

Climate Crisis Letter Writing Campaign

A big part of the solution to climate change is to electrify everything: cars, trucks, home heating, industrial processes, and so on.

Clean Energy Canada, looked at the growth in clean energy in Canada since 2010. The report found that Canadian clean energy industries are growing **faster** than the rest of the economy. Over the last 18 months, renewable energy companies signed contracts to feed green power to the grid that will be cheaper than natural gas plants. Despite common perceptions, those low costs are possible without subsidies.

It's so important to make sure we're heard because oil and gas companies won't go away willingly. When we write to our elected officials, send letters to our local papers, and speak to our friends and family about climate change, we're showing that Canadians are ready and wanting to accelerate towards the clean energy future that has already begun.

environmentaldefence.ca/2019/06/06/cleaner-cheaper-growing-renewables-ready-canadian-policy-isnt/

Letters to government representatives:

Be concise....politicians will not read long letters. In fact, they'll probably only scan them but they'll be noted that they've been sent. Letters can be sent to whomever you think should receive them.

Be clear, personal, assertive, and professional.

ALL LETTERS CAN BE PERSONALIZED OR AMENDED TO SUIT YOUR SITUATION.

On-Line submission form to Prime Minister Trudeau: pm.gc.ca/en/connect/contact

Members of Parliament: Mr. or Ms.

www.ourcommons.ca/Members/en/search?caucusId=all&province=all&gender=all&lastName

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau	justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca
Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of the Environment	Jonathan.Wilkinson@parl.gc.ca
Bill Morneau, Minister of Finance	bill.morneau@canada.ca
Catherine McKenna, Minister of Infrastructure	catherine.McKenna@parl.gc.ca
Patty Hadju, Minister of Health	Patty.Hajdu@parl.gc.ca
Seamus O'Regan, Min. of Natural Resources	Seamus.OREgan@parl.gc.ca

Your MP:

Julie Dabrusin, Minister Canadian Heritage	Julie.dabrusin@parl.gc.ca
Carolyn Bennett, Min. Crown-Indigenous Relations	carolyn.bennett@parl.gc.ca
Bill Morneau, Minister of Finance	bill.morneau@canada.ca
Chrystia Freeland, Min. Intergovernmental Affairs	Chrystia.Freeland@parl.gc.ca

Members of Ontario Provincial Parliament: www.ola.org/en/members/current

On-line submission form to the Premier: correspondence.premier.gov.on.ca/EN/feedback/default.aspx

Doug Ford (Premier)	premier@ontario.ca
Greg Rickford, Min. of Energy	greg.rickford@pc.ola.org
Peter Tabuns (Critic-Energy & Climate)	tabunsp-co@ndp.on.ca
Jeff Yurek Min. of Environment	jeff.yurekco@pc.ola.org
Laurie Scott Min. of Infrastructure	laurie.scott@pc.ola.org
John Yakabuski, Min. of Natural Resources & Forestry	john.yakabuski@pc.ola.org
Rod Phillips, Min. of Finance	rod.phillips@pc.ola.org

Your MPP:

Peter Tabuns	tabunsp-co@ndp.on.ca
Jill Andrew	JAndrew-QP@ndp.on.ca

Toronto City Council:

www.toronto.ca/city-government/council/members-of-council

Mayor John Tory mayor_tory@toronto.ca

Mike Layton councillor_layton@toronto.ca Strong voice in fight against climate change. Championed building new affordable housing, aboriginal issues and reconciliation, and better public transit and cycling infrastructure. Prior to being elected as City Councillor, worked at Environmental Defence

Josh Matlow councillor_matlow@toronto.ca Was co-director of NGO Earthroots, initiated “Green Grid” project for renewable energy generators (such as solar panels) on school rooftops; fought for protection and expansion of local parks and public space & evidence-based transit including relief for the overcrowded subway system; support for farmers markets; campaigned for solutions to gridlock

Kristyn Wong-Tam councillor_wongtam@toronto.ca Championed for expansion of green public spaces, farmers’ markets, community gardens, improvements to parks and ravines. Champion for sustainable living and environmental health

Joe Cressy councillor_cressy@toronto.ca Housing, public transit, safe cycling infrastructure, new and improved parkland, expanding community services

Ana Bailao councillor_bailao@toronto.ca Deputy Mayor & member of the Mayor’s Executive Committee & Chair of the Planning and Housing Committee, one of the City’s 4 critical decision-making standing committees that reports to City Council.

