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Organize, Organize, Organize

Here is a heads up about Seniors for Climate, getting ready to launch activities across the country on October 1st.

Canada-wide action on National Seniors' Day

Seniors will conduct events across the country organized by Seniors For Climate to declare that they are joining youth in the demand for real climate action.

SCAN! is a co-founding member of Seniors For Climate along with Suzuki Elders, Climate Action for Lifelong Learners (CALL), Grandmothers Act to Save the Planet (GASP) and Climate Legacy.

Seniors For Climate is hosting a zoom meeting/

webinar/ on May 28 at 6:30 PM. On the agenda: a short history of Seniors For Climate; the plan for the Oct 1 Seniors' Day of Climate Action; activities already underway; and input and engagement from participants. If you are interested in participating and/or want to know more, register here.

SCAN! takes on the federal and provincial governments

You can read this submission on the home page re: Environment And Climate Change Canada & Health Canada Implementation Framework Right to A Health Environment and Canadian Environmental Protection Act. Many thanks to our tireless researchers.

SCAN! made a submission on Bill 165, "Keeping Energy Costs Down".

SCAN also made a joint submission on Bill 165, with the Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario, Canadian Environmental Law Association and the Low-Income Energy Network.

As well, SCAN! submitted a complaint on offences that Enbridge Gas Inc. is committing under Part VII of the Competition Act.

SCAN! signed on to a letter (No Canadian Taxonomy Unless it Excludes Fossil Fuels: A guide to a Taxonomy from Climate Experts) to Deputy Prime Minister Freeland, Minister Guilbeault, and Minister Wilkinson on taxonomy that stated there should not be a Canadian taxonomy unless it credibly aligns with the overarching goals of the Paris Agreement.

SCAN! joined 50 other organizations to sign on to OCAA's campaign:

A strong commitment to tripling wind and solar power will lower energy costs, reduce climate damaging emissions, and create jobs across Ontario. As a first step towards achieving the COP28 goal, we are calling on the Ontario government to direct the IESO to triple Ontario's wind and solar power by 2035.

SCAN! signed on to a letter to the Canadian federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change re the urgent Benzene pollution emergency in Aamjiwnaang First Nation. Read their story here.

SCAN! members continue to have their views in the news. Read Robert Hicks' and Jamie Swifts' pieces.

Welcome to the family

SCAN!'s two newest regional groups have their own pages on the website. Have a look at Barrie and Guelph's pages. Like the other regional groups, they each have contact information there.

When you sign up as a member, or if you are already a member, soon you will be able click on the regional group near you and receive their information about upcoming events.

Fossil Fools Day: Ottawa

On April 6, SCAN! Ottawa members took part in the FOSSIL FOOLS DAY rally in front of the RBC branch at Queen and Bank in support of Wet'suwet'en land defenders.

Fossil Fools Day: Kingston

They got great coverage

Fossil Fools Day Barrie

They also got great coverage.

April 8 Bill 165 protest

Watch the video.

It was held the morning of the eclipse.

RBC AGM April 11

Photo: Joshua Best.

At least 200 gathered in the pouring rain, including 25 - 30 SCAN! members at the site of the RBC AGM. Some came in school buses which were provided by the organizers. After an initial rally, people marched all around the area with their signs and chants. Back at the Congress Centre where the AGM was being held, Wet'suwet'en delegates came out in full regalia. They were greeted by a chant of Wet/su/wet/en: solidarity!

Many remarked how moving the speeches were. It did

not matter that they were soaked through. The speeches kept them warm and, in fact, hot under the collar, to hear that the delegates were cut off at the 60 second mark. Some speeches were positively fiery. Subsequent news story made it clear that there had been a significant impact. This story will not be over until there is free, prior and informed consent when it comes to Indigenous land.

Read leadnow's summary

More action around the regions

Barrie had a positive action at RBC and a very successful Farmers' Market. At the market, 20 people signed up for their email list, about 15 SCAN! cards were given out; and 15 "Stop the 413" signs made their way to people's homes.

Kingston

(See photo above for Earth Day in Kingston)

On April 6 SCAN! organized their 2nd annual Fossil Fools Day in front of RBC. The rally focused on calling on RBC to stop funding the Coastal Gas Link pipeline in solidarity with Wet'suwet'en land defenders. 45-50 people attended. They got great coverage by Global Kingston (see above). Here is their video.

