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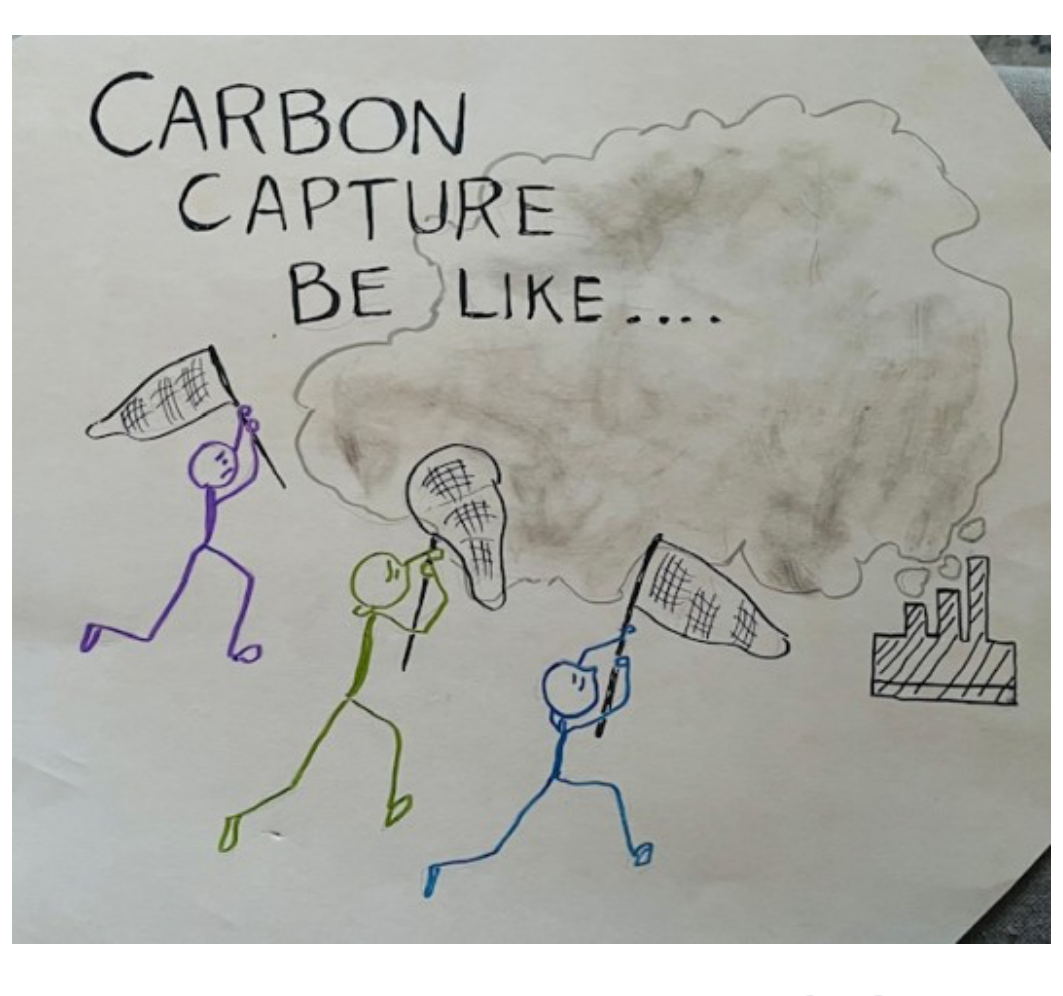

Bad budget; bad COP; fantasy pipeline

The federal budget passed Nov. 17 amidst plenty of opposition. The public – and politicians – were clearly fearful of a federal election. SCAN! wrote and circulated a response to the budget.

There was no Good COP, only a Bad COP. Although some commentators found positives in terms of adaptation monies for the South, overall, the fossil fuel lobby triumphed once again.

On the last day of COP 30, Environmental Defence put out this statement castigating the Canadian government.

"Canada has spent much of its time at the negotiations sitting on its hands. Canada stayed hushed on the critical issues at the heart of this year's negotiations, supported only the weakest options in the text, and failed to deliver its fair share of climate finance. Meanwhile, at home the federal government seems intent on building more reckless fossil fuel infrastructure, a stark contrast to the growing consensus among leading countries that action to phase out fossil fuels cannot wait."

And then the conference went into overtime.

The end result was not surprising in its ongoing lack of action.

Caroline Brouilette, CAN-Rac spokesperson, said at the end of her statement:

"Canada's general silence at this COP and climate backsliding at home did not help. It marks the weakening of years of progress and has been noticed by our allies. Here in Belém, we saw real momentum building around implementing the global transition away from fossil fuels. It's disappointing that this wasn't reflected in the final text—and it's equally disappointing that Canada's fossil fuel expansion is so out of step with where the world is heading."