Paula Fletcher councillor_fletcher@toronto.ca Involvement in housing, public health, recreation, environment and community development issues.

Brad Bradford councillor_bradford@toronto.ca Focus on building new transit, improving road safety, revitalizing main streets. Responsible for ensuring Downtown Relief Line transit project moves forward as quickly as possible

Letter #1:

To: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Cc: B. Morneau bill.morneau@canada.ca

Cc: C. McKenna Catherine.McKenna@parl.gc.ca

Cc: J. Wilkinson Jonathan.Wilkinson@parl.gc.ca

Cc: Your MP

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

Subject: Green and Just Recovery

I am writing to strongly urge you to act now on implementing a Green and Just Recovery as we cope with COVID-19 and begin the recovery from the ensuing economic crisis. This is an opportunity that will not come again and we have little time to move towards a green transition for all. We have 10 years to prevent the temperature from rising beyond 2 degrees C above pre-industrial levels and by then, it will be too late.

The Climate Caucus has endorsed and recommended the following:

Legislate and honour the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Invest in building Canada's de-carbonized and resilient future

Invest in the restoration of forest, stream, river, wetland, and coastal ecosystems

Invest in universally accessible public transit

Invest in cycling and pedestrian infrastructure

Invest in health-sustaining environments and in clean air, water, and food supplies

Invest in renewable energy infrastructure, transmission & storage.

Invest in local food security

Invest in zero waste

Work with provinces to restructure municipal funding and prevent continuing urban sprawl which increases our carbon footprint and swallows needed natural spaces and agricultural land.

Support local, independent, small businesses that keep our communities vibrant.

Scientists stress the urgency of averting a climate catastrophe. People everywhere are frightened of a future that looks like the past. I urge you to hear our voices and make the changes that we need for us and for future generations. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Your name and address

Letter #2:

To: Jonathan Wilkinson Jonathan.Wilkinson@parl.gc.ca

Cc: B. Morneau bill.morneau@canada.ca

Cc: C. McKenna Catherine.McKenna@parl.gc.ca

Your MP

Dear Mr. Wilkinson,

Subject: Green and Just Recovery

I am writing to you with great concern about our environment. I understand that COVID 19 is a crisis and much energy and focus is on keeping Canadians well. However, without a healthy environment, none of us can remain healthy.

At this critical time, I'm writing to urge you to act now on implementing a just and green recovery. It is of utmost importance that we use this crisis as an opportunity to create a new Green paradigm for our future and for the next generations.

It's time for Canada to adapt to a low carbon economy and begin investing in sustainable measures that contribute to a healthy environment. We must ameliorate the effects of climate change by cutting our carbon emissions more aggressively, investing in renewable energy projects, promoting the use of electrical vehicles and their infrastructure, reducing our use of plastics and waste, keeping our air and waterways free of toxic pollutants, protecting the integrity of our boreal forests and investing in large scale reforestation as well as preserving our natural spaces. We must work with the provinces to restructure municipal funding and prevent continued urban sprawl which increases our carbon emissions and swallows our agricultural land and green space.

Lastly, we must encourage change in the behaviour of every citizen. We must all put the environment first and seriously reduce our carbon footprint.

