

September 18th, 2023

To: the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada
The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance
The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources
The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change

A letter from more than 250 climate, labour, health and faith organizations from 30 countries calling for regulating Canada's oil and gas industry with a strong emissions cap

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,
Ministers Guilbeault, Wilkinson and Freeland,

Before this summer had even begun, the land currently called Canada was engulfed in flames. Almost every province and territory of the country has seen active wildfires, displacing communities and destroying ecosystems. As of mid-September, [over 17 million hectares](#) have burned – more than six times the normal amount. Indigenous communities are disproportionately affected, their lives and livelihoods turned to ashes, while often [receiving less support from colonial governments](#). Close to 200,000 people have placed on an evacuation order, and many still don't know if they have homes to return to. Meanwhile, millions across the country are breathing air polluted with smoke particles. Smoke-filled skies also enveloped U.S. cities from New York to Washington, DC, and smoke travelled as far away as Norway.

The devastating reality of a more intense and longer wildfire season is a result of climate change: warmer and drier conditions make it quicker and easier for fires to start within vegetation and spread – whether they are caused by lightning, accident or arson. Human-caused climate change made record-breaking temperatures in Western Canada – which set the conditions for the wildfires – ten times more likely, according to [preliminary data from Environment and Climate Change Canada](#). And the root cause of climate change is the elephant in Canada's climate policy room: **the continued expansion of the production and consumption of fossil fuels.**

A recent [peer-reviewed study from the Union of Concerned Scientists](#) found that 37% of the total area scorched by forest fires in the western United States and southwestern Canada since 1986 can be attributed to the 88 largest fossil fuel producers and cement manufacturers.

These impacts in Canada mirror the devastating losses and damages we are seeing every day around the world, exacerbated by Canadian oil and gas extraction. The Canadian government's failure to constrain the continued expansion of oil and gas has a direct impact on the lives of communities and ecosystems, both at home and worldwide.

This science makes it crystal clear: fossil fuel companies are pouring fuel on the fire. They have known about the climate-damaging impacts of their products for decades, have failed to act, and are continuing to undermine and block climate action. Despite record profits, oil and gas companies aren't investing in meaningful actions to cut emissions. Instead, they launch PR blitzes and raise CEOs bonuses. Time is running out to prevent the worst of climate catastrophes.

Canada is one of the world's biggest polluters, as well as the largest oil and gas producers and exporters – and it's lagging well behind other G7 countries on cutting emissions, held back by the outsized carbon footprint of the oil and gas industry. The sector accounts for [almost 30% of Canada's domestic emissions](#), and grew by 89% between 1990 and 2021 – all while other sectors of the Canadian economy reduced their emissions.

Right now, Canada has a make-or-break moment to cap the rising oil and gas emissions that fuel devastating climate impacts like wildfires. The international community is watching closely: Canada must lead with a strong, ambitious cap that will rein in its biggest polluters. This cap should be aligned with Canada's fair share of the global effort to limit warming to 1.5°C and cut the sector's emissions by 60% below 2005 levels by 2030, with zero compliance flexibility, offsets and loopholes. This cap is Canada's best chance to meet its 2030 commitment. Without these elements of a strong cap, Canada will likely fail to meet its 2030 target and renege on its legally-binding international climate commitments. This is not an option. **Canada cannot claim to be a climate leader unless it tackles its emissions problem.**

As a major oil and gas exporter, Canada must use every tool in its toolkit to align itself with the global energy transition and immediately end the expansion of fossil fuel production and infrastructure. The upcoming Climate Ambition Summit held by the United Nations Secretary-General offers an opportunity for "First Movers and Doers" to step up. For Canada to live up to these expectations, this needs to include:

- Phasing out fossil fuel subsidies, including public finance for fossil fuels, while avoiding higher energy costs for equity-deserving communities who are already dealing with energy poverty;
- Enacting a windfall tax on oil and gas profits;
- Ensuring that the Sustainable Jobs Act [affirms Indigenous peoples' sovereignty, treats Indigenous Nations as equitable partners in planning for the future of their lands and people](#), and respects the International Labour Organization's guidelines on a Just Transition.

We urge you to make the most of this opportunity to show responsibility and take decisive, effective action for a safer, healthier future.

