



We're no fools

Stand in solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en people.

April 6 and 11, 2024 – Fossil Fools Days

On April 11th, RBC executives and shareholders will gather for their Annual General Meeting (AGM) in North Etobicoke. This is a critical moment for RBC to sell a greenwashed narrative of success and profit to both the media and the public. It is also a critical moment for the movement for Indigenous self-determination, the right to Free Prior and Informed Consent, and climate justice to reveal RBC's narrative as the lie that it is.

An international delegation of Indigenous and frontline communities will attend the RBC AGM to seize the opportunity to speak truth to power.

On Saturday, **April 6th**, actions across the country, including across Ontario, will focus the spotlight of media and public attention on the message of the

Indigenous delegation: that RBC needs to immediately end their financial support for fossil fuel colonialism.

Find an [event near you](#).

SCAN! members and allies in the GTA will demonstrate our solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en people outside the RBC AGM on **April 11**.

SCAN! signs on

We signed on to this global [letter](#) on nuclear energy: “Safe, affordable and climate-friendly energy for all”.

The last paragraph reads:

We are living in a climate emergency. Time is precious, and too many governments are wasting it with nuclear energy fairy tales. What we demand is a just transition towards a safe, renewable and affordable energy system that secures jobs and protects life on our planet.

SCAN! also signed on to this [open letter](#)

to raise the alarm over the conflict of interest and restrictions of civic space at COP29.

The COP29 organizing committee now includes the head of the national oil company SOCAR (State Oil Company of the Republic of Azerbaijan) and the head

Company of the Republic of Azerbaijan) and the head of two secret services of Azerbaijan.

This is a glaring conflict of interest and a worrying indication of restricted civic space at COP29.

It was sent to the COP29 president and is now published. There were over 150 organizations (including Indigenous, environmental, grassroots, justice, development and youth) raising grave concerns over conflict of interest and civic space after the inclusion of the state oil company and secret service in the core team.

We, along with dozens of organizations, signed on to this [letter](#) to the Prime Minister which ends:

"The pathway to zero emissions and a climate-safe future does not include subsidies or public financing for the oil and gas industry. It's time for Canada to turn off the financial taps to Canada's most polluting industry."

We signed on to a letter following a review of the proposed redevelopment and expansion of Emerald EFW's waste incinerator in Brampton, Ontario. Following their report and responses to questions posed by Environmental Defence and Toronto Environmental Alliance, we joined with a dozen organizations to express our concern about increased waste burning.

We also *send* letters

Including a letter of support to Charlie Angus.

Quoting from the letter:

"We support you in your endeavour to pass a law banning fossil fuel advertising and to decry the actions of those who threaten you for taking a stand.

We agree with you: "To claim that there are clean fossil fuels is like saying there are safe cigarettes".

We are outraged that you are facing death threats for standing up for what is right and what is good for all humanity."



An inspirational trip around the regions

Kingston

Founding of new city-wide coalition

SCAN! and 350 Kingston along with other groups launched a new city-wide coalition, with a goal of working together to achieve meaningful municipal climate progress during this Council term; and to bring new people into the movement, rally public support, and cultivate relationships with councillors and city staff.

SCAN! Kingston members participated in a Fridays for Future demonstration organized by Queen's Backing Action on the Climate Crisis. The rally called for a reduction of vehicles commuting to campus, free and secure bike parking, safe bike paths, carpooling, and free bus passes for staff.

A win! Kingston City Council passed the motion they'd been pushing for. Council officially declared their support for the independent Ontario Energy Board (OEB) and called on the Ford government to stop trying to overturn the OEB's decision to end a subsidy for new gas pipelines. SCAN! and 350 Kingston members attended, wearing masks with the message: No Fossil Fuels! Nancy Nicol deputed. The motion

passed with all councillors supporting it - the sole vote against, was Mayor Bryan Paterson. They hope this will help build momentum to put pressure on the Ontario government to let the OEB ruling stand.

They got excellent coverage: In the Whig [here](#)

and [here](#)

and officially [here](#).

