Danger: Heat, war, Indigenous rights

The US bombing of Iran's nuclear facilities raised the temperature in an already risky situation. Geopolitics is out of hand, as are current catastrophic climate events. The crisis is global – and so is the solution.

Global peace must accompany a worldwide divestment from fossil fuels through massive investments in renewable energy. The global call for days of action September 19 – 21 moves us one step closer.

Our chapters are already planning for the Canadian Day of Action on September 20 seeking out like-minded organizations with which to partner and make this mobilization BIG.

Coordinating Committee

SCAN!'s new coordinating committee was accepted by members attending the June GMM. They have important work ahead of them. We wish them the best in their endeavours on behalf of the organization.

In the meantime, the outgoing CC signed on to a letter to the Prime Minister which included a call for the government to commit significant federal funding toward permitting, planning and construction of strategic interprovincial and intra-provincial electricity transmission projects. In Ontario, we supported opposition to Bills 5 and Bill 17. The organization has been amplifying opposition to federal Bill C-5.

Re: Ontario's Bill 5

In early June, an in-person Toronto gathering attracted a large crowd from across Ontario for an excellent session on Bill 5. Speakers explored the far-reaching implications of the bill, from threats to biodiversity and Indigenous sovereignty, to the weakening of public participating in decision-making. With powerful insights from Indigenous leaders, and many lively questions from the audience, the evening offered a deeper understanding of what's at stake and how we can come together to take strong action.

Ontario members, please sign a letter seeking repeal and read more information. A follow-up session will be held on July 8.

In the news; and actions you can take

SCAN! Guelph was in the news with their Bill 5 protest.

SCAN! Kawartha's demonstration (above) against Bill 5 made the Peterborough Examiner News (Kawartha Lakes This Week).

David Robertson's article, "Ontario's costly nuclear folly" appeared in Canadian Dimension

For Our Kids Alberta reports that the letter we signed on methane emissions did not result in the regulations being passed but they encourage members to sign this letter.

You will find similar action items on the home page of the website. Scroll down to "Here are some important steps you can take right now".

ReClimate suggests 9 Ways to Connect Climate Change to Canada's Wildfire Story

Wildfires in Canada are getting worse because of climate change, yet the media often fails to clearly make this link. ReClimate has developed practical tips to strengthen your media strategy this wildfire season. By using these tips, you can help Canadians understand the true causes of wildfires and inspire collective climate action.

In the chapters

Guelph

Their monthly in person meeting had a full house with about 30 people where the Manager of Energy and Climate Change for the City of Guelph presented his report, *Community Call to Action.* He said Guelph needs to get 60,000 of the estimated 100,000 cars in Guelph off the road to meet their target; and that their emissions are increasing, not decreasing.

SCAN! Guelph co-signed a letter to the editor for a community response to the *Community Call to Action* report.

They tabled at the Farmers' Market collecting signatures for MPP Mike Schreiner petition to stop or amend Bill 5. They got over 96 signatures in about 2 hours.

SCAN! members in green Ts marched to protest Bill 5 and got great coverage in the County newspaper.

You can follow their Instagram here.

Edmonton

Their Seniors for Climate Committee is preparing for the 350.org Draw the Line Campaign on Sept. 20. They formed a planning committee with members from various local groups, got event ideas from the SFC brainstorming session, have partner organizations on board and will meet with a 350.org Edmonton rep.

They tabled at a Fashion for Climate Action, hosted by Grandmothers of Alberta for a New Generation, showcasing hand crafted vests illustrating climate change and its impact on Africa, Canada and the world.

They sent a grant letter of support which, if successful, will allow them to be collaborators and contributors in a 5 day conference, with experts from across the country about climate change and elder health, and also Indigenous ways of knowing, aimed at training health researchers on how climate change impacts healthy aging in communities in Alberta and beyond.

They printed 300 Climate Emergency Unit "Signed, Seared and Delivered" Postcards with a hand painted picture of Banff national park on fire, and a message demanding that policy makers take action.