Without the immediate implementation of these measures, we cannot slow down the devastating effects of climate warming. We need you to act now so that present and future generations do not suffer from the horrible impacts of our environmental neglect. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Your name and Address

Provincial Letter #3

To: Premier Doug Ford premier@ontario.ca

Cc: Jeff Yurek jeff.yurekco@pc.ola.org

Cc: Laurie Scott laurie.scott@pc.ola.org

Cc: your MPP

Dear Mr. Ford,

Subject: New Deal for Cities

I appreciate the difficult and time-consuming work that you're doing during the Covid-19 crisis. Your government has been doing an amazing job. The well-being and safety of citizens is both essential and urgent, but we should view this crisis not only as a warning but as an opportunity to create major changes. The Covid-19 crisis is going to leave cities with a huge employment and infrastructure problem. This is our chance to reinvent how we do things and the decisions you make will be critical both to the cities and to the planet. Going forward, we must:

- Invest in clean, green jobs - building subway cars, installing wind turbines and cleaning up extraction sites. Jobs that provide the tools and resources such as those created by the Evergreen Co-operatives in Cleveland. www.evgoh.com
- Invest in universally accessible public transit – federal and provincial funding for public transit will create jobs, improve health and well-being, support equity and help Canada achieve its climate goals. Low-fare transport for all would create less congestion, fewer traffic accidents, reduce air and noise pollution, increase business sales and mitigate global warming.
- Invest in EV infrastructure - Currently there are 700 charging stations in the GTA with an additional 300 to be installed by 2021. Many more are needed across the provinces in order to encourage the purchase of electric vehicles.
- Invest in safe and equitable cycling and pedestrian infrastructure - cycling and walking should be safe, feasible and utilitarian. Auto-free pedestrian zones and clearly-marked crosswalks.
- Restructure municipal funding to prevent continued sprawl, which increases our carbon emissions and swallows our agricultural land and green space. The increasing population of seniors and millennials prefer walkable cities to urban sprawl.

All measures towards an economic recovery and environmental health will be challenging but investing in Canada's cities can lead the way. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Your name and address

Federal Letter #4

To: Prime Minister Trudeau justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Cc: J. Wilkinson Jonathan.Wilkinson@parl.gc.ca

Cc: C. McKenna, Catherine.McKenna@parl.gc.ca

Cc: B. Morneau bill.morneau@canada.ca

Cc: your MP

Dear Mr. Trudeau,

Subject: New Deal for Cities

I appreciate the difficult and time-consuming work that you're doing during the Covid-19 crisis. The well-being and safety of Canadians is paramount, but we should view this crisis not only as a warning but as an opportunity to create major changes. The Covid-19 pandemic is going to leave cities with a huge economic crisis and the only way out will be by investing in jobs, industry and people. This is our chance to reinvent how we do things and the decisions you make will be critical not only to our country but also to our cities. Cities are uniquely positioned to take the lead. Going forward, we must:

- Invest in clean, green jobs - building subway cars and installing wind turbines. Jobs that provide the tools and resources such as those created by the Evergreen Co-operatives in Cleveland.

www.evgoh.com

- Invest in universally accessible and low-fare public transit – federal and provincial funding for public transit will create jobs, improve health and well-being, support equity and help Canada achieve its climate goals. Low-fare transport for all would create less congestion, fewer traffic accidents, reduce air and noise pollution, increase business sales and mitigate global warming.

- Invest in EV infrastructure - Many more charging stations are needed in our cities and across the country in order to encourage the purchase of electric vehicles.

- Restructure municipal funding to prevent continued sprawl, which increases our carbon emissions and swallows our agricultural land and green space. Both the increasing population of seniors and millennials prefer walkable cities to urban sprawl.

All measures towards an economic recovery and environmental health will be challenging but investing in Canada's cities can lead the way. Thank you.

Sincerely, Your name and address

Letter #5

To: Prime Minister Trudeau justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Cc: your MP

Dear Prime Minister, Re: Economic Recovery

I commend you for putting bold policies in place to tackle the Covid-19 crisis to sustain individuals, businesses, and communities especially those that are the most vulnerable.

Even before the end of the pandemic, the climate emergency demands transitioning to a sustainable future that addresses our reliance on and subsidies for coal, oil and gas. We have 10 years to prevent major ecological destruction. If temperatures rise beyond 1.5 degrees, our world will be a very difficult place to live.

