

# SENIORS for CLIMATE ACTION! NOW

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## Pushing forward on adaptation

Several municipalities have initiated steps to create maximum heat by-laws, often instigated by local SCAN! chapters and their allies.

SCAN! invited Community Resilience to Extreme Weather (CREW) to discuss their work in Toronto Community Housing buildings, serving as a model towards similar organizing.

After **Bill 198: An Act Providing a Climate Change Adaptation Program for Ontario** was tabled on May 16, SCAN!'s Adaptation Working Group began work on next steps.

They agreed to help the OFL collect signatures for their petition to the legislature to enact protective heat stress legislation for workers

They plan to purchase thermo hygrometers and place them with vulnerable seniors, tenants and workers in hot environments, in order to collect and use the data for media releases during and after extreme heat events.

They have also drafted an information sheet and advice for seniors around dealing with extreme heat.

## COP 29

SCAN! has printed 2,000 post cards addressed to the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, Steven Guilbeault, calling for him to stop allocating national delegate badges to fossil fuel interests. No stamp is required.

Canada gives credentials (badges) to executives of fossil fuel companies allowing them full access to the COP negotiations. This has to stop.

The presence of fossil fuel interests at COPs has been undermining the integrity of the global negotiation process for effective solutions to climate change; and their numbers have increased dramatically. Here is the [background](#).

We have one month to pressure the Canadian government to deny Canadian Credentials to fossil fuel company executives. The government allocates credentials in August. The cards have to be in by **the end of July**.

You can [view the card](#) on the website and see how to order. Please distribute the cards far and wide at tabling events, farmers markets, parks, and other venues where there are large numbers of people. If you get signatures, you can drop the cards in the post yourself.

## Around the regions

### London

Preparations for October 1<sup>st</sup> action are underway; and they are reaching out to other seniors' and climate groups. Their meeting with City Councillor David Ferreira was lively. He is supportive of October 1<sup>st</sup> plans and will attend their London action. MPP Terence Kernaghan met with them and has also been enthusiastic, helpful and eager to assist in any way, offering to put a blurb in his latest newsletter about Seniors For Climate.

They have participated in several local events which offered opportunities to promote both SCAN! and the Seniors For Climate Day of Action: Gathering on the Green, Rhubarb Festival at Unitarian Fellowship of London, Indigenous Solidarity Day and Wortley Pride.

They are taking part in the postcard campaign 'No Canadian Badges for Fossil Fuels at COP 29'. They have learned the song, "Canada Is Burning" and have their SCAN! t-shirts: they're ready to go!

### Kawartha

They planned a community information meeting about heat pumps vs. new gas pipelines. Local students made a deputation to city council about the pipelines and wind energy. They solicited Enviro fair volunteers; and are working on their plans for October 1.

### Ottawa

15 people attended a potluck social. They gained four new members and will hold another one soon. They tabled at an eco fair in a downtown park and distributed many SCAN! and CPP cards - and all of the SCAN! buttons - while promoting the October 1 event. A city councillor offered them a room at city hall for an October 1 event. Many Ottawa folks participated in the May 28 Seniors for Climate webinar.

Battery Energy Storage (BESS) is very controversial in Ottawa. Rural residents are objecting. SCAN! will be involved.

Close by, Climate Network Lanark is a very impressive and effective group. Nearby Perth will have an event Oct 1.

### Northumberland

They tabled at the Cobourg Waterfront Festival, sharing a table with a local art group. They came up with the idea of "climate art". Nine people joined SCAN! and worked all winter to produce pieces. They shared a booth together, exhibiting climate art. Marie-Lynn Hammond sang "Canada is Burning" at the festival. (Always a treat.)

### Toronto

SCAN! Toronto is working at three levels of government. They joined a coalition of a dozen local organizations calling for a maximum temperature bylaw. They are also keeping an eye on the five-year city climate plan which is up for renewal. SCAN! has a member on the city's Climate Advisory Group.

