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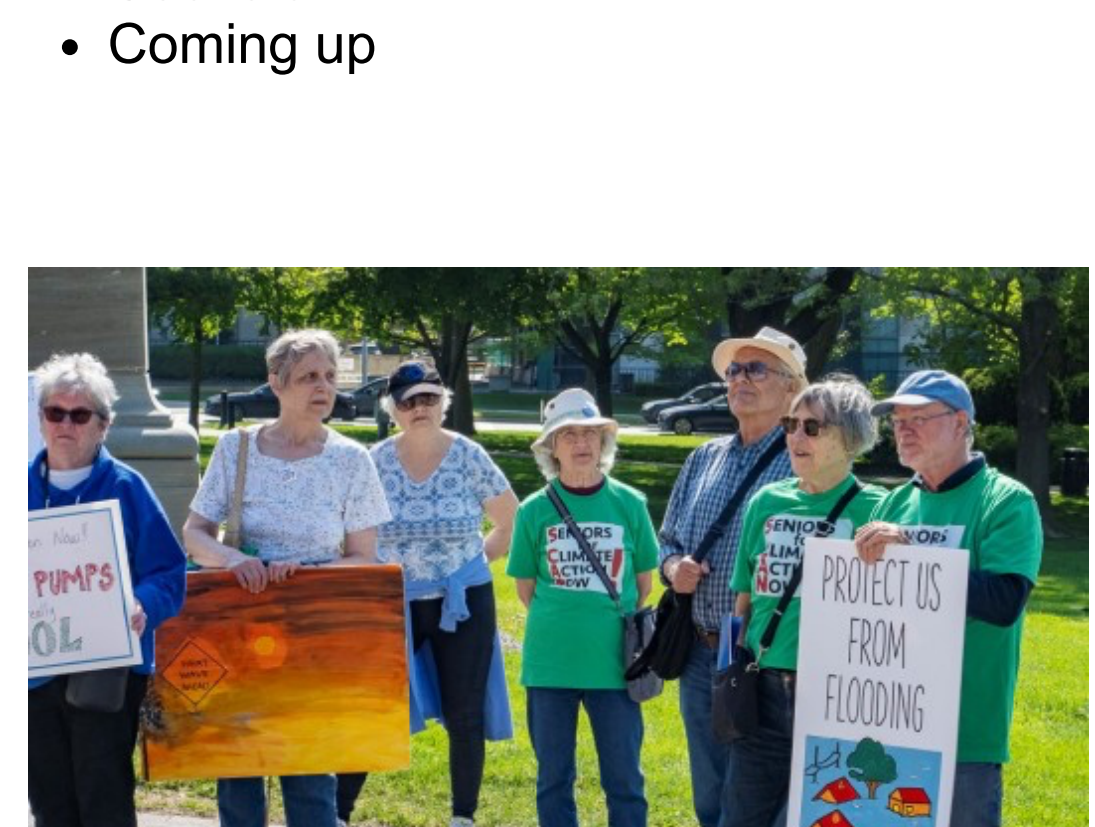
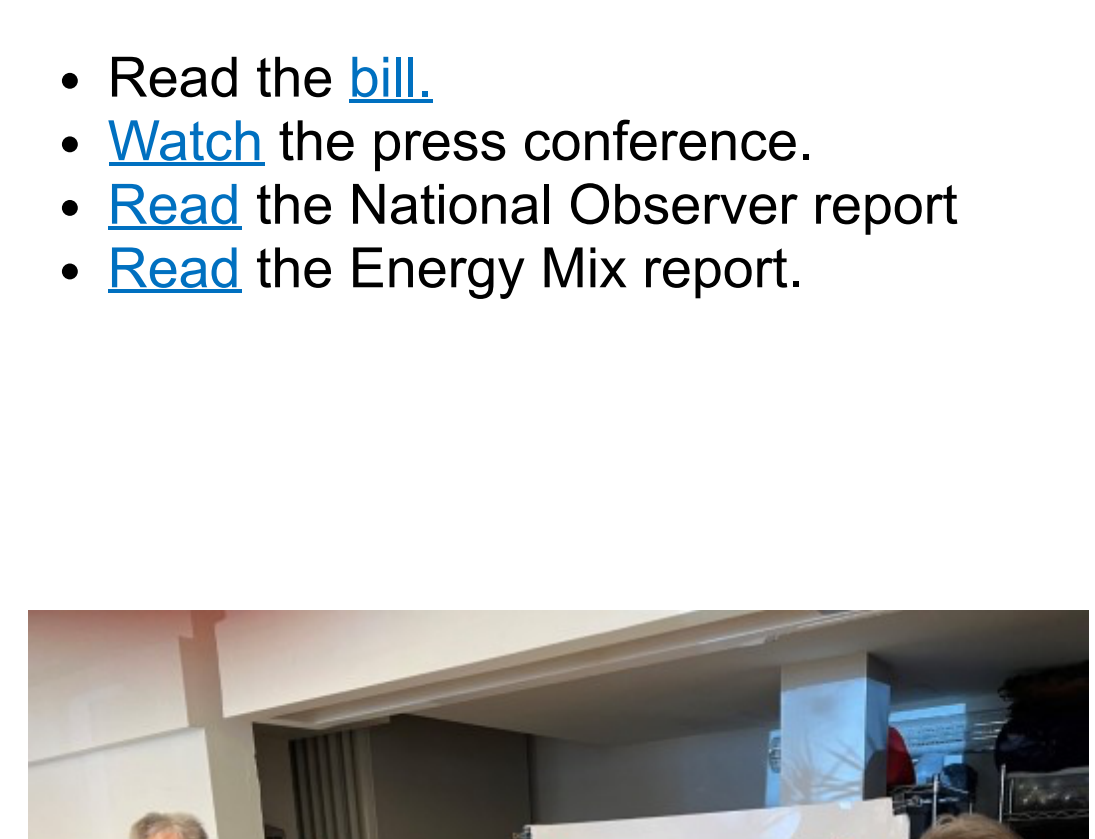


