

# Bay of Fundy Caucus Formed

By Maurice Rees

Is it possible to double tourism in the Bay of Fundy region in only 5 years?

Bill Casey, MP for Cumberland-Colchester, thinks it is, and that's the goal he and the newly formed Bay of Fundy Caucus, co-chaired by Karen Ludwig, MP (New Brunswick Southwest) have set out to achieve.

Casey has been promoting the Bay of Fundy's assets to Members of Parliament for years, and recently was a proponent to get MP's to join the newly formed Bay of Fundy Caucus. On May 10th, he rose in the House of Commons to speak about the new caucus to say, "I had the pleasure of singing the praises of the Bay of Fundy in the House of Commons today (May 10, 2017) and those many Members of Parliament whose riding ring this amazing body of water. Together we are joining forces and working hard to promote the Bay on both the Novas Scotia and New Brunswick sides as a tourism destination today and into the future".

The Bay of Fundy is a "marvel of nature to rival any in the world," said Casey Wednesday, in a statement to Members of Parliament assembled in the House of Commons.

"Around Fundy can be found not only the world's highest tides but Canada's oldest indigenous settlement, the largest in-tact Acadian village... and some of the oldest

fossils in the world," Casey noted, the latter remark garnering some gentle ribbing from 'less seasoned' members in the House.

"It's all here," Casey adds. "The Bay of Fundy region has so much to do and see. It's a matter of ensuring the rest of the world knows about it and knows how to find us."

Locally a steering committee has been working on a "Cliffs of Fundy" to prepare an application for a GeoPark for the area. Tim Fedak, Fundy Geological Museum and Dr. John Calder, Senior Geologists with NS Department of Natural Resources are driving movers leading the local committee, which hopes to have the application completed to receive UNESCO GeoPark designation no later than spring of 2020.

The Bay of Fundy Caucus will soon kick-off its work with a meeting of stakeholders in the region. He continued, "With a goal of doubling tourism in five years, I invite all area residents and travelers to come and see what makes our area unique. The world's highest tides, the tidal bore, fossils, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and so much more await visitors to our Ocean Play Ground".

**A video of his statement in the House of Commons can be found at:**  
<http://bcasey.liberal.ca/news-nouvelles/members-of-parliament-are-working-hard-to-promote-the-bay-of-fundy/>

# NOVA SCOTIA ELECTION



## Questions to Larry Duchesne

**To ensure residents in the former Town of Parrsboro and surrounding area do not have to leave the constituency, what would you do to ensure government services are more readily available in the immediate area?**

In all issues facing the area, I believe in working with the local municipalities, local front line workers, service users and local businesses and communities to identify solutions, then fighting for those solutions no matter who forms government. There has not been a single new long-term care bed in Nova Scotia in the past four years and \$8.3 million has been cut from nursing homes to the detriment of patient care. The NDP will reverse those cuts and has pledged \$120 million over four years to increase access to primary care. We'll partner with healthcare workers and communities to put an end to hallway medicine. I would be open to creative ideas for maintaining services, like supporting hub schools, encouraging medical clinics to give doctors and related health professionals a more attractive work environment. And the NDP would provide funding for more help in schools – speech therapists, psychologists, etc.

**What will you do to ensure the ecology and environmental assets of the Bay of Fundy is protected and the livelihood of local fishermen is not impacted negatively?**

The NDP will pass an Environmental Bill of Rights if elected Government. I believe that community buy-in is an essential part of any environmental review and that fishermen and First Nations should be represented on any regulatory body. In the case of the tidal turbines and Alton Gas, since both have legal approval, there must be rigorous

monitoring and no expansion of the projects if the data show that they are harming fish or the Bay's delicate ecosystem.

**If you are elected what will you do to assist local initiatives to raise the profile of the Bay of Fundy so it becomes more iconic as a destination for tourists including more accommodations, food outlets and related services?**

I would work with and support the efforts of the municipalities, the tourism association and local groups. The NDP will invest in the creative and cultural communities to support theatres, museums, heritage sites and community festivals. I think we have to use social media more effectively to promote our area. If we succeed, accommodations, etc will respond to the demand. Government should help with advice, data, etc and an understanding that bigger is not always better. We should also reduce clear cutting and adopt more sustainable forestry practices. There are more jobs in sustainable forestry than in clear cutting and Nova Scotia is losing its reputation as an eco-destination because of the extent of our clear-cutting.

**As the elected MLA for Cumberland South would you author a monthly column in the South Cumberland News to communicate with local residents?**

Certainly. I would consider it part of my job.

**What will you do to raise the standard of living of Cumberland South residents so less of them are living on or below the poverty line?**

70% of the people living in poverty in Canada have jobs. We will phase in a \$15 minimum wage over three years. If people have some money left after paying for the bare necessities, they will spend it locally and boost the local economy.

**What programs will you help implement to stop "out migration" resulting in**

**youth and young families being attracted to live, work and play in Cumberland South?**

We need to upgrade our infrastructure and health services and invest in our schools so that young families are confident that their kids will have the education and the special attention they deserve. We'll eliminate tuition at community college so that young people can develop the skills needed by the local economy and don't have to leave to pay off their student debt. And to attract immigration we can organize community welcome events and encourage our citizens to make immigrants and come-from-aways feel more like part of the community.

**Realtors are having difficulty selling rural properties if high speed internet is not available. At the same time, the competitiveness of businesses and education of students is being hampered. It is common knowledge Bell Aliant has existing FIBRE OP along Highway #2 to Parrsboro and along Hwy 209 to Port Greville. What will you do to apply pressure forcing Bell Aliant to permit other internet providers to tap into the existing infrastructure at an economical rate?**

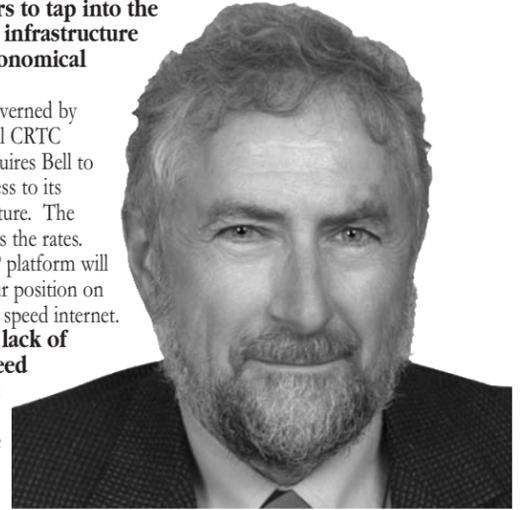
This is governed by the federal CRTC which requires Bell to allow access to its infrastructure. The CRTC sets the rates. The NDP platform will outline our position on rural high speed internet. **Can the lack of high speed internet in rural areas be solved within**

**eighteen months?**

I doubt it. It's a problem throughout rural Nova Scotia.

**In your own words, why are you the most qualified candidate to represent residents of Cumberland South?**

I volunteer at a food bank and see how people are struggling. I'm a retired teacher and know firsthand how a lack of resources and help in the classroom negatively affects all students. And how lack of proper nutrition affects children's ability to learn. I believe that it is wrong to balance the budget on the backs of children, seniors, working people and those who serve the public, as has been done over the last four years. Valuing and listening to teachers, nurses, home care workers, and other folks who serve the public is a better way of improving service than attacking them in public. Investing in our people is the best way out of the economic trap we are in. And I firmly believe that addressing poverty directly will improve the local economy. Poverty is a drag on the economy and I believe we can do something about it, to the benefit of the whole community.



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