Seniors For Climate Action Now! (SCAN!)

Platform

September 2021

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1. Introduction

Formed in 2020, **Seniors for Climate Action Now! (SCAN!)**[1] is a group of seniors who are alarmed by the climate emergency. As seniors we have witnessed a lot during our lifetimes:

- An incredible acceleration in fossil fuel use and an explosion of material production that is destroying the natural systems on which we depend to survive.

- Military, political, and economic interventions throughout the world that have led to a growing gap between the rich and poorer countries and the impoverishment of millions of people.

- A shift in Canadian governments from responding to public pressure by adopting universal social program such as Medicare and Pensions to governments who have vigorously adopted an agenda of austerity, cutbacks in social programs and a transfer of public resources to corporations and the wealthy.

We have seen possibilities forged and opportunities foreclosed. We lived in a post war period when workers and families made real gains and we have seen those gains stripped away. We were part of a slow and faltering social progress and we have seen that progress rolled back.

And, as seniors, we are keenly aware that the future now hangs in the balance as corporations and governments deny and delay the urgent actions that are necessary to prevent climate destruction.

But, through our experiences as seniors, we also know that bold and imaginative collective action can bring about incredible changes. We have seen the struggle against Apartheid in South Africa; the power of the anti-war movement; the inspiration of the fight for civil rights; the commitment of the gay rights movement; and, the determination of the women's movement. We have been part of and have witnessed much. And we know that popular pressure can change legislation, government direction and the future of the world.

We have learned that winning needs a clear vision and a commitment to act. And we are convinced that resolving the climate crisis means building a more caring and equitable society.

Working with others we hope to get a better understanding of the obstacles we face, what measures can address the climate crisis and how we can help build a movement for climate action. We are organizing seniors to join the fray.

As seniors we do not want to stand back leaving our children, and current and future generations to suffer the consequences of a planet headed towards disaster. We have been

[1] https://seniorsforclimateactionnow.org

inspired by young climate activists who are taking a leading role in confronting the climate and social crises. We want to support and amplify the voices and concerns of young people and will work to build intergenerational solidarity. We can use our experience and knowledge to contribute to the movement to stop the climate crisis and achieve social justice.

We join with others in offering proposals – proposals to take radical action to stop climate destruction. We want to work with others in the climate justice movement, with Indigenous Peoples, and with other worker, social, community and anti-racist movements across the country, towards a common goal.

Our platform is a work in progress. It reflects our current understandings but also expresses our fundamental commitments. It is a living document that will change with time as we learn more and reflect on our actions. In sharing it with other seniors and with the rest of the climate justice movement we hope to work towards a common goal. And we welcome all feedback and comments on our Platform.

We begin our Platform with a Land Acknowledgement as we recognize that Indigenous Rights and Sovereignty are key to any resolution of the climate emergency. We then highlight the principal source of the crisis-the fossil fuel industry and its political and corporate supporters. We then describe what we consider the five major transitions that need to take place in Canada to be successful in reaching our climate and social justice goals. These are:

- the transition to recognize Indigenous Rights and Sovereignty
- an energy transition
- an economic transition
- a social and climate justice transition
- a transition in our relationship with the natural world

2. Land acknowledgment and Indigenous Rights and Sovereignty

SCAN! recognizes the central role of Indigenous Peoples in the implementation of our core purpose-addressing the climate emergency. We acknowledge that we are settlers who occupy lands from which Indigenous Peoples were dispossessed by colonialism, resulting in Indigenous Peoples' ongoing material impoverishment, loss of sovereignty, and dependence on colonial laws, policies and practices for their subsistence. Colonial laws and practices reinforce access to and control over Indigenous Territories by and for fossil fuel and extractive industries. The purpose and results of colonialism have been named as genocide by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission[2] and by the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and Two-Spirit[3].

[2] https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca
[3] https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca

SCAN! upholds the full and effective implementation by governments in Canada of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)[4], including sovereign-to-sovereign relationships with settler governments, the right to govern, use and develop the territories they have traditionally occupied, and the right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), exercised through their own traditional and representative institutions to any state or settler proposals affecting their territories.

- SCAN! recognizes Indigenous Peoples' Rights, Land and Sovereignty

3. The Climate Emergency: We are in Deep Trouble!

We are in a climate emergency. Heatwaves, wildfires, severe storms, floods and droughts have imperiled millions of people around the world. Ocean acidification, melting ice caps and glaciers, rising sea levels, toxic air pollution, deforestation, and a rapid increase in species extinctions are all warning signs that we are approaching a climate breakdown.

The unabated burning of fossil fuels, and the resultant rise in GHG emissions puts us on a path to disaster. Scientific evidence and expert reports consistently sound the alarm. Inaction will lead to irreversible climate disruption and the undermining of the ecological systems supporting human civilization and all life on the planet.[5]

- We need to take whatever actions are necessary, now, to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

This is no longer an aspirational goal. It is the internationally recognized critical climate threshold and a climate danger line that many activists fear that we have already crossed. Life on the planet is at risk and the only hope lies in a huge and rapid reduction in GHG emissions.

3.1 The Existential Crisis Requires Radical Action

In 2018 the special report of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) called on all governments to set and achieve far more ambitious climate targets. It argued that only through "deep emission reductions in all sectors" and "rapid and far-reaching transitions" in energy and land use, in the nature of transportation and buildings, and in the reorganization of industrial systems could we hope to avert catastrophe.[6]

[4] Un.org
[5] The latest draft IPCC report provides the most up to date analysis.
[6] International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Global Warming of 1.5 degree C, United Nations, Summary for Policy Makers, Section C.2, p26

The International Energy Agency in a startling break from its historic role in promoting the interests of fossil fuel producers recently called for an abrupt end to oil and gas investments. The Agency now warns that the scale and the speed of the efforts that are required to safeguard the world represent "the greatest challenge humankind has ever faced." [7]

- When we know that preventing ecological collapse requires action that, in the words of the IPCC, has no "documented historical precedent" then our response has to be commensurate with the seriousness of the emergency.

3.2 Canada Must Contribute to Overcoming the Climate Crisis

Canada has ignored both the warnings and the pleas. Canada's target for reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG's) is not only inadequate, but cannot be achieved with the current suite of climate policies.[8] Canada has missed all nine of its previous GHG emission reduction targets.[9] We are on track to miss the next and most important one, Paris 2030.

The Liberal government's climate plan announced in December 2020 will not meet Canada's promised greenhouse gas emission reductions.[10] That was the case when the target was only a 30% emission reduction. Achieving the newly-announced April 2021 target of a 40-45% emission reduction is a virtual impossibility.

- The federal government's Fossil Fuel climate formula of carbon pricing + fossil hydrogen + carbon storage + modular nuclear reactors is a recipe for failure.

