nova Scotia calls for immediate ban of open pen fish farms in Nova Scotia. However, I want to close by pointing out that Nova Scotians have developed much more sustainable alternatives. So, Greens are not just against things, it is true that we are against destruction, but we are all for promoting solutions that are good and where our future economy can grow. Thank you everyone for being here and I'm looking forward to further discussions.

## Transportation

**Jo-Ann Roberts:** Thanks Thomas, so this gives us the opportunity to get into specifics, that all of you have raised so I'm going to ask the three leaders to turn on their mics. Because you may want to sort of jump in, I'm not going to make this super formal, but let's start with the transportation authority, David that you put on the table, can you give us some idea of what you think that could look like.

**David Coon:** Well, as we know, public transportation in the region is pretty rudimentary yeah, we would have very little to link us up among our communities without Maritime bus, and that's a PEI based

company, of course, and they're quite committed to the region and trying to provide transportation services. But we need to build something out from there, that is more comprehensive that is seamless, linking local transit within our community with transit within our provincial transit system. I imagine a system of building off of Maritime bus, to help them expand and deliver more services next with rail and when I say connecting that with rail, we have to take our rail system back from via rail and create a regional rail system that actually meets the needs of everyone in our region in a way, that that makes sense, and is not tied to some national agenda where we're at the tail end of a supposed national system that doesn't function anymore, but actually meets our needs for transportation, meets our needs to really tackle the priority of reducing car transportation related carbon emissions, to create a comprehensive seamless networking public transportation in the region will be some kind of a crown corporation that I think of as a Maritime transportation authority that could bring ferries into it as well.

**Jo-Ann Roberts:** Peter do you want to add to that, do you see PEI fitting nicely into that. I mean Maritime bus is base there and it strikes me that, being able to connect well to, for example, the train in Moncton would be an advantage to Islanders How else do you see that benefiting PEI.

**Peter Bevan-Baker:** Absolutely. Of course, transportation and mobility is an essential service Prince Edward Island is simultaneously the most rural province in Canada, with over 50% of our citizens living in rural areas, but we're also the most densely populated province in Canada, because of our small size. We have never had any sort of comprehensive public transportation system here, only very recently, hopefully established transportation systems, even in our more urban centers Charlottetown and Summerside with some very fragile and inconvenient connectors between them, so the provincially here that we, are as David use the word rudimentary and that's exactly where we are, but we also have to recognize the connections. That beyond Prince Edward Island to ensure that Islanders have those opportunities too, when we go off the Island, we have seamless transportation links to the rest of the Maritime region and also the rest of the country. We've, and Maritime bus has a role to play there, it's a private company here in Prince Edward Island run by a gentleman who has a very strong commitment to continuing access to transportation here, and it's critical for economic development here it's critical for rural vitality it's critical for equity it's also critical as part of our climate action policy as we move people out of out of independent individual cars into more public transportation. We have an incredibly exciting initiative here on Prince Edward Island where we are in the beginning of replacing our entire school bus fleet with electric buses. Of course, that's a wonderful thing in itself, but those buses are also going to be used as part of a public transit system here on Prince Edward Island when they are not transporting children, they will be used as a public transit system in the way that occurs in some other jurisdictions like Scotland where I'm from. So, there are some exciting things happening here and lots of work left to be done, but I love David's idea of a regionally managed authority, like a regional crown corporation, which could oversee this because relying on private providers, which we currently do for our bus service, which is really the only public transit that we have here in the region is fragile and we need to do better.

**Jo-Ann Roberts:** yeah, well you know what I hadn't heard about the school bus initiative that's, that to me is creative thinking. Thomas I'm go to you, I mean here we are in Halifax right now, where we had a



proposal to have our busses replaced with electric buses, and then they decided, no they'd go back to diesel. It seems transportation is something that Nova Scotia is lagging behind here with what these two provinces are doing. What's your sense of how we would fit into Maritime transit authority, transportation authority?

**Thomas Trappenberg:** yeah, that's exactly what I wanted to point out that I saw Richard on the call he was a counselor in the Halifax Council and, while he was there, they decided to actually order electric buses, unfortunately he's not anymore, on the Council and guess what? This was cancelled right away and we ordered again diesel buses very sad. There's so much more than just you know just having electric we know it is coming, we know that our infrastructure will completely change, and I think it's now really the responsible thing to do is to look into the future, especially at this time.

In the Maritimes there are some corridors that are the South Shore, in the Valley, where we could establish much more intelligent transportation, we see a lot of doubling of our highways and we were wondering, is this really the best form to spend the money? We believe in infrastructure now's the time to look into the future and to have this so I also like very much the idea that, if we can link this much better within the Maritime provinces, this would be something so good for all those questions and for the Maritimes.

**Jo-Ann Roberts:** Okay let's move on now to that institution building that David talked of. So, one would be the possibility of a crown corporation that would deal with transportation. Would you use, David and everyone, just sort of a quick thought on this, would you use the Maritime Council of premiers or the Atlantic Council of Maritime Premiers. Would you use that institution or would you create something because there's only four employees there, I mean they don't have much capacity right now, and three of them are administrative? They have an executive director and that's about it, so is that the institution to build up, or is there another one to look at? David do you want to start that will just do a quick 123.

**David Coon:** I believe it is. It needs to be built back up, it needs to be renewed and needs to be reformed. It has drifted dramatically from its early days in terms of boldness mandate and the kind of work it does. It has \$2 million sitting there, for example, cash surplus so, here you go, you got a little bit of money to actually expand right there.

**Jo-Ann Roberts:** good time to go after them.

**David Coon:** It turns out, they actually have an annual financial audited statement which one can look at, but otherwise you can't really find out what they're up to much. But it needs to be rebuilt, but it really speaks to the itemization of our region not, not only because of globalization, but also, I think, because of Harper's reign, when he basically refused to deal with anyone, except on a provincial basis. I think the province, the provincial governments, provincial premiers have gotten used to working on a one-on-one basis.

**Jo-Ann Roberts:** Peter, what do you think the Council of Atlantic Premiers, can we revamp it and use that?

**Peter Bevan-Baker:** Absolutely, I really don't have a lot to add to what David just said here on the Island, because we are an island, I think there tends to be less talk, we tend to be more independent, perhaps even more insular than the other provinces, and so the idea of, that regional cooperation is not something that gets talked about very much here. That was something I was not actually aware of David, that there was there was 2 million dollars sitting in a in a fund waiting to be used. So, it's not a large part of the conversation here on the Island, but I absolutely see the value and utility and bringing it forward, can I just say, before I stop speaking, right now we have a Caucus of eight here on Prince Edward Island and I see that seven of them are on the call right now, which is amazing, and I know that the other one is with her two children at the farmers market right now, so thank you all, all my Green Caucus for being so engaged and hard working on a beautiful Saturday morning.