SCAN! Kingston continues to petition Kingston City Council to pass a temperature bylaw to protect tenants from extreme heat. They are a founding member of a new city-wide coalition, Kingston Climate Justice Coalition (KCJC). Their goal is to achieve meaningful climate progress during the current municipal Council term. Working groups of the coalition have been set up and planning is underway for a town hall.

SCAN! members met with Kingston and District Labour Council to learn more about the local labour movement and their upcoming calendar of events. There was a discussion about the carbon tax; and some discussion on the role of workers in combatting climate change.

They had a table at Earth Day on April 20 – 21 (See photo above) with a number of local climate and Indigenous groups in a city park. They handed out windmills to children; took signatures on the

temperature bylaw petition; signed up people to stay in touch with SCAN! activities and handed out CPP postcards and literature from the OCAA.

SCAN! Kingston member, Nancy Nicol, wrote an open letter to the Kingston Pride Day committee that calls on them to not accept corporate sponsorship from the Fossil Fuel Industry or financial institutions that fund fossil fuels.

There was a highly visible presence of RBC at Pride in Kingston in 2023. They plan to deliver the letter and talk with Pride organizers about why Pride should not allow RBC pink washing.

Ottawa

They have sent out a newsletter and circulated a petition: Carbon Pricing is Under Attack (through Lead Now). (See their march to end plastic pollution below.) They will be participating in an upcoming forum in May: Ontario Clean Air Alliance lobby.

London

They are working on connecting with Indigenous groups and finalizing their meeting with a City Councillor.

Northumberland

They supported two initiatives: Earth Day, involving students; and Art for the Earth up (the Good Lovelies). They also participated with an Indigenous elder on a nature walk.

Kawartha

The mayor is in support of Enbridge and SCAN! Kawartha is trying to reverse that decision. Green Advocates from high school gave excellent briefs on fighting Enbridge. The water situation nearby is dire as well as the ongoing struggle regarding forest fires. They held a climate workshop to do outreach. Deforestation is happening at an incredible rate. They feel the need to highlight this issue as well as the expansion of fossil fuels.

Guelph

This new regional chapter met to discuss how to build coalitions. They participated in an Earth Day event. Climate Conversations met with over 100 people so far, mostly churches. They are also keeping on top of City Council work.

Toronto - TERRE, tabling and dancing (but not dancing on tables)

There has been a lot of activity around the Portland's Gas Plant for electricity generation. They are collaborating closely with TERRE (Toronto East Residents for Renewable Energy) fighting to get an environmental assessment done. There will be a public forum on May 15 (see poster below).

The National Observer wrote a wonderful article on these efforts.

There was a rally against Bill 165 on April 8th (see above.)

The neighbourhoods' group is very busy, talking to seniors' groups, tabling etc. There were several tabling events all around the city: an MPP's Earth Day Summit where a memebr spoke, Seedy Saturday and farmers' markets. SCAN! members also gave a climate talk to a packed house at a local healthy aging group.

The photo above was taken on Earth Day when SCAN! members joined a flash mob at Toronto's Christie Pits.

Keeping it simple

The climate crisis is anything but simple. That is why we created the glossary section on the website making terms and issues more accessible. See the new "explainers" by clicking on the glossary section: carbon tax, embodied carbon, climate change and buildings; and climate change and health. You can download and print for use at tabling and speaking events if you find them useful.

Protesting Plastics

Ottawa April 21, 2024

SCAN! Ottawa members joined 500 others on The Hill to demonstrate their concern about plastic production

and pollution to bring public attention to the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.

Coming up in Toronto

Ontario Climate Emergency Campaign

SCAN! had several mentions in the OCEC newsletter which you can read here. It is chock full of information.

Kudos from a new

member

I was an organizer and spokesperson for saveourwater.ca protecting local drinking water from Nestle extracting 1.6 million litres per day of precious groundwater. I learned a great deal.

I just travelled across Canada from Toronto to Vancouver two years in a row. This year the lack of snow in the prairies and a 30 per cent snow pack in BC means more drought and wild fires this season. This creates huge issues about carbon release, food security, and many more concerns.

I have been involved with climate action groups for some time.

Watching the defunding of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation? and Parks, the disempowering of the Conservation Authorities, the undermining of environmental protections, and the list of backward decisions by the Ford government is appalling.

The invasion of the Greenbelt and the misuse of MZOs, the 413 highway, the daily loss of farmland, the expropriation of farmland in neighbouring Wilmot Township, the loss of wetlands, and the forced boundary expansions for cities and Regions put our future in jeopardy and create dangerous precedents.

That is a start of my reasons for joining.

Facebook and Twitter (X)

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