- The government's commitment to oil and gas companies, its soft-cap approach to Big Emitters, and its refusal to commit to major investments in renewable energy, conservation and deep retrofits puts our future at risk.

3.3 Ambitious Climate Targets, Carbon Budgets and Zero Emissions.

Canada's climate target setting is a sham. It is more political posturing than climate action. It happens behind closed doors and in the corridors of power where oil and gas interests prevail.

Trudeau inherited Harper's totally inadequate 30% climate target and for years refused to strengthen it. Despite Canada's international commitments to set more ambitious targets Trudeau held off as long as possible and then in Budget 2021 grudgingly increased it to only

[7] https://www.iea.org/reports/net-zero-by-2050
[8] SCAN! report. The Liberal Climate Action Formula: A Recipe for Failure, April 202
[9] https://canadatrends.ca/news/85284/canada-hasn-t-hit-a-climate-change-target-since-1992-can-justin-trudeau-break-the-streak
[10] A Healthy Environment and a Healthy Economy, Environment and Climate Change Canada, December 2020. https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/eccc/documents/pdf/climate-change/climate-plan/healthy_environment_healthy_economy_plan.pdf

36%. Two days later at the Biden summit, Trudeau was forced to increase it to 40-45%. But he still refused to match Biden's higher pledge of 50% reduction by 2030.

- Canada's GHG emission reduction targets should be based on the best available scientific evidence not on industry lobbying and political posturing.

- The target setting process should be open, transparent and accountable.

- Our targets should be based on two considerations: What is the remaining global carbon budget that is consistent with keeping temperature increases below the critical threshold of 1.5 degrees C; and what is Canada's fair share of that number?

A global carbon budget represents the total amount of greenhouse gases that can be emitted while holding global average temperature increase below the 1.5C limit. Canada's fair share of global emission limits becomes Canada's Carbon Budget and the absolute upper limit of the country's future carbon pollution. That number can be translated into emission reduction targets, policies and plans as well as requiring monitoring and tracking systems to ensure compliance.

- The less we reduce emissions now the more we will have to reduce them in the future and the harder it will be to stay within the carbon budget.

Our government's refusal to act decisively is jeopardizing the future. The prospect of staying within a climate budget based on keeping longer term temperatures to 1.5 degree Celsius is now at risk.[11] Ensuring those policies and programs are in place before 2030 is a long shot. There are many in the scientific community and climate action movement who fear that we are on track to higher atmospheric temperature unless we dramatically alter course. The urgency has never been more compelling.

- We need to cut emissions well beyond what is deemed "practical". Decades of government denial and delay has left us with only what is necessary - a clear and enforceable carbon budget for 1.5C and a pathway to get to zero emissions by 2050.

The Liberal government's emission reduction targets are far too low.

- We join with other Canadian climate action groups in support of an emission reduction target of at least 60% by 2030.[12]

[11] IPCC most recent draft report (NEED LINK)

[12] CAN-RAC https://climateactionnetwork.ca/2021/06/28/a-peoples-plan-benchmarks-for-evaluating-canadas-international-climate-commitments-ahead-of-2021-summit/

However, we recognize that a 60% reduction in Canada's emissions by 2030 is less than what would be required to put Canada on a pathway to delivering its fair share of the cuts needed to hold global temperatures below the 1.5 degree C threshold.

- We will work with other climate action groups and the best available science to develop a more ambitious emission reduction target for 2030 and beyond.

3.4 Real Zero (not net zero), Real Fast

Canada has committed to achieve the goal of net-zero emissions by 2050. There are two problems with such a goal. The year 2050 is not soon enough and net-zero can hide a multitude of climate abatement sins. The government has defined net zero emissions as, "a point at which anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere are balanced by anthropogenic removals of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere over a specified period".[13] Such a definition allows Canada to continue to emit excessive levels of GHG as long as those emissions can be theoretically balanced by the future possibility of carbon removal technologies.

- Canada's climate goal should be to achieve zero emissions, not net zero emissions.

- Canada's climate plan has to give priority to emission reductions in the immediate and near term.

Reducing emissions in the present reduces the risk of climate uncertainties, feedback loops and tipping points that will push us into climate red zones. Instead, Canada's climate plan gives priority to unproven carbon storage technologies and ineffective offset credits rather than a planned and staged reduction in GHG emissions.

3.5 Phasing Out Fossil Fuels

Canada has an outsized carbon footprint. We are one of the worst per-capita emitters of GHG's in the world[14]. We trail the pack of G7 countries when it comes to emission reductions[15]. The latest data from the government's own emission report shows no progress on emission reductions from 2005 to 2019 and an increase in the latest year[16]. Canada has to do better.

- The hard climate reality is that most of the country's oil and gas reserves must be left in the ground.

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[13] https://seniorsforclimateactionnow.org/source/SCAN!%20brief%20on%20Bill%20C-12.pdf
[14] http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL
[15] https://www.policyalternatives.ca/newsroom/news-releases/canada's...
[16] https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/climate-change/greenhouse-gas-emissions/inventory.html

However, according to Canada's Energy Regulator, Canada will produce more, not less, oil and gas in 2050 than it does now[17]. And Canada's plans are to keep exporting ever greater quantities of fossil fuels. Canada's known Tar Sands reserves alone have been described as a 'carbon bomb' that undermines global climate targets and threatens climate chaos.[18]

Phasing out fossil fuels is both necessary and practical, but it will not be easy. The magnified influence of oil and gas interests on Canada's governments will be hard to break. The network of banks and other financial institutions intent on short term profits over climate consequences will be hard to dissuade. Even so this must be done.

- SCAN! supports the proposed Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty which calls for ending all new exploration and expansion of fossil fuels, phasing out existing production and investing in renewable energy.[19]

A planned and staged phase out of oil and gas in Canada has to start now. The government needs to

- Regulate the wind-down of fossil fuel supply,
  - end new exploration and extraction,
  - eliminate subsidies for production,
  - shift oil and gas supply from exports to fuel domestic requirements in the transition
- Dismantle unnecessary infrastructure,
  - phase out gas fired electricity plants,
  - remediate abandoned wells,
  - cancel the TMX pipeline,
- End ongoing supports
  - ban fossil fuel related advertisements,
  - encourage fossil fuel divestment by CPP and other financial institutions, and
- Plan and manage the above measures in a way that respects the rights of Indigenous Peoples, workers and affected communities.
- Divert fossil fuel investments and redirect tax subsidies to fund new economic directions.

4. A People and Climate First Action Plan

The starting point of a 'People and Climate First' climate action plan is a staged and managed phase out of oil and gas supply. Climate scientists and energy researchers, climate activists,

[17] 2019-20 Canada Energy Regulator (CER) Annual Report: https://www.cer-rec.gc.ca/en/about/publications-reports/annual-report/2019/2019-20_Annual_Report_of_CER.pdf
[18] https://cascadeinstitute.org/one-eye-shut/
[19] https://seniorsforclimateactionnow.org/happening.php#2

Indigenous Peoples' groups and increasingly, unions, community groups, women's groups and racialized groups are arguing in favour of such a transition.