**Jo-Ann Roberts:** Well, I, and I want to say thank you to PEI greens and Jordan Bober for being so supportive of getting people together on this. So, just note that Jordan will be leading the transportation breakout room, if you want to talk more about this.

## Energy

**Jo-Ann Roberts:** Thomas I'm not going to start with you on the Council of Atlantic premiers because I think we've kind of agreed that they could be used and they're located in Halifax so maybe you and I'll start lobbying them. But I'd like to move on now to energy, because I don't want to run out of time and not talk about this, because I know the three of you are pretty good experts on talking about what do we do collectively to improve meeting our targets? And since unfortunately Nova Scotia is the laggard in this, I'm going to start with you, Thomas.

**Jo-Ann Roberts:** let's talk about you know our new premier says 'oh yeah we're going to get off coal by 2030 and we look at his plan it's not exactly robust So what do you think we could do?

**Thomas Trappenberg:** So, let me start by saying of course I'm happy that he is saying this, I actually ran against them and he always assured me how green he is and that's fine I'm happy if everybody would be green. But it is indeed now even more important to hold people responsible and really to look into that. Liberals tend to think that burning our forests is renewable energy, and this is very concerning. I want to actually to point out that we have so many opportunities here. You know that the Maritimes, a lot of people think it's cold here, we must be very North we don't have a lot of sun, it's actually wrong, we have the index for - the sun index in the Maritimes is very high compared to many other places where they have already implemented a lot of solar energy. So, we have really a lot of opportunities here and energy is such and will be such a critical part for many things. We are moving into an economy with a lot of automation where really the currency of you know, running this and participating is energy. And, therefore this is also something where we have to bring this to the local communities, of this we have some examples here in Nova Scotia where some of the municipalities have still the right to produce their

own energy and there are fabulous examples of like Bridgewater and Antigonish that show that we can you know - they can really benefit from this - so energy is of course a green energy, clean energy is a very, very central part and we don't have to reinvent the wheel. A lot of other people have shown already that this creates jobs, this creates more local engagement and wealth and, and this is what we can implement here in the Maritimes.

**Jo-Ann Roberts:** David, of course, there's efforts to not only keep Belledune open, thank you Susan O'Donnell for pointing that out, to keep burning coal in New Brunswick until 2014. But the Federal Government seems to be leaning quite heavily to supporting small nuclear, I mean you're already the province, with a nuclear power plant, an old one, and it kind of boggles the mind that they're willing to put millions of dollars - federal dollars into that I mean. I see that is probably one-way Greens can help you is make sure that doesn't happen. But can New Brunswick would be part of seeing us at least having electricity grid that brings us some of that green energy from Quebec right now, through to the rest of the region.

**David Coon:** yeah, I want to speak to institutions, because we all know what have tremendous potential for promoting massively to renewable energy, both in electricity and using the mass organic waste that are produced in our fish processing and food processing industries around the region and in our municipalities, as well as they are doing in Quebec. That's a good example of what's possible but here in the Maritimes, one Atlantic Canada, there have been negotiations going on, among the governments behind closed doors around the Atlantic loop and a regional energy strategy which most of us have not been party to. It should be happening in the context of an open, transparent public institution so the public can be part of that that discussion. They're important things they're talking about, I mean just basic things like we need to improve the transmission between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick to maximize our potential and utilize renewables like when throughout the region PEI was recently updated in terms of its connection to the mainland. But all of that is happening behind closed doors and that's extremely frustrating, it's one of the few areas where there is some kind of cooperative effort going on and we need to be party to that, and we're not, and that that again reflects the recent history of our various premieres in this region not really wanting to collaborate.

**Jo-Ann Roberts:** Peter, how about in PEI are you being invited into these discussions?

**Peter Bevan-Baker:** Yesterday the premiere was asked a series of questions on this in the House actually and he brought up the Atlantic loop that David just talked about and that's a phrase that I had actually - I was ignorant of until he had mentioned it in the House, so that the lack of openness and public input in this is quite extraordinary. I wanted to take a step back here Jo-Ann and say that if you ever doubted that having a green presence in the legislature has an impact, you need to look at the change in how energy policy on Prince Edward Island has evolved over the last five years. My first year in in the House, we were still planning to spend millions of dollars to build a diesel generator as a backup facility here on Prince Edward Island. Thankfully that never got built. But, and the electric for the connection that David just talked about, the underwater cables which tripled the capacity of Prince Edward Island's connection to the mainland, was a huge investment that occurred over the last couple of years. And we've been

making that transition, and then the electric school buses are and as an example of that, and of course we've always been a leader when it comes to wind power over 30% of PEI's energy comes from wind and that's, that will continue to grow. But Thomas, I think it was also talked about the solar potential here on Prince Edward Island and in the region. And one of our MLAs, Steve Howard, has two pieces of legislation which will actually be tabled on Tuesday next week - to modernize and further electrify the grid system here to encourage that disperse, that distributed grid that that we need to develop here. So, there is huge potential on Prince Edward Island and, of course, we don't have many natural resources here. We have wonderful soil, we have, we have the oceans around us and we have a great wind and solar regime so in one of the areas where we can become more independent both. Speaking provincially here and regionally, I think, energy is one of those.

We currently get here on Prince Edward Island, about 60% of our power from New Brunswick so, the policies that are that are adopted in New Brunswick have a profound impact here on Prince Edward Island. And, of course, being a much smaller member of that conversation, I think it's important that we push for greater energy independence here on Prince Edward Island. But also, in the meantime, be part of a more regional move to cleaner, greener electricity and the electrification of everything, basically, which is what we have to do. And, and for that, like electricity to come from clean sources so he is absolutely a leader in that, and I can tell you the climate change goals that we have set here which led the country by a long way again in large part because of the green presence in the legislature and the and the, all of the things that are happening here are as a direct result of having Greens in the legislature prodding and pushing and pressing one of the old parties to actually join the 21st century.