Pushing forward on adaptation

About 40 SCAN! members and supporters came to Queen's Park May 16 to show their support for a private members' bill drafted in collaboration with MPP Peter Tabuns. They held their banners, signs and new adaptation banner, chanted and marched in front of the Parliament building. Tabuns spoke to the crowd before attending a press conference with co-writer, Jennifer Penney. It remains to be seen how far Bill 198 will get, but the effort was definitely worth it.

- Read the bill.
- Watch the press conference.
- Read the National Observer report
- Read the Energy Mix report.


SENIORS for CLIMATE ACTION NOW! TORONTO
FOR THE SAKE OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

Chapter News

Toronto

Here is the new banner which can now be used at all local tabling events - and local rallies. Members continued tabling at several events and followed up with interested passersby.

The neighbourhoods committee has been responsible for a number of these tabling events. They are also continuing their work with local seniors' residences and programs.

The City working group made a deputation to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee re: Bill 165.

They are also keeping their eye on other deputation opportunities as Toronto gets ready to renew its five-year Transform TO plan. SCAN! Toronto members are working with a coalition to push for a maximum heat by-law.

SCAN! Toronto has also been working with TERRE (Toronto East Residents for Renewable Energy) a coalition of East End residents and local climate justice groups working to oppose the expansion of the **Portlands** gas plant in the east end of Toronto. On May 15, the meeting venue was packed to listen to the negative health effects of the gas plant. SCAN! Toronto tabled and distributed Triple Renewable Energy buttons.

At the end of the month at the Portlands Toronto Open Door event, SCAN! Toronto members "rocked for renewables" on their rocking chairs while colleagues lined the gates with posters and others handed out literature.

SCAN! Toronto members are actively supporting Ontario Place for All, refusing to give up on stopping the proposed spa.

Ottawa

They had an Earth Day tabling event in Dondonald Park which garnered a lot of interest. Following a Climate Change Conversation at Good Companions, April 30th, some people became members.

On May 1st, they hosted a stellar panel discussion as part of **Not the nuclear Lobby** week attended by people from across Canada.

They are working very actively on organizing for the Oct 1st cross-Canada seniors' day of action.