Canada's energy system is skewed too heavily to oil and gas. About 77% of our domestic end-use energy consumption is fossil fuels.[20] That has to change. And in that change, there are both threats and opportunities.

The threats are to those whose livelihoods are tied to jobs, either directly or indirectly, in the fossil fuel sector. The opportunities lie in building a green economic transition that guarantees those workers equivalent incomes and good jobs. The commitment to good, well paying jobs should extend to workers in sectors across the economy.

SCAN! supports workers and their unions in demanding income and job guarantees.

- When workers are affected, they will need, at a minimum, an income guarantee and access to an equivalent job.

- When communities are affected, they will need substantive income, job and economic supports.

As fossil fuels are scaled back those sectors of the economy reliant on fossil fuels will have to change dramatically. As we scale back fossil fuels, we will have to ramp up clean renewables. There needs to be a major shift from fossil fuels to electricity provided by clean renewables. But clean renewables such as wind and solar and water will not be sufficient to offset the required reductions in fossil fuels as quickly as we need. A parade of successive governments captured by big oil and gas have squandered decades, time that could have been used to make the shift more manageable.

- We will have to reduce, quite significantly, our overall consumption of energy.

Reducing energy use can impose hardships unless it is accompanied by a program of social and economic transition to an economy that values health, housing, food security, education, care, support, culture over the unrestrained consumption of carbon intensive goods.

- We are at a make it or break it time in the climate emergency. And in responding to the climate emergency, the economic system that is failing the planet and too many people, will also be transformed.

Most Canadians favour government policies that support a green economic recovery and address the climate emergency, especially after the covid-19 pandemic.

[20]CCPA Canada's Energy Sector Status, evolution, revenue, employment, production forecasts, emissions and implications for emissions reduction, David Hughes JUNE 1, 2021

- A ‘People and Climate First’ plan recognizes that a climate plan for Canada must be developed in conjunction with Indigenous Peoples, on a nation to nation basis and with their free, prior and informed consent.

- A ‘People and Climate First’ commitment requires clear deadlines for the phase out of fossil fuels, hard and tightening caps on big emitters, and abandoning the government’s fossil fuel hydrogen strategy.

- A ‘People and Climate First’ plan requires unprecedented investments in renewable energy, energy conservation and retrofits, and the “electrification of everything”.

- A ‘People and Climate First’ plan must be based on firm climate justice principles committing the country to end colonialism, racism, poverty and inequality.

5: Making the Required Transitions

There is a growing consensus amongst climate activists. In responding to the climate emergency, we will change the way we live. By addressing the climate crisis, we will challenge the economic logic that drives environmental destruction. In changing the economic system, we will strive for racial and social justice.

SCAN! is part of that growing consensus, a consensus that builds from grass roots movements to encompass a wide range of voices.

A letter from over 100 Nobel Laureates recently argued that the costs of the climate crisis "are often paid by Indigenous peoples and marginalized communities. Egregious industry practices have led to human rights violations and a fossil fuel system that has left billions of people across the globe without sufficient energy to lead lives of dignity.”[21]

A recent letter signed by over 11,000 scientists adds: “Excessive extraction of materials and over-exploitation of ecosystems, driven by economic growth, must be quickly curtailed … We must protect and restore Earth’s ecosystems.”[22]

The Supreme Court of Canada in a recent ruling on carbon pricing stressed that the climate crisis was causing “significant environmental, economic and human harm nationally and internationally, with especially high impacts in the Canadian Artic, in coastal regions and on Indigenous peoples.”[23]

[21] ttps://fossilfueltreaty.org/nobel-letter
[22] https://globalnews.ca/news/6128772/scientists-letter-climate-emergency/
[23] https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/03/supreme-court-of-canada-rules-on-the-constitutionality-of-the-greenhouse-gas-pollution-pricing-act.html

Even the International Energy Agency has recognized the links between climate action and social justice. "Another guiding principle of the Roadmap is that clean energy transitions must be fair and inclusive, leaving nobody behind. "[24]

The climate crisis is fundamentally the volume of GHG emissions pumped into the atmosphere. It originates in an economic system that fuels those emissions and externalizes the costs onto vulnerable communities and peoples.

An economy that is based on the unrestrained abuse of natural resources, unbridled growth, short term profit and the accumulation of wealth is simply not compatible with human and species survival.

- We need to reduce the use of energy and the production of carbon intensive goods.
- We need to change the energy system that powers global production.
- We need to change what is produced and how it is produced.
- We need to change how we live with one another and in the natural world.
- We need to change an economic system that has failed the planet

We are at a decisive moment in the history of the world. There are only two choices remaining. We can continue on our current path descending into the critical red zone of runaway climate chaos. Or we can commit to the five major transitions that are required to save the planet:

A transition in our relationship with Indigenous Peoples;

An energy transition;

An economic transition;

A social and climate justice transition; and

A transition in our relationship with the natural world.

SCAN! is committed to those five, interrelated transformations. We will work with others, a long list that includes Indigenous Peoples and youth activists, scientists and researchers, social justice and advocacy groups, racialized communities, unions, and other climate action groups. We will rely on them to help develop our understandings and our knowledge and to deepen our commitment and capacity to act.

[24] IEA op cit

6. A transition in our relationship with Indigenous Peoples

6.1 Indigenous Peoples and the Climate Crisis

To address the climate emergency, SCAN! will work to centre Indigenous worldviews, knowledges, and practices for a liveable earth; respectful relations with all living things and with earth water and air. Indigenous Peoples are disproportionately affected by the climate crisis. While the federal government has admitted this point, it has developed a "fossil first" climate plan that will result in further negative consequences for Indigenous Peoples.

The legacy of colonialism, both past and present, shape federal climate policies just as surely as it led to the abduction, abuse and often death of Indigenous children in the residential school system. Canada's contributing role in the climate crisis is linked to the government's ongoing colonial relationship to Indigenous Peoples.[25] Canadian laws and practices reinforce access to and control over Indigenous traditional territories by and for fossil fuel and extractive industries.

Most of the natural resources which have powered Canada's economic growth are located in or near Indigenous territory. The extraction and production of fossil fuels that generate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions have polluted the land and water and the air, and have destroyed the livelihoods and undermined the health of Indigenous Peoples.

- Indigenous Peoples' rights and relations with their traditional territories and waters are a threat to fossil fuel and resource extraction-based development.

- The federal government has developed a climate plan that favours big oil and gas. Indigenous Peoples have been excluded from federal government decision making tables on climate policy.