**Jo-Ann Roberts:** I think, Peter and some of this will be discussed in breakout rooms, but we're seeing that on several levels, the Federal Government is now talking about possibly funding a guaranteed income or a basic income project on PEI again because you know Greens have been pushing hard for that and said okay let's get ready to be the province and I do think that the green presence, we see that with David and the mighty trio, we see it from your official opposition, I mean. Thomas said this at the beginning, but this is an important message for every green going into the election, is green voices make a difference and you know you're proving that every day. Thomas, Nova Scotia is when it comes to sharing energy and we'll wrap this up here, but you know it has to go through New Brunswick to get to us, in many cases. And so, working together with New Brunswick, and it does seem that, when it comes to energy, New Brunswick is that central piece, putting a lot of pressure on David and Megan and Kevin think we can help them if we're beside them saying this is not just about New Brunswick right do you see Nova Scotia being able? I mean our new premier gave us, you know which was great, rebates on electric vehicles, but of course the push back instantly was we don't have enough green electricity to make that valuable and yet there are groups working right now in Nova Scotia to get that green electricity here, so Thomas what, finally, what do you think we can do collectively.

**Thomas Trappenberg:** yeah so, I should say that I actually participated in some of our webinars which were actually organized by New Brunswick there, there's a lot of studies there so I'm learning, I always love when you know people have already studied. A lot of these things we don't have to reinvent the wheel I think we're here to let people know that we, you know that this is the future, and this is that

they are our solutions which we can do. In terms of sorts of working with the Maritimes, we are a big family, so this is this is actually a lot of fun to do this, that we are still working locally, but together with the Maritimes I should say, but you know I, you mentioned that I work a little bit on machine learning and these kind of things and intelligent grid is a fascinating, fascinating area there is so much we can do just with you know intelligent routing. Especially with renewables, there will be a lot of things we have people here who can work on these kinds of things so there's a lot of new opportunities here, huge opportunities which we never had we had in the oil economy, you know, things have to concentrate on the on the West, but here we have real opportunities now, this is our age, and we are about you know let's take it let's go there.

**Jo-Ann Roberts:** Okay I'm going to move on from that, sounds like there's lots of areas to work on. Talk about how do we improve our energy efficiency, Elizabeth May used to constantly say we refused to go after the low hanging fruit. Let's use less energy, to start with, and we saw that in Covid, I mean you know oil companies discovered when we weren't driving so much and we weren't flying so much wow look they had to start stop investing in fossil fuels, like it's like not using it helps.

### Fisheries/Aquaculture

**Jo-Ann Roberts:** So, let's move on to quickly to things that you both brought up, or all three of you brought up, one is fisheries, which is that federal provincial tension and it overlaps right now with indigenous rights. We'll start with Peter, then David and Thomas will end with you in aquaculture, but Peter, as you see this decision by the Federal Government to go ahead with a moderate livelihood fishery. This has been a big issue in Nova Scotia as well, as you know, is there a way to work together on this.

**Peter Bevan-Baker:** Absolutely Bernadette Jordan, the Federal Fisheries Minister describes this as a new path, but actually it's not a new path at all, I spoke with the Mi'kmaq organization here on Prince Edward Island that negotiates with the Federal Government on a nation-to-nation basis on issues like moderate livelihood fishery and I was shocked to hear that they were not consulted at all, at all on this decision. I made a statement in the House yesterday on this actually. And we know what the indigenous people are asking for is legal, it's constitutionally affirmed, it's part of the Peace and Friendship Treaties dating back to the 1700s and there's such a lack of understanding in our community. And I'm sad to say that at an elected official level as well, certainly here provincially and I'm sure that the federal level. That acknowledgement that Canada has so much work to do when it comes to understanding the relevance of these treaties, even though they're 300 years old. The ancestors on both sides on the indigenous side and the settler side are - we are all treaty people - we are all signatories to those documents. And Canada has yet to acknowledge and understand the relevance of that of that statement and I could go on for a long time on this. The opportunity for regional cooperation here is that the Green Party can be an ally for the indigenous people in a political climate, where allies seem to be very few and far between.

**Jo-Ann Roberts:** David, how is this playing in New Brunswick, I guess, I hear more about PEI and Nova Scotia, is this resonating - is it an issue there?

**David Coon:** Well, it's playing out more quietly but it's certainly an issue and there's no question about it and there will be First Nation communities who will be launching livelihood fisheries this year. Okay, so there have been some but more. So, this is why it's so important for us to work in solidarity with the First Nations in our region and our provinces and as Peter sort of introduced as Greens, we have strong relationships with the First Nations here in New Brunswick and the key players, as well as within the non-native of commercial fishery. Both in the south, in the Bay of Fundy and in the north, thanks great to work and connecting with the fisheries fishers there. So, you know we're in a good position with respect to this issue, but I do want to just add a little bit more to the fisheries question. We need to think about fisheries in terms of local food as well, and in terms of local economic development. While the lobster fishery dominates and it's one of the few fisheries, they're really healthy and in place and lucrative. We need to also have an emphasis on restoring other fisheries. From a community-based perspective, at that scale integrate them into a local food strategy. To create more diversity for the fisheries and for our fishing communities and to support our local food strategies. That's absolutely essential. I've done work on this in the past, and as you would mention in the introduction I am not, I am not prepared to allow the other fisheries just to disappear completely which in way they have. So, we need to bring back the ground fish fishery at a community scale, we need to try and sort out how we get herring fishery back in the Bay of Fundy at a scale that is the viable. So anyway, that these are some of the things that I think beyond the particular issue with First Nations, which is important, you mentioned, we need to think about in terms of fisheries from a Green perspective in the region.

**Jo-Ann Roberts:** yeah, and I remember what we called the war on the water at the time in the Miramichi and really, I think New Brunswick can actually show how some of this can be worked out. You have some of the agreements for moderate livelihood that the other provinces should be looking at because the First Nations have sat down at the table, I'm really surprised it's not being used right now. I'm going to wrap this up with Thomas, because then we're going to have to take our five-minute break so two minutes Thomas, on fishery and indigenous peoples.

**Thomas Trappenberg:** Of course, so much to say but. Yeah, let me start with just the model of livelihood, fisheries and the particular things we have last year. You know the announcement on Thursday by Minister Jordan really concerns me, it is, it is you know it's getting again, it's to a point where it has the First Nations, have not been consulted and we are again going down the wrong road. We are, not one versus the other. It's here, I want to make very clear that all this came together, because the inaction of a government and this is really what is sad to see. I should say fisheries in general, this is of course a very, very important part of our economy. We have a very traditional way, which actually turns out to be very sustainable. We had, long ago, a lot of problems with a ground trawling which destroyed a lot of our fishing grounds. We finally learned that we have to do things better. We have here an active small inshore privately owned fisheries, who have been fighting for years to stay independent, which is fantastic because they are, they are practicing local sustainable fisheries.

