SEPT 20 – NATIONWIDE

DRAWTHELINE.WORLD

Countdown: 19 days to Draw the Line

Only 19 days before we hit the streets, across Canada and all over the world to Draw the Line.

Climate activists are creating powerful coalitions with our allies.

Our website states:

- We cannot solve the climate crisis in isolation.
- We are standing with Climate, Indigenous Organizations, Migrant, Peace, and Social Justice Organizations to demand a just future for all.
- We care about future generations
- We want to leave behind a livable world
- Our presence on September 20th matters

You can read the demands and explanations there.

Here is the national call.

Find an event near you and support it in any way you can. We are at a critical juncture. September 20th should echo the mass demonstrations of 2019. It's time to take building the mass movement to another level.

Ontario Heat Collaborative

Heat kills - and heat waves kill seniors more frequently. Heat also seriously affects workers out of doors, like migrant farm and construction workers.

A very effective coalition spearheaded by the SCAN/ adaptation working group formed and recently held a press conference at Queen's Park. It was very well covered, including cross-Ontario CBC radio news and Canadian Press. CP reports!

"A network of Ontario civil society groups is calling on the province to develop an extreme-heat awareness program to better address the dangers of sweltering temperatures.

That includes calls to track heat-related deaths and hospital visits and ensure schools are outfitted with air conditioning."

The National Observer wrote:

"The group wants a maximum temperature policy in place to protect tenants, while its call to action notes six other key areas that it says the government should address, including a heat awareness plan for workers, more provincial support for municipalities to implement urban cooling strategies and the lack of cooling in schools."

Kudos.

Feed information not wildfires

Photo by Egor Vishrev

Our readers may find some of the information below useful as you talk with the people in your life about your passion regarding climate action in Canada. Here are some good climate reasons to get people into the streets on September 20.

By mid-August, 7.3 million hectares have burned, an area roughly the size of New Brunswick, and more than double the 10-year average. This is the second worst wildfire season on record and follows the 2021 season. The current wildfire 2023 season (2024 was the 3rd worst season).

From mid-May to the end of June, more than half of those displaced by wildfires in Canada (more than 40,000 people) were from Indigenous communities. Almost 34 Indigenous communities, including in nearly every province, were affected.

Health Canada estimates every year there are 240 deaths and $1.8 billion in health care costs due to short-term impacts from wildfires.

Reports from the Chapters

Edmonton

The chapter is focussed on recruiting new members, tasking the Education Committee to spread the word at seniors' recreation centres, churches, farmers' markets and possibly university venues. They are also working on membership engagement.

Events like Root for Trees is one of their most successful activities to get members involved in the community. They plan to do more hands-on outdoor events like that so that new members can see immediate changes they themselves have brought about.

They are involved in the City of Edmonton's Resilience Strategy. They want to get members engage their neighbors in 'Climate Talk'. This is also a way to promote their neighborhoods' climate resiliency strategies.

For DTL (see poster above), the plan is for a march to the provincial legislature in Edmonton and rally there. They will be joined by members of indigenous, migrant, climate, economic, labour, and anti-war movements to demand more urgent action from world leaders. They will be involved in an art build for that day.

They continue to build their relationships with other climate groups by meeting on a regular basis with Climate Justice Edmonton. Recently, they attended a backyard barbecue in August with members of the Council of Canadians who have been a big support in their events.

Barrie

They plan to table at the Labour Day picnic on the September long weekend to promote their Draw the Line event.

They will use the visual displays and quizzes they prepared for the library to engage people in conversation. The visual display at the library in downtown Barrie will run from Sept. 18 -23. It is comprised of two triptych displays, as well as a 3D display. *(look – ed)*.

The display focuses on wildfires, showing how many wildfires have been burning in the Prairies and the Midland. Innisfil and all the land between have burned globally in the top 10 wildfires of the 2000s, four of which have been in Canada. The triptych draws the line between these global fires and CO2 emissions as well as between fire and temperature increase. It also shows per capita emissions by province, showing the line to Canada's role in planetary heating.

They will further draw the line to focus on climate lies and disinformation between climate myths and the facts. This focus will include EVs, Carbon Capture and Storage, China's role in climate, and the greatest myth of all, THAT NOTHING CAN BE DONE. The visuals draw the line between what IS being done in many parts of the world and North America's foot-dragging.