They are planning an in-person activity at a member's home to get to know each other better.

Another tabling event is planned for June 1st as part of an Eco-fair in Strathcona Park.

Kingston

SCAN! Kingston hosted an information table on Earth Day and is planning tables for Eco Fest Celebrating Connections in Westport, Indigenous Peoples Day, Pride Day, Labour Day and various Kingston city markets over the summer.

SCAN! Kingston's chair attended the Kingston and District Labour Council meeting and learned more about local unions.

SCAN! and No Clearcuts Kingston mobilized successfully to postpone a proposed development of Collins Creek, that would clear cut a mature forest and disrupt an important watershed. Their pressure helped to sway Kingston City council to defer the development so an environmental assessment can take place.

They gathered signatures on an open letter sent to the local Pride committee to urge them not to accept corporate sponsorship from fossil fuel companies or financial institutions that fund fossil fuel companies. They are making plans to participate in Pride Kingston on June 15.

The Kingston Climate Justice Coalition, of which SCAN! is a founding member, is focusing on two initiatives: a climate report card that compares work on climate by different communities; and a town hall meeting, to be held in October.

SCAN! Kingston members have had initial discussions on their participation in Seniors for Climate action events on National Seniors Day October 1st.

Barrie

They are planning to participate in the Canada-wide event on National Seniors Day, October 1st.

They are also discussing new ways to engage with their council members including a meeting with a councillor concerned with environmental issues.

Their summer events will likely include a booth at the Barrie Farmers Market which proved to be very successful in the past. They hope to once again to give out lots of signs to Stop the 413.

London

SCAN! London had a table at London's April 20th Earthfest. Just under 100 people stopped by to see what SCAN! was about. Four people wanted to join SCAN! and six wanted to receive the SCAN! newsletter.

Many picked up the CPPIB post cards and SCAN! promotional materials. Passersby said it was a good thing for SCAN! London to be advocating for a just transition to the electrification of everything.

Actions, letters and sign-ons

Canada is Burning

Now is a good time to write your MPs and MPPs again. Go to the home page for the template letter. Remind them that we are here and we are active.

Bill 165

As reported in the May newsletter, SCAN! was very active around Bill 165, the ironically named: Keeping Energy Costs Down ACT. The government passed the act, overturning the IESO ruling that Enbridge had to pay for new gas hook-ups. This means passing on the cost to homeowners, ignoring the declining need for gas and the increase in renewable energy sources. Here is a video of SCAN! members and allies demonstrating in front of the legislature in April with some excellent interviews.

SCAN! signed on to a letter to the Auditor General requesting their office investigate the environmental impact of the government's decision to reinstate the subsidy for natural gas connections.

Member Robert Hicks wrote a letter to the editor on the bill.

Bill 185 - the Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024.

Another wonderful misnomer.

Environmental Defence says Bill 185 and the New Provincial Planning Statement pose a serious threat to farmland, wetlands, habitats and housing options.

The Provincial Planning Statement includes facilitating sprawl development on farmland and natural areas, removing third party appeal rights to the Ontario Land tribunal making it a developer only adjudicative body, formalizing removal of planning authority from regional municipalities, no mandating of intensification targets within urban built up areas and Settlement expansion allowed at any time without a requirement for comprehensive review.

For these reasons, SCAN! signed on to the Alliance for a Livable Ontario (ALO) letter on Bill 185 and the new Provincial Planning Statement citing the above issues.

ALO is encouraging individuals and organizations to sign on to a letter to Premier Ford and MPPs.

Dirty Coal in India

SCAN! joined multiple organizations in signing a letter to the Supreme Court of India decrying a scam where a company is repeatedly passing off low-quality coal purchased at an average price as higher quality coal. Quoting from the letter:

This particular case involves the dirtiest and most polluting coal being burned, and under false representation by the corporation concerned. As the story cites, more than 2 million people are killed in India each year by outdoor air pollution, and other studies have found significant increases in child mortality for hundreds of miles around coal-fired plants.

