



SCAN! is Calling for Emergency Climate Action at All Levels of Government

COP 29 - NO ACCESS FOR FOSSIL FUELS

For decades we have known that the increasing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is causing our planet to overheat and our climate to change. The atmosphere and the oceans are warming, leading to extreme weather events, including droughts, floods, tornados and heat domes. The devastating forest fires in Canada in 2023 are linked to this warming of our climate.

The main source of this increasing carbon dioxide is the burning of fossil fuels – coal, oil and natural gas. Countries must urgently move away from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources to slow and reverse climate change.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), adopted by 198 states in 1994, is the international body designed to help countries combat climate change. At its annual **Conference of the Parties (COP)**, each country's delegates participate in reviewing progress in reversing climate change and negotiating legally binding next steps. Each delegate – who receives a coveted badge to enter all COP events – wields great power in this battle to protect us and our planetary home.

The fossil fuel industry recognizes the power of the COP delegate badge and is determined to grab as many as it can. Environmental Defence has analyzed the UN's provisional list of participants at past COPs. At COP27, held in Egypt in 2022, Canada gave eight badges to fossil fuel interests. At COP28, held in Dubai in 2023, Canada gave 35 badges to fossil fuel industry representatives. In total, 2,456 fossil fuel lobbyists were registered for COP28, compared to 636 for COP27. There were more representatives of the fossil fuel industry present than representatives from any country, save Brazil and host country UAE. This increase signals the fossil fuel industry's determination to continue to increase its profits over the health and well-being of every living thing on the planet.

"It's alarming just how much influence the oil and gas industry still has, and how little influence the sectors that are really where the growth opportunities in the future (have)," said Tom Green, Senior Climate Policy Advisor at the Suzuki Foundation.

"The sheer number of fossil fuel lobbyists at climate talks that could determine our future is beyond justification," said Joseph Sikulu, a coalition member and Pacific Regional Director at the environmental group 350.org.

"[W]e must directly confront those in the fossil fuel industry who have shown relentless zeal for obstructing progress – over decades. Billions of dollars have been thrown at distorting the truth, deceiving the public, and sowing doubt," said UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres.

You can help stop fossil fuel representatives from paralyzing talks and weakening agreements at the next COP29, to be held in Azerbaijan in November 2024. Please send the postcard to the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, with a personal message expressing your concern and asking that he not assign any Canadian delegates badges to fossil fuel interests. No stamp needed.

Seniors for Climate Action Now!

<https://seniorsforclimateactionnow.org>