



Meet Iain Policy Endorsements News

Donate



Vote for Iai

A plan for continued progress to address climate change

Dec. 7

Rankin releases environmental platform



Click above to listen to Iain speak about his environmental platform.

Halifax, N.S. – Addressing climate change requires a strong commitment to a continued reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Today, Iain Rankin, MLA Timberlea-Prospect and a candidate for the leadership of the Nova

Scotia Liberal Party, released an environment plan that focuses on three key areas: adopting conservation measures, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and modernizing transportation infrastructure.

“Nova Scotians place a high value on our province’s natural environment,” Mr. Rankin said. “I was pleased to be a part of a government that in 2020 acted to address the legacy of environmental racism at Boat Harbour and want to ensure that no community in Nova Scotia is ever similarly affected again,” he added.

“Looking ahead, I want to implement the Lahey Report, see an upgrade to the electricity transmission infrastructure that will allow Nova Scotia to get off coal generated power by 2030, and begin the electrification of public transit. Also, a new ferry from Bedford Basin to downtown Halifax plus enhanced active transportation networks in the province will benefit both people and the environment,” Mr. Rankin said. “This plan can help Nova Scotia become the first province in Canada to be carbon neutral,” he said.

The plan details are:

Adopting Conservation Measures:

- Fully implementing the “Lahey Report” in 2021, with an immediate implementation of the updated Forest Management Guide to reduce clearcutting on public lands.
- Pass an improved Biodiversity Act and amend the Crown Lands Act in the next legislative session.
- Designate remaining sites in the Parks and Protected Areas plan and develop a framework for identifying areas of ecological significance for protection. Focus on enhancing connectivity for wildlife while incorporating Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas.

Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions:

- Work to secure federal financial support to build the Atlantic Loop, an upgraded regional transmission system that will allow Nova Scotia to reach 80% renewable energy for the electricity sector by 2030. This will allow Nova Scotia to close its coal plants and put the province on a path to affordable clean energy.

- Unlock private investment in solar energy by developing programming and incentives for the multi-unit residential, commercial, industrial and institutional sectors.
- Increase funding for efficiency programs, particularly targeted at lifting low income and vulnerable communities out of energy poverty.
- Create a Clean Agriculture Technology Fund to support emissions reduction programs for the agriculture sector to improve competitiveness, extend the growing seasons and strengthen food security.
- Update building codes to focus on net-zero ready and using sustainable low carbon materials that can create both jobs and value-added product opportunities for our forestry sector.

Modernizing Transportation Infrastructure:

- Begin significant electrification of public transit in N.S. by committing \$80 million to leverage Nova Scotia's unallocated federal funds from the Invest in Canada Infrastructure Program 'Green Stream'. This will help fund new electric buses for transit authorities; fund new non-diesel ferries; launch a new ferry route from Bedford Basin to downtown Halifax; and build enhanced active transportation networks around the province. The total investment could reach almost \$240 million.
- Introduce incentives for new and used personal electric vehicles as well as e-bikes. Lead by example with electrification of the provincial fleet vehicles.
- Invest in EV charging infrastructure on provincial and municipal government buildings and require EV fast chargers in all new commercial developments.

-30-

< **A plan for
education**

**Focusing on
Healthcare** >

Leader

[\(902\) 797-1122](tel:(902)797-1122)

info@voterankin.ca

[Vote](#)

[Volunteer](#)

[Donate](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Iain in the news](#)

[Contribution](#)

[Disclosure](#)

©2020 Authorized by the Official Agent for

Iain Rankin