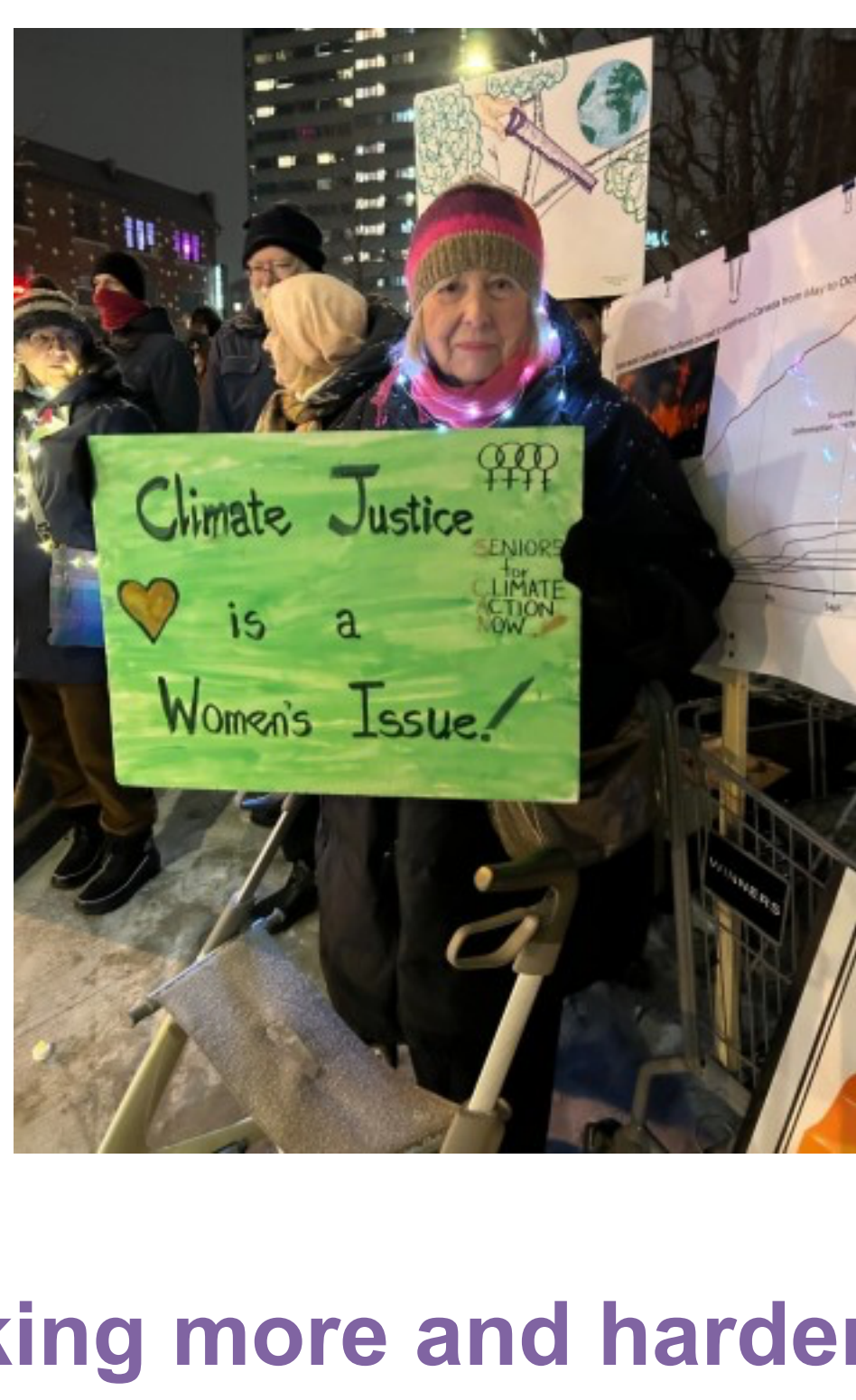




Working more and harder than ever

(Pictured above, a vigil held in Toronto for people suffering from wildfires in LA.)

Immediately after Trump's inauguration, he stated his intention to pull out of the Paris accord. Reading climate commentators in the Energy Mix and The National Observer, we learn that the actual Paris withdrawal will only take effect a year after the U.S. formally notifies the United Nations. There was also a somewhat hopeful comment: local governments, First Nations, and civil society are picking up some of the slack.

