



# CBRM

*A Community of Communities*

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**Cape Breton Regional Municipality**

**Office of Deborah Campbell Ryan, BBA, MPA**  
**Municipal Clerk**

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**May 28, 2019**

**All Municipalities in the  
Province of Nova Scotia**  
*(via CAO list serve email)*

**Re: Declaration of Climate Change as an Emergency in CBRM**

Dear Nova Scotia Municipalities:

At the May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019 meeting of the Council of the Cape Breton Regional Municipality (CBRM), the attached motion was passed formally declaring climate change as an emergency in the CBRM.

As noted in the attached Agenda Request Form that was included in the agenda package, we were directed to forward a copy of this motion to all municipal units across Nova Scotia, urging you to also declare climate change as an emergency in your area.

Thank you.

**Yours truly,**

**Deborah Campbell Ryan**  
**Municipal Clerk**

Attachments

**Declaration of Climate Change as an Emergency in CBRM**

**Motion:**

Moved by Councillor McDougall, seconded by Councillor Coombes, that Council formally declare Climate Change as an emergency in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality and follow-up this declaration with the list of actionable items pertaining to preparation and mitigation of climate change impacts that CBRM staff, elected officials and the wider community can continue to work from as outlined in the Agenda Request Form on this matter dated April 28, 2019.

**Discussion:**

During discussion Councillor McDougall stated the importance of recognizing climate change as an emergency and clarified that she is not declaring a State of Emergency.

**Motion Carried.**



City Hall  
 320 Esplanade  
 Sydney, NS B1P 7B9

Item No.

<b>Council Agenda Request Form</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Included on Agenda</b> (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by 4:30 pm seven days before the meeting)	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Late Item</b> (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon the day before the meeting)	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Request from the Floor: (New Business)</b> - Announcement - Referral - Submit Petition - Notice of Motion
<p><b>Date of Council Meeting:</b> May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019</p> <p><b>Subject:</b> Declaration of climate change as an emergency in CBRM</p>		
<p><b>Motion for Council to Consider:</b></p> <p>Formally declare Climate Change as an emergency in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality and follow-up this declaration with a list of actionable items pertaining to preparation and mitigation of climate change impacts that CBRM staff, elected officials and the wider community can continue to work from.</p> <p><b>Reason:</b></p> <p>The simple and harrowing fact: the impacts of climate change are being felt across the municipality and the planet. We need to act now in order to protect and properly educate the residents of the CBRM on how climate change is and will further impact them.</p> <p>While reading through municipal email correspondence, I came across an interesting article that detailed why the City of London, Ontario passed a motion declaring climate change as an emergency. Quoted from that municipal council meeting was a member stating, " It may be a symbolic step, but it's an important recognition of a worldwide impact on municipalities".</p> <p>Here in the CBRM we have been seeing more frequent and dangerous fires. Severe weather systems taking a toll on homes, infrasture and eroding the coastlines. Recurring floods and rain that were once called 100 year storms. While it has been noted and repeated around this table on numerous occasions that "environment does not fall within our jurisdiction", I feel the safety of residents and our commitment to logical and proactive planning is certainly within our realm of responsibility.</p>		

We have all contributed to the rapid advancement of climate change in one way or another, we must now do our part to help mitigate the effects and encourage residents and businesses to change practices and reduce any further impact. We have to start somewhere and that start requires immediate action.

**Outcome Sought:**

Along with the approval of the motion to declare a climate change emergency, it is prudent to also provide a set of achievable goals that correspond with the declaration;

- Forward motion to both Provincial and Federal Government (Departments of Environment, Municipal Affairs)
- Forward motion to municipal units across NS and urge them to also declare climate change as an emergency in their area.
- Forward motion to NSFM and FCM and request workshops, training and educational resources for our municipal units.
- Request a special meeting of CBRM Council to discuss infrastructure need and also invite academics/climate change specialists to advise on what projections come along with the advancement climate change.
- Reach out to the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, the international effort of more than 9000 cities that is described as “the world’s largest co-operative effort among mayors and city officials to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and climate risks in cities”.