But I'm very concerned about that we are, that some of the larger company's are actually even monitored less. The Ocean is under tremendous stress, you know this. We have some leading scientists here in the Maritimes have predicted, we have already lost half of the biomass in the oceans, we should be all really scared. So, my point is here again, there are solutions out there, with, because I work in this intelligent systems, actually there's a lot of lot of work done on new kind of intelligent equipment. Which has less stress on, for example, of the marine life, and so there are so many opportunities and I, I really think that green participation in our governments could help us to make these kinds of positive changes possible.

**Jo-Ann Roberts:** All right, right on time, thank you, Thomas Thank you to Peter Bevan-Baker David Coon and Thomas Trappenberg for this lively discussion which I actually think is setting us on the roadmap to what we will be talking about in our breakout rooms.

## Jenica Atwin, MP Fredericton

**Jo-Ann Roberts:** so now I get to introduce one of my favorite people Jenica Atwin. During my time as interim leader I had a chance to get to know Jenica, a bit more than, on a campaign trail, once in a while, in a campaign office and I can tell you that you know I've got a formal bio here which I'm kind of ignoring. What Jenica is - is a team player she's her own person for me as a woman in politics who's been around a long time, what impresses me about Jenica, not to get all teary here is - is she is a person who says, I can be who I am and be an outstanding MP and there are times as an MP when you're pretty much not gender shamed, but kind of pushed a little, don't let that being a mom and a woman thing getting your way. Jenica stands up and says that's who I am it's what makes me valuable to you so don't tell me that. And I love that. It's why she's a rising star according to MacLean's magazine in the House. She ran eventually and, I'm going to say this because it's important to all of us who run and don't, when she ran provincially and did not win her seat. But did she give up? No, she turned around and said hey I'm going to run federally against a big liberal. And she won and defied the odds, and so I'm very proud of her Jenica. Everyone's proud of you Jenica. She is the representative for Atlantic Canada in our Green Caucus. But she does, I can tell you having been at those Caucus meetings, she speaks up all the time to say what about my region, what are we doing for Atlantic because you know we've got two MPs from the west coast. So, she has to get her elbows out and she does, she does and she's a strong supporter of indigenous rights and bilingualism, like I'll tell you, she is making a difference, even in our own party Jenica over to you.

**Jenica Atwin:** Oh, my goodness, how can I follow that introduction. Thank you so much, and it's so wonderful just to see the green wave on my screen right now and just be amongst friends, I appreciate this so much, I will be speaking, French and English today, I hope that that is okay. And so, I just, it's always a good day when Greens gather. So, I'd just like to start with that and I'm coming from the unceded Wolastoqiyik territory here in our Oromocto, a good place to fish and I'm just honoured to work and live and learn here.

So, what I'm going to do is just kind of give you a bit of a brief rundown of what I've been up to it's been quite a journey. And just a little bit of how we kind of approach things as a Caucus, some of my critic roles to discuss and yeah and I love to answer questions and get into a great discussion. That's really what we're here for today.

I've been an MP in Fredericton now for about a year and a half it's been a steep learning curve, as I mentioned, but incredibly rewarding and I just can't say enough about my incredible team and the work that they've put in on behalf of constituents and Canadians. Covid 19 obviously has thrown a bit of a wrench in the original plan of you know my first bit is a federal politician. But I would not trade, the experience you know for the world it's been incredible the lessons that have come with it, the challenges that come with it, the strength that has come out of this as well. So, it's one of those things where the old saying you can never let a good crisis go to waste and then my hope is that we don't forget the lessons that we've learned from Covid 19 anytime soon, because so many things came to light. You know, specifically importance of long-term care protections for seniors, our responsibility to fight for equality and ending racial oppression, the urgency in ending poverty and homelessness and the need for a resilient, diversified economy. And it has been the honour of a lifetime to participate in the House of Commons and help develop relief measures for our nation, especially as a Green. And you know it never gets old when I hear them say 'the Member from Fredericton' and just to know that I stand up and have that green banner waving and to know that you know I am that, but you know east coast voice is um it's just a it's an honour for me and a privilege that I won't take for granted anytime soon.

Really, this has been about collaboration and respect for me all the way and those are some of the kinds of fundamental pieces of being a green that I'm just you know so proud of. I'm a caucus critic on all kinds of files and that, really you know, it guides my work. Sometimes I could criticize that I talked about the same kinds of things, but because I focus on my critic files, and these are the things that during election I said would be my priority, and they have remained my priority - and they will continue to be my priority. So, I mentioned mental health as well and I've had the pleasure of being in one of the breakout rooms on mental health and had an amazing conversation there. We know that solutions exist and I hold on to that hope and optimism and it just takes kind of that collaboration, again working together, all hands on deck, it doesn't have to be a partisan issue, it should not be partisan issue, it's for all of us - so that's really what I bring into the House. And, Jo-Ann mentioned that MacLean's award which was really validating. It just showed that they are listening to this voice that they are understanding this kind of perspective that we're bringing as Greens, into the House. And particularly that collaboration piece is that showing respect across the aisle, it does get recognized and I'm hoping that will continue. That more decorum in the House and more collaboration is what comes out of that. So that's been a really wonderful piece of this experience so far. So, my critic files are women and gender equality, Northern and indigenous affairs, official languages, health - which is a big one, obviously, this year, justice and human rights, youth, diversity and inclusion national defense and veterans' affairs. So, effectively that's one third of the critic files that are available shared amongst our caucus. And you know for some of them might seem daunting but I'm just so thankful I get to speak at such a wide variety of issues. Especially because so many intersect and I think that's some of the other lessons we learned this year



just. You know how we're tackling things like climate change, also has to include social justice, you know it also has to include mental health. So, these are all these pieces that are just so important for me to put together in this in this puzzle of the work ahead. And a lot of times the issues I get to tackle, I mentioned cross portfolios, and I just want to talk about a success, for our team this year that I'm particularly proud of is that I was able to have amendments passed on Bill C3, which was about training judges on sexual assault, which in and of itself shows major growth, I think, for Canada.

