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August 2026

Independent Study Highlights Strong Economic Benefits of RIGS Energy Atlantic

An independent economic impact study says the RIGS Energy Atlantic project will bring significant, lasting benefits to the Tantramar region, with strong job creation, tax revenue and community investment.

The study, commissioned by NB Power and prepared by a third-party economist, highlights local benefits, including:

- **Construction jobs generating wages and spin-off activity for local supply chains and service businesses**
- **Permanent full-time jobs bringing high-paying careers directly to the region**
- **Significant contribution in local annual tax revenue for Tantramar to support local infrastructure and community services**
- **New annual household spending across southeastern New Brunswick from ongoing operations**
- **Added provincial GDP funds every year helping anchor long-term economic stability well beyond construction**
- **Stronger, cleaner grid with the facility supporting growing renewable sources like wind and solar and 500 MW of fast-generation capacity, including 100 MW of capacity purchased by Nova Scotia, strengthening reliability of New Brunswick and the Maritimes.**

Overall, the report concludes that RIGS Energy Atlantic represents a substantial, multi-decade economic opportunity for the region, with good jobs, new tax revenue and lasting benefits from community investment and no trade-offs when it comes to health, safety or the environment. In addition to economic benefits, the project will also benefit New Brunswickers by reducing provincial greenhouse gas emissions and creating the ability to add more green energy to the grid.

- RIGS Energy Atlantic will also support the use of more energy from renewable sources by providing a reliable source of quick-start backup power and supporting

grid stability when operating in synchronous condensing mode, which is how it will be used approximately 85% of the time.

- Once operational, RIGS Energy Atlantic will create and deliver a year one step change reduction in New Brunswick emissions of 250,000 tonnes of CO₂, as estimated by NB Power – the equivalent of 106 million litres of gasoline not used or 125 million kilograms of coal not burned. The facility will enable this emissions reduction by increasing penetration of renewables and displacing energy provided by base load units that can take days to bring online.

Brian J. Francis named to Order of New Brunswick

Congratulations to Brian J. Francis – Elsipogtog First Nation member, filmmaker, artist, writer and regular contributor to this newsletter – on being named to the Order of New Brunswick. A Cultural Knowledge Keeper and the first Mi'kmaq interpreter for the House of Commons and Senate, Francis has spent over 30 years advancing Indigenous languages and the arts, including producing 70+ documentaries and exhibiting his paintings internationally. He will be formally invested into the Order in Fredericton on November 2.



Photo: Wikipedia Commons

Tepgonaset Notjiginamoet – The Quiet Teacher

By Brian Francis

In Mi'kmaq, the moon is known as Tepgonaset (Dep-gon-a-set). For countless generations, she has been more than a light in the night sky. She has been a quiet teacher, marking the passing of seasons, guiding the tides, and reminding us that life unfolds in cycles. She asks nothing of us, yet she faithfully keeps her place in the heavens, never resisting change, but embracing it.

Our ancestors looked to Tepgonaset not only to measure time, but to better understand their relationship with the world around them. Her influence reaches far beyond the night sky. She draws the tides, and those same waters flow within us.

We often speak of "saving the environment," as though it exists somewhere outside of ourselves. Yet we have never been separate from it.

The forests breathe with the Earth, while beneath the sea, vast meadows of seagrass quietly produce much of the oxygen that sustains life. Trees nourish the rivers, rivers nourish the oceans, and the oceans nourish all living things. Every part of Creation exists in relationship with another.

When one relationship is broken, all are affected.

Perhaps the greatest lesson we can receive from Tepgonaset is that balance is found in relationship. Night after night, she changes before our eyes, yet she remains the same moon. She reminds us that change is not something to fear, but a natural part of life's journey. Like the moon, we too experience seasons of growth and uncertainty, of fullness and quiet reflection, yet we remain who we are at our core.