Sincerely,

Climate Action Network - Réseau action climat Canada
 350.org
 350 Colorado
 7th Generation Initiative
 AbibiNsroma Foundation
 Above Ground
 Action Environnement Basses-Laurentides
 Action for the Climate Emergency
 Action pour la Recherche et l'Appui aux initiatives Locales de Développement
 Africa Institute for Energy Governance
 Africans Rising
 AirClim
 Alberni Valley Food Security Society
 Alberni Valley Nature Club
 Alberni Valley Transition Town Society
 Alberta Beyond Fossil Fuels
 Alliance for Empowering Rural Communities
 Amnesty International Canada
 Amnistie internationale Canada francophone
 Appui aux Initiatives Communautaire de Conservation de l'Environnement et de Développement Durable
 Association for Canadian Educational Resources
 Association québécoise des médecins pour l'environnement
 Association québécoise des organismes de coopération internationale
 Comité pour l'Abolition des Dettes Illégitimes Burkina
 Australian Religious Response to Climate Change
 Below2C
 Biso People
 Burnaby For Our Kids
 Burnaby Residents Opposing Kinder Morgan Expansion
 Bushfire Survivors for Climate Action
 Canadian Association for the Club of Rome
 Canadian Association of Nurses for the Environment
 Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment
 Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives
 Canadian Club of Rome
 Canadian Health Association for Sustainability & Equity
 Canadian Interfaith Fast For the Climate
 Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice
 Canadian Voice of Women for Peace
 Canopy
 Care For Environment
 Care For Environment - Cameroun

Censat Agua Viva (Friends of the Earth Colombia)
 Center for Biological Diversity
 Center for International Environmental Law
 Center for Oil and Gas Organizing
 Centre for Citizens Conserving Environment & Management
 Chase Environmental Action Society
 Chemainus Climate Solutions
 Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue / Climate Witness Project
 Citizen's Oil & Gas Council
 Citizens Climate Lobby Canada
 Clean Air Partnership
 Climate Action for Lifelong Learners
 Climate Action Muskoka
 Climate Action Network Africa
 Climate Action Network Arab World
 Climate Action Network Australia
 Climate Action Network Latin America
 Climate Action Network South Asia
 Climate Action Network Southeast Asia
 Climate Action Network UK (CAN-UK)
 Climate Action Network Zimbabwe
 Climate Action Parry Sound
 Climate Emergency Unit
 Climate Generation
 Climate Justice Ottawa
 Climate Justice Saskatoon
 Climate Legacy
 Climate Network Lanark
 Climate Pledge Collective
 Climate Reality Project Canada
 Climate Scorecard Canada
 Community Compost Composers
 Confédération des syndicats nationaux
 Conservation Council of New Brunswick
 Conservation Council of South Australia
 Council of Canadians, Avalon, N.L. Chapter
 Council of Canadians, Mid-Island Nanaimo Chapter
 Council of Canadians, Nanaimo Mid-Island Chapter
 Council of Canadians, Terrace, B.C. Chapter
 Cowichan Climate Hub
 Creston Climate Action Society
 Currie Country Social Change
 David Suzuki Foundation

DelkatlaSanctuary Society
 Destination Zero
 Doctors for Planetary Health - West Coast
 Drug Policy and Harm Reduction Platform
 Earth Ethics, Inc.
 Eco Action Families
 Eco Elders for Climate Action
 Eco Justice Collaborative
 EcoFair Trading
 Ecojustice
 Ecologistas en Acción
 Ecologos/Water Docs
 Ecology Action Centre
 Ecology Ottawa
 EKOenergy ecolabel
 Energy Mix Productions Inc.
 Environics Trust
 Environment Governance Institute
 Environment Hamilton
 Environmental Defence Canada
 Environnement Vert Plus
 Équiterre
 Extinction Rebellion New Brunswick
 Fast For the Climate
 Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph of Canada (Office for Systemic Justice)
 First Things First Okanagan - Climate Action
 For Our Grandchildren
 For Our Kids
 For Our Kids Toronto
 Force of Nature (North Shore Community Action Team)
 Force of Nature Alliance
 Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty BC
 Freedom Movement Uganda
 Fridays For Future India
 Fridays for Future Nigeria
 Fridays For Future Philadelphia
 Friends of Hidden Valley
 Front commun pour la transition énergétique
 Global Peace Alliance BC Society
 Global Warming Mitigation Project
 Grandmothers Act to Save the Planet
 Grandmothers Advocacy Network
 Greater Whange Residents Trust