But my amendment was to enshrine consultation with indigenous leadership and developing the curriculum. So just everywhere that I can really be putting in place, that requirement to involve indigenous voices at the beginning and not once something's already established, to kind of put a final project in front of leadership, that's not consultation. So, I'm really trying to remind my colleagues and the government, in the bureaucracy at every step that I can and that's just such a critical piece for me.

So, I think on that last piece, I really believe that unity is our strength. And I'm just so proud to be from New Brunswick and the Maritimes and to really talk about some of the great ways that that diversity leads to our strengths, and so I think, maybe I'll leave it there and we'll just open the floor, I guess, and I love to hear from you and any questions that you might have I'd love to answer them.

**Jo-Ann Roberts:** Okay, so we have a question, right here from Samuel Arnold, how can we find the way to segue from the Covid pandemic to the climate crisis?

**Jenica Atwin:** Well, I mean it's for me it's always been hand in hand, you know. The way the pandemic has arisen is very much connected to the climate crisis, and I think it's important that we talk about that more often, because often it gets forgotten. And so that's one of those key lessons that I'm talking about that we can't forget that there were certain ways that our society has lived and functions that led to what we're experiencing right now and it's certainly not the time to lose our strength and focus on the climate crisis, if anything, it should you know ramp up those concerns and the urgency in addressing them.

You know, as an example in the federal legislation that we have seen 2021 is nowhere near where it needs to be, and that's the bill to have net zero by 2050. We were very disappointed to see that again we're kind of pushing these things down the line, down the road and whose responsibility will that be so it's called the climate accountability act without anyone really having to be accountable for what's in there. So, we're pushing for amendments, although most of those amendments would actually be beyond the scope of this bill, so we're working hard from that standpoint, but I think it's just conversations like this that need to continue to happen, that youth voice is still so strong and so important. And so, we're getting there, but just to see that that's what we've got right now before us, as far as legislation is still disappointing. So, that just again highlights that Greens need to be there, we need to be that strong voice to constantly be reminding all levels of government about how important this is and how it's inextricably tied to the pandemic experience and as much as we're looking at the light at the end of the tunnel now, the reality is we may face future pandemics, unless we address the issues that are coming before us, industrialized farming as an example, or the way that you know meat

is consumed in our in our nation. So, this is - there's many aspects to this but it's just something that we're proud to be there, to be very vocal about, but it's for me it's very much tied together and so it's about reminding people that constantly.

**Jo-Ann Roberts:** Okay, we have a couple of questions that kind of come out of what you've just said. Lily is asking how do we encourage collaboration and collective action between all three levels of government and indigenous nations, so that we're not doing this with out, as you said, having all orders of government at the table at the beginning.

**Jenica Atwin:** I think we still have some lessons to learn here in the East and there's some success from the West that's kind of being brought over so I'm looking at things like Indigenous protected conservation areas, it's just kind of this for me that's really the key to so many issues, it kind of combines economy, environment, you know. Reconciliation so there's pieces there, there are you know there's things we can draw from, but here in the East, I think we need to do a much better job of honoring the peace and friendship treaties. Of ensuring that those voices both elected leaderships, as well as traditional governance absolutely need to be at the table. So, it's that consultation piece that I'm talking about its real collaboration that's missing. And so, I think for me, I feel I've taken on a bit of a challenge of trying to really link all those levels of government, use my contacts within indigenous communities here in the province and certainly that could be expanded Atlantic-wide. And I just you know I hate to mention the I word, but when I think of the Irving monopoly that exists. I think, often people say, well, what would we have if we didn't have that? What we would have perhaps is sovereignty of the indigenous nations in the peace and friendship territory, and that leadership, I think could be the thing that makes - that turns that page and so I'm really hopeful and optimistic, and I'm having these conversations kind of behind the scenes. My husband is elected Band counselor as well, my stepfather's the Wolastoqiyik grand Council chief so, they're starting to get there. And there are allies and municipal and provincial and federal politics so it's just about meeting those people making those connections and the networking and I'm hopeful. I think we're getting there but you're absolutely right that it's key to have all of those pieces together.

**Jo-Ann Roberts:** It is interesting, one of the suggestions that was made in our breakout group was we're coming up to in 2025, the 300-year anniversary of the Peace and Friendship Treaties, and we should be finding ways to sit, not only celebrate that, but to look at the history, the good the bad and the ugly. I think that's exactly what David said. So that we start to be better educated on why we're different here in Atlantic Canada, why we have not always been recognizing it. This may be your last question, keeping an eye on time, because you do have Defense in your portfolio, how do we make the case that we have a climate emergency and we're spending 19 billion on fighter jet procurement - 77 billion over the lifetime of those jets - is there any discussion going on about balancing that kind of income inconsistency?

**Jenica Atwin:** Absolutely, there is just the, it's beyond frustrating I think that's, not even the word to use. I think, when we look at some of the expenditures when we're facing something like a global pandemic, when we're facing such inequality, homelessness, poverty, especially here in the Atlantic. To

think that that's where we would be prioritizing our investments, it's unacceptable. Elizabeth May has been an extremely strong voice on the federal stage on this issue we've been very much open and out against in our opposition of procuring new fighter jets as an example. And it's just, it goes along with this conversation of who do we want to be as Canadians, what do we want to represent ourselves as on the world stage? And we used to have such a, I think, an excellent reputation, the old days when people would travel and if you had a Canadian flag, you can almost get high fives because we were that nation that people looked to, for as far as leadership and peace. And we we've kind of slid off half the path on that one. And so, we continue to be very vocal and there's many of our NDP colleagues as an example, as well we joined voices with them on some of these issues, because I think the louder we are it's going to make a bigger difference. But we're there's still work to do. Because, as I said, that direction we're heading it doesn't seem to be changing course anytime soon, so, continue to write your members of parliament, your local MLAs as well, their voice can still count on this to the Minister, it's critical and I can still be critical of that and supportive of the Canadian armed forces here in my riding and across the country for what they do, as far as helping in a crisis like the pandemic, you know there's many things that we still need them to do. That can, we can support openly, but it doesn't have to be procuring weapons to continue to be involved in them and the national or the international stage in ways that we should not be. It's very hypocritical and we will continue to be loud and vocal in our opposition.

**Jo-Ann Roberts:** final question and I'm going to kind of make this broad because I know that mental health is very important to you and you were in that breakout room. When you're addressing the pandemic and healthcare and what's going to be needed coming out of this pandemic, where do you see the party going?