They are also working together with For Our Kids Alberta to target methane emission reductions, including letter writing and contacting politicians. (See above).

Ongoing meetings with Indigenous Climate Action are taking place to learn, build relationships and collaborate.

Ottawa

They were caught off guard by Bill 5 - Unleashing Ontario's Economy Act the Act - a sudden announcement that came on the heels of the federal election. Their chapter managed to submit a comment to the ERO on the Bill. They also made a written submission to the Standing Committee on the Interior. Their newsletter urged members to submit their own comments, to call Doug Ford and their MPPs.

They worked with the Kitigan Zibi Land guardians to submit a request to the Indigenous Solidarity Fund in support of their work.

They held an in-person membership meeting in May, where they discussed how to collaborate with 350.org, Seniors for Climate and other groups in Ottawa around September 20-21, and what their particular role would be.

Their monthly newsletter and social media posts are important means of communicating with their membership, providing ideas for action.

They continue to work with the Ontario Climate Emergency Campaign and Community Action for Environmental Sustainability (CAFES). CAFES is the key network of environmental organizations in Ottawa and has an active Climate Caucus. They are skilled municipal lobbyists. SCAN! Ottawa members do all of their city work in collaboration with that network, including anti-greenwashing campaigns, public transit, and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) promotion.

Calgary

They are slowly moving towards forming a chapter.

They remind us that wildfires in Canada had an early start this year. As of June 9, 2.7 million hectares had been burnt (compared to 0.512 million hectares in 2024 on the same date).

They saw the G-7 Summit as an event with a potential implication on climate policy. Climate change was not on the agenda. The "improvement of joint responses to wildfires" is listed, but not the causes of the forest fires, nor any link to climate change.

Protests and demonstrations were restricted to a few designated locations. The Calgary Climate Hub protested, attended by SCAN! members.

Kingston

Kingston members had a well attended social gathering - a true social - no "shop talk."

They have a small committee working on getting Kingston to pass a heat by-law, so that no one has to endure temperatures above 26 degrees in their homes.

Kingston's rally against Bill 5 was covered favourably by their local Whig Standard newspaper.

Kawartha

They held a well attended protest against Bill 5 in May. The core group was from Kawartha Lakes. There was also a smaller group from outside Kawartha Lakes in attendance – Haliburton and Peterborough. The protest was held outside of the conservative MPP's office and received public support from passing vehicles. The Peterborough Examiner picked up pictures of the protest they published with their article.

They are focusing on planning a public meeting to promote Go Transit service to their area as well as looking for more ways to generate public support and attract new members to SCAN!

Brant, Hamilton, Niagara, Norfolk (BHNN)

Members participated in a rally in Beamsville in early June outside MPP Sam Oosterhoff's office to protest Bill 5 and Bill 17. It was in collaboration with Niagara environmental groups. There were about 50 people.

They are now planning for September action(s) to support international action on climate.

Barrie

At their monthly meeting, they had a good discussion on directions for their Seniors For Climate Event in September.

Members attended the AGM of the Simcoe County Greenbelt Coalition, of which Barrie SCAN! is a supporting member. There were about 20 people, all representing different social or environmental perspectives- an excellent networking opportunity.

They sent emails to three teachers who expressed interest in involving their students in their climate initiatives. They are also are working on connecting with a student led Rotary Group they met through the Global Perspectives Class they worked with last year.

They contacted the library and the Farmer's Market to see if they could have a movable climate display on Sept. 20/21 in their venues demonstrating different ways to DRAW the LINE such as…

Between wildfire and emissions, between mitigation and climate catastrophe, between percentage of oil burned and percentage not used for burning (exploding the myth of decarbonization), between renewables in Canada and other countries to name just a few…

Here are some of their innovative ideas:

- a climate quiz as a conversation starter
- 3D displays – carbon cubes
- SUN charts using dollar bills from Monopoly… SOLAR
- Stacks of items demonstrating 350 ppm vs. where we're at now…
- Comparison charts between products which burn oil and those which don't (plastics) – why decarbonization is a myth in pictographs
- Fire displays linked to increasing emissions
- Banners, murals, quotes…

They are planning to contact other local groups to gather more support for the event – Living Green Barrie, Greys for Greens, Native Friendship Centre, Kairos and Pollinate Barrie.