- Indigenous Peoples should be full participants in the development of federal, provincial, territorial and municipal climate policies, and climate plans implemented should have the free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples.

Canada needs a new climate plan. We need a climate plan that puts people and the climate first. In large measure that means a climate plan that:

- Centres the voices, wisdom, needs, stewardship and leadership of Indigenous communities, nations, and peoples.

- Recognizes free, prior and informed consent in nation-to-nation negotiations.

[25] Decolonizing Climate Policy in Canada. Indigenous Climate Action, 2021

As we develop our own understandings and deepen our own analysis of the climate crisis and what is required to safeguard the future, we look forward to learning from Indigenous understandings, resistance and actions.

6.2 Reconciliation

SCAN!'s approach to climate action respects Indigenous understanding, knowledge and relationship to the land and waters. SCAN! supports the call of Indigenous communities in seeking both climate justice and meaningful reconciliation.

We recognize that meaningful reconciliation requires commitments, resources and good faith negotiations on the part of Canadian governments. This is a first step to establish respectful relationships between First Nations, Metis and Inuit and Canadian governments.

We recognize that meaningful reconciliation requires:

- Determined action on the 94 calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)[26]
- Heeding the calls for justice by the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls2S+[27]
- Full and effective implementation of UN Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) by the federal, provincial, territorial and municipal governments.[28]

We stand with Indigenous Peoples in their calls for recognition of treaty rights and agreements. We support their 'land back' demands to re-establish authority and sovereignty over their traditional land and territories. And we support their efforts at preserving language and traditions and ensuring food sovereignty, housing and clean air and water.

SCAN! commits to review its climate policies and actions in a framework respectful of Indigenous Rights and campaigns. We commit to respectfully support Indigenous campaigns related to Indigenous Rights, the environment and climate emergency.

7. Energy Transition

Canada and other countries must end the use of fossil fuels that now power the economy. We need to replace those fuels with clean and renewable energy. The challenge is enormous. Fossil fuels underpin the global economy. They are the material components and critical inputs to many sectors of the economy from fertilizers to plastics, from transportation to buildings.

[26] https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca
[27] https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca
[28] Un.org

The energy transition is key to addressing the climate crisis. In a dramatic shift, the International Energy Agency has published a ground breaking report which calls for an end to new fossil fuel expansions. The report argues that to limit GHG emission levels and keep global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius countries need to achieve a "total transformation of the energy systems".[29]

In Canada that means a massive shift from tar sands, fracking fields, offshore platforms and pipelines to solar and wind, sustainable bio energy, and other renewables such as geothermal, tidal and small scale hydroelectric. The federal government and a number of provincial governments are proposing that Small Modular Nuclear Reactors (SMR's) are key to reaching Canada's greenhouse gas emission reduction goals[30].

- SCAN! is opposed to the funding and development of SMR's. They are costly, unproven, potentially risky and create dangerous radioactive waste.

- SCAN! is opposed to the building of new large scale nuclear reactors.

- As we phase out oil and gas, we need to ramp up the generation of renewable energy at a tremendous pace, scale and scope.

Doing so requires immediate and major public investments, regulations and incentives to rapidly accelerate renewable electrical energy generation, storage and distribution. As quickly as possible, all economic sectors and facilities, including transportation, buildings, manufacturing and agriculture must convert energy use and inputs to renewable electrical energy or other non-polluting sources.

This "electrification of everything" requires:

- Generation, storage and distribution of renewable power (in particular solar and wind),
- Electrification of energy use (electricity grids, storage, batteries, heat pumps, passenger vehicles, buses and trucks),
- Energy efficiency (appliances, fuel efficiency standards, materials, recycling, high speed rail, building, materials),
- Energy and material reduction (using less, reuse and recycling), and

[29] IEA op cit
[30] A Call to Action: A Canadian Roadmap for Small Modular Reactors, Nov 2018: https://smrroadmap.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/SMRroadmap_EN_nov6_Web-1.pdf?x64773
Canada's Small Modular Reactor Action Plan, nrcan.gc.ga: https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/our-natural-resources/energy-sources-distribution/nuclear-energy-uranium/canadas-small-nuclear-reactor-action-plan/21183
"A Canadian Roadmap for Small Modular Reactors", NRCAN, Nov 2018: https://smrroadmap.ca

- Substantial and ongoing investments in R&D and education to build the technical capacity and workforce needed to achieve a zero emission economy across all sectors.

Linking the above transitions with the major sources of GHG emissions in Canada provides the outlines of an ambitious climate plan. Three of the major sectors responsible for GHG emissions are transportation, buildings and large emitters.

7.1 Transportation

Transportation is responsible for 25% of Canada's GHG emissions[31]. It is also responsible for much of the air pollution that is damaging the health of Canadians. The innovations and the technologies required to make the transition away from fossil fuels are already available and at scale. There are two sets of interrelated changes required: the shift away from ICE (internal combustion engine) vehicles and the shift to public transit. It is not only necessary but it is practical to make those changes now. Programs to accelerate the shift should include:

- Stringent and tightening fuel efficiency standards on all ICE vehicles.
- The phase out of ICE personal and recreational vehicles and a ban on new ICE passenger vehicles by 2035 as called for by the IEA.[32]
- Fleet conversions such as postal vans and school buses to electric and green hydrogen.
- Massive investments to electrify, expand and make both urban and rural public transit affordable (including inter-city buses).
- Conversion of trucking to 'green' hydrogen fuel cells.
- Land use planning that minimizes the need for transportation in all areas including commuting, recreation, shopping, manufacturing and access to social services.
- Support for high speed zero emission rail beginning in the high intensity corridors and expanding nationally.
- Restrictions on aviation GHG emissions.
- Investments in battery research as well as production and storage technologies
- Addressing the transportation needs of all indigenous communities, with special attention to remote communities.

[31] Modelling and Analysis of A Healthy Environment and a Healthy Economy, Canada.ca; https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/eccc/documents/pdf/climate-change/climate-plan/annex_modelling_analysis_healthy_environment_healthy_economy.pdf

[32] ibid

7.2 Buildings

Buildings are responsible for 13% of the GHG emissions in the country.[33] If the energy used to run appliances and lighting is included that figure jumps to 18%. It is also a sector where issues of social equity and energy costs are highlighted. We need:

- Programs that provide assistance to retrofit the existing housing stock, regulates the carbon intensity of new construction and directly provides affordable and low-carbon intensive housing in communities across the country.

- A program to reduce GHG emissions from buildings involves deep retrofits, energy related building codes and appliance efficiency requirements combined with renewable energy.

