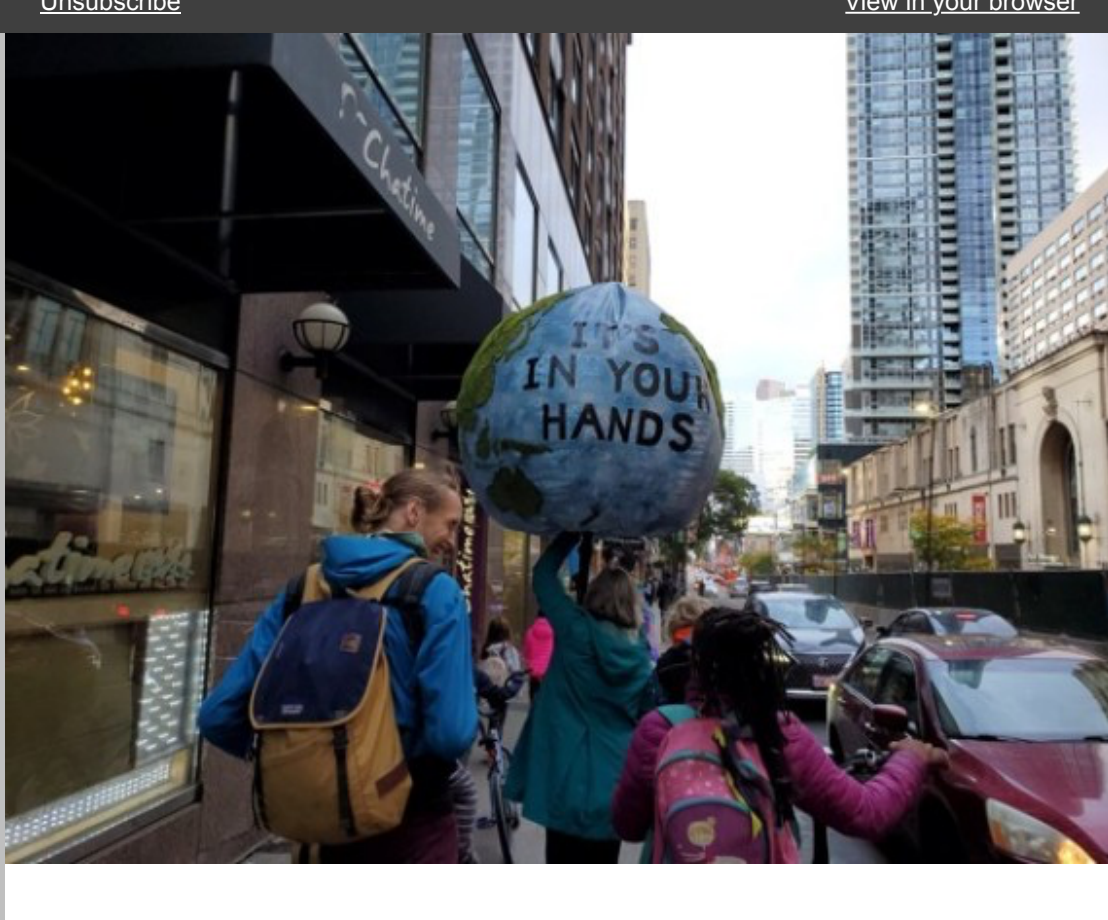


April is the cruellest month – but also a month of action

Earth Day/Earth Week

Many cities will be marking Earth Day, April 22; and some will promote activities during Climate Week June 1 – 6. Watch your local events calendars.

Statement on Iran

The War, Climate and Militarism working group drafted an approved statement which you can read on the website.

High-speed rail opposition

High Speed Rail (HSR) can be a very effective mode of transportation if designed and done well, but not at the cost of the ecosystem, and the rights of communities, farmers, and Indigenous peoples. Legal safeguards must be maintained to ensure fairness, transparency and social acceptability of projects in the public interest. But that is not what is happening with the ALTO high-speed rail proposal. Read more here.

To oppose the changes to The Expropriations Act please sign the petition.

Regional perspectives

SCAN! has members across the country, and the number of chapters is growing. In keeping with our pan-Canada outlook, this new page will feature personal perspectives on the ways our members are currently taking action at the local level to address provincial climate issues. Read the first entry from Alberta.

Letter to the Toronto Star

Excellent letter to the editor published March 18 by a SCAN! member.