Following our sign-on the letter was widely reported; e.g., in the Business Standard:

Contending that they stand firmly against the continued use of fossil fuels, the organisations said the Financial Times report provided fresh and detailed evidence of the passing off of "low-quality coal as far more expensive cleaner fuel" by the Adani Group in transactions with Tamil Nadu's Tangedco.

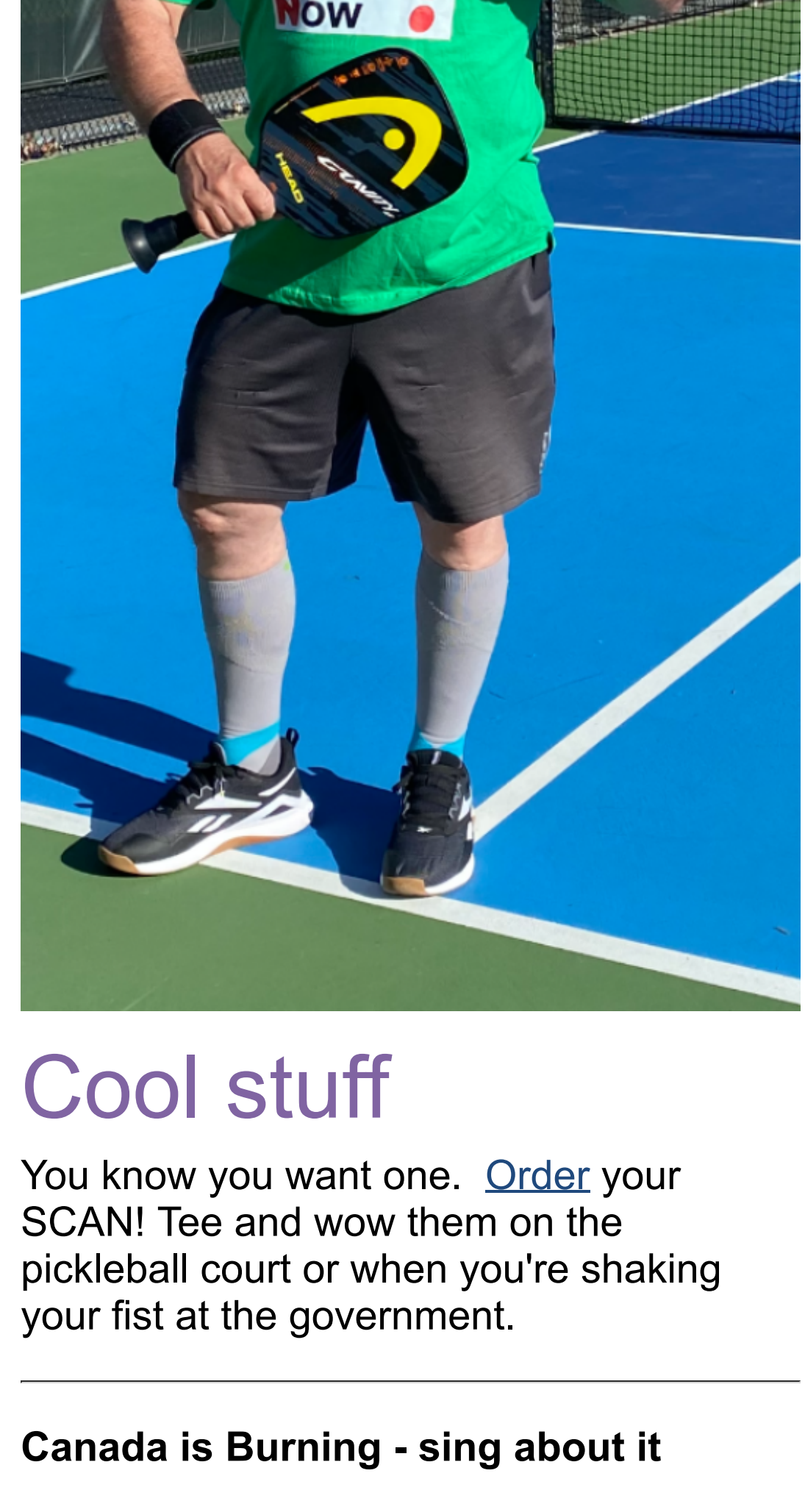
Our action illustrates the Fair Share movement.