<i>Councillor Amanda McDougall</i>	<i>District 8</i>
<i>April 28th, 2019</i>	<i>Received by Clerk's Department (date):</i>



**APRIL 3, 2019** ALANNAH LEAVE A COMMENT ON 27 CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES HAVE DECLARED A CLIMATE EMERGENCY  
27 CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES HAVE DECLARED A CLIMATE EMERGENCY

It's true that our climate is changing – **and we know it is because of human influence.**

Just recently, *Canada's Changing Climate Report*, led by Environment and Climate Change Canada, was released and stated that Canada **is warming twice as fast as the rest of the world.**

The report contained alarming facts on the state of climate change in Canada and an urgent warning to take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

**While it might be kinda tempting to throw your hands up and panic, feel nervous, anxious and feel reallyyyy uncomfortable....**

**We here at Random Acts of Green want to help.**

Thankfully, 27 Canadian municipalities have joined forces with an international movement to declare a state of emergency regarding the climate crisis!

We wanted to take a moment and champion them all here – and hope that more cities take charge

**Here are 27 Canadian Champions declaring climate emergencies from coast-to-coast.**

**1. VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Declared January 26, 2019

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Image Source: [City of Vancouver](#)

## 2. HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

Declared January 26, 2019



Image Source: [Canadian Encyclopedia](#)

## 3. KINGSTON, ONTARIO

First city in Ontario declared on March 6, 2019.

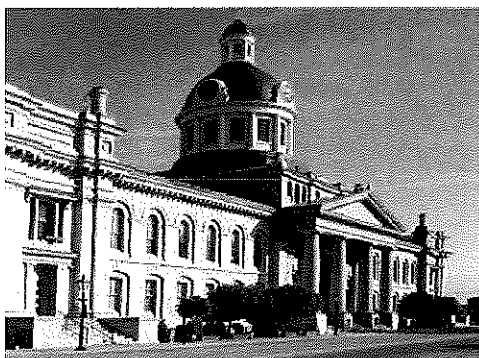


Image Source: [Canadian Encyclopedia](#)

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#### **4. RICHMOND, BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Declared on March 25, 2019.

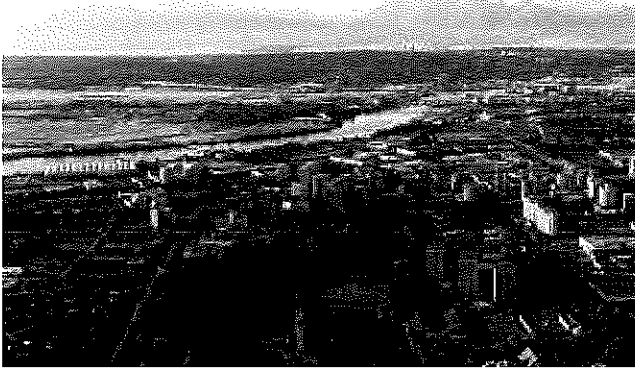


Image Source: [Tourism Richmond](#)

#### **5. HAMILTON, ONTARIO**

Declared on March 27, 2019.



Image Source: [City of Hamilton](#)

#### **CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT (CRD)**

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is the regional government for 13 municipalities and three electoral areas on southern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands, serving more than 413,000 citizens. The board voted unanimously in favor of making a Climate Emergency Declaration on February 13 2019.



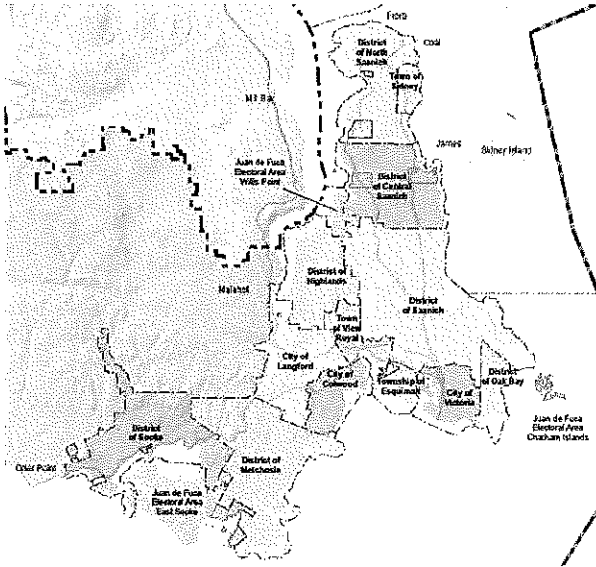


Image Source: [Victoria's Intersecting Municipalities](#)