- A program that redresses the housing deficiencies in Indigenous communities

Most of the buildings that will exist in 2050 are already built. Government support for building retrofits needs to be focused on those who need it most and the price of energy to consumers has to be decoupled from the market place. The transition to electrical energy in buildings and appliances needs to be affordable and that will require more public control over electricity production and distribution and a shift away from high cost electrical energy sources such as nuclear power. In the electrification of buildings, we will need:

- Residential buildings refitted from fossil fuel heating and cooling systems to renewable energy electricity powered systems.
- Government subsidies to finance deep retrofits for existing buildings.
- Support for community-based district heating systems.
- New energy-based building codes and a ban on gas hook ups in new construction.
- Restrictions on developers and a planning process that constrains urban sprawl.
- New regulations calling for energy retrofits for public and privately-owned buildings.
- Support for the production, purchase and installation of heat pumps.
- Stringent and tightening energy requirements on appliances.
- Support through R&D and incentives for photo voltaic solar generation including on rooftops and building envelopes.

[33] ibid

- Decommissioning and conversion of obsolescent fossil fuel piping (gas, etc) and other infrastructure.

7.3 Large Emitters

There are 1700 large emitters that are responsible for 40% of the GHG emissions in Canada.[34] Amongst those are 17 large emitters, comprising oil sands, steel and refining operations, and a pipeline company, that produce about 78 million tonnes of emissions, more than 10% of the country's total GHG emissions.[35] If Canada is to meet our Paris target obligations every one of the 1700 large emitters must reduce their GHG emission levels. Their commitments to reduce emissions have to be real and their progress has to be planned, tracked and made public. Reducing emissions from industry is key to halting global warming. We need to:

- Develop sector by sector emission reduction plans with strict timelines.
- Introduce a front end and rule-based emission reduction system.
- Shift the Output Based Pricing System (OBPS) from intensity rules to hard caps and tightening standards[36].
- Commit to absolute emission reductions that don't depend on carbon credits, carbon offsets or carbon storage.
- Provide transparent and tracked government assistance for 'hard to abate' processes.
- Establish a robust system of government monitoring and enforcement

8. Economic Transition

In phasing out oil and gas, resources will be shifted to expanding renewable energy and developing a low carbon and sustainable economy. This shift together with a commitment to advance and strengthen the caring economy will open the door to a different model of economic development. SCAN! supports a two-pathway economic strategy involving:

[34] Greenhouse Gas emissions from large facilities, Government of Canada: https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-indicators/greenhouse-gas-emissions/large-facilities.html

[35] ibid

[36] For a critique see The Liberal Climate Action Formula op cit. For the official explanation See: https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/climate-change/pricing-pollution-how-it-will-work/industry.html.

- Transition to a renewable energy future and a low carbon production and consumption system.
- Social investments to build and sustain the caring and care-taking economy.

We cannot eliminate GHG emissions unless we change what we do and how we do it. Breaking the economy's dependency on fossil fuels and transitioning to renewable energy sources will result in an economy far less energy and materially intensive. This shift together with a commitment to a care-taking society in harmony with nature creates opportunities for good jobs and a better quality of life.

8.1 A Just Transition

An economic transformation fuelled by a shift to clean, renewable energy has to start with clear, meaningful and ambitious commitments to those whose jobs and livelihoods will be disrupted by the shift off fossil fuels. In 2019 the Trudeau government promised a Just Transition Act to protect workers in the transition to a low carbon economy. We need a comprehensive approach to transition that focuses on workers and communities in fossil fuel dependent locations but also those whose jobs are indirectly supported by the production, distribution, processing and use of fossil fuel products. SCAN! joins with others such as the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) in a call for effective legislation[37]. SCAN! is committed to a transition program that:

- Guarantees affected workers equivalent incomes and provides comparable jobs.
- Guarantees resources for Indigenous workers and communities controlled by Indigenous People.
- Enshrines basic rights, including labour and human rights.
- Involves the participation of those affected.
- Establishes new, accountable structures in the design and delivery of the program.
- Establishes a crown corporation to invest in job creation in affected communities.
- Drives inclusive workforce development and addresses concerns of equity seeking groups.

[37]CCPA Roadmap to a Canadian Just Transition Act :A path to a clean and inclusive economy Hadrian Mertins-Kirkwood, Clay Duncalfe, APRIL 1, 2021

8.2 A Low Carbon Transition

The transition to a low carbon economy involves ending fossil fuel production and greatly expanding renewable energy. Enormous job opportunities exist at both ends of that process. As oil and gas production is phased out workers will need to decommission abandoned wells and be involved in a massive remedial effort to restore destroyed land and water systems. The shift to renewables and an unprecedented program of electrification will see the creation of hundreds of thousands of jobs in a range of related activities from installing and generating renewable capacity, to distribution and energy storage systems to deep energy retrofits in residential, commercial and institutional buildings. Additional employment will be generated in the renewal and expansion of those social programs that underpin the caring economy.

The transition to a low carbon economy requires changing what and how we produce as well as addressing how 'wastes' are safely incorporated into natural systems, reused or recycled. There are many in our movement already thinking about how to eliminate wasteful, carbon intensive products, convert industrial facilities, expand local and domestic production, shorten supply chains, extend producer responsibility, build a circular economy and construct affordable, energy efficient housing. The low-carbon transition can be an opportunity to unleash all that creative energy and respond to a host of unmet basic human needs. The transition means:

- Reducing wasteful energy use while we increase conservation measures.
- Cutting wasteful products like packaging and single use plastics while we dramatically increase the reuse of materials.
- Cutting carbon intensive imports while we build domestic production.
- Eliminating pollution of land, air and water while we build hospitals, education facilities, housing and child care centres.
- Targeting opportunities for young people as we restore their faith in the future.

8.3 The Caring Economy

The pandemic has made abundantly clear what really matters in our communities and that is how we care for one another, the conditions under which care providers work and the importance of community solidarity. The pandemic has also suggested that the consumption of things is less important than the quality of life. As part of a broader economic transition the metrics we use to measure the economy need to shift from narrow constructs of GDP growth, productivity and efficiency to broader measures of health and social well being. The caring

economy will be built on gender equality, social well-being, and environmental sustainability[38]. Strengthening the caring aspects of the economy requires:

- Substantial investments in social and physical infrastructure
- Expansion of public services to support people and their communities.
- Developing new initiatives in child care, healthcare and social care
- Providing affordable housing, public transit and post secondary education.
- Adopting a care-taking approach to the natural environment

8.4 Reshaping the Economy

If we succeed in developing the two-pathway economic strategy it will mean hundreds of thousands of good new jobs. But more than that, in reshaping the economy there is the opportunity to improve our quality of life, the conditions of the work we do, the quality of housing, the care of the elderly and children, the opportunities for youth and much more.

Reshaping the economy is a social project – a project that is based on the needs of people and communities instead of the needs of corporations. The economic transition will require unprecedented commitments from governments and sizeable financial resources. Amongst other initiatives it will involve:

- A shift from private finance to more public investments.
- A shift in government supports from corporations to communities.
- More distributed energy resources and less centralized systems.
- Less reliance on markets and corporate decision making.
- Strengthened local food and production systems.
- An increase in social ownership and community control.
- More sector-by-sector economic planning.

