RESPONSE to the FEDERAL BUDGET 2025

FAILING FUTURE GENERATIONS

NOVEMBER 13, 2025

While world leaders gather in Brazil to discuss reducing greenhouse gas emissions and activating climate commitments, Canadians are faced with a new federal budget that is weak in measures to combat the climate crisis and silent about whether the federal government intends to attempt to meet Canada's international climate commitments.

As seniors, we consider this budget to fall far short of the government's moral obligations towards the wellbeing of Canada's children and grandchildren, Indigenous communities, future Canadians, future generations and our planet.

The budget's focus is on "build(ing) the *strongest* economy in the G7"- but at what cost? Putting economic growth first, with little mention or consideration of its probable impacts on the environment, and on peoples' health and wellbeing, rising social inequalities, and costs to future generations, is unsustainable …and un-Canadian. Canadians value social justice, physical and mental well-being, and nature. This was promised to us by this government in the recent federal election. Few of us aspire to be "the biggest/strongest of the G7" or "an energy superpower" if that means such values are disregarded.

To be specific, this budget:

- Disregards the fact that fossil fuels are the key driver of the climate crisis. It sets aside the government's avowed commitment to implementing a cap on emissions from the oil and gas sector and succumbs to industry pressures to amend Canada's anti-greenwashing rules.
- Prioritizes development of fossil fuel (LNG) facilities and to extending the existing investment tax credit for carbon capture and storage for oil and gas. The effectiveness of such measures is under debate and likely far less effective than claimed. These measures are a win for the companies operating in Canada (few of which are Canadian) most responsible for climate change. It is not clear when the commitment to more stringent methane regulations for the oil and gas sector will be implemented.
- Offers no new spending for emission reduction programs.
- Sacrifices existing programs that drive down carbon emissions, such as money for tree planting, home energy efficiency, and public transit funding.
- Contains no funding to support the expansion of an east-west clean electricity grid beyond the Clean Electricity Investment Tax Credit, which will make the construction of such a grid difficult while neglecting the urgent need to expedite this work.

- Troubles us by describing gas and nuclear energy as “clean” electricity while bypassing renewable energy sources like wind and solar.
- Commits to expanding mining of critical minerals and other nation-building projects without noting the need for free, prior and informed consent of **all** Indigenous peoples of those lands. Note that during the opening of UN climate talks in Brazil, Lula da Silva, President of Brazil, reminded negotiators that "the climate emergency is an increase of inequality." In Canada, the groups most severely affected by the priorities of this budget are Indigenous peoples.
- Is mainly silent about poverty reduction and income inequality, and increases global inequality and migration pressure by greatly reducing international development aid.
- Barely alludes to nature, does not mention biodiversity, threatened species or ecosystem protection, and ignores previous commitments to protect 30 per cent of lands and waters by 2030 (30x30).

To coin a term from Carney’s budget, “INVESTING WHERE IT COUNTS,” there are economic benefits in investing in renewables and the environment:

- Getting fossil fuels out of the economy is essential if Canada is to position itself in a decarbonizing global economy. Canada must do more to advance clean energy and clean technology such as electric vehicles, heat pumps, and rooftop solar.
- Extreme weather, floods and wildfires are costing billions in insurable losses in Canada. There are enormous costs related to human physical and mental health, property loss and the impacts on productivity which tax breaks for investing companies will not address. **Failure to act decisively on climate change by limiting activities that drive the climate crisis and by failing to invest in mitigation and adaptation to climate change will be increasingly costly for Canadians and the Canadian economy.**
- Lessening our impacts on the environment and costs related to climate change mitigation and adaptation are an INVESTMENT in our future and that of future generations.

As seniors, we cannot ignore the fact that on a per capita basis Canada is still one of the world's most polluting countries. We have a moral obligation to take action to protect the livelihoods and welfare of future generations. The present budget fails that task.

Main References

- https://seniorsforclimateactionnow.org/scans-position-papers/
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- https://www.policyalternatives.ca/news-research/alternative-federal-budget-2026-summary/
- https://climateactionnetwork.ca/climate-action-network-canada-reacts-to-budget-2025/ (of which we are a member)
- https://environmentaldefence.ca/2025/11/04/environmental-defence-reaction-to-canadas-federal-budget/
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