THIS INCLUDES:

6. Central Saanich, British Columbia
  7. Colwood, British Columbia
  8. Esquimalt, British Columbia
  9. Highlands, British Columbia
  10. Langford, British Columbia
  11. Metchosin, British Columbia
  12. North Saanich, British Columbia
  13. Saanich, British Columbia
  14. Oak Bay, British Columbia
  15. Sidney, British Columbia
  16. Sooke, British Columbia
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17. Victoria, British Columbia

18. View Royal, British Columbia

**19. EDMUNDSTON , NEW BRUNSWICK**

First city in New Brunswick declared on February 19, 2019.



Image Source: [Tourism New Brunswick](#)

**20. POWELL RIVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Declared on February 21, 2019.

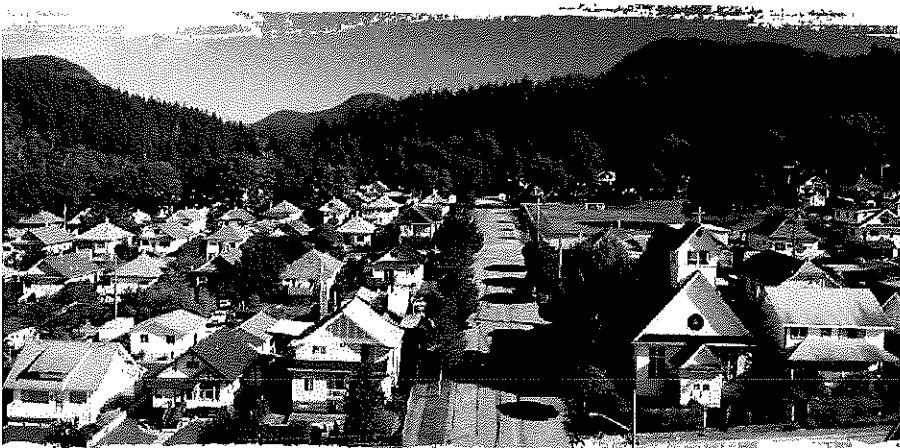


Image Source: [Tourism Powell River](#)

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**21. MAHONE BAY, NOVA SCOTIA**

Declared on February 12, 2019.



Image Source: [Tourism Nova Scotia](#)

**22. MONCTON, NEW BRUNSWICK**

Declared on April 1, 2019.

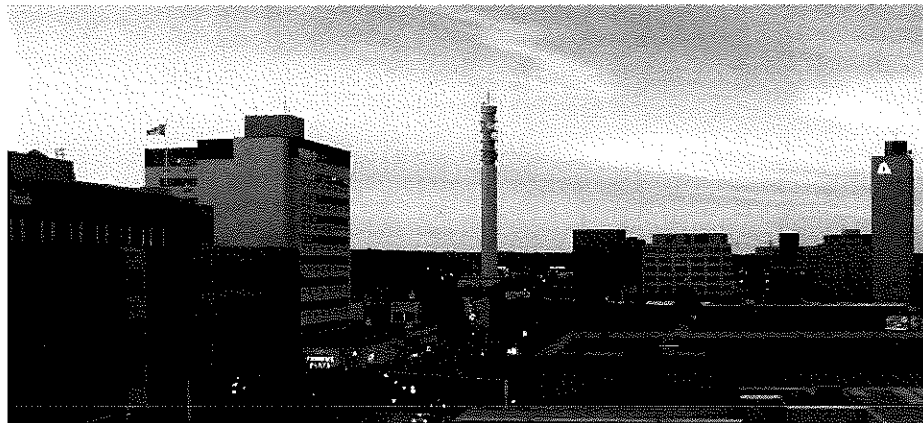


Image Source: [Wikipedia](#)

**23. CHARLOTTETOWN, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND**

Declared on April 8, 2019.

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Image Source: The Canadian Encyclopedia

#### **24. LONDON, ONTARIO**

Declared on April 23, 2019.



Image Source: London Academy

#### **25. BURLINGTON, ONTARIO**

Declared on April 23, 2019.