Calling for an Arms Embargo

In keeping with our letter to the Prime Minister where we said:

We urge you, as Prime Minister of our country, to call for an unconditional, immediate ceasefire in Gaza; to uphold the ICJ ruling on this matter, to end all military support to Israel, and to restore funding to UNRWA.

SCAN! signed on to a call for the Canadian government to uphold its moral and legal responsibilities and impose a full and immediate arms embargo on Israel.

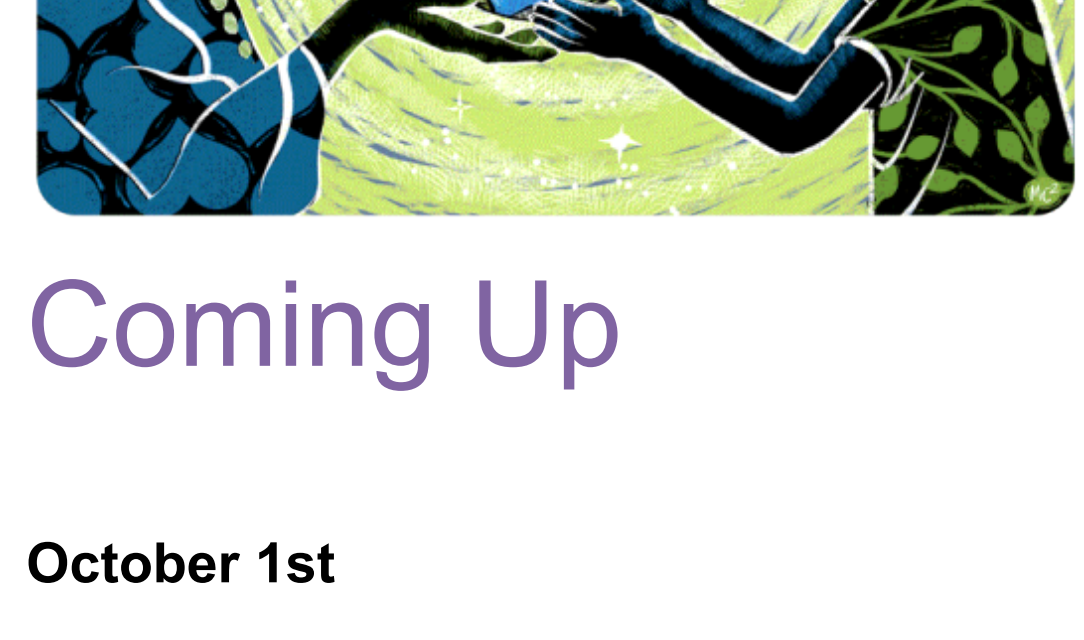

SENIORS for CLIMATE ACTION NOW!

Cool stuff

You know you want one. Order your SCAN! Tee and wow them on the pickleball court or when you're shaking your fist at the government.

Canada is Burning - sing about it

There is a short video of member Marie-Lynn Hammond on the home page explaining why she joined SCAN!. She sings a verse of her song, "Canada is Burning". Members were treated to the full song at the last general members' meeting. We are waiting for the accompanying video. Watch for the release and published lyrics. Marie-Lynn wants everyone to sing this one.



Coming Up

October 1st

500 people from across the country registered (and nearly 320 attended) the May 28 Seniors for Climate webinar to discuss the October 1st events. Participants added their names and locations to those already on the map. So many great ideas were exchanged about possible events. The site is constantly being updated with information on an event near you and the person or people to contact. Watch this space as well as the SCAN! home page. You can also encourage people to donate to build towards the day.

Hey CPPIB! Stop funding the climate crisis!
Hey CPPIB! Stop funding the climate crisis!

CPP Pension Corner

With this fire season on track to be even worse than last year's, we need to remember who is funding the oil and gas remember who is funding the oil and gas industry, the fuel behind the fires.

The Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPPIB) manages massive investments: $632 billion. Our national pension plan is one of the largest in the world. To our shame the CPPIB continues to unapologetically - and increasingly - invest our retirement savings in oil and gas.