That's us: picking up the slack,

In Ontario, the writ dropped just a few days ago. 140 Ontario members registered to plan a campaign to counteract the damage Premier Ford has inflicted on the climate, while tearing apart the social safety net. Like people across the country, Ontarians demand housing, education, health services and access to affordable, nutritious food.

We have created a [page](#) on the website for members in Ontario that will support our work during the campaign with resources. (Some fun stuff there, too.)

Regarding the February 27 Ontario vote, here is a [petition](#) calling for the Ontario NDP, Liberal and Green parties to make proportional representation a priority in their election platforms. The Ontario Clean Air Alliance is promoting [these questions](#) to party leaders.

Also [this forum](#) will be of interest to Ontario activists.

In the meantime, members across the country are preparing for the spring Seniors for Climate mobilization. We will also have to get ready for a federal election, which will likely take place on the heels of the Ontario election.

We acknowledge that as seniors, we do what we can as we also deal with health issues and losses. But when we are feeling strong, we fight like hell for the future of the planet.

SCAN! signed on to:

- CAN-Rac statement on Emissions Reduction Cap
- Ontario Nature letter (Ontario's budget consultation: ensuring nature is accounted for)
- support eight Indigenous nations' letter to designate Pathways Alliance massive carbon capture and storage network in northeast Alberta, for a federal environmental assessment.
- CAN-Rac's [response](#) to Trump & tariff threats



Amazing work in the chapters

It is really interesting, exciting and inspiring to see what they are up to.

Kingston

SCAN Kingston has prioritized some plans for 2025. Outreach is underway to bring together groups across Kingston to plan Earth Day and to join nationwide Seniors for Climate events on Saturday April 26. Kingston SCAN, 350 Kingston and Kingston Climate Justice Coalition met and agreed to support the [All of Us Together](#) campaign led by 350 Canada. They are focusing on increasing participation by youth and Indigenous people.

SCAN! members set up a meeting with an environmental defense lawyer and members of Kingston city council in January to discuss what Kingston can do to implement a maximum temperature by-law and advance work on this issue.

SCAN! members had a table at the Kingston Climate Change Symposium (see above), an inspiring event, that focused on "empowering youth to grow a sustainable future" with keynote address by Indigenous activists, Autumn Peltier.

"Later is Too Late" (a Seniors for Climate documentary created by Nancy Nicol) will [premiere](#) at the Screening Room, in Kingston, Sunday March 16 in the afternoon, with a panel to talk about issues raised in the film and to build for Earth Day and election work. [Woo hoo! - ed]

Edmonton

They attended the Tailings Conference protest at the University of Alberta and decided to join the Oil Sands Tailings Coalition and promote this [petition](#) as well as this [statement](#) in solidarity with Indigenous communities subjected to the environmental racism of oil sands mining from Climate Action Coalition @ualberta.

GANG (Grandmothers of Alberta for a New Generation) is hosting a Fashion for Climate event in May on climate change and its impact on Africa, Canada and the world. SCAN! Edmonton will be involved.

To promote the Youth Climate Corps, they are sending the [open letter of support](#) to Alberta MPs, and promoting it to other organizations.

They are looking into promoting Idle Free zones at some Edmonton schools using City of Edmonton - Change for Climate signs.

They are collaborating with a Community League and the uses of [Air Quality Health Index Bulbs](#).

They attended the Enough is Enough coal mine protest in Calgary in January.

Their Education Committee is doing a slide show presentation at a Seniors Association in February, with questions and answers to follow. They are having an education piece every month. At the end of each meeting, they include a sharing section for links to articles, videos, webinars, etc. They are also putting out monthly newsletters. They have also decided to do a group action each meeting (e.g., a petition).

For the Seniors for Climate Spring Event, they are planning a demonstration on April 26, 2025. Under discussion, the theme of affordability and climate change, following the 350.org [All of us Together](#) (Tax Their Billions, Fund Our Future).

Barrie

They tabled at a recent Barrie's Farmer's Market on the snowiest day of the year and made some new connections. They will apply to get a spot at the Farmer's Market again soon.

They had their first zoom meeting of the year with a great turnout and are planning on monthly meetings. At their first meeting of 2025, they focused on ideas for Earth Day and the Seniors for Climate initiative revolving around Climate Conversations, Between the Generations. One of their actions involves a liaison with a Global Perspectives class in Simcoe County with 22 Grade 11 students. They spoke with the teacher spearheading the initiative and set up a meeting in February.