They made a deputation re: Bill 165 to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee opposing Enbridge's gas hookups. They continue to work with Toronto East Residents for Renewable Energy (TERRE) on the Portlands gas plant file. Although it poured on the approximately 25 volunteers at the Portlands Energy Centre's Open Door event (the rocking chairs got soaked), they were able to hand out lots of material. The Environmental Defence elephant (in the room) blow-up was a big hit.

There have been many local tabling events and speaking engagements.

### Barrie

They were told they can not table at the Barrie's Farmers' Market again until next January. They have developed a good relationship with a city councillor who has arranged for SCAN! to do a 15-minute presentation to the Sustainability Committee in July or August. They will ask to become ad hoc members of these committees. They attended a day of action to support water stewardship against gravel pits.

### Kingston

They meet monthly and have set up a committee to organize for Seniors for Climate on Oct. 1. On June 7, SCAN! Kingston held a social to thank student supporters for their contributions. About 20 people attended.

SCAN! Kingston had information tables at several events throughout June. Their members travelled to Westport to participate in Eco Fest, Westport 2024: Celebrating Connections. On June 21, SCAN! Kingston tabled at Indigenous Peoples Day in City Park. They also tabled at the Skeleton Park Arts Festival.

They gathered signatures on the temperature bylaw petition and got many CPP postcards signed, demanding that the CPP divest from fossil fuel investments. They gathered names of people interested to stay in touch with, or to join SCAN!

Another win! A SCAN! initiated open letter to the Kingston Pride board was successful. Pride Kingston agreed that they would not accept sponsorship from RBC this year or in the future. They marched in the Pride parade with a banner calling for LGBTQ2S rights and Climate Justice. About 3000 people participated over all. Their presence was warmly acknowledged by the crowds lining Princess St. As they passed the RBC branch on Princess St., they led chants: "RBC, Stop Funding fossil fuels"; and "What do we want? Queer Rights and Climate Justice"!

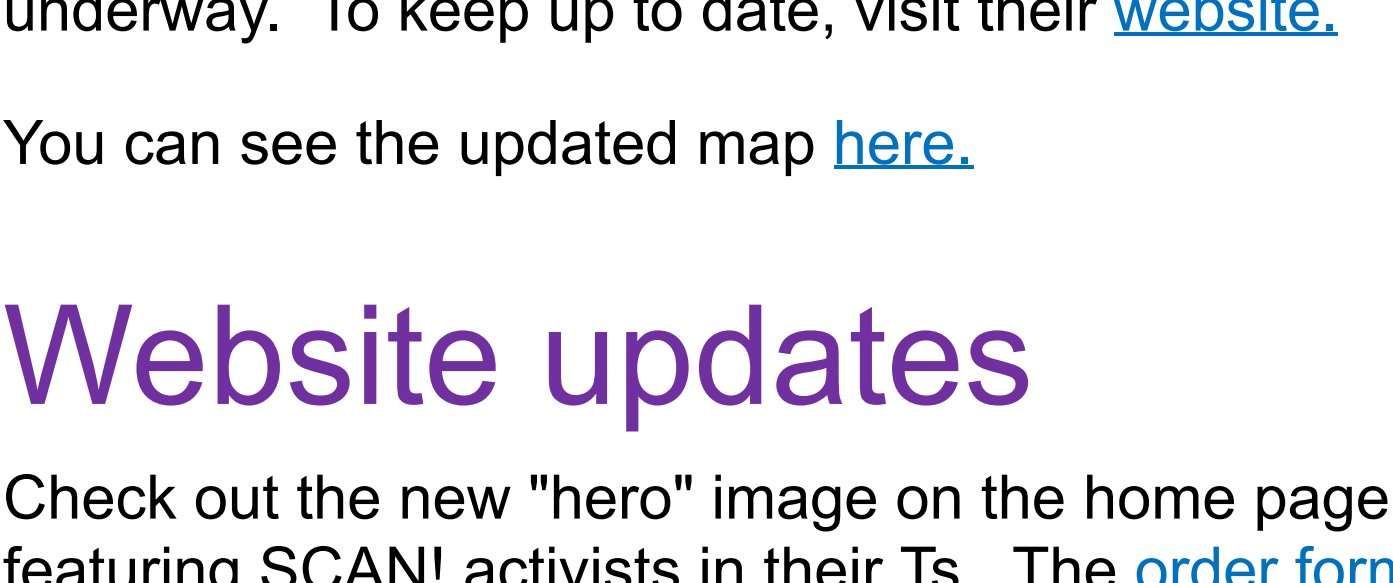
SCAN and 350 Kingston have continued petitioning for a temperature bylaw to protect apartment unit residents from extreme heat. They petitioned at apartment blocks. KFLA: Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington Public Health, the Seniors Centre, and St. Laurence College.