The Energy Mix put it more bluntly:

A dramatic, last-minute intervention by Colombia at the closing session of the COP30 climate summit Saturday afternoon failed to derail what one veteran negotiator called an "empty deal" on countries' response to the climate emergency.

To confirm our fears that Canada is on the wrong climate road, the PM signed an MOU with Alberta paving the way for a pipeline and a massive Carbon Capture and Storage facility. Here are some reactions:

From the Union of BC Indian Chiefs

From West Coast Environmental Law

From Environmental Defence

From the Canadian Association of Pysicians for the Environment

And lest you consider Carbon Capture and Storage to be a viable solution, please read the SCAN! briefing note.

And enjoy the cartoon at the top created by one of our members.

What's new on the website

French translations

Coming soon, the website will have translations of the invitation to join, as well as many of the documents. *On vous y invite, les francophones. Ainsi, on pourra promouvoir ce genre de campagne.*

Action grid

The action grid is always being updated. Scroll down to "Here are some important steps you can take right now" on the home page.

Briefing notes

You can read a fuller picture of carbon capture, hydrogen as an energy source and direct air capture here.

Drought template

People visitng the website have been using our template to write their MP about wildfires. Now you can send a letter about droughts as well. All over the country, we have seen the devastation of unnatural disasters. Let your MP know that you want to see emergency climate action. There is a list of specific demands in the letter.

DOUG SHIPLEY
Member of Parliament
Doug Downey, MPP
Constituency Office

Say hello to your MP - over and over again

Guess who's coming to dinner? Well, at least for a visit. Many chapters have begun to visit their local MP on a regular basis, with a plan for growing numbers at each visit. There is a set of demands that members will present. The campaign has a fancy name: Community Resilience and Resistance (CRR) Campaign This is how we will continue to build local support for emergency climate action. Barrie's visit was so successful it made the news. See chapter reports below and a few more photos at the bottom from Ottawa, Edmonton,Toronto central and Kingston.

SENIORS FOR CLIMATE

Chapter reports

London (tabling photo above)

The Chapter had a table at the Hope and Action Festival at the Fanshawe Conservation Area in late October. Well over 900 people attended. About fifty seniors stopped by and many took literature. This activity was a continuation of the Draw The Line on ribbons, open to all ages. Participants submitted their punched passports for a free draw for prizes.

They set up a SCAN! table at the Climate Grief event mid-November at King's College University on the Western University Campus. The target audience: students and professors who are trying to cope with the future impacts of climate change.

Barrie

The chapter sent an email to MP Doug Shipley's Office requesting a meeting before COP 30 in order to discuss SCAN! positions on climate issues, but the request was politely declined.

They were not deterred. They echo Greta Thunberg's "no more blah, blah, blah". They want action.

A small but growing group of intrepid seniors showed up at their MPs' and MPPs' offices to register their dismay with both federal and provincial governments for their lack of action (or even harmful action) on Canada's response to the climate crisis. After waiting much of our [seniors'] lives for politicians to take real action on climate and emissions, they no longer want to accept denial and delay.

They attended Green Drinks in downtown Barrie and plan to attend again to garner interest in their initiatives. [Visit MPs, go drinking. Sounds like a plan - ed.]

A member attended a Civic Advocacy Training Webinar run by Environmental Defence regarding how to meet with your MP effectively. Sadly, to date, their MP is not interested in meeting.

The same member attended the Ontario Climate Summit in Toronto and presented the chapter with a very interesting report, focusing on how to engage with the municipality.

The chapter held an evaluation of their Draw The Line event. They concluded "the more the merrier" regarding forming coalitions to advance the climate agenda.

Their first protest at MP Shipley's office took place in mid-November (see photo above). They dressed up, carried signs and took a list of SCAN!'s demands with them. Since the Conservative MPP is in the same vicinity, they walked there as well.

They ask: aside from our green Ts, how about green toques and scarves. What do you think?

Guelph

SCAN Guelph took part in the Community Climate Forum in late October, tabling and participating in the workshop sessions. It was very positive and exciting with attendance by their MP, their MPP and three city councillors, as well as city staff. [Congratulations - ed.]

The Guelph Climate Action Network's Community Climate Forum was a great success.

They expressed gratitude to the more than 150 residents, local leaders, community groups, and panel experts who responded to their call for community climate action. It was an opportunity to listen, learn, share ideas, and make plans to highlight local climate solutions. Participants explored renewable energy, transportation, buildings, plant-based diets, and more. The great turnout and thoughtful engagement reflects their community's strong and growing commitment to building a climate-safe, net zero city for 2050. A full summary report will highlight key points and plans. Delegations to council will be made at a future City Council meeting, date to be determined.

SCAN! Guelph made it into their local Liberal MP's Fall newsletter "Seniors' Edition". They connected with their local MP to reinforce the desire for renewable projects and clean energy; viz.,climate action. This MP has received more than 250 signed postcards for delivery to the Prime Minister demanding that he not spend Canadians' tax money on supporting oil and gas production or pipelines. They invited her to a chapter meeting - a great way to draw people out to a meeting. People were invited to bring climate and other concerns and submit them in advance.