They met with a representative of the Simcoe County Greenbelt Coalition. They discussed their Earth Day Event and plans for creating a broader alliance among local "green" groups.

Toronto

SCAN! Toronto has been busy with the City budget and Transform TO Action Plan 2026-30 process, both of which occupied the January calendar. They have written a brief on Transform TO; and some members have met with Councillors. Several SCAN! Toronto members deputed during budget deliberations and/or submitted a written deputation to the Toronto Budget Committee.

The Seniors for Climate spring mobilization in Toronto is under way. They have reached out to For Our Kids in the hope that they will bring an intergenerational component.

At the neighbourhood level, SCAN! members are part of a new coalition group in Eglinton-Lawrence. Their first event took place in January with former Councillor, Mike Layton, now working at Second Harvest, on Food Rescue and Climate.

The chapter will have a strong presence during the election campaign in Ontario, with pop-up events to sing and hand out leaflets. Several members will also collaborate with [Not One Seat](#).

Guelph

They tabled at a grade 9 climate conference with other local climate groups. There was great enthusiasm for their members for this event. They had more volunteers than spaces to fill.

The chapter met in January to discuss building their community of activities, which include education about how banks finance fossil fuels. This will be followed at a later date by a session they are planning on how people can move their assets.

They are also planning for Earth Day, working with other groups in Guelph, but also hosting their own events. They want to hold workshops concerning climate and insurance, climate and finance etc. The chapter is working on heat adaptation - printing and distributing their own "Keep Cool" postcard and investigating a potential heat by-law.

In addition, they are preparing for pending election(s) and ramping up their fossil fuel divestment campaign. For the latter, they intend to start protesting at RBC.

SCAN! Guelph is supporting another climate group in Guelph (eMerge) in asking for a by-law that will ban fossil fuel advertising, duplicating what is happening in Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto (and Amsterdam). They have a keen city councillor who is very interested in supporting this effort.

Ottawa

The Ottawa Region now has re-organized with a Leadership Team and committees to take on key responsibilities. The Leadership Team has met twice. They had a Membership Meeting in late January.

A monthly newsletter has been re-introduced after a hiatus. It summarizes climate actions in the region and offers links to be more involved.

For Earth Week, they are planning a major event with a focus on federal and provincial elections, on or around April 22. They have contacted their allies in the Ottawa Region about working together. They also had a successful outreach to the Algonquins of Kitigaan Zibi, with a view to involving the First Nation and urban Indigenous folks as full partners in the planning.

To get to know more about their membership (now at 90) [*wowza! - ed*], the Leadership Team is contacting each member personally during January, by phone - where they have a number - and email, where they don't. They want to ascertain how much activity they can expect from their members. They developed a script for the phone call and a draft for the email.

They are planning a chili lunch and climate conversation activity for members and friends in February, called Give the Earth a Valentine.

They continue to be part of OCEC, CAFES Ottawa, and Fridays for Future.

Brant/Hamilton/Niagara/Norfolk

They met in January to discuss their vision/mission for the BHNN Chapter. They will create 1-page promotion for \$200 donation suggestions, as well as sending a letter to the editor. They are planning their 2025 Earth Day call to action and paying close attention to the Provincial/Federal Election Watch. Going forward, the chapter will have a market table opportunity.

Northumberland

SCAN! Northumberland met in January to discuss Seniors for Climate Earth Day, April 26. Concerning the upcoming elections, SCAN! Northumberland will work with their local coalition members.

Kawartha

The chapter met in January. One new item of concern was about the appearance at City of Kawartha Lakes Council in November of a person representing the far-right climate-denying group KICLEI (Kicking International Council out of Local Environmental Initiatives). They are wondering if other regions are seeing a KICLEI presence.



SFC documentary

Nancy Nicol is putting the finishing touches on this film which documents the 76 events that took place across the country last October 1 (Seniors' Day). It will be a wonderful way to promote climate activism. Nancy intends to prepare short clips that can be used as educational tools. This massive project was undertaken with love, and for that, we are very grateful.

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. It is important to amplify this information. Please continue to like, share, retweet etc.

We have now established a presence on Bluesky. You can follow us @s4can.bsky.social. Until we have transferred our followers from Twitter ("X") we are still sending people there as well: @Seniors_CAN. The Toronto chapter also has an Instagram account. Please follow it: @scan_toronto

FB has 1.4k followers and Twitter 966. Some people have already left the latter platform which is likely reflected in the drop in followers. 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

us: info@seniorsforclimateactionnow.org