SCAN! signed on

We joined over 150 other organizations calling for the implementation of a **Youth Climate Corps**.

The Youth Climate Corps campaign aims to win a new federal program that would employ tens of thousands of youth and young adults. Through well-paying union jobs, YCC workers would mitigate local emissions, build more resilient communities, and support emergency responses.

Read the letter and learn more about the campaign.

We joined a number of other organizations in signing a letter to Environment Minister Guilbeault demanding that no permits be issued by the federal government until after a full federal impact assessment of the **Highway 413** project is completed. (See Highway 413 below.)

In keeping with our previous positions, we signed a statement demanding that the Government of Canada impose a full and immediate **arms embargo** on Israel.

Environmental Defence blog

SCAN!'s co-chairs were very pleased to be invited to write a blog for them.

Member David Robertson presented at the Ontario hearings on **Bill 214: The Affordable Energy Act**. His remarks as well as the full brief are now on the website. From his presentation:

“Ontario’s Affordable Energy Future” [It] commits to the largest and most expensive expansion of nuclear power in Canada’s history. It provides natural gas companies a long and profitable lifeline. It sets Ontario households up to be overcharged on energy bills and shortchanges them on renewable energy. And it continues to ignore the climate crisis.

Highway 413

Ontario Premier Ford announced he would exempt Highway 413 from any further environmental assessments.

This highway will destroy 2000 acres of farmland and 400 acres of the Greenbelt and damage many beloved Conservation Areas.

SCAN! members joined allied organizations to put pressure on the federal government to take responsibility with a federal impact assessment. The group rallied outside the office of a supportive Liberal MP before marching to the office of a Conservative MPP.

You can take action here.

(See SCAN!'s sign-on above.)

Recently passed Ontario's Bill 212 mostly garnered press because of blaming bike lanes for gridlock; but it also drew concern from Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, because of will allowing work to begin on Highway 413 before an Indigenous consultation is finished. The bill exempts the project from the Environmental Assessment Act.

Environmental Defence released a statement on the federal government's obligation to use its own powers to prevent environmental harm that falls within federal jurisdiction.

COP 29

SCAN!'s home page of the website was very active during COP29. Aside from a number of action items, the goal was to give people daily summaries from the trenches as they came in, especially from CAN-rac delegates. Now that COP 29 is over, we have uploaded several links to analyses of the events.

Reports from our chapters

Guelph

They now have an "executive" of 8. (Chair, vice chair, treasurer, membership/CiviCRM, education, secretary, communications, member at large). Outside of the "executive", they have a City Hall liaison, and reps for various community groups.

They sent out their first broadcast email (*very attractive! - ed.*). They established a bank account at the Credit Union. At the end of October, they held a chapter meeting with 26 in attendance.

In early November, two SCAN! members delegated at a Committee of the Whole meeting at City Hall. Ten people were there in support, several in SCAN! T-shirts (see photo above). That certainly caught the attention of council. They argued in favour of a motion to NOT automatically renew the Franchise Agreement with Enbridge; and negotiate for them to start paying the City for its liberal access to their underground turf. SCAN! Guelph characterizes this struggle as David and Goliath. The agreement comes due in May 2025: one small victory in the right direction. SCAN! Guelph made the press again. (Note: SCAN! Guelph has been in the press at least once each month since September.)

They have started presentations in their local Retirement Homes in partnership with the Raging Grannies.

They are currently planning a community information evening in early December with Environmental Defence and Guelph Climate Action Network. They want to share information and the implications of Bill 212 (Bike Lanes, 413 and civil liberties).

Their Mayor is exercising his strong mayor powers to push through a very "attractive" budget (only 4% increase). However, that either eliminates, defers or slows down climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives among other things. There is no way Guelph will meet its 2030 emissions target and certainly not its 2050 target. They may end up back at City Hall.

Kingston

Kingston SCAN! is in process planning. They developed a draft 6-point work plan for 2025, to focus their efforts and work. They will invite members for a fuller discussion in December and finalize the plan in the first meeting of the new year.

Work continues on the temperature by-law, including a meeting with public health in late September, and consultation with the Canadian Environmental Law Association lawyer who is working on the Hamilton temperature bylaw.

