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March 27, 2018

Mr. David Coon, MLA
Leader of the Third Party
3rd Floor, Departmental Building
Legislative Assembly Complex
96 St. John Street
Fredericton, New Brunswick

Dear Mr. Coon:

Enclosed is a copy of the response to your Petition 14, which was tabled in the Legislature on February 8, 2018.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DJF'.

 Donald J. Forestell
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Enclosure

DJF/ard

c: Léopold Mallet
Amy Whittaker
Josh O'Donnell ✓

**RESPONSE TO PETITION #14
RE: CONSERVE OUR NB PLEDGE
TABLED BY DAVID COON
February 8, 2018**

In response to the "Conserve Our NB Pledge" you submitted on behalf of petition signatories, it is my pleasure to inform you that for the past year and more, Energy and Resource Development (ERD) staff have been working with federal, provincial and territorial partners within the Pathway to Canada Target 1 initiative.

I would like to take this opportunity to make the following points:

- Target 1 of Canada's 2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets commits the nation to protect 17 percent of lands and inland waters and 10% of its marine territory by 2020. This is an ambitious target. The Pathway to Canada Target 1 initiative was launched only 1 year ago by Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers responsible for Parks, Protected Areas, Conservation, Wildlife and Biodiversity.
- An impressive amount of work has been accomplished by those involved to set the stage for making meaningful progress towards Target 1. The initiative is a real model of collaboration between government representatives, Indigenous Peoples, and experts from industry, environmental groups and academia.
- To make tangible progress nationally and in New Brunswick, the next phase (implementation) will require expanding the collaboration tent at local levels. We look forward to moving onward with our national and local partners and stakeholders, as New Brunswick's path forward unfolds.
- It is an exciting time for those of us that are active in land, water and nature conservation and the benefits of this work will extend to all the peoples of the Province today and the generations to come.

I would like to extend my thanks to the signatories of the petition for sharing their concerns and bringing this important subject to the forefront of attention for this Assembly.

Sincerely,



Rick Doucet
Minister

**FILED /
DÉPOSÉ**
MAR 27 2018

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DU DOCUMENT