



COP 29: WHY SHOULD WE CARE?

The Council of the Parties (COP) has been meeting every year since 1995. Progress in addressing the rise in global temperature has been slow. Only last year was transitioning off fossil fuels even mentioned. Burning fossil fuels is the main cause of the Greenhouse Gas emissions (GHGs) warming the planet.

In November, world leaders will gather in Baku, Azerbaijan, for COP 29. This COP is important. On the table is an urgent call for developed nations of the Global North to pull us back from the brink. Global warming has already risen 1.5 degrees over preindustrial times.

The result is extreme heat, storms, droughts and wildfires. These unnatural disasters are killing people, burning forests, destroying habitats, hurting our health and our homes. Some countries risk being entirely underwater. These disasters also cause food shortages, evacuations and climate migration. Increasingly, people will go to war over scarce resources.

The fossil fuel lobby at previous COPs had been huge. Canadians must tell government what we want our representatives to do.

CANADA: IT'S TIME TO TAKE OUR RESPONSIBILITY SERIOUSLY

Canada has to step up. We must admit that we are responsible for a large share of this problem. Canada ranks 10th among nations responsible for the human GHG emissions causing global warming. Poorer nations, which have caused so many fewer GHG emissions, are paying the price. They are unable to adapt to the havoc caused by climate catastrophes.

It is in our own interest to reduce the use of oil and gas. Switching to renewable energy is less expensive and will create healthier, more sustainable and affordable lives. The sun, wind, and the earth's own heat can supply clean, abundant, less expensive energy. This transition is underway, but not fast enough to prevent the worst of the climate disasters.

BY THE NUMBERS: CAN WE AFFORD IT?

1. Each year climate change costs every Canadian household \$750 - and the Canadian economy \$25 billion. A few hours of torrential rain in Toronto this summer caused \$1 billion in damage. The wildfires in Jasper caused \$800 million in insured damages alone. We can't afford to ignore climate change.

2. Canada's annual federal spending on climate change of about \$12 billion is less than half the \$31.3 billion we spend on the Department of National Defence. That does not include \$19 billion for new fighter jets. We need to rethink the threats to our security.
3. We continue to subsidize the production and distribution of fossil fuels. \$34 billion of taxpayers' money paid for the Trans Mountain Pipeline. Billions are going to fossil fuel and power corporations for ineffective Carbon Capture and Storage technologies. Tax credits should go to renewable sources of electric power which are much cheaper and healthier.
4. Efforts by the Global North to raise funds for the Global South reached \$100 billion last year. This is one tenth of the \$1 trillion they need. Very little has been delivered. Much of it is in the form of loans that increase the recipient's debt.

YES WE CAN! HERE'S HOW TO PAY FOR IT

1. We need to reassess and reallocate current spending. Instead of local self-interest, let's put people and planet over profits.
2. COP 29 agreements are based on the principle of shared but differentiated responsibilities. They recognize that we must all work to limit human-caused climate change. Those responsible for most of the emissions with the capacity to pay, must do so - globally and at home.
3. The federal government must put a cap on carbon emissions, especially on the producers and distributors of fossil fuels. It needs to tax their excess corporate profits. Those profits were the cause of 25% of the recent inflation in the cost of living.
4. Working- and middle-class people should not pay. They should be the beneficiaries. The cost of living will come down with funds invested in climate change through renewable energy sources and technologies.

Let's create a healthier, safer world.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Visit/telephone/email your MP. Let them know you are a voting constituent and deeply concerned that Canada must commit to doing its fair share at COP 29.

Find your MP's contact information here: <https://www.ourcommons.ca/en/contact-us>

Visit SCAN!'S COP 29 page on our website:
<https://seniorsforclimateactionnow.org/cop29-scans-action-plan>

SCAN! is calling for emergency climate action at all levels of government.

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