On November 8, SCAN! held an information table at the Ontario Green Party convention in Kingston where they had some good conversations, got signatures on two petitions - and six people signed their contact list. Members of SCAN! Kingston attended a screening of Yintah, with speaker, Eve Saint in attendance, an inspiring gathering of local Indigenous community leaders.

Edmonton

One of our newer chapters started with planning a Climate Panel event for Seniors Day on October 1. They had some 90 attendees, with four experts answering questions related to climate change and climate justice, followed by small group discussions. There were about 10 different NGO groups as event partners or with display tables, as well as representation from the City of Edmonton. Their Mayor gave a short speech. Three City Councillors also attended. They contacted some 60 people who provided their email addresses, and as result, have recruited about 8 new members.

They held a Meet and Greet social event in November. Eight new people joined at this SCAN! awareness and information session, which included treats, stimulating conversations as well as artistic activities.

They have started having regular chapter meetings on Zoom every two weeks.

They continue to build connections and relationships with several groups, including Indigenous Climate Action, the City of Edmonton's Change for Climate, City of Edmonton Councillor Michael Janz, Edmonton Youth for Climate and others. Edmonton discussed its Carbon Budget on November 13, where there was an opportunity to ask questions through public input.

They also had a presence at a shared display table at Edmonton's 2024 Parkland Institute Conference.

Have a look at their new page on the website.

Barrie

After the great effort on October 1 to put climate change on the agenda for seniors, they feel they did accomplish a few baby steps in November.

After Oct. 1, they were asked to attend a meeting of the Sustainability Committee for the City of Barrie to see where SCAN! might be able to fit in. Barrie City Council's failure to follow through on its own emissions plan had been mentioned on the news; and City Hall's staffer for emissions had been contacted after their Seniors for Climate Action.

They report that the meeting was not very productive. The areas where their work could have been mentioned (tree planting, pollinator gardens …) were too small in vision for the scale of the climate emergency. They decided to continue to primarily focus their actions on activism and public education.

They attended a meeting of the Canadian Labour Congress, trying to create liaisons. Talk included the necessity for progressive political action in the upcoming provincial and federal elections.

They have since met with the staff member in charge of Barrie's emissions for some straight answers. There was little information, because provincial reports lag behind city data. The current council has never adopted the Inspiring Climate Action Report created by the previous city council. They were told that this council will adopt emissions friendly actions if those actions can be shown to save money – immediately - or over a short time frame. The council will not look at long-term gain as a reason to become climate friendly. There have been several incremental changes the city is making to lower their carbon footprint, such as buying EV trucks.

SCAN! Barrie has won back permission to take part in the Farmer's Market. They will attend in January and then request a spot for Earth Day.

They joined the Simcoe County Greenbelt Coalition in a Zoom call.

Kawartha

SCAN! Kawartha has set priorities going forward from Oct. 1. They feel the need for a reset after focusing their energy on that event; and trying to convince their local council not to support an expansion of Enbridge in their city.

They expressed the need for education on multiple fronts and to get more people to actively support the need to combat climate change: build SCAN! Kawartha membership; educate the public on the available technology; e.g., heat pumps, solar panels; political engagement and youth engagement.

In terms of local political engagement, there are two councillors out of nine who have been pro-environment. They need to increase their efforts and gain greater support from council for climate change abatement policies.

Toronto

SCAN! Toronto has been active in preparing submissions on Climate Adaptation for the city government. Members of SCAN! Toronto met with a key City official in late November to discuss their submissions. Some members also participated in the first stage of the City Budget process with next steps in January. The City's five-year climate plan, Transform TO (2026 – 2030) is on their agenda. They have started working on the plan with other Toronto climate organizations, beginning with a training where former Mayor David Miller and others spoke.

They have also been busy at the neighbourhood level. In early November, they had a table at Ecofair Toronto, with 1,300 attendees. The engagement level for SCAN! and the other environmental groups at the fair was very high. They also collaborated with Green Neighbours Network in forming a new group in Don Valley West riding to raise the profile of environmental issues for a November 4 by-election. This work was successful: the anti-environmental candidate lost after leading in the polls.