[38] Creating a Caring Economy: A Call to Action: Commission on a Gender Equal Economy and Women's Budget Group, wbg.org,uk

9. A Transition Based on Climate Justice

As the climate disruption from past emissions advances there will be victims and there will be those who can escape the worst of it. The rich as well as others in the global north will find the resources and the political will to buffer themselves and their assets against rising seas and storms and droughts and shortages.

Those who have been left behind and those already victims of a global economic system hell bent on profit and power will be climate casualties. The climate crisis is already deepening the local and global inequities of capitalism. We see it in the headlines and in our own communities.

The predictions are dire. The poor and the homeless, racialized communities and Indigenous Peoples and working-class neighbourhoods in the north will join climate migrants and those whose communities have already become sacrifice zones in the south.

9.1 Solutions Can't Be Part of the Problem

The climate crisis has put the world's poorest and most vulnerable on the frontlines of climate breakdown. It is felt most severely along the fault lines of race, gender and class inequities. The climate crisis has accentuated the problems of a destructive economic system. We need to ensure that the transition to a low carbon economy doesn't compound the problem. We need to ensure the transition is an opportunity to expand human and labour rights and improve the conditions for justice and equality.

- There are those who are concerned that shifting off fossil fuels could result in thousands of workers being cast aside and hundreds of communities devastated. We will work to ensure that there is opportunity rather than hardship.
- There are those who are concerned that the drive to Zero emission vehicles can set up a scramble for scarce mineral resources, which leaves more people dispossessed or caught in forced labour. We will work to ensure that resource extraction is done in ways that benefit local populations, minimally disrupt natural environments and includes remediation of landscapes and deep recycling.
- There are those who are concerned that the shift to hydro electric power could mean more mega project reservoirs which destroy the land and violate the rights of indigenous Peoples. We will work to ensure that Indigenous Peoples' land and sovereignty are respected.

9.2 Climate Action is Climate Justice

This is why the commitment to climate action is also a fight for social and climate justice. In communities around the world there is a growing awareness that the climate crisis is also a human crisis. Climate justice focuses our attention on people and social ecosystems as well as

the larger, natural ones. In communities around the world there is a growing commitment to address the climate crisis from a standpoint of broadly defined human rights and labour rights. Climate justice is where the climate crisis and those basic rights meet---human rights, Indigenous Peoples' rights and labour rights. In communities around the world there is a growing movement to fashion climate solutions which strengthen local democracy and community rights to energy, land, housing, water and food. Climate justice supports a broad and inclusive transition that minimizes the harm to workers and communities and expands economic opportunities. If climate is the crisis, then justice, is in the solution.

SCAN! joins with those who are committed to climate justice. For us that means:

- A recognition that those least responsible for GHG emissions are those most affected by the climate emergency.

- A recognition that the climate emergency undermines the basic rights of many people.

- Pressuring the government to provide financial and social support and safe harbour to those displaced by the climate emergency.

- Pressuring the government to respect and promote broadly defined human rights and labour rights in climate responses.

- Supporting a broad and inclusive transition that places race, gender and class at the centre of climate solutions.

- Developing a climate framework that reflects the voice and vision, the needs and the aspirations of those on the front lines of the climate emergency.

- Shifting public resources from Big Fossil to communities and those people who are building climate and sustainable economic solutions from the ground up.

- Government action to implement full recognition of Indigenous Rights, including their right to their land back or, when this is not possible, the right to just compensation for their territories which have bee confiscated or used without their free, prior and informed consent.

- Joining with communities who are combatting environmental racism.

10. A Transition in Our Relationship with the Natural World

"Climate action cannot be fragmented or compartmentalized - it must centre on Mother Earth, on the land - and must recognize how we are a part of and interconnected with every aspect of the environment. These are teachings that are embodied in a First Nations' identity and provide a basis for moving forward effectively." Assembly of First Nations (AFN) "National Climate Gathering Report", April 2021[39]

For over 150 years, the Canadian economy has been built on incessant growth and relentless resource extraction. Canada's economic and political elites have treated the country's atmosphere, land, underground and aquatic ecosystems as endless sources of raw material and profit. In the process the natural world has become a bottomless dump for the carbon and other pollution that has helped bring human civilization to the brink of ecological collapse. Traditional indigenous land and too many indigenous communities have become sacrifice zones and the collateral damage of a system designed to concentrate wealth and power for the benefit of the few.

- The climate emergency is now giving us a crash course on real-world ecological limits and the urgent need to live within them.

Canada is home to 25% of the planet's boreal forests[40]. These forests are universally recognized as essential for the sequestering of carbon emissions. Yet industrial scale clear-cut logging, as well as climate-driven drought, insect infestation and wild-fires have turned Canada's Boreal from a net carbon sink into a source of climate-killing carbon emissions[41]. Canada is experiencing global warming at twice the international average[42]. But instead of protecting the Boreal from tar sands expansion in Alberta or old growth forest liquidation in BC and Ontario, forests are treated as disposable "overburden" blocking access to the more "valuable" bitumen below.

Forests are home to a vast multitude of species and treating their habitat as resource extraction sacrifice zones is at the root of the catastrophic loss of biodiversity that we are witnessing. The Covid-19 pandemic underlines how the incessant push of extractive industries ever further into undisturbed ecosystems can create opportunities for viruses to find new hosts and hitch rides on globalized supply chains.

[39] https://www.afn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Climate_Gathering_Report_ENG.pdf
[40] https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/nature-legacy/about.html
[41] https://www.nationalobserver.com/2020/06/05/opinion/canadas-managed-forests-have-turned-super-emitters-and-2018-set-record
[42] https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/04/canadas-climate-is-warming-twice-as-fast-as-global-average.html

- Forests are essential carbon sinks, sources of oxygen, and biodiversity reservoirs that should not be treated as mere standing raw materials waiting to be monetized into 2x4s, newsprint, wood chips or toilet paper.

Other essential terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems suffer a similar same fate. The country's wetlands, perma-frost lands, peat bogs and soils are the routine casualties of unsustainable agricultural practices, never-ending highway expansions, and unregulated urban sprawl.

Similarly aquatic ecosystems have been mined instead of stewarded. Oceans are treated as limitless sinks for the CO2 and other GHGs pumped into the atmosphere as well as the excess heat generated by those emissions.

- Oceans cover 70% of the earth's surface, provide 90% of the planet's heat storage capacity and, since they absorb about 1/4 of the C02 dumped into the atmosphere they are becoming increasingly acidified. They are also the home to many more species than terrestrial ecosystems and are central to ending the biodiversity crisis.[43]

The breakdown of ecosystems and alarming increase in species extinction points to just how disconnected our economy and politics are from the natural systems that support all life on the planet.

