Climate Organizing is Gaining Traction

Despite the ongoing dominance in the news cycle – the cost of living and tariffs, threats from the south, new and neverending wars - gains in renewable energy and activist mobilizations are making headway. The polar vortex in the east and unseasonable rain in the west put the climate crisis front and centre – or at least it would - if journalists were doing their due diligence. Let them know when they are not, with your letters to the editor and via social media. In the meantime, here are some actions to cheer about.

SCANI's recent initiatives:

- The C-15 campaign gathered signatures from 43 climate and social justice organizations. 350.org and SCANI jointly encouraged nearly 1200 letters to be sent to MPs with about 1500 via ecojustice and counting. As of late February, every opposition party had said it was opposed to passage of the bill with its highly problematic clauses unchanged - and Liberal MPs were speaking up.
- The Hill Times published this.
- This op-ed appeared in the Kingston Crow.
- These amendments were published by the Green Party. What we wanted was the removal of four dangerous pages from the omnibus bill. The only accepted amendments came from the Conservative Party. They included a mandatory 30-day public consultation prior to making those exemptions and requiring dual approval from both a cabinet minister and the president of the Treasury Board.

  The bill as amended will also require a full report to Parliament within 90 days explaining the rationale for the decision and assessing whether permanent legislation is warranted. However the Senate is currently studying the bill - it ain't over till it's over.
- The CRR campaign is also gaining force (see chapter highlights below). And among other stories in the media, two letters to the editor were published, in the Globe and Mail and the Whig-Kingston avec un reportage de Radio Canada et encore un dans Le Devoir. Look at the CRR section on the home page and the chapter pages to see an impressive display of their work.
- We publicized the SCANI submission on a new nuclear power plant in Wesleyville Ontario. Decisions about nuclear reactors should be noted across the country. This effort was mentioned in the Energy Mix.

These are all important steps forward. Read more on the home page of our website where you will also find action items. *La lutte continue.*

Highlights from the chapters

Northumberland

The Northumberland chapter has an excellent collaborator at the Coburg Public Library. They contacted SCANI asking for a presentation at the library about the organization. The result is a beautiful display (see photo above), which will be up for a month.

Brant/Hamilton/Niagara/Norfolk (BHNN)

In mid-January, two of their members met with Ned Kuruc, MP for Hamilton East/Stoney Creek. He, along with MP Dan Muys, are Conservative, but have progressive thoughts and ideas about environmental concerns. Although Ned Kuruc supports nuclear power generation (SMRs), he was willing to listen to concerns about oil and gas. He is trying to understand his colleagues from Alberta in regards to their strong push for oil. For him, it is important to develop clean energy and export it, so that Canada could have an impact not only on industrialized countries, but also on developing countries. It was a positive meeting and a follow-up is scheduled in March.

They also have an online meeting scheduled in early March with Lisa Hepfner, Liberal MP for Hamilton Mountain.

JP Danko, Liberal MP for Hamilton-West/Ancaster/Dundas has so far given them the slip and avoided scheduling a meeting. They will discuss having a showing of members outside of his office in West Hamilton.

Guelph

Guelph's struggle with Enbridge was featured in an article in the National Observer. See Barrie (below) for theirs.

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London

SCANI London held a CRR rally in mid-January in front of Liberal MP Arielle Kayabaga's office and another in February. The February rally took place at Liberal MP Peter Fragiskatos Office near downtown London. It caught the attention of about 80 drivers, including bus passengers.

They handed a letter to Arielle's assistant, stating SCANI's concerns over the proposed mega-projects and Bill C-15. Then coffee and lunch at a nearby restaurant to warm up and review.

Ottawa

They agreed to focus on the MP office rallies, demanding that the MPs (who are all Liberals), push for renewables and an end to fossil fuels within the caucus. A "win" would be getting them to talk positively about renewables (and possibly SCANI) in their newsletters. Adding to their active numbers would be a bonus. They are sorting members by their constituency and planning to invite them to the rallies. This would be a way to encourage member activism.

For the CRR campaign, they rallied at Mona Fortier (Ottawa Vanier)'s and Anita Vandenbeld (Ottawa West Nepean)'s offices. Both were followed by a small, but lively social gathering. In addition, some members sent letters to the MPs and/or phoned. 16 members are on the list for these rallies. Their latest was in mid-February at the office of Kanata MP, Jenna Sudds where they delivered the letter demanding action on climate and support for renewable energy projects instead of pipelines and pie in the sky carbon capture.

Regarding Bill C-15, their chair engaged in planning the press release and then – with their resident videographer - delivered a letter to the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister's office at the end of January in the bitter cold.

They agreed to make their chapter bilingual as much as possible *(felicitations – ed)* renewed their membership in local action group CAFES. named representatives to a CPAWS-OV National Capital Greenbelt Forum and to an Evening with Winona Laduke at the Wabano Friendship Centre. and they started planning for their June activities with Seniors for Climate.

Barrie

Members were at the waterfront in front of the big 💙Barrie sign at the end of January, another bitterly cold day. Both a member using a walker, as well as six others, braved the cold and were rewarded with lots of attention from passing cars, and quite a few honks. Afterwards, people gathered for lunch.

They are building their own small community of like-minded people through these CRR protests.

They will be researching Barrie's deal with Enbridge to guarantee all new developments automatically use gas pipeline infrastructure.

They also plan to compose a questionnaire to send out to councillors on environmental issues before the fall municipal elections. And they will be tabling at the Barrie Farmers' Market close to Earth Day.

Toronto

The Toronto chapter's city working group was very busy with the municipal budget deliberations. Aside from the chapter's official deputation (read it here), several individual members also sent in or made deputations. The chapter works closely with the Toronto Climate Action Network (TCAN) including their City Strategy group. SCANI will collaborate with TCAN to plan Climate Week in June.

There are six Toronto ridings where CRR organizing is taking place (see Taiaiako'n-Parkdale-High Park photo above). Some are collaborating with other climate groups. In one riding, participants from an active SCANI group living in a seniors' residence has been regularly sending representatives to their local MP's office. Visit the chapter page to see photos of these monthly rallies.

Speaking of seniors' residences, the first climate newsletter has now been written by members in one residence, and is being distributed in hard copy to other local residences.

Plans are afoot for Earth Day, initiated by Artists for Real Climate Action (ARCA). That is the organization that was instrumental in bringing Maude and Millie to Ontarians. ARCA wants to take a giant globe on a walk across the city, stopping for events at strategic points along the way. SCANI Toronto is involved in the planning.

The chapter was also invited to support an Arms Embargo Now rally outside the Environment Minister's office. MP Julie Dabrusin which was intended to encourage all MPs to sign a bill to close the arms embargo loophole. This was part of a national day of action.

Work with Toronto East Residents for Renewable Energy (TERRE) against the Portlnds gas plant expansion continues.

Comments on newsletter

Do you have any comments regarding the newsletter: its usefulness to you, what you would like to see more/less of? Please respond to: media@seniorsforclimateactionnow.org

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Social media

SCANI's FB page gets a lot of traffic. Some chapters have started a FB group or page, which is a good way to create community. 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 to Bluesky. We encourage you to open an account on that platform.

You can follow us on Bluesky **@seniorsfcan.bluesky.social** and on **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 "Join us". Questions? email: info@seniorsforclimateactionnow.org