Perhaps what is needed is not a new way of living, but a way of remembering. A return to the understanding that every living thing has purpose, and that our own well-being depends upon the well-being of all that surrounds us.

When we begin to see ourselves once again as part of the natural world, rather than apart from it, we may finally understand that caring for the Earth is, in truth, caring for ourselves.

Brian J. Francis is a celebrated Mi'kmaq filmmaker, writer and photographer whose work brings powerful visibility to Mi'kmaq culture and language. His art – and community leadership – reflect a lifelong commitment to sharing his people's stories with honesty and heart. (Photo: Steve Smith.)



New Brunswick powwows continue this fall

Each year, New Brunswick's Indigenous communities host powwows. These important family-friendly cultural events for all ages feature "drums, dance, regalia, food and crafts of Indigenous peoples and Nations across Turtle Island, the land otherwise known as North America."



The Province of New Brunswick's [schedule of powwows](#) includes four events planned for September. Along with the schedule, the link provides information on what powwows are, as well as tips and guidelines for attending. We encourage everyone to attend a powwow!

RIGS Energy Atlantic Forming Community Liaison Committee

At RIGS Energy Atlantic, we value our relationship with our neighbours and the community, and we want our presence to be beneficial for all New Brunswickers.

With this in mind, we are moving forward to engage the local community by establishing a Community Liaison Committee (CLC) to provide a venue for open and informed

discussion with members of the Tantramar community. The RIGS Energy Atlantic CLC is intended to provide the community with an ongoing forum where members can obtain information about the RIGS Energy Atlantic facility construction and operations.

The objectives of the CLC include:

- Serve as a forum for open dialogue between the project developer and community interests.
- Complement other information sharing and communication processes and increase public awareness around the RIGS Energy Atlantic facility construction and operations.
- Gain community insight and input regarding local interests during construction and operations.
- Provide constructive input on how to address and respond to community needs and concerns.

Membership

The RIGS Energy Atlantic CLC will be made up of 6-8 individuals who have the background and experience to enable a broad understanding of the needs and concerns of the general public, especially at the local level. Committee members will likely include landowners, first responders, business owners and interested citizens.

If you are interested in joining the RIGS Energy Atlantic CLC, please submit your name through the Project [website](#). The CLC will meet quarterly unless it determines there is a need to meet more often. The meeting schedule and terms of reference will be established by the CLC. It is anticipated that the first meeting will take place this fall.

About this newsletter

This newsletter is focused on informing and updating the community about the [RIGS \(Renewables Integration Grid Security\) Energy Atlantic](#) project. Should you no longer wish to receive these updates, please click "Unsubscribe" at the bottom of this newsletter and you will be removed from the list. To view this newsletter in your browser, please click on "View in browser" at the top of this newsletter.

We look forward to sharing more about RIGS Energy Atlantic – an important energy infrastructure project that will benefit New Brunswick for years to come. Be sure to visit our website at www.rigsenergyatlantic.ca for answers to many of your questions. If there's a question you'd like to see covered in our FAQ section, please email us at info@rigsenergyatlantic.ca and we'll consider it for addition to the website.

Let's connect

We're committed to ongoing dialogue with members of the community. We're happy to provide more information about our plans and how the RIGS Energy Atlantic Project facility will benefit New Brunswick and the Maritimes. Please contact us via email at info@rigsenergyatlantic.ca and we'll connect with you.

About PROENERGY Global Solutions Canada and RIGS Energy Atlantic

The RIGS Energy Atlantic project is staffed by a team of Atlantic Canadians with relevant skills and experience in the utilities space, and we are committed to working with New Brunswick Mi'gmaq First Nations Rightsholders and New Brunswick skilled trades. The project is being developed by PROENERGY Global Solutions Canada, a provider of proven grid-support technology important for renewable energy operations and expansion. With the flexibility to balance the grid without fuel (85% of the time in New Brunswick) and

to provide backup power when needed (7% of the time in New Brunswick), the company ensures grid stability when it matters most.

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