They have also volunteered to take part in any actions against Bill 5.

Toronto

The chapter was active in opposing the provincial government's Bill 5 and Bill 17 through rallies, petitions and letter-writing. The bills concentrate power in the provincial government and away from municipalities, threaten Indigenous rights, and allow the province to avoid the usual scrutiny of dubious deals in "special economic zones" including Ontario Place and the Ring of Fire. The bills passed despite the efforts of SCAN! and our allies; but the struggle continues. Indigenous people have set up an encampment in Queen's Park. Some SCAN! members have visited and offered support.

Toronto City Council debated a by-law which would significantly limit locations for protests. SCAN! opposed the by-law, but it too passed. A motion for release of a city solicitor opinion on the impact of the Charter of Rights on the by-law failed. It is likely that this issue is headed to court.

At the neighbourhood level, they have been focused on reaching parts of Toronto outside the downtown core and particularly diverse communities. They have a bi-weekly Climate Café at a local senior's drop-in centre, which shows promise in building trust through slower education. They hope to replicate this method in other parts of the city.

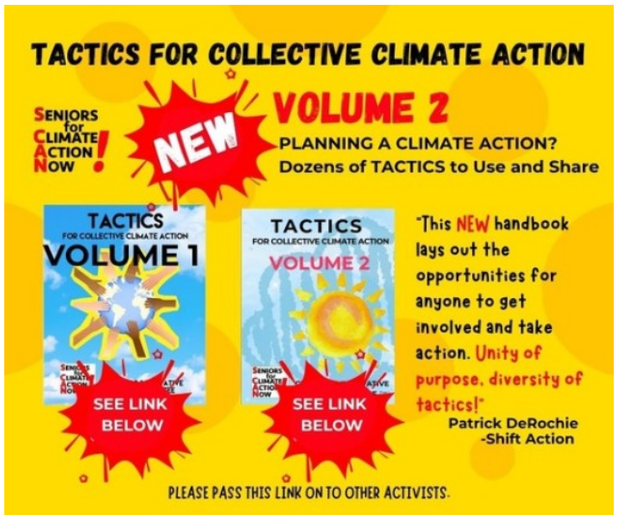
They tabled at a popular downtown park for UN World Environment Day and enjoyed positive response to their message. There were some significant networking opportunities.

SCAN! Toronto organized two events for Seniors For Climate. There is now a coaltion preparing for Sept. 20 including representation from Environmental Defence, 350 Toronto, Greenpeace, ClimateFast, labour, housing and other social justice groups.

London

The Chapter was busy with tabling events, handing out over three dozen promotional cards.

They met with the London Seniors for Climate organizers and continued to brainstorm venues and a schedule. They recently had a picnic lunch in a local park. They are working on a retractable banner to be ready for September's Climate Action Day.



Volumes 1 and 2

Volume 1

Volume 2

Social media

SCAN!'s FB page gets a lot of traffic. Some chapters have started a FB group or page. For example, Toronto has a FB group. There are also several Instagram accounts: scan_toronto, scan_ottawa, edmontonseniorsclimateaction, scankingston. As well, many of us follow the Seniors For Climate Instagram account: climateseniors.

It is always important to amplify to get the message out. It's great to "like" but better to "share".

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 as well as Bluesky.

You can follow us on Bluesky @seniorsfcan.bluesky.social

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 website and click on "Become a member".

Encourage friends, family and neighbours to sign up for the newsletter. *They can sign up* ***from our website.***