Green 13
 Green leaf Advocacy and Empowerment Center
 Green Life Act
 Green Ummah
 Greenpeace Canada
 Greys For Green
 Iceland Nature Conservation Association
 Indigenous Climate Action
 Innovation pour le Développement et la Protection de l'Environnement
 International Marine Mammal Project of Earth Island Institute
 Joint Ecological Ministry
 Just Earth
 Justice Institute Guyana Inc.
 KAIROS Canada
 Kamloops Naturalist Club
 Kishoka Youth Organization
 La Pêche Coalition for a green new deal
 Le Centre Oblat: A Voice for Justice
 Leadnow
 Leave it in the Ground Initiative
 Lekeh development Foundation
 Les Shifters Montréal
 Living Oceans Society
 LoveAid Foundation
 Martha Justice Ministry, Antigonish
 Mères au front
 Midwest Farmers of Color Collective
 Mingi Women Sustainable Development Initiative
 Mobilization against War and Occupation
 Mother Earth Project
 Mouvement Laudato Si' Movement - Canada
 Music Declares Emergency
 My Sea to Sky
 Nadi Ghata Morcha - India
 Nanaimo Climate Action Hub
 Nareto Latia Indigenous Peoples Program
 National Union of Public and General Employees
 Nature Canada
 Nature Québec
 Neighbours United
 New Brunswick Anti-Shale Gas Alliance
 North American Climate, Conservation and Environment
 North Okanagan Naturalists' Club

Office of Religious Congregations for Integral Ecology
 Oil Change International
 Okanagan Climate Hub
 One Cowichan
 Ontario Nurses for the Environment Interest Group
 Our Lady's Missionaries
 Oxfam Canada
 Pacific Islands Climate Action Network
 Pax Christi Toronto
 Peace Point Development Foundation-PPDF.
 PEI Chapter, Council of Canadians
 PEI Fridays for Future Climate Action Group
 Pender Ocean Defenders
 Peterborough Alliance for Climate Action
 Philadelphia Solar Energy Association
 Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania
 Pour nos enfants / For Our Kids Montréal
 Presentation Sisters
 Prevent Cancer Now
 Protect Our Water, Heritage, Rights
 Protect Our Winters Canada
 Protect the Planet Stop TMX
 Quantum Leap
 Queen's Backing Action on the Climate Crisis
 Re_Generation
 Regina Citizens Public Transit Coalition
 Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario
 Regroupement vigilance hydrocarbures Québec
 Religions for Peace Canada
 Religions pour la Paix - Québec
 ReSCOPE
 Réseau Action Climat France
 Réseau québécois des groupes écologistes
 Ressources Ethnoculturelles Contre l'Abus envers les Aîné(e)s
 Sacred Earth Solar
 Safe cities BC
 Sahel Dev
 Saskatchewan Coalition for Sustainable Development
 Saskatchewan Environmental Society
 Save the Pine Bush
 Say No To LNG
 School Sisters of Notre Dame-Atlantic-Midwest Province
 Science for Peace

SeaLegacy
 Sectoral Climate Arts Leadership in the Emergency
 Seniors for Climate Action Now!
 Seniors for Climate Action Now! Ottawa
 Shaarei-Beth El
 Shift Action for Pension Wealth and Planet Health
 Shuswap Climate Action Society
 Sierra Club BC
 Sisters of Charity Halifax
 Sisters of Mercy
 Sisters of St Joseph of Toronto
 Social Justice Awareness and Action Committee
 South Durban Community Environmental Alliance
 South Peel Naturalists' Club
 Southern Alberta Group for the Environment
 Srs of Holy Names of Jesus & Mary, U.S.-Ontario Province
 Stamp Out Poverty
 Stand.earth
 Stoppa Preemraff
 Surrey For Future
 Sussex Against Natural Gas Expansion
 Sustainable Energy Group
 Sustainable Environment Network Society
 Syndicat Canadien de la Fonction Publique
 Synergia Cooperative Institute
 Tane Ko Teemahane Women's Foundation
 TEAL Climate
 The ChariTree Foundation
 The Climate Reality Project Canada
 The Global Sunrise Project
 The People's Justice Council
 Think Big Experts-Thicos
 Toronto350
 Transition Kamloops
 Uplift
 Vancouver Unitarian Environment Team
 View Royal Climate Coalition
 Vivre en Ville
 Voice of The Vulnerable
 Vostile Creatives Trust
 Vote Earth Now
 Waterkeepers Bangladesh
 West Coast Environmental Law Association

West Kootenay Climate Hub
Whale and Dolphin Conservation
Wilderness Committee
Wildsight
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom UK
Workshops for biodiversity
Youth Alliance Sierra Leone
Zero Hour