

International Beat the Heat and NB AC for ALL PHONE ZAP

We are calling:

Susan Holt (**Premier**) (506) 259-5700

René Legacy (**Energy Minister**): (506) 453-8171

Cindy Miles (**Social Development Minister**) (506) 462-5524

David Hickey (**Housing Minister**) (506) 261-0754

Lyne Chantal Boudreau (**Minister for Seniors**) (506) 889 2572

John Dornan (**Minister of Health**) (506) 646-1805

Script:

Hi, my name is [Name] and I'm calling to talk about some important issues that I'm seeing in my community, especially around the summertime heat. I'm a member of ACORN; we are a membership-based organization of low-to-moderate income people that gives folks like me a collective voice.

Is the minister around? Can I speak to them?

[If yes, continue.

If no: "OK, I am happy to talk to you and for you to pass on my message."]

For voicemail just say the following after introducing yourself as an ACORN member

With landlords having the power to prevent their tenants from having suitable home cooling, the reality that our homes are not designed for this weather gets clearer every year. If people can't afford to cool their homes, to buy their own ACs, or just aren't allowed to, doesn't that harm our communities?

This is pushing more people into risk of heat-related illness or death. In the 2021 heat dome in BC, 98% of deaths that occurred were indoors because of inadequate cooling systems and we do not want a repeat of that in NB.

We have no dedicated low-income energy rebate program to help those who struggle the most, no energy retrofit programs for low-income rental units which would lower their bills, very little in terms of NB Power debt forgiveness, and NO policy to ensure access to cooling for all. There are no dedicated, free cooling centers in New Brunswick.

This has to change.

• *[Share what you think of the summer heat waves, how that affects you and what you are afraid of for this summer]*

We are calling for the government to follow through on the power review recommendations so that no low-income customers are left behind.

ACORN wants income-tested energy rebates, legal and policy barriers that prevent tenants from installing home cooling to be removed, maximum heat bylaws, access to free, public cooling stations and subsidies for energy retrofits to rental homes.

The general 10% reduction for all NB Power ratepayers spends more than half of its budget helping the top earners while families that need the help barely get anything — is that fair?

You can reach out to nb.acorn.org@acorncanada.org or 506 897 5855 for more information or to schedule a meeting.

Have a great day,

[Name], ACORN member.

Our next phone zap is on August 19th at 12:30PM, focusing on our national Protect our Homes campaign.