**Jenica Atwin:** Well, I mean we've been pushing you know for mental health to be included under healthcare, it is healthcare, it has got to stop being siloed. Even potentially it's under social development, you know it restricts our investments, that restricts our focus, restricts the people we have working on this as an issue, so that's one key piece that needs to be there is just recognizing this as a health issue. And we also had a lot of great conversation around well being. You know I mentioned New Zealand, in our breakout session, about how important it is to just restructure the way we think about this and also how we want to come out of the pandemic. You know I'm on an all-party mental health Caucus which I'm just so honored to be a part of, with like minded individuals who are really solutions oriented. And there's something I learned there too, which was about, not pathology, but using some of our natural responses to this extremely stressful situation that we're in. So, we need the language and to learn to kind of cope with what we're dealing with. And also, the resources, should it be something beyond what we can manage ourselves and those resources are just not there yet.

And so, from a federal standpoint, we want to increase those health transfer payments to ensure that it's dedicated funding for mental health on the ground in the provinces. And then, working with our provincial counterparts to ensure that this is absolutely a priority, and then it's looked at in the wholesome wraparound approach. That no longer well, you know I've sat in ERS with you, and after hours and hours of waiting. Basically, prescription is kind of the only option, sometimes, and that may not be the only solution that exists, especially when that's a youth first encounter with the health

system around their mental health. So, there's so much that needs to change, and, we had a tragedy here in the province, not too long ago and it's really been a wake-up call, but it should never have taken that for us to wake up so. I could get emotional about that too. I'm so passionate about this, this is what led me into federal politics, and I will continue to fight because it's all levels on the ground in our communities, in our own homes, but there's certainly a role to play for the federal government as well.

**Jo-Ann Roberts:** So much to talk about Jenica, Thank you. I think I speak for all of us when we say we're very proud of you and we're going to work hard to make sure that you have support from this region yeah big hearts.

**Jenica Atwin:** Oh, thank you.

## Annamie Paul, Leader GPC

**Jo-Ann Roberts:** Alright, our final speaker has joined us, I have been informed that Annamie Paul is in the House yay. I'm very excited that Annamie is with us and you know, when I look back at the time when I served as interim leader of the party it had its highs and lows, but the highest of the highest and the moment that will stick with me for a long time, but it'll also be preserved for a long time because it's on TV, is the moment where I had a chance on October, the third 2020, to say the next leader of the party, the Green Party of Canada is Annamie Paul. And like, and knowing how exciting that would be that Greens had chosen and rigorously with a lot of competition and a lot of discussion, not a coronation by any chance, we had chosen to make history. To have the leader of a national federal party, be the first woman of color, to be the first Jewish woman to take this on, and Annamie this is this doesn't define her, she is Annamie. She has a great CV on her own. She is a champion on so many levels, but that added to the cachet, that added to the pride to say that, in addition to this very remarkable person we could add the first and I have watched her take this on it's not an easy job folks - it's a hard, hard job, what you see on one level is just the tip of an iceberg, and she has taken it on with certainly aplomb and ran in Toronto Center at the same time she was running for leadership, has now announced she's going back in there, and this time she will walk away as their MP. And we can all help her do that. I know she cares deeply about the Maritime region and, in a very busy schedule, agreed to be with us today, please welcome the new leader of the Green Party of Canada, Annamie Paul.

**Annamie Paul:** Thank you, thank you so much Jo-Ann. Thank you that was really lovely and hello to all of you hello to Jenica. I am with you today on the traditional territories of the Mississauga of the Credit, the Anishinaabe and Onashone.

**Jo-Ann Roberts:** We have Andre Muisse for simultaneous translation. I'm just going to give a shout out because I may forget at the end, he has been providing translation and doing a grand job. If you would like to hit the interpretation button at the bottom, if you're just joining us now click French you will hear Andre.

**Annamie Paul:** Go ahead and be great okay, so it is a very kind of bittersweet thing I have to say to be with you this morning because it is wonderful to be with you as always. Jo-Ann is absolutely correct that I am a big fan of the Atlantic provinces, coming as my family does, and I always say this, and my kids say I don't know why you keep saying this, but I think it's important to say, that you know coming from a small island family myself. And tiny communities, it is something, is it's a part of Canada that I've always loved, that we always use as our default region to visit whenever we took a family vacation. Remember those days when we could still do those things, and so it is always nice to be with you, that is a sweet thing, but it is bitter because I cannot be there in person. This was the region that I was headed to first after winning. We had it all planned out, and I was going to do the two weeks of quarantine so that I could spend two or three weeks traveling around in the region, know that's how much you all mean to me, that's how much it meant to me to get out there and then the bubble burst and the rest is history. But I am looking forward to this time, when I can be out there physically. I definitely am planning to spend an important, significant time out there, that's certainly no hardship.

You know I guess I should make it sound like a harder knock than it is, but let's face it I'm really looking forward to it. And in the meantime, being virtually with you as much as possible is a wonderful thing for me. So, thank you so much, all of you who are working and volunteering with your EDAs to have that strong voice, day in and day out, even outside of an election cycle. It's been a pleasure to meet with so many EDAs over the last number of months and congratulate them on their annual general meetings, congratulate them on the work that they're doing locally, the work that they're doing to recruit that next great candidate. That all is just incredibly important work because it's really not just about what we can do during the elections it's about what we do during the entire year. I always bring greetings from our Members from across the country. They want to feel connected with you and we're trying to think of all the ways to make sure that Greens, especially now, that we've all figured out these technologies, can stay connected, and so I send you their greetings and I tell you that they are rooting for you. I know that some of you will have felt that during the New Brunswick provincial elections, that Greens mobilize all over the country whenever there's a chance to help get more Greens elected at whatever level of government. And so, you should know that that's always something they want to pass on to their greetings, their support and the understanding that whether it's provincial or federal or municipal, we are all part of the same green family. And to let you know that you really, the Atlantic provinces, you are the superstars, this is the role models, this is the area of the country, that Greens look to when they are looking for inspiration. And so, just know that you are definitely a place that we turn to and say what are they doing? How did they do it? How can we do that? How can we learn something? How can we incorporate that into what we're doing? So, thank you very much for that, for being that model and that inspiration.