SCAN! Kingston members participated in a teach-in at Queen's that focused on debunking myths about the energy transition and the importance of phasing out fossil fuel production in Canada. Experts spoke to the real impact of Canada's fossil fuel industry and how to combat disinformation. SCAN! members spoke on Enbridge's, RBC's and government disinformation on the CGL pipeline. They distributed CPP postcards and flyers for their upcoming picket of RBC in solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en on April 6.

SCAN! Kingston is part of a campaign requesting City Council pass a bylaw to protect tenants from extreme heat. The bylaw would require landlords to keep temperatures in rental units below 26°C in summer at no extra cost to tenants. Eleanor Casey, SCAN! Kingston, met with local Liberal MPP, Ted Hsu to pressure for changes to the Landlords and Tenants Act of Ontario to enforce cooling accommodation. A petition was drafted and plans are under way to petition at apartment blocks and low-income housing. They hope this work will support outreach to lower income seniors; and that they will learn more about

income seniors, and that they will learn more about how they are impacted by climate breakdown.

SCAN! Kingston along with other groups will join the nationwide rally in solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en on April 6, and picket at RBC, Princess and King, 11 AM-1 PM.

Ottawa

Last November, Ottawa was targeted with fossil fuel advertising – "natural" gas greenwashing. They were outraged. SCAN! Ottawa formed a working group on why this advertising was allowed on city property. 13 groups worked with a councillor to put forward a motion on policy re: advertising review. Specifically, they wanted a motion to ban fossil fuel advertising. The best they got was a review to be returned to council in the 3rd quarter – 19 in favour – 1 opposed. These organizations don't want the policy reviewed: they want a ban.

One of the concerns is that the staff is saying they can't ban fossil fuel ads because of "freedom of speech".

Kawartha

Since their founding as a regional group in August

2023, they have focused much of their activity on fighting the Enbridge gas infrastructure expansion to Bobcaygeon and lobbying for an intercity bus to Lindsay.

There have been several articles, by and about them, in the Lindsay Advocate and the Kawartha Promoter, establishing their presence throughout the region.

At the February 15 City Council Meeting (CKL), they made three deputations, arguing for a rehabilitation of the Healthy Environment Program that was part of the 2024-27 Strategic Plan. That included requests for reconsideration of Council support for the Enbridge project. (Several alt-right activists in the audience heckled their presentations. Some followed them outside after the meeting.)

At their meeting with the Mayor of Kawartha Lakes, Doug Elsmie on March 7, they pressed him to reconsider CKL support for the Enbridge Project and for some real progress on Intercity bus service for the region. He turned down their request for the Enbridge Project; but he assured that there is real progress on the transit issue. They are following up at the Committee of the Whole meeting on April 9 with at least one deputation and several handouts. The Lindsay Advocate is preparing an article for its April publication on their opposition to the plan. They were interviewed for the article.

Their work on the Enbridge Project is in a coalition with support from Environmental Defense, Environmental Action Bobcaygeon as well as an

Environmental Action Cobourg as well as an Environment Club at a local High School.

At their last meeting, they issued a statement in support of a motion by a councillor from Trent Lakes, calling on the Province to institute a moratorium on new licenses for aggregate extraction.

Cobourg

There is action afoot to engage Cobourg council on the OEB decision.

Barrie

Barrie's ever-growing group of SCAN! members met to discuss future plans along with the results of current activities.

In 2021 the City of Barrie commissioned and adopted a zero emissions plan, called "Inspiring Climate Action Barrie" which is posted on their website and readily available. This plan calls for emissions targets, specifically:

"The Barrie community aims to reduce overall GHG emissions 45% below 2018 levels by 2030 and to become net-zero by 2050."

Although comprehensive in nature, it tends to use

vague wording such as monitor, convene, and facilitate. At the time of the commission there was a more progressive mayor and council than the current one; and it appears that the plan has been put on the back burner.

Their task; to pressure council to bring GHG emissions back to the forefront.