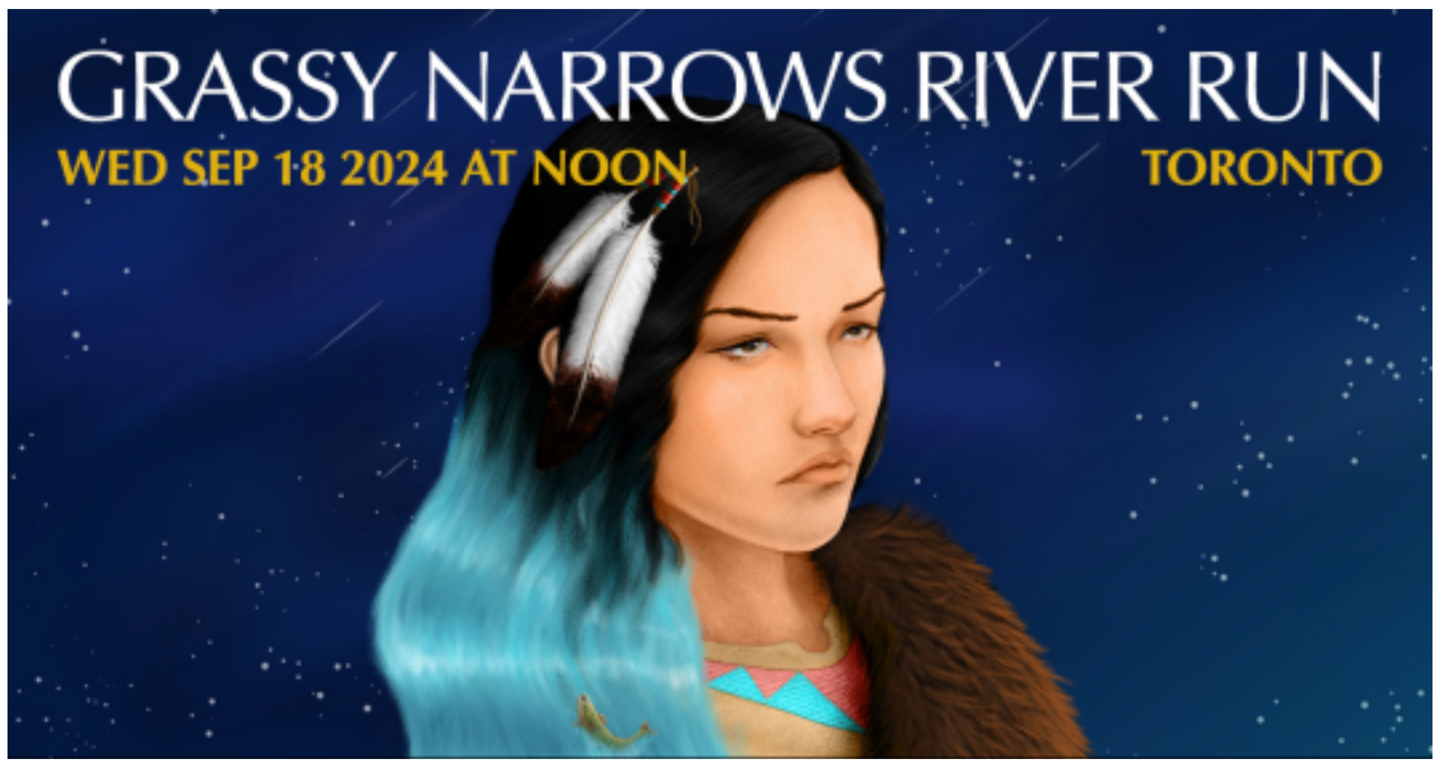
Amidst a worsening climate crisis, our national pension fund should stop investing our retirement savings in fossil fuels.

Here’s what you can do.

Visit the SHIFT website’s action. Under “choose your pension manager” select the Canada Pension Plan to send the CPPIB fund managers a message:

"Stop fueling the climate crisis!"

Pension Divestment Working Group



Support Grassy Narrows

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: info@seniorsforclimateactionnow.org