In terms of the way that I want us to go forward as a party, what I see my role and being for you is very much one is that is supportive. Supportive of my Green cousins at the other levels because, as I said, not only do we feel like we are part of one Green movement, but also the public views us that way as well. So, I'm very aware that anything that I can do to support, to support the provincial parties, for instance, is something that is just good for all of us, and I'm thinking all the time about the ways that I can do that. I'm very much looking to have an organized way to meet regularly with the other provincial

Green leaders. Exactly because there are so many ways that we can continue to build our capacity, so many ways that we can identify to support each other, as we all continue to grow. And so that's something that's going to be really important to me. Obviously, is going to be very important for me to be in the region, supporting the candidates that you also elect to represent you in the next election which it seems like the pendulum has swung back towards A spring or summer election.

And for any of you that are looking for the help and support and finding those strong contestants to run in your nomination contest, I hope that you've all become aware of our 'time to run campaign', the idea there is that you know we want and in the video we feature Jenica really prominently exactly because that is what we're looking for, people who have been such strong leaders in their community, as some of whom, perhaps have thought about politics, but many of whom have not ever considered it. Many of whom perhaps have never seen themselves reflected in politics and therefore haven't thought that it was a place for them, but are the true leaders in their communities. We want them to nominate themselves, nominate someone else as potential contestants for your electoral districts. And we launched this about a month ago, and we've had somewhere already of about 400 different expressions of interest from across the country representing over 185, I think, EDAs. And that is extraordinary, and it tells me that there was just a lot of interest amongst a lot of people in representing the party in the next election. So, that is something also that we're really committed to, and if you want any more information about that, and certainly when we identify candidates for your EDAs, we will definitely let you know. More generally, over these next months, I caught the tail end of Jenica's remarks, the Caucus is working hard inside Parliament with a very full agenda, they are doing the work of you know, a Caucus of 30 people easily, it is the hardest working Caucus in Parliament, it is truly extraordinary to see them in action.

And we are working on making sure that people are protected during this pandemic, that the people that fall through the cracks that continue to fall through the cracks have protection. Whether it's those in long term care, whether it is our students, whether it is those that still aren't covered by any of the benefits schemes that are available, whether it's those that continue to go out to their essential jobs and then come back to unaffordable, crowded housing and get infected as a result of it. Our commitment is to be the champion and the voice for all of those people, for as long as the pandemic lasts, and to make sure that the commitment to be there for as long as it takes, whatever it takes actually has some content.

We, of course, are there to not only hold the government accountable on the climate, but also to make our own proposals. It's so key that we are a party of proposition and not simply a party of opposition, there are parties that are doing it. And you know they're going to do their thing. We're a party that proposes bold progressive policies, whether it's on social justice issues or on the climate. And in terms of the climate, we're needed more than ever, because a lot of people are confused. They think that what the government has proposed is a credible ambitious climate plan. They can't tell the difference, and it's our job to explain to them the difference between a credible plan and a plan that is just what we have said multiple times, is really just smoke and mirrors. So, if we're going to seize this opportunity, is an opportunity of a lifetime to accelerate our transition towards the green economy, to accelerate

ourselves toward zero emissions, to really complete our social safety net, to truly commit to reconciliation and racial and social justice, then we need to make sure that a party like ours that has that built into their DNA has a strong voice, is holding the government accountable, while also proposing really strong policies. And so, that is what we are doing, day in and day out.

The ambition is all that is missing, and we have the ambition. I believe that this is a really pivotal moment for us. I believe that people in Canada are ready to make different choices exactly because of the transformation, the disruption that has been produced throughout this period. Around the world, those of us who have had the privilege of being in countries where agreements have made breakthroughs, we've seen that it happens exactly at moments like this, where people have been perturbed enough, disrupted enough to be ready to make a different choice. I think that we are at one of these moments there. And so, our job together across the Atlantic provinces, across our entire Green family, is to make sure we are as ready as possible to seize that opportunity, so that we can have as many Greens elected so that they can be the strong voice for their communities. So, thank you very much for having me here today, invite me back any time again.

**Jo-Ann Roberts:** I have one question Annamie, that's sort of been the theme running through this. We'll keep the chat and forward to you some of the questions okay. Well, one of them was, is there a process, or are you working on a process to get regional priorities into this year's platform? Because that's something we've been talking about and we'll have suggestions for, but I'm just wondering your best advice on that.

**Annamie Paul:** That's a interesting a running theme and we'll certainly use as we plan our platform, the always the ambition is to make sure that it is as representative of the needs the interests of the various regions, I mean obviously there are many different communities, but the various regions absolutely. So not to worry about that in terms of a formal process, for that is one of the things that I mentioned during the leadership race and we're still very committed to doing is to ensure that around our critic portfolios, we have brain trust and knowledge clusters. One of which is made up of external stakeholders who we absolutely want to have access to exactly because they have that specialized knowledge with respect to a particular issue or policy. And then we also want to have the other group which is made up of our Members who also have that specialized knowledge and experience so that they can contribute to the parts of the platform where we want to tap into that. You know, we have such an extraordinary knowledge base, and we want to make sure that even outside of election cycles that we are tapping into it. And so, the, the plan is to create those.

**Jo-Ann Roberts:** Super cool, excellent. I think we will all be taking you up on it, but thank you so much, a lot of resources brought together here regionally. Annamie Paul, thank you for all you're doing, thank you for making time to be with us.

**Annamie Paul:** Thank you everyone my pleasure, my pleasure, enjoy the rest of your weekend and your events. And I am jealous, and yes, I'm going to say it, I am Green with envy. That was the first time I've used that, and yes, I'm that corny

**Jo-Ann Roberts:** I do want to thank a few people. I really want to thank Andre Muise our translator whose heart is with our topics as well, and we can feel it in the translation, thank you Andre for a great job, well done. This was put together by the Green Party of Nova Scotia - just a reminder, we might have an election coming up this year, and if we reach out to all of you, we would appreciate any support. Krista Grear is our administrative person, our Provincial Administrator here in Nova Scotia I can't thank her enough. I kept her very, very busy this last two weeks. And she has been assisted by Judy Green in doing the technical things today, as this was new for us. I see in the chat that people are suggesting we do this on a regular basis. I'm going to say that's a great idea and because we've had the chance to work out some kinks today, expect to hear more from us on this, maybe topic specific, not quite as grand as this, but a chance for us to really work together. I mean I'm hearing from everybody our breakout groups were dynamic and we are stronger together. I'm going to forget who said it now, maybe it was Peter, that we have these historical connections as a region, you have a parent from here and you've traveled there and we're connected in so many ways, we're fiercely independent but, we're also very connected so, Thank you so much for this. I'm going to say to be continued. Thank you.

