Draw the Line is over/not over

SCAN!'s work was very focused on preparing for and executing DTL events in September. The work continues. Some chapters established good working relationships with related organizations and will continue down this road. The day-to-day oprganizing never stops. Read more in the chapters' reports.

Breaking news

We don't ususally publish news stories here but this is BIG.

Four young Canadians are taking the sixth largest pension fund manager in the world to court, claiming it's breaching its duty to invest in their best interests by failing to protect their pensions from climate risk.

Represented by lawyers from Ecojustice and Goldblatt Partners LLP, Aliya Hirji, Travis Olson, Rav Singh, and Chloe Tse, allege that the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPP Investments) is breaching its legal duties by subjecting pension contributions to undue risk of loss from poorly managed climate risk.

This marks the first time a Canadian investor has been sued for mismanaging climate risks.

Globally, it is the first climate case against a pension fund investment manager anchored in the duty of impartiality and even-handedness in a multi-generational context — in other words, the duty to act fairly towards young contributors who will retire after 2050 when climate-related financial risks will be even greater.

Strategic planning

Attention members

SCAN! is holding a series of working sessions for members to update the factors driving the current situation in which SCAN! operates. Whether you are an expert in the field or just have thoughts you want considered, please register for any or all of the sessions. The dates and links are in the members' portal.

AI

Climate organizations are examining their relationship with AI, especially in terms of its energy and water usage. There are three blog posts from Environmental Defence linked from the home page, right at the top. Here is the first.

The Media and Communications Committee has been preparing a discussion on AI. Every climate organization will need to have a close look at their relationship with AI.

Chapter reports

London

As reported in the October newsletter, the chapter had a table at their Draw The Line event with well over 100 people attending. At least 30 seniors stopped by and many took literature, including a flyer they produced with their chapter contact information.

Seniors for Climate – London Group invited people to draw a line on a ribbon (see photo above), write what the line was drawn for, and pin the ribbon on the line, a red cord strung along the trees surrounding their tables. There were eight speakers at this event.

A member presented *Climate Change 101*, *The Great Acceleration*, *Planetary Boundaries*, and *Stormy Weather for London and Area* to members of the Byron Legion in three weekly sessions.

Edmonton

SCAN! Edmonton has been busy supporting other organizations' events and setting up tables to recruit new members. Members attended the Urban Forestry Grow Together event for National Forest Week. It was promoting planting trees in city neighborhoods. The chapter also tabled at a musical event, where a Ph.D. student at the U of A performed songs written and performed with her musician friends, inspired by their feelings about climate change. The audience participated in her research study by filling out pre-/during/and post concert surveys expressing their own feelings. It was a very moving evening and a great chance to see and hear from the younger generation.

October for the chapter was largely about coal. Melanie Hoffman, the associate director of Alberta Talks and member of the Alberta Environmental

Network, spoke to chapter members during preparations for DTL in September. That event was a march/rally about their “Alberta Beyond Coal” campaign. The campaign is trying to stop the coal mining mega project from happening along the Eastern slopes of the Rockies. At an Environmental Defence webinar in October, Stephen Legault promoted writing to MLAs, what is effective, etc. with former Lethbridge NDP MLA Shannon Phillips. She continues to be highly involved in stopping the project.

There was also an online townhall organized by For Our Kids on abandoned oil/gas wells.

They signed the letter of support for the Youth Climate Corps, and brought new members up to speed on that project.

They are currently focussed on strategic planning within the chapter to launch more focussed campaigns on the fossil fuels companies. They hope to collaborate with other groups, such as Environmental Defence, Alberta Environmental Network, For our Kids, Keepers of the Water, Council of Canadians and more.

Brant, Hamilton, Niagara, Norfolk (BHNN)

For DTL, members of their Chapter joined with other groups in Hamilton, Ontario (Gore Park) for a community gathering. They had an open microphone allowing community members to talk about the five issues outlined in the Draw the Line material. The day was positive; and people appreciated the opportunity to share their views. One recent immigrant spoke about his experience with Canada’s immigration system. A member of Hamilton 350 sang a song with attendees joining in for the chorus.

At the end of day, there was a tour of the various monuments in Gore Park (veteran memorials, an absent John A MacDonald statue and Queen Victoria statue). The tour guides spoke about the less-discussed history of the memorials and statues. The chapter is excited to have collaborated with other groups. They will work towards expanding their contacts to make next year’s event more inclusive of youth, immigrant organizations and indigenous voices.

In October, members of the chapter hosted a table at an Ontario native plant sale at the First Unitarian Church in Hamilton. They had some good conversations with like-minded people and gave out information about pension divestment and SCAN!

Guelph

They took time to review the Guelph Draw the Line event. They also continued with regular tabling at the Farmer's Market along with tabling at other community events: eMerge ecomarket and EV Show, Transportation Summit, Community Climate Forum and The Thoughtful Traveller.