Half of the atmospheric carbon dioxide driving the climate emergency we face today has been extracted and burned since 1990.[44] The earth's bio-geophysical systems are not artificial barriers to ever-expanding production and consumption. They are vital natural guardrails required to keep humanity within a safe operating zone.

The urgent need to wean the economy and our society off fossil fuel demands that we fundamentally change our relationship with the larger natural world. Important initiatives to move us in that direction should include:

- Massive investments in ecosystem restoration.

- Dramatically increases in funding for federal, provincial and local Climate Adaptation Plans to address the impact of increased temperatures and extreme weather events already baked into our climate system by past emissions.

- Enshrining the entitlement to a heathy and safe environment into law.

- Dramatic increases in Canada's "protected spaces" and biodiversity commitments

[43] https://theconversation.com/why-a-net-zero-future-depends-on-the-oceans-ability-to-absorb-carbon-154453
[44] https://ieep.eu/news/more-than-half-of-all-co2-emissions-since-1751-emitted-in-the-last-30-years

- Large scale expansion of existing urban parks, forests and tree canopies, as central components of climate change adaptation planning.

- Resetting of Forest Management Practices to eliminate clear-cutting and the reestablishment of carbon sink status of Canada's managed forests.

- Enabling a transition away from energy-intensive, fossil-fuel and export-dependent agriculture.

- Refocusing extractive industries from exports to meeting domestic demand and limiting the size and ecological impact of mega resource extraction.

- Requiring all resource development projects to be consistent with international climate and Indigenous Rights commitments.

- Restoring Indigenous sovereignty over their traditional territory.

As we struggle to live in harmony with the natural world, we can learn from the incredible traditional knowledge embodied in the Indigenous Peoples of the world who have recognized and lived within natural boundaries for millennia before capitalism and colonialism changed everything.

11. Climate Action Depends on Government Planning, Support, and Regulation

The climate emergency requires urgent action at all levels of society. Fossil fuel decarbonization will be one of the most profound economic and social transformations that Canada has ever experienced. Federal, provincial, and municipal governments and all institutions in society must cooperate to achieve our goals.

The private sector of the economy can and should play its part, but the market and private industry cannot be relied upon to play the principal role in overcoming the climate crisis. Nor can technology alone solve the climate crisis. All sectors of society need to recognize that the climate emergency is a priority and react accordingly. But for that to happen there has to be leadership.

It falls on the federal government to take the lead role. It has to articulate the goal, build the pathways, remove the obstacles, provide investment, convene citizen assemblies, build the critical mass for action.

We need government regulation, planning, and financing to an extent that we haven't seen since the Second world war. That will likely mean exerting control over certain sectors of the economy, creating special crown corporations, and/or imposing strict guidelines as was done in

the war effort. Government resources and priorities, government revenues and spending, government policy and programs need to be laser-focused on the climate emergency.

We need:

- progressive, redistributive tax policies and attention to conserving more and consuming less.
- a host of effective government initiatives and programs that focus on both the supply side and the demand side.

11.1 More Accountability; Stronger Democracy

The climate emergency requires decisive and immediate action. The only way to break the current cycle of broken climate promises and missed targets is to introduce new and effective structures and processes for climate accountability. Current and proposed legislation fails to do so[45]. We need:

- Carbon budgets and accountability legislation that requires annual, clear, measurable, public, transparent, and enforceable climate targets.

- An independent body of experts with the necessary financial resources to monitor government efforts and results and hold government to account.

Ultimately accountability depends on informed, engaged and mobilized citizens. It is only a growing movement of climate activists that can put enough pressure on government to adopt a 'people first and climate first' climate plan, challenge opposition parties to adopt more effective climate policies and build enough momentum to effect election outcomes.

SCAN! is committed to those goals. We look forward to working with others in the climate justice movement to develop:

- Creative and effective strategies to put pressure on government, using all varieties of tactics from effective lobbying to civil disobedience.

- New, democratic forums for discussion and engagement such as Peoples' Summits and Citizen Assemblies.

Canada's electoral system is a major obstacle to climate action. The 'first past the post' system discounts a large percentage of the ballots cast. As a result, most governments in Canada have been elected by a minority of voters. If every vote is to actually count, we need to transform

[45] The Federal Government's Bill C-12, the *Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act*. was passed on June 22, 2021. While amendments improved the Bill it is still inadequate on a number of points including its failure to adopt a carbon budget approach to emission reductions, its refusal to set tougher standards and standards for 2025 and it failure to provide for a fully independent and resourced panel of advisors.

our electoral system to one that is more democratic and ensures some form of proportional representation.[46]

12. Military Spending and the Climate Crisis

12.1 Ensuring Military GHG Emission Reductions

The Canadian government is planning to purchase 88 new fighter jets at a cost of about $19 billion. The lifetime cost of those fighter jets has been estimated at over $75 Billion[47]. Spending such huge sums of money on fighter jets when the money is desperately needed to respond to the climate emergency is a problem of misplaced priorities. When the Kyoto climate agreement was being negotiated the US refused to sign unless it obtained an exemption for the Pentagon and -- as a result -- an exemption for the military operations of all states[48]. Yet global military operations are a major source of GHG emissions. As a single example, US military operations in the Iraq war during its first four years were responsible for carbon releases greater than 139 countries in the same period[49]. And although the 2015 Paris climate agreement ended the automatic military exemption, it also omitted obligations for cutting military emissions. Decisions on military cuts are left to each state.

- Canada must commit to including the operations of all armed forces in GHG reduction programs and targets.

- Canada should redirect the funding from fighter jets to climate mitigation and abatement priorities.

12.2 A Human Security Approach

Since the 1990s the United Nations has used the term human security to widen the understanding of security beyond the traditional equation of security with the military interests of the state. Human security embraces a people-centred approach to addressing security threats to populations from all sources, including poverty, repression, and of course the climate emergency. The advocacy of human security does not typically include demands for total demilitarization or an end to military spending, but it does call for major reorganization of security priorities and budgets towards non-military programs. Globally, just a 10 percent cut in military spending would free up US $190 billion annually to tackle the climate emergency.[50]

[46] https://www.fairvote.ca/what-is-first-past-the-post/
[47] https://thetyee.ca/Opinion/2020/07/23/Canada-Spending-Jet-Fighters/
[48] http://www.ipsnews.net/1998/05/climate-us-exempts-military-from-kyoto-treaty/
[49] "Why the U.S. Military Is Losing Its Carbon-Emissions Exemption," Arthur Neslen, *The Atlantic*, December 15, 2015.
[50] https://www.reuters.com/article/us-global-military-goals-idUSKCN0X12EQ

- Canada should adopt and promote a "human security" approach to climate action that shifts resources from the military towards the human needs of the climate emergency.

