

June 28, 2023. SCAN-Kingston
National Day of Action, Canada is Burning

In Kingston, Seniors for Climate Action Now, lead a demonstration as part of the 350.org National Day of Action, Canada is Burning. Between 60 to 75 people assembled on the steps of Kingston City Hall including others from 350 Kingston, No Clearcuts Kingston, students from Queens and LaSalle, some faculty, and a cycling group. Meeting on the steps of city hall we note that Kingston was the first municipality in Ontario to declare a climate emergency, in 2019. Since then, local activists have continued to pressure for action. Today we called on the Federal government to act now in the face the worse wildfires in Canadian history.

Phyllis Waugh (SCAN) acted as the MC, introducing speakers, leading chants, and encouraging participation in the July 7 RBC rally. Speakers were: Chris Gusen, 350 Canada; Dr. Kyla Tienhaara, Queens University; Jerry Jerreat, SCAN; and LaSalle high school student Abbi Miolée, who read a poem that she had written.

Prior to the event, we sent a letter inviting members of city council and the mayor to join us, and a few members of council did come out to join us. We circulated a petition from local MP Mark Gerretsen, calling for a 'bold emissions cap' and gathered several pages of signatures. We plan to deliver our petitions to Gerrestsen before parliament reopens.

Nicole from Mark Gerretsen's office attended the event on his behalf, and took pictures. She said that MG had been lobbied by some people to speak up more about the environment, and he "will be doing that." Nicole thinks that one of the photos she took might appear in an upcoming newsletter.

At the end of the speeches, we marched around City Hall with our banners and signs.

Lots of pictures were taken by Siena Margorian (Queens), Pamela Cornell, Nancy Nicol (SCAN) and Martine Bresson.

Press

<https://www.thewhig.com/news/kingston-protesters-call-for-more-action-on-climate-change>

<https://www.kingstonist.com/news/national-day-of-actions-urgent-message-we-are-on-fire/>

Kingston Global News 6pm – I cannot find this report on their website.