Part 3: a climate quiz with prizes to engage passers by. The quiz questions will be taken primarily from information displayed on the board. Answers will be provided on the back of the quiz sheet to encourage taking the quizzes home to pass on to others.

They intend to use the same display and quiz at the Farmer's Market on Sept. 20th. Some Barrie members will be joining the DTL event in Toronto. Their plan is to make themselves noticed on the GO train. As well, they are contacting the ECO GUARDIANS of Ontario from Collingwood. To bump up their numbers, they will seek additional supporters from their mailing list and sign-ups from tabling activities before the 20th.

Re: future planning, they will approach their contact at Simcoe County Global Perspectives about an "Empty Chair" to be decorated by students and presented to City Council to represent Youth.

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Guelph

For September 20, they are planning tabling at the market and local festivals. They are also sponsoring a forum with guest speaker, Dominique O'Rourke, their newly elected MP. They have been widely promoting this event.

Brant, Hamilton, Niagara, Norfolk (BHNN)

Working in collaboration with Hamilton350 (Elders for Climate Sanity), their Sept. 20 DTL event is to have theatre/drama, with costumes for "climate criminals" and "climate heroes". The event will be in Gore Park, Hamilton's downtown square. *(so clever – ed)*

They held a tabling event on August 23 at Six Nations' Chiefswood Park. The event is called, "Voice of the River", offering SCAN's materials and message to their Indigenous neighbours.

A second tabling event is scheduled at First Unitarian Church on October 4th for a native plant sale.

Ottawa

The chapter is deeply involved organizing the September 20 events in Ottawa. They are participating in the Core Team, Financial, the Program and Events Planning Team, the Outreach Team, Media Communications and the Art for the events. In August, they held a Draw the Line Party to get to know each other, where they learned the Climate Song, made some signs for the march and held a Flash mob practice. Many signed up to work at tasks for the Draw the Line event. SCAN/ Ottawa agreed to take charge of the closing of the event. They are responsible for the post-marching water and toilets, tabling and entertainment.

They co-sponsored a presentation by MI's Ma warrior Gaby Wall at the Ottawa Public Library sponsored by Climate Justice Ottawa in July and made a number of valuable Anishinaabe contacts.

They continue their efforts to get involvement from the Anishinaabeg Algonquin leadership. They have also been involved with a local drum group who are eager to attend.

Kawartha

In August, the climate emergency arrived in the Kawarthas with three wildfires burning out of control. These fires were fuelled by the hot weather, drought, branches and and debris from the ice storm in December 2022. The fires debris severely impeded fire fighters' efforts.

Waiting for evacuation, they still planned a chapter meeting to finalize details for their DTL event. *(impressive – ed)*.

They booked the main park in Lindsay for a rally. It will be on the 28th not the 20th. Some Kawartha members will attend the Toronto rally on the 20th.

Toronto

Working with Climate Action for Lifelong Learners (CALL), SCAN/ Toronto instigated a coalition of some 24 organizations representing the five DTL themes: climate, Indigenous, economic, migrants and war/peace. The plan is for a rally by Sankofa Square (Yonge and Dundas) and marching to Queen's Park for a rally.

The first two speakers of the day will address the crowd gathered before the march, one of whom will represent Grassy Narrows. A third will talk about the connection between the DTL and Palestine. The last two speakers are reserved for the rally at Queen's Park, where there will also be music and tables with information from the organizing agencies.

Part of the preparation is having neighbourhood meetings to encourage people to reach out to other seniors and encourage them to come out.

SCAN/ and CALL held a social in August with about 60 people. They put together puzzle pieces with inspiring quotes and pictures, listened to a musical performance, wrote on a Draw the Line banner, learned about the "bird parade", looking a examples of wonderful masks, watched a street theatre piece, snacked, jacked and picked up posters and leaflets for the Sept. 20th event.

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 groups in Kawartha, Edmonton, Ottawa, Barrie, ecojust, ottawaclimatesocialmediaaction, 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 @seniorsforclimate.bsky.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 and family to sign up for the newsletter.

How about passing on this newsletter to a friend, family or neighbour? If they would like to receive it, they can sign up from our website.

A few examples of masks and puppets for the bird parade in the Toronto DTL march.