

We are seniors compelled to urgent action

Young people are calling on governments to act decisively on the climate emergency. As seniors we will support their lead, amplify their voices and add our own to the growing movement for climate action. We are building a seniors' climate action group. One that is democratic, accountable, equitable and participatory. A community in which we value each other's knowledge, experience and views.

Our seniors' climate action group will inform, and mobilize seniors in an effort to prevent more climate catastrophes. We recognize that climate action is also a demand for social justice and economic transformation - the opportunity, as well as the need, to address racism and economic inequities. We know that Canada was founded on the occupation/*invasion/colonization* of Indigenous lands. We are in this for the sake of future generations and the survival of life on the planet.

Time is running out

Scientists say we have less than a decade to avoid locking in runaway climate change:

- many parts of the world will soon be uninhabitable
- ecosystems face destruction; species face extinction
- hundreds of millions will be jobless and homeless

Canada bears an enormous responsibility for global warming:

Canadian corporations' climate disregard and our government's failure to act cause major problems both at home and around the world. The climate crisis causes disproportionate hardship for poor, marginalized and racialized communities. Those who suffer most are those least responsible. We reject the idea that nature is to be conquered. We respect Traditional Indigenous Knowledge for all it has to teach us about caring for the land, air and water.

We need decisive action to:

- rapidly drive down carbon emissions and eliminate our dependence on fossil fuels and petrochemicals
- repair the ecological damage caused by economic growth
- address the needs of people whose jobs are threatened by these economic changes
- rapidly drive down carbon emissions and eliminate our dependence on fossil fuels
- support those whose jobs have been destroyed by climate change and those whose jobs are threatened by dramatically reducing carbon emissions
- transition from an economy:
 - of accumulation to an economy of sustainability
 - of extraction to an economy of stewardship
 - of exploitation and inequality to an economy of fairness and equity

We will use our skills, experience and energy to:

- confront the power of fossil fuel companies, and pressure governments to act
- oppose the destructive role of Canadian companies here and in other countries
- challenge economic growth, wealth accumulation and the destruction of our natural world, and
- promote a sustainable alternative to an economic system rooted in exploitation and racism

We refuse to despair. We have hope. But hope takes work - and hope requires action. Sept. 16, 2020