The oil and gas industry is the wealthiest and most polluting industry in history and I would ask that you not put our tax dollars towards bailing them out from their abandoned well clean-up responsibilities. Our greenhouse gas emissions have increased from 2018. Between 2012 and 2017 Export Development Canada provided this grossly polluting industry \$10 billion per year, considerably more than it gave to clean energy technologies.

The renewable energy industry is clean, inexpensive, and creates more jobs per dollar invested. Alberta and Saskatchewan are well suited to transition to clean energy such as wind and solar.

Programs to meet the 2030 target must be set. Setting a new target when the last one was missed is not going to get us to where we need to be by 2030. In conjunction with provincial premiers, we must implement laws, regulations, and taxes.

Prime Minister, you have a particularly challenging job with both the pandemic and the climate emergency but it's essential that our country invest in a clean, just and green future right now. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Name and Address

Letter #6

To: your MP - Amend letter to suit

To: Bill Morneau

Dear Mr. Morneau,

I live in your riding of Toronto Centre. I am writing to ask that you take action to bring about legislation and financial support for the climate emergency in which we're living.

In that most of us are now segregated at home, COVID-19, with all its seriousness and ramifications, has created an opportunity for us to turn our attention to the even greater global crisis of the climate. If we have no healthy planet on which to live, all our achievements, artistic contributions, and day-to-day efforts will be in vain.

I am part of a community of artists here at PAL and across Canada, and a member of the Climate Action Committee at the Danforth Jewish Circle and affiliated multi-faith congregations in Toronto. I strongly urge:

- Federal recognition of the fact that we are in a climate emergency and must take action *now*.
- A reduction of carbon emissions (to 1.5 degrees Celsius) that can be brought about through your leadership and legislation.
- That you create, with provincial and municipal governments, clean public transit and clean air.
- That you work with the above governments to contain urban sprawl, and preserve agricultural land, forests, and natural spaces.
- That you act in support of the United Nations Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- That you support sustainable and clean energy sources and jobs to replace the all-but-depleted Canadian oil industry.
- That you create and fund new, renewable energy sources.
- That you recognize that massive droughts and floods have created migrations of innocent humans and wildlife that are already insupportable, and that these will only get worse if the underlying causes of climate change are not addressed,

Mr. Morneau, I thank you for your attention to this letter, and I would greatly appreciate a response from your office.

Respectfully, urgently, and with my gratitude for all you have done.

Your name and address

Letter # 7

To: your MP - Amend letter to suit

To: Chrystia Freeland, MP Chrystia.Freeland@parl.gc.ca

Dear Ms. Freeland:

I am a constituent in your riding of University-Rosedale. I am writing to you during this very critical time to urge the federal government to act **now** on implementing a green and just recovery as we grapple with COVID-19 and its aftermath. I am very worried about the looming disaster facing us within 10 years if the government does not take more aggressive action to combat climate change. It is of utmost importance that we use this crisis as an opportunity to create a new Green paradigm for our future. Coming out of the pandemic, ensuring jobs for Canadians is high on today's priority list. Fortunately, there is a wonderful opportunity to create millions of jobs by transitioning to a green economy.

We cannot return to the pre-COVID "normal". The old "normal" was a planet losing its ability to support life, with an economic model that disregards planetary limits. The old "normal" was a global population suffering from gross inequity, exacerbated by decades of failing to take decisive action on climate change. The old "normal" repeatedly failed to honour the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The old "normal" was unsustainable and unjust in so many ways, for both people and the planet.

Ms. Freeland, please act decisively and embrace a bold plan that confronts these interconnected crises. Our collective future depends on accelerating the transition to a green economy.

The federal government must exercise leadership and use the tools it has available to support the necessary action at all levels of government.

I wholly support the following recommendations by the Climate Caucus:

- Invest in building Canada's decarbonized and resilient future
- Invest in the restoration of forest, stream, river, wetland, and coastal ecosystems
- Legislate and honour the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Invest in universally accessible public transit
- Invest in cycling and pedestrian infrastructure
- Invest in health-sustaining environments - clean air, water, and food supplies
- Invest in renewable energy infrastructure, transmission & storage
- Invest in local food security
- Invest in zero waste
- Work with provinces to restructure municipal funding and prevent continuing urban sprawl
- Work with provinces on infrastructure repair
- Support local, independent, small businesses that keep our communities vibrant
- Divest from the fossil fuel industry.