Barrie SCAN! members met with several of the current councillors and hope to meet with the remaining councillors soon. There was some interest in the environmental cause, but there is more work to do.

They will be participating in several upcoming climate action events including the RBC Day of Action on Saturday April 6th and the May 9th event about Highway 413 in Woodbridge.

They hope to secure a booth at the Barrie Farmers' Market to coincide with Earth Day.

They welcome new members and hold regular meetings.

London

They presented on COP28 at Kawartha seniors' centre. It was well received, with good feedback. They

also attended a Fridays for Future event at Wellington and Dufferin. They are currently looking for more members. If you live in the area, contact them through their [page](#) on the website.



Toronto

A group of SCAN! members organized an outreach

table and band of marchers at the International Women's Day Rally and March in Toronto Saturday, March 2. brooke Lydbrooke's colourful and inspiring IWD posters broadcast SCAN!'s presence at the event. Emblazoned with "Matriarchs for Mother Earth," "Climate Change – Women on The Front Lines," "Women Are The Majority Of Seniors – AND WE ROCK!" and more, the brightly painted posters helped initiate conversations with the public. They also raised SCAN!'s profile during the march.

In addition, a petition calling on the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to "pause" the expansion of gas-fueled electricity, to increase efforts toward energy conservation and the use of renewables, and supporting the OEB's recent decision to end gas subsidies for new homes, was well supported by those at the IWD rally and march. Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) developed the petition as part of its "Transforming Ontario's Energy Sector" event at Queen's Park February 26. Nine other climate groups co-sponsored the event and the petition, including SCAN!.

The majority of people approached with the petition at IWD did not know that the province plans to build new gas plants as well as expand Toronto's Portlands Energy Centre. There is much to be done to raise public awareness around this issue.

Working with Toronto East End Residents for Renewable Energy (TERRE), they are planning a Town hall meeting in May on the health concerns of gas. They are carrying out a large posterina

gas. They are carrying out a large poster campaign.

SCAN! Toronto members will also table at Seedy Saturdays.

The City working group is creating a work plan now that the budget has passed.

The neighbourhoods' committee has been doing presentations. Following one, seniors in an apartment building became interested in bringing climate issues into the upcoming by-election to replace their retired MP.

Two ridings have picked up the SCAN! Toronto "Climate Corner" for their newsletters. (See below)

SCAN! Toronto continues to follow the Ontario Place saga where a mysterious Phase 2 was recently revealed.

The Cancel the Air Show Campaign consulted with a City councillor to ascertain interest/opposition on Council.

SCAN! Toronto sits on a Stop Hwy 413 working group along with representatives across the province where GASP has taken the lead. On March 21, the federal government came to an agreement with Ontario to remove a significant roadblock in the building of the highway.

A joint consent order, which still needs to be approved by the courts, would cancel an environmental impact

by the courts, would conduct an environmental impact study on the proposed highway.

"The Dundas 4"

Two SCAN! members were present in Dundas, Ontario when senior environmental protesters refused to leave the local RBC branch and were arrested.

The seniors were part of Hamilton 350's Elders 4 Climate Sanity (E4CS). The March 22 demonstration was "Stop Destroying Earth". They are due to appear in court in April.

It took six police officers in five patrol cars to accomplish the arrest. You can see some photos [here](#).

One of "The Four" said:

For three years Elders 4 Climate Sanity have stood outside Big Banks to inform people about who is financing the extreme weather of the climate crisis. RBC continues to be the worst, investing \$42 billion in 2022, and only 1% in renewable energy.

We tell people that they can push these banks to divest from fossil fuel industries. We do this in connection with [For Our Kids](#).

However, the RBC managers in three of the branches we visit are usually hostile, and often call the police.

We are very committed to our love for the earth.

What would it take to be taken seriously by the financiers destroying earth? No one is too young or too old to be a climate activist.

Ontario organizing momentum on OEB

[Bill 165](#)

Read the bill above and opposition below.