They sent out a press release to local media during the heat dome - and were interviewed on Global News, bringing greater public awareness to the issue and to the petition.

## Actions, letters and sign-ons

We sent a letter to the Auditor General of Ontario: a request for value for money audit of the IESO's proposed \$2.2 billion contract for OPG's proposed new 430 MW gas-fired peaker plant in Napanee.

We officially endorsed the September 18 River Run (see poster below). If you will be in Toronto on that date, RSVP [here](#).



## Seniors for Climate

Following the first successful cross-Canada meeting at the end of May, and a second meeting at the end of June, planning for at least 41 events are now underway. To keep up to date, visit their [website](#).

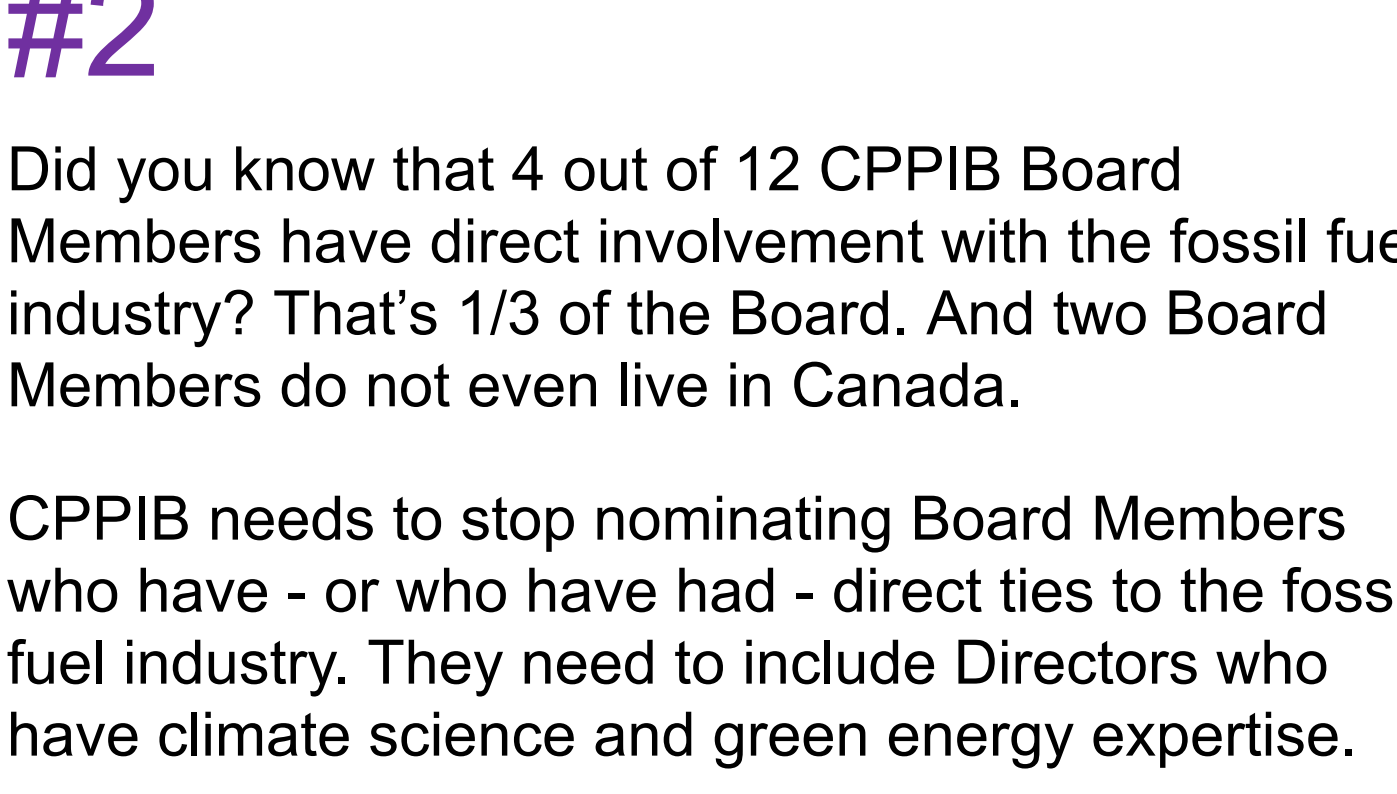
You can see the updated map [here](#).