Please see the full statement of the Climate Caucus here saxefacts.com/open-letter-from-the-climate-caucus-to-the-prime-minister

Thank you for the actions the federal government has taken to date. They are important steps, but there is so much more that needs to be done and not much time to do it.

Yours sincerely, Your name and address

Letter #8

To: Prime Minister Trudeau justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau:

I am writing to you during this very critical time to urge the federal government to act **now** on implementing a green and just recovery as we grapple with COVID-19 and its aftermath. I am very worried about the looming disaster facing us within 10 years if the government does not take more aggressive action to combat climate change. It is of utmost importance that we use this crisis as an opportunity to create a new Green paradigm for our future. Coming out of the pandemic, ensuring jobs for Canadians is high on today's priority list. Fortunately, this is a wonderful opportunity to create millions of jobs by transitioning to a green economy.

We cannot return to the pre-COVID "normal". The old "normal" was a planet losing its ability to support life, with an economic model that disregards planetary limits. The old "normal" was a global population suffering from gross inequity, exacerbated by decades of failing to take decisive action on climate change. The old "normal" repeatedly failed to honour the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The old "normal" was unsustainable and unjust in so many ways, for both people and the planet.

Mr. Trudeau, this is your moment to act decisively and to embrace a bold plan that confronts these interconnected crises. Please show the leadership we need to avert the looming disaster. Our collective future depends on accelerating the transition to a green economy.

The federal government must use the tools it has available to support the necessary action at all levels of government.

I wholly support the following recommendations by the Climate Caucus:

- Legislate and honour the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Invest in building Canada's decarbonized and resilient future
- Invest in the restoration of forest, stream, river, wetland, and coastal ecosystems
- Invest in universally accessible public transit
- Invest in cycling and pedestrian infrastructure
- Invest in health-sustaining environments - clean air, water, and food supplies
- Invest in renewable energy infrastructure, transmission & storage
- Invest in local food security
- Invest in zero waste
- Work with provinces to restructure municipal funding and prevent continuing urban sprawl
- Work with provinces on infrastructure repair
- Support local, independent, small businesses that keep our communities vibrant
- Divest from the fossil fuel industry.

Please see the full statement of the Climate Caucus here <https://saxefacts.com/open-letter-from-the-climate-caucus-to-the-prime-minister/>

Thank you for the actions you have taken to date. They are important steps, but there is so much more that needs to be done and not much time to do it.

Yours sincerely, Your name and address

Letter #9

To: Prime Minister Trudeau justin.trudeau@parl.gc

Cc: your MP

Re: Economic Recovery

Dear Prime Minister,

I commend you for putting bold policies in place to tackle the Covid-19 crisis to sustain individuals, businesses, and communities especially those that are the most vulnerable.

However, even before the end of this pandemic, the climate emergency demands that we transition to a sustainable future that addresses our reliance on and subsidies for coal, oil and gas.

The oil and gas industry is the wealthiest and most polluting industry in history and I would ask that you not put our tax dollars towards bailing them out. Our greenhouse gas emissions have increased from 2018. Between 2012 and 2017 Export Development Canada provided this grossly polluting industry \$10 billion per year, considerably more than it gave to clean energy technologies.

The renewable energy industry is clean, inexpensive, and creates more jobs per dollar invested. Alberta and Saskatchewan are well suited to transition to clean energy such as wind and solar.

Programs to meet the 2030 target must be set. Setting a new target when the last one was missed is not going to get us to where we need to be by 2030. In conjunction with provincial premiers, laws, regulations, and taxes must be implemented.

Prime Minister, you have a particularly challenging job with both the pandemic and the climate emergency, but it is essential that our country invests in a clean, just and green future beginning now. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Your name and address