## BREAKOUT ROOM SUMMARIES

Here is the summary of the discussions from the Breakout Rooms. Reports were received on Forestry, Mental Health, Renewables, Business and the Economy, Aquaculture, Immigration, Transportation, Climate Change.

### Forestry

- 1. Create a joint policy on sustainably managing the shared Acadian Forest, that includes a ban on using trees for biofuel for energy production.**
  - The industry is looking at forests simply in terms of fibre, while ignoring the potential benefits of carbon sequestration, management of water cycles, habitat for endangered species and eliminating runoff, from clear cuts, that is currently endangering spawning areas of our waterways. The full benefits must be weight against the full cost of how we choose to manage our forests.
  - Three provinces could work together to survey good sustainable forestry practices that are in practice around the world. Develop a policy that showcases the best solutions. Should focus on First Nations view of caretakers of the land and planning for 7 generations.
- 2. Encourage the move towards smaller local forestry operations that keep the profits within our communities. This would include educating on the full cost accounting of clearcutting and the benefits of less mechanized selective harvesting.**
  - There is a disconnect that removes the consequences of one's actions from the equation. Historically forestry was done with chain saws in local diversified pods that often-included local saw mills. Transportation costs and Co2 emissions were lower.



Operators could see the trees and potentially birds' nests and other species and adapt to cause less harm.

- Automation has distanced the operator from environment around them and eliminated the ability to adapt to the reality on the ground which results in the destruction of nests of endangered migratory birds etc.
- Improve the resources available: It was noted that the NS Forestry has a database that is out of date and is lacking in terms of biodiversity and listing of locations of endangered species. There is more accurate information being collected by organizations such as the Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute, the Ecology Action Centre and others. There needs to be collaboration between government and these organizations in sharing this critical data.

## Mental Health

### 1. Put a 'wellbeing in all policies' lens in all policy, programs and services.

- Peter Bevan-Baker has introduced this idea in the PEI Legislature a few times. The government of PEI seems closer and closer to accepting this is the way to go. We must ensure that all decisions we make have the wellbeing of citizens at the core.

### 2. Empower Community.

- We can have all the programs and services we want, but if we do not understand the importance of wrap-around supports, these programs and services will be for not. We must understand the crucial importance of the social determinants of health.
- If people are not able to get their most basic needs met, they will not heal or be healthy.
- Our community organizations and Indigenous communities understand this well and we must follow their lead.

## Renewables

### 1. Make the initial investment in solar PV systems more cost-effective.

- Create legislation to make it possible to form local micro-grids, where communities can come together to share the benefits and cost of a single renewable installation.
- Steve Howard (MLA from PEI, and the energy critic for the PEI Greens) has proposed two bills which will allow this. We should cooperate to propose similar legislation in NB and NS.

## 2. Shared EV buses.

- Steve Howard also shared an interesting plan in PEI – all school buses are to be EV's, and will be used when not in use for school purposes for local transport initiatives. It would be interesting to make this initiative one that could be duplicated in NB and NS.

## Aquaculture

### 1. Demand equal treatment on aquaculture with other jurisdictions in Canada.

- Court decisions and announcements by provincial governments in BC should apply equally in the Maritimes.

### 2. Give support and investment to new technologies

- In order to aid the transition away from open-pen fish farming we must provide the tools to move to better ways to grow fish. The current government investment in open-pen fish farming should be applied to these new opportunities.

## Immigration

### 1. Easing the pathway for those already in our provinces

- The biggest frustration is that folks like international students (who pay so much money to come and be educated here -- labelled "ideal future Canadians") and foreign workers (who do the very hard physical work that Canadians no longer want to do) are not given very easy pathways to permanent residency.
- Our provinces have prioritized going overseas and selecting candidates for permanent residency over the temporary residents already here. Again, it does not seem to make much sense.

### 2. Retaining newcomers in the maritime provinces

- Work with the provincial and federal professional bodies to recognize their credentials -- so they are actually using and contributing their talents to our provinces, instead of only working in our call centres
- Educating our maritime-born Canadians more about our immigration system, and how to overcome their unconscious bias (ie, racism)
- Allowing their parents to come more easily. It is nearly impossible for immigrants to sponsor their parents, or for the parents to immigrate themselves, so it is important we reconsider this system. The support they receive from family members is invaluable.
- Finally, what we should be working on for all residents of the maritimes -- improve our housing, food, and transportation systems.

## Transportation

**1. Create a Maritime Transportation Authority, a multi-provincial, regional crown corporation**

- This would cover trains and coordinate having Electric Vehicles for “the last-mile” available at transit nodes to allow for connecting to trains and public transit
- Create a funding structure to ensure we are supporting active transportation, sidewalks, bike lanes, car share, EV charging stations in rental properties, etc.

**2. Make access to public transportation a right in Atlantic Canada**

- A public information campaign to promote active transportation.
- Helping everyone get home. Much like VIA or AC does, if you miss your connection they help you get home. It’s part of taking care of each other.
- [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/306395717\\_Road\\_worriers\\_the\\_costs\\_of\\_car\\_dependence\\_in\\_New\\_Brunswick](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/306395717_Road_worriers_the_costs_of_car_dependence_in_New_Brunswick)

## Business and the Economy

**1. Revitalize downtowns and local business**

- Create a policy lens that encourages a 20-minute life i.e. the ability to have access to necessities and essential services within a 20 minute walk of housing. This would include supportive tax incentives and less red tape
- Create an understanding of the value of “shopping local”. Work with other provinces to produce for the region first and export second.
- Investing in food security through support of urban agriculture and greenhouses, as well as supporting rural sustainable agriculture

**2. Create a Green Economy**

- Have educational initiatives to encourage people to start green businesses
- Put an environmental lens on production so that there is a “cradle to grave” responsibility for all producers in the region. “If they create it they are also responsible for recycling it.”
- Work on regional development of standards for sustainable agriculture and sustainable forestry (FSC)
- Make the Atlantic Bubble work in many ways to support transportation, and professional credentialing.
- More involvement of Council for Atlantic Premiers and ACOA

## Climate Change

**1. Create an Environmental Bill of Rights**

- Systemic institutional change is required.
- Corporate capture of the government by energy industry players needs to be challenged. Government must stop off-loading responsibilities for climate action onto individual citizens.
- Governments must use a climate change and environmental lens for all policy development and spending.

**2. Initiate Citizen and community councils**

- Community and citizen actions for climate mitigation and climate change adaptation need encouragement and support.
- Governments need to listen to what communities are telling them. NGOs and climate action groups need support.