SCAN! Toronto participated through Toronto East Residents for Renewable Energy (TERRE) in a "Passing on Gas" rally in early November to demand cancellation of the Portlands Gas Plant expansion - and a phase-out of the plant by 2030. Members also rallied to support TTCRiders' demand that the federal government fund transit properly, most notably, to provide support for operating expenses. The rally was also in opposition to Ford's plans to tear up bike lanes in Toronto, and to require that municipalities get approval for new bike ones.

The chapter also celebrated the release of the court decision affirming the right of youth to proceed with their action. A second celebration: the City of Toronto took the first step toward banning fossil fuel advertising in the city.

Brant/Hamilton/Niagara/Norfolk

Our newest chapter reports that they decided on an organizational structure that is “flat”. The chair position will rotate among members of the group as well as note taking and land acknowledgement responsibilities. In their first two meetings, they discussed: Hamilton’s Climate Change Action Strategy, the likelihood of an upcoming Ontario election and an “elevator pitch” that they can use when talking to potential members. New members living in Brant, Hamilton, Niagara and Norfolk are very welcome to join them. Contact them through their new page on the website.

Northumberland

Harvest Fest: Seniors For Climate/SCAN! EV Blue Dot booth.

Ottawa

Back in October. their SFC flash mob rallied outside the Westin Hotel where the CPPIB was holding a public meeting (see photo above). They handed out the SCAN! CPP divestment campaign pamphlet and post cards. A number of their members attended the meeting and were able to ask well crafted questions. They got mostly non-answers and obfuscation. However, the board is obviously more sensitive to climate concerns compared to even only a few years ago. They are feeling the need to keep up the pressure.

One early morning in late November, SCAN! Ottawa members joined other groups to demonstrate as government officials and finance industry representatives entered the Sustainable Finance Forum. Last year this gained a lot of attention. They wanted to drive home the need for just climate finance.

The chapter met in person twice in November to plan their activities for the coming year. They also discussed how they are structured and how they can best function.

They purchased a folding portable table and canopy. A member is worked on a design for a retractable portable sign for tabling and other events. Thanks to SCAN! funds for this.

London

They held a review of their October 1 Seniors for Climate event during a lunch celebration. Allied organizations joined them, and ***Emissions Caps*** were handed out. They began discussions about a spring event, in concert with the cross-Canada Seniors for Climate plans, and perhaps with Earthfest in April. The same day, they set up a display table at the Cherryhill Mall Public Library, hosted by the London Environmental Network. The SFC Flag helped to draw in participants.

The chapter held a joint breakfast meeting with Seniors for Climate allies. Plans for visiting each City Councillor, MPP, and MP were set in motion. They had a first appointment with Lindsay Mathyssen, NDP MP for London – Fanshawe. They also met with Teresa Armstrong, NDP MPP, also for London – Fanshawe.

Pension and Divestment Corner

The CPPIB (Canada Pension Plan Investment Board) invests billions in fossil fuels both in Canada and in several other countries.

They are mandated to hold public meetings every two years. On Nov. 21 they held their national, virtual meeting. This was a **one-hour** meeting.

They had previously held in-person meetings in Nova Scotia, Ottawa, Winnipeg and Vancouver. SCAN! members attended some of them.

Approximately 8,000 Canadians registered for the Nov. 21 virtual meeting. SCAN! members, along with SHIFT and Lead Now, submitted climate related questions regarding the investments made by CPPIB on behalf of Canadians**.**

During the meeting, only one climate related question was addressed. The CEO stated that “the fund will not engage in blanket divestment of any industry”. He spoke of the need to “continue to invest and support oil and gas.”

He also stated that they “see gas [natural gas] as a transition fuel, relative to coal for example, or oil.” Reader of this newsletter know that “natural” (fossil) gas produces the greenhouse gases that are heating the planet and damaging our climate.

For the CPPIB it is business as usual.

Work continues to find ways to let CPPIB know that Canadians who pay into the plan or receive CPP do not want their investments to feed the climate crisis.

Facebook, Twitter (X) and Bluesky

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 still sending readers to “X” to see the link. For now, you can continue to follow @Seniors_CAN on “X”. Plans are underway to make the switch to Bluesky, but this will require time.

FB has 1.3k followers and Twitter 1,100.

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