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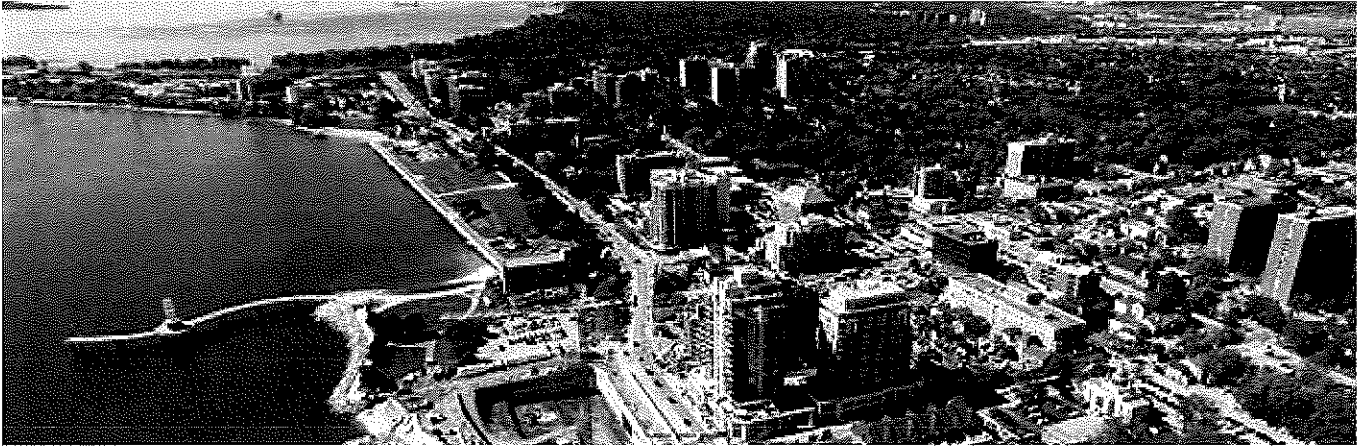


Image Source: [City of Burlington](#)

## 26. OTTAWA, ONTARIO

Declared on April 24, 2019.



Image Source: [Wikipedia](#)

## 27. NANAIMO, BRITISH COLUMBIA

Declared on April 29, 2019.

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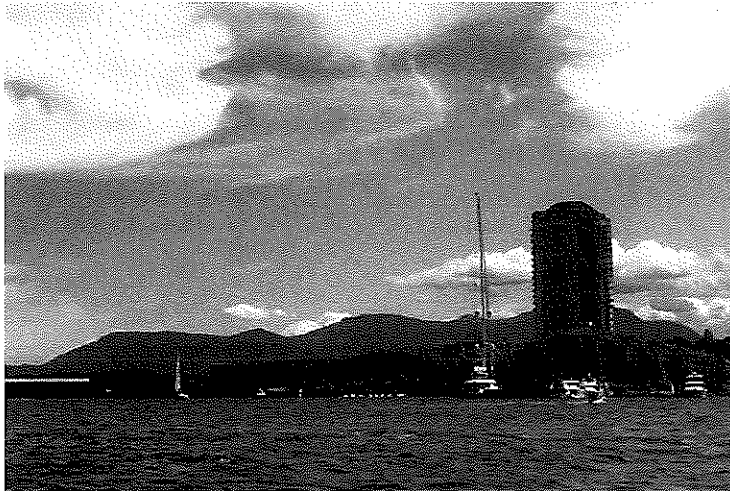


Image Source: Nanaimo Bulletin

There are a number of municipalities across Canada that are currently debating declaring a climate emergency.

In recent months, a movement has grown in Quebec that has seen more than 320 municipal councils endorse a Declaration d'urgence Climatique.

Many of these cities are also part of The Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Partners for Climate protection (PCP) program.

This is a network of 350+ Canadian municipal governments who have committed to reducing greenhouse gases and acting on climate change.

**The evidence provided in the most recent report confirms that Canada's climate has warmed in response to global emissions of carbon dioxide from human activity.**

**This is a clear wake-up call for all Canadians that climate change is real and requires urgent action – and we want to help!**

The science is clear that we all need to reduce our carbon footprint.

The Random Acts of Green® mobile app is designed to help you understand your impact by **quantifying the amount of greenhouse gas emissions** that can be reduced when you make low-carbon lifestyle choices. Our app provides individuals with a range of behavior-based approaches to achieve a daily carbon reduction target that best fits your lifestyle.

**Take action TODAY.**

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