Co-chair Tylene Appel on CBC's What's on Earth. Kudos!

Karim Bardeesy
Member of Parliament
Taiaiako'n–Parkdale–High Park

Community Resilience and Resistance Campaign (CRR)

In four short months during the coldest time of the year, the CRR campaign has action groups from 7 chapters spanning 23 ridings. Read all about it.

On March 27, for the national day of action, members across the country either rallied at their MP's office, wrote to them and the Prime Minister or called. PIctured above, a rally outside the MP office in Taiaiako'n-Parkdale-High Park. SCAN! members partnered with three other climate organizations to garner 25 honks as they handed out flyers.

622 COLLEGE STREET
END FOSSIL FUEL FAST FAIR FOREVER
CLIMATE ACTION

Chapter Reports

As we said above, members are singing their hearts out outside MPs' offices. Here, University-Rosedale in Toronto where the MP has left the building but SCAN! has not.

FOSSIL FUELS ARE BURNING OUR PLANET
STOP FRACKING!

Welcome to our newest chapter: Sunshine Coast

Their group began in 2012 as the Alliance 4 Democracy (A4D), bringing together New Democrats, Liberals, Greens and independents to help end Stephen Harper's government. Since then, they've engaged in work around the environment and the climate crisis, labour, electoral reform, peace, First Nations support, Sue Big Oil, and emergency preparedness initiatives.

They have organized public events, rallies, petitions, farmers' market outreach, and other community actions. In 2025 they collaborated with Seniors for Climate and Draw The Line on two successful Davis Bay events, which brought them into contact with SCAN!. They felt that their values were closely aligned with SCAN!'s.

In early February, they voted to become BC's first SCAN! chapter.

The Sunshine Coast's large, well-educated seniors population makes the region well-positioned for SC-SCAN!'s growth. They aim to expand their membership and establish SC-SCAN! as a recognized local voice. They also plan to connect with other BC organizations to introduce SCAN! and encourage their collaboration including founding new SCAN! chapters.

The Sunshine Coast is a peninsula of BC's mainland and lies northwest of Vancouver and is reachable only by ferry from Horseshoe Bay or Powell River. The Sunshine Coast Highway stretches 81 km. along the Salish Sea south to north.

Their population of roughly 34,500 almost doubles in summer. Governance is split among the Town of Gibsons, the District of Sechelt, the Sunshine Coast Regional District and shíshálh First Nation with whom they have a good relationship.

Welcome, SC-SCAN!

Guelph

At a chapter meeting (pictured above), they learned of a new tool from Corporate Knights magazine. It calculates the savings in dollars and CO2 emissions from electrifying parts or all of one's home. According to Corporate Knights magazine, "Switching to an EV, heat pump, heat pump water heater and induction stove could cut your carbon emission by more than 80% and save homeowners $5,000 per year. See "calculate your potential savings" on their web page.

They had a presentation on Emerging Opportunities for Climate Advocacy in Ontario for 2026 by Mike Marcolongo, Guelph resident and Associate, Director, Environmental Defence. His take:

Ontario is encouraging large procurement of gas-fired electricity, power-hungry data centres; and investments in nuclear energy while rebuffing efforts by municipalities, to be compensated by Enbridge for use of public rights-of-way.

They held a climate action at RBC for their CRR event on March 27. They explain that RBC was identified as the world's largest financier of fossil fuels in 2022, providing over US$42 billion to the industry, according to the Banking on Climate Chaos 2023 report. They are encouraging divestment, applying pressure and raising awareness.

Prior to the event, they held a sign-making drop-in.

In addition, they plan to demonstrate on the 4th Friday of each month at rotating locations around the city.

Brantford Hamilton Niagara Norfolk (BHNN)

In early March, they met online with MP, Lisa Hepfner, who listened to SCAN! members for a while, but then broke in to imply that Canada does not have enough sunshine to follow the lead of other countries installing solar. She defended the Liberal's record of reducing climate initiatives because of the threats from the U.S. She is a member of the Climate Caucus. [*! ed*]

In late March, they held an "outreach" outside of MP JP Danko's office, the MP for Hamilton West/Ancaster and Dundas. So far, he has refused to meet with them. He gets his information from Environment and Climate Change Canada, which ironically has just eliminated 840 positions. They plan to gather outside of his office in West Hamilton with signs and banners and try to talk to his office staff.

They are still attempting to arrange a meeting with Aslam Rana, Liberal