Edmonton

The chapter continues to support groups like C4RE (Coalition for Responsible Energy) and AEN (Alberta Energy Network). They are protesting the provincial government's steadfast resolve to support an Australian billionaire's quest to build a coal mine along the eastern slopes; and to make the polluters pay for the 300,000 abandoned oil wells scattered throughout our province.

They are excited about SCAN!'s strategic plan to launch a campaign for all chapters to visit their local MPs on a fixed monthly date. The chapter is starting with two MPs.

They also intend to continue to support their collaborators, including Indigenous Climate Action.

Kawartha

In late September, the chapter held a Draw the Line (DTL) Rally in Lindsay highlighting music with a message. There was a variety of speakers, including a municipal councillor, SCAN! Kawartha members and high school students. Two SCAN! Toronto members came out to perform.

In late October, members attended a public open house on a local farm in Woodville on the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). They learned that thorough environmental considerations were undertaken; and that there is support from - and collaboration with - local indigenous groups. A letter of support for the project from SCAN! Kawartha was sent to the Mayor and Council of Kawartha Lakes.

In early November Committee of the Whole Municipal Council meeting was attended by SCAN! to hear a deputation to by the NEOEN company for the BESS. It was well received by Council.

They also attended a Meet the Mayor open house in Lindsay to ask the Mayor directly about increasing public transit locally, with connections to the GO line in Oshawa. [Such impressive work - ed.]

Brant, Hamilton, Niagara, Norfolk (BHNN)

They continue to meet with their partner organizations from the DTL event to maintain and grow their coalition. This includes regular meetings and action items.

They are setting up meetings with MP offices. The goal: have them listen to their concerns about the lack of climate change action by the federal government.

The chapter has begun discussions about actions for Earth Day. Port Rowan has already set the date and the venue is booked for their Earth Day event. [Great work for a small but mighty group. - ed]

Toronto

SCAN! Toronto's City Working Group has been especially busy as municipal budget deliberations in Ontario are under way. The chapter is also represented at the Toronto Climate Action Network City Strategy meetings, a very useful way to collaborate with other climate organizations.

The province is interfering in municipal affairs to an alarming degree, not only around bike lanes but also green building standards which include building green roofs in new buildings. The net zero strategy (TransformTO), the maximum heat by-law, the building of a new energy and water sucking data centre are all current issues for the chapter.

Taking its cue from the Coordinating Committee, some neighbourhoods are planning their visits to MPs' offices in the hopes of building from there. The intention is to follow the Greta Thunberg model of building by doing on a regular basis.

To better understand how the chapter can engage members, the steering committee launched a survey for Toronto chapter members.

An exciting development is ongoing collaboration with SCAN! members in local seniors' residences. They will initiate a newsletter to keep in touch with each other over climate issues and events.

Ottawa

The chapter published a newsletter advising of member activities. Chapter members took part in the Citizen's Climate Lobby on Parliament Hill. They also registered 11 people for the Power Up workshops which started November 10.

Following Draw the Line, they participated in a number of debriefing sessions. They also participated in a demonstration in support of Kebawek Algonquin First Nation, who are opposing a nuclear waste dump on their territory upstream from Ottawa.

They demonstrated outside Mark Carney's constituency office in November 13 prior to the budget vote.

Following a request from EnviroCentre, they agreed to speak about energy alternatives.

Kingston

As part of the campaign to establish regular visits to MP offices, SCAN! Kingston members organized a picket at MP Mark Gerritsen's office in late November. About 25 people came including participants from Queens University, 350 Kingston and the Draw the Line coalition group in Kingston. They delivered a list of demands as well as a number of letters addressed to MP Mark Gerretsen and to the government of Canada. Following the rally, everyone gathered at a SCAN! member's home for a hot bowl of chili and conversation.

In 2023 SCAN! Kingston members called on MP Mark Gerretsen to support a hard cap on emissions. He agreed. He wrote a letter and a petition to call upon the Government of Canada to: *"move forward, immediately, with bold emissions caps for the oil and gas sector that are comprehensive in scope and realistic in achieving the necessary targets that Canada has set to reduce emissions by 2030."* SCAN! members in Kingston gathered thousands of signatures on that petition and Gerretsen read it in parliament.

Now they are asking him for the current status of an emissions cap, since the Prime Minister is openly considering scrapping an emissions cap.

They will continue to push for a meeting with Mark Gerretsen. They are all on board to picket Mark Gerretsen's office again on Dec. 12th . They hope to continue this action in the new year on a monthly basis.

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; e.g., 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

Fossil -ized or Renew -able

INCESS NAILS
Mark Gerretsen
Member of Parliament for Kingston and the Islands
KILL BILL 5

Fossil -ized or Renew -able