

FROM THE TREES TO YOUR TAP

New Brunswick's rivers – a source of drinking water for communities...

Healthy forested streams and brooks filter rain, snowmelt, and runoff into rivers and lakes— providing cool, clean drinking water to tens of thousands of New Brunswickers.

40 % of New Brunswickers get their drinking water from surface watersheds – freshwater that is above ground.

...But, these watersheds are not well protected to ensure plentiful water into the future!



Most drinking water watersheds on Crown land are not protected from industrial development.



Mining, roadbuilding, clearcutting and built development remove tree canopies, disturb the soil and root systems, and increase erosion.



Intense storms, droughts, heat waves and flooding, added to the pressures of industrial development, make it harder for these rivers and streams to protect our water supplies.

How forests protect clean and plentiful water



Older trees have larger canopies that scatter rainfall– slowing down the movement of water, preventing flooding and allowing more water to seep into the groundwater supply.



Trees and their roots help trap and filter pollutants – preventing them from entering rivers and streams.



Large root systems of older forests provide better soil stability and absorb more water – keeping the landscape moist to reduce the devastation of floods, droughts, and fires.



Tall and dense forests along rivers and streams provide shade that cools the water – providing clean, cool, healthy habitats for fish, such as salmon and trout.

The solutions to protect nature and water in NB – We need to:



Permanently protect most of the Crown land in designated drinking water watersheds – to move NB closer to its commitment of protecting 15% of public land and water by 2027.



Conserve the peat bogs, saltmarshes and cold-water streams across the province that help curb the impacts of climate change. Additional protection of these wet areas helps reduce the risks of flooding, wildfires, and water shortages.



Publish a clear roadmap to show how NB will protect 30% by 2030 to safeguard New Brunswick's lakes, rivers, forests and wetlands, so they can secure our drinking water for communities now, and for future generations.



Photo: Justin Dutcher

What you can do to help



Speak up for natural areas near you! Call or email your local elected officials to let them know you want to see your drinking water watershed protected.



Write a letter to the Premier and Minister of Natural Resources, and let them know you want nature in your watershed to be strongly protected from industrial development.



Visit our website to learn more and follow us on social media for updates on our campaigns and events.

www.cpawsnb.org

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