12.3 Abolition of Nuclear Weapons

The world faces two related existential threats. The climate crisis and nuclear weapons. At a time when the climate demands widespread international cooperation, the Canadian government should do its upmost to eliminate the divisive nuclear threat. This includes working to cancel the NATO nuclear doctrine, which maintains nuclear weapons as part of the NATO arsenal.

- Canada should join the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons which entered into force in 2021.[51]

12.4 Aid to the Civil Authorities and Climate Adaptation

The Canadian government may authorize the armed forces "to perform any duty involving public service."[52] Military assistance to civil authorities is routine in Canada. the frequency has increased as the COVID pandemic and the flooding, wild fires and other crises of the climate emergency threaten more communities.

- The Department of National Defence should shift its program priorities to better prepare for, and implement, the ongoing aid to civil authorities and adaptation efforts that we know will grow in the climate emergency.

- New initiatives such as a youth climate corps or a civilian climate corps should be funded under a "human security" doctrine by redistributing existing defence spending.

13. Canada's International Responsibilities and Commitments

Canada has a problem. We have a corporate and political elite addicted to fossil fuels. And that means, in international terms, Canada is a problem. Our addiction to oil and gas makes us a weak actor on GHG emission reductions. We cause more than our fair share of the problem and we do less than our fair share to solve it. As a member of the international community of developed economies we occupy the bottom tier of the ladder when it comes to effective climate action. We have to start climbing.

[51] https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/tpnw/

[52] See "The Pandemic and DND's Public Service Mandate," Ernie Regehr, December 7, 2020. https://www.thesimonsfoundation.ca/highlights/pandemic-and-dnds-public-service-mandate

To honour our international obligations and our fair share of international commitments, Canada has to rapidly reduce GHG emissions. Given current and projected production and export volumes of fossil fuels, Canada has instead, clearly signaled its intention to maintain a business-as-usual approach to GHG emissions.

Canada has an international responsibility to shift our energy system from one dominated by fossil fuels to one powered by clean renewables. But we need to do more than that.

Canada forms part of the global trading system that inhibits developing countries from charting their own course, a system widely recognized as impoverishing the global south. SCAN! believes that Canada has an obligation to break the chains that restrict development in the south.

In general, and ongoing terms that means we need to:

- Guarantee Indigenous Rights in the global south in all Canadian climate aid and trade.
- Guarantee the free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous peoples in the global south over traditional territories and the right to refuse the use of their territories as carbon offsets for high GHG emitters in the global north.
- Provide financial and technical supports – no strings attached – that allow countries in the global south to develop low carbon economic pathways.
- Assume an extra burden of GHG emission reductions to make room for economic development in the south.
- Provide Canada's share of relief from international debt to those countries held hostage to international banks.
- Provide more investments in social infrastructure with particular emphasis on programs for women.
- Advocate for fair trade policies.

Canada is a member of the G7 group of countries. In June 2021, the G7 met and failed the world. It failed on the climate front and it failed in its commitments to provide vaccinations to the world's poorer countries. As part of the Paris Accord poor nations were promised $100 US billion a year from the developed countries to assist with climate adaptation and mitigation. Since the signing Canada has failed to meet its fair share of that commitment. In every year our payments have fallen short. At the G7, Prime Minister Trudeau pledged to increase Canada's

contribution to a level that is still less than our annual fair share.[53] And the Trudeau government refused to shift the bulk of the funding from loans to grants. Given the financial precarity of many poor countries a commitment to provide loans virtually guarantees Canada's pledge will be another empty promise.

The government needs to:

- Increase international climate funding, commit more of the funding to gender based and community projects, accelerate the financial aid and shift more of the assistance to grants.

Until the world is vaccinated there will be little action on the climate crisis. Poorer countries, where the death rates from covid 19 are steadily increasing, don't have the resources to pay for vaccines and they don't have the capacity nor the money to address climate restoration. Here again Canada and the G7 failed. The G7 promised to provide 1 billion vaccines when, according to the World Health Organization, 11 billion doses are needed[54]. Canada is reluctant to support the effort of 100 poorer countries to obtain a temporary patent waiver that would transfer vaccine technology to them and allow them to vaccinate their citizens.[55]

Canada has to:

- Increase its commitment to supply or pay for vaccines.

- Support a temporary halt in pharmaceutical patent protection to allow poorer nations to manufacture vaccines.

In the years ahead and on the current trajectory millions of people will be displaced from their homes by climate breakdown. Where efforts to re-settle climate migrants in their home countries fail Canada has to do our share to shelter and welcome those whose lives have been disrupted by climate calamities.

- People from the global south, displaced as a result of climate impacts, must be provided refugee status in Canada together with financial and ongoing social supports.

[53] https://climateactionnetwork.ca/2021/06/13/climate-action-network-canada-and-the-canadian-coalition-for-climate-and-development-respond-to-g7-announcement-on-climate-finance/
[54] https://climateactionnetwork.ca/2021/06/28/a-peoples-plan-benchmarks-for-evaluating-canadas-international-climate-commitments-ahead-of-2021-summit/
[55] At the time of writing. See https://amnesty.ca/news/civil-society-groups-urge-canada-support-global-access-covid-19-vaccine-wto

14. Building the Climate Justice Movement

Over the decades since the first global climate conference in Rio in 1992, successive Canadian governments, have failed to take action to stop climate destruction. Every indication is that it will take a peoples' movement – a climate justice movement – to create the necessary pressure to force effective action to stop climate destruction.

As youth have shown, and many others have called for, we need an alliance of organizations, and communities across the country, an alliance that:

- Exposes the failure to take action to stop climate destruction.
- Calls for a new climate plan that phases out oil and gas and mobilizes people to demand climate action.
- Develops common action and proposals.
- Builds relations and common cause with Indigenous Peoples.
- Builds solidarity with those fighting against anti-black racism and racial and religious injustice and intolerance.
- Creates common forums for discussion to find solutions – forums such as people's/citizens assemblies.

SCAN! looks forward to working with other climate action groups as we build our presence and common power. We are one among many environmental and social justice groups that educate, organize and mobilize Canadians. We want to play a part by encouraging seniors to become active in the climate justice movement. We want to play a role that contributes to building social and political pressure to decarbonize the economy and transform the way we relate to each other and to nature.

15. Get Involved

Given the overwhelming nature of the climate crisis, we are all walking a fine line between despair and hope. The key to hope is collective action. We are inviting seniors to join SCAN! and to contribute to this collective action according to your energy and skills. We have members who write, who educate, who talk to friends and neighbours, who participate in protest activities, who use music, theatre, and other cultural forms of expression to engage others, who are adept at social media…the opportunities are as varied as we are. There are many opportunities for participating. Together we can contribute to creating a sustainable and socially just society!