City of [Hamilton](#): (passed unanimously)

Town of [Whitby](#): (passed - agenda item 6.3)

City of [Toronto](#): on their Executive Committee agenda, then referred to City Manager. Staff were directed to provide evidence at the upcoming Legislative Hearing on Bill 165 at Queen's Park.

Township of Severn: There was a draft motion.

[Lake of Bays](#) agreed to support the OEB on March 12 and will be sending the resolution to District of Muskoka, then AMO, Ford etc.

[County of Prince Edward](#) (passed). And [more details](#) on the motion (page 39)

[Kingston](#) (passed, March 19)

SCAN! - more actions on bad energy choices

The Ontario Project Group has taken on two of Ontario's "bad energy choices": exposing Enbridge and opposing Bill 165.

They will lodge a complaint to the Competition Bureau for deceptive marketing practices in conducting the Clean Home Heating Initiative funded by the Ontario government.

See above for actions on Bill 165 undertaken all around the province.

Upcoming

April 6 Fossil Fools Day (Find an event [near you](#).)

April 8 demonstration against Bill 165, Queen's Park 10:30 AM during legislative hearings on Bill 165.

SCAN! will be represented by CFI Δ at the hearings

SCAN! will be represented by OLEA at the hearings who are also representing the Low Income Energy Network and the Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario.

April 9 is the deadline for written submissions to the legislative committee holding hearings on Bill 165. SCAN! members are encouraged to write letters.

April 10 webinar 7 – 8:30 PM ‘Energy for People not Profit - Stop Bill 165’. Register [here](#)

Supported by Environmental Defence, Ontario Climate Emergency Campaign, Climate Fast, 350:Hamilton and SCAN!.

April 11 mobilization against RBC at their AGM in Etobicoke.

April 20 – 21 Yours to Protect week-end of actions against Bill 165 Add your action [here](#).

We have a calendar of events for April on the home page. Watch this [space](#).

SCAN! motions

After much discussion, SCAN! voted to pass two resolutions at a general members’ meeting. Read our [motion](#) on war, militarism and climate as well as our motion calling for a [ceasefire](#) in Gaza and [letter](#) to the Prime Minister.

In other news

MPP climate corners

Two Toronto MPPs are featuring a “climate corner” with articles written by local SCAN! Toronto members. Many thanks to MPPs Jill Andrew and Chris Glover. If you have a relationship with a politician at any level of government that publishes a newsletter, consider approaching them with this idea.

Seniors Talk Climate (STC)

STC will continue to speak at Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs).

See their upcoming training sessions below. One participant said,

"It's a wonderful resource for growing the climate movement. It developed some important skills of listening and empathy to enable better conversations. It was inspiring and hopeful."



"I have been heartbroken about climate for over two

Project designed to encourage/organize new members to join SCAN!, contributing to our part of the "mass climate movement"; training SCAN! members to speak to community groups and organizations, and all other climate conversations!

- All the tools you need to facilitate Climate Conversations
- Like-minded people
- Lots of conversations and active learning
- Collegial sessions enjoyable and energizing

"The Seniors Talk Climate workshops are excellent training! If you want others to join SCAN!'s climate action movement, sign up to learn the best ways to deliver our message."

- Judi Wyatt, Kingston

See Course
materials
TOOLKIT!

Roberta Tevlin
& Jane Adams

INFORMATION and SIGN UP - SeniorsTalkClimate@gmail.com

*decades.
This course
has given me
the skills and
the
permission to
talk to other
people about
it. I've been
silent all that
time."*

Social Media

Because of restrictions imposed by Facebook on publishing Canadian news, we are publishing the main issues of articles and referring people to the source material and then sending readers to "X" to see the link. We encourage you to follow @Seniors_CAN on "X". FB has 1,000 followers and Twitter 871. Despite restrictions we are doing our best to help people keep up to date.

Readers of this newsletter who are not yet members are welcome to join as members any time. Go to the web site and click on "Become a member".

Questions? Email us:

info@seniorsforclimateactionnow.org