## Website updates

Check out the new "hero" image on the home page featuring SCAN! activists in their Ts. The [order form](#) is now up as well.

The SCAN! explainer is available [here](#).

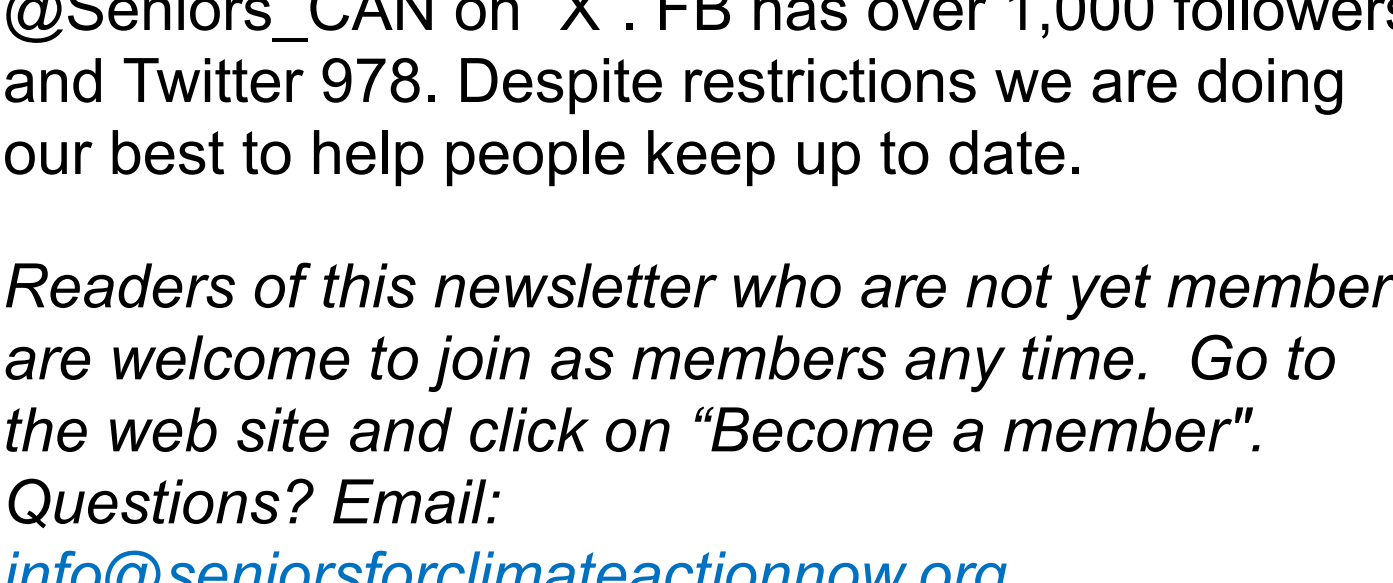
Watch the [video](#) about SCAN! created by U of T students.



## CPP Pension Corner #2

Did you know that 4 out of 12 CPPIB Board Members have direct involvement with the fossil fuel industry? That's 1/3 of the Board. And two Board Members do not even live in Canada.

CPPIB needs to stop nominating Board Members who have - or who have had - direct ties to the fossil fuel industry. They need to include Directors who have climate science and green energy expertise.



Organizing has begun in SCAN! to support the September River Run.

### 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 over 1,000 followers and Twitter 978. 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](mailto:info@seniorsforclimateactionnow.org)