Ottawa

September was dominated by their participation in the Draw the Line Event. In addition to the members who took part in the actual march, their Chapter members participated actively in the coalition in the Core Team, the Outreach Team, the Arts and Creative team, the Fundraising Team and the Communications Team. They worked with CAFES Ottawa to organize and staff the After March event. Over 30 of their members took part. They have also participated in a number of debriefing sessions.

With CAFES Ottawa, they submitted an application to the New Horizons for Seniors funding stream with the federal government. A grant would enable CAFES to hire an organizer for a series of workshops for seniors and others regarding adaptation to the worst health impacts of climate chaos.

In October, they took part in a demonstration supporting Kebaowek First Nation. The tiny unceded First Nation is before the federal court arguing that they have not been consulted or accommodated about the nuclear waste dump ("Near Surface Disposal Facility"- NSDF) proposed for their territory, right beside the Ottawa River. The NSDF is just one of three new nuclear plans at the Chalk River site. The other two are the decommissioning of an old power plant site and the creation of an experimental SME- "small modular" nuclear reactor. Kebaowek has not been consulted about any of the Canadian Nuclear Laboratories' developments since it started in 1944, and destroyed a huge part of their lands and waters.

Kingston

Kingston SCAN! had a debrief on the Draw the Line parade. The organizing committee for Draw the Line, which includes SCAN! Kingston, Climate Justice Coalition, economic justice representatives, Queen's students, Palestinian activists and other groups, also met to debrief the DTL parade. The DTL organizing committee decided to continue a coalition in Kingston, and have reached out to some 100 people who signed up to remain in touch with DTL.

SCAN! members gave a talk at the CN Pensioners luncheon. Members also joined a solidarity picket with striking support staff at St. Lawrence College and invited them to DTL.

Work continues on initiatives to protect tenants from extreme heat. In the absence of a maximum heat by-law in Kingston, SCAN! members asked a local council member for a fund to provide free cooling (likely air conditioners) to Kingston's most vulnerable. They received a favourable response from the council member, who said If she *"can't find the funding, then she'll look to bringing it as a new line item to the mayor's budget."*

Plans are underway to have a SCAN! meeting in an apartment block that houses seniors to talk about the problem of extreme heat during the summer months. The chapter has signed on as a partner on Queen's University research grant application. The project would gather data on extreme heat and its impacts. The research outcomes from this project will support SCAN!'s advocacy.

Toronto

See the October newsletter for a detailed report on the September 20 preparations and events. SCAN! Toronto representatives will meet with the coalition to ascertain how to continue to support each other.

SCAN! Toronto's City working group has started to prepare for the City of Toronto's budget consultations. This includes reviewing the presentation of the City's next 5-year implementation plan for getting to net-zero GHGs by 2040. The expectation is to see a proposal for Building Emissions Performance Standards (BEPS) for existing buildings, and a stepping-up of BEPS for new buildings at the same time. Given that both the provincial and federal governments are backing away from environmental standards, the working group is quite concerned about what City Council will do.

The chapter is encouraging and assisting SCAN! Toronto members to participate in budget consultations and make environmental programs a budget priority.

The Ontario Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is developing the next 5-year plan for supplying Toronto with electricity, predictably focusing on nuclear- and gas- generated power rather than renewables and conservation. Members of SCAN! have been working with a number of other organizations to improve the Integrated Regional Resource Plan (IRRP).

The chapter wants Toronto City Council to put more pressure on the IESO; i.e., to more closely align with its objectives of closing the gas power plant in Toronto's east end, and significantly ramp up renewable electricity generation. The chapter has signed on to a joint letter to reject the IESO's IRRP.

Members joined climate organizations for some street theatre at City Hall with a carnival barker inviting passers by to vote for nuclear and gas or renewable energy. Premier Ford was on hand to shill for nuclear. (See photo above.)

Later this year, City Council will receive a report on preparing for the closure of the Green Lanes waste landfill. To be decided: is it because the US closes the border; or if/when it becomes full? That report will likely recommend incineration as the answer to Toronto's solid waste problems. The province is also removing the responsibility for delivering blue box programs, transferring it to the private sector at the beginning of 2026. This change is bound to be chaotic.

Members of neighbourhoods' groups have been following up on contacts made during planning for Draw the Line. A newsletter for local seniors' residences is in progress. Local meetings were held in preparation for DTL, mainly to organize leafletting. The goal was to engage SCAN! members in the event and then build on that.

SCAN! Toronto will have a table an Ecofair in November that draws thousands every year.

Web analytics

One of the ways we measure our reach is to look at the stats for our website views and engagements. During the month of Draw the Line, we noticed a big bump from Sept. 19 – 21 with 1899 total views, of which 153 were the DTL section of the home page. People got interested in the organization: "About us" – 87 views and "Join us" – 68. We learned that there was also a bump in membership. Very satisfying.

Social media

SCAN!'s FB page gets a lot of traffic. Some chapters have started a FB group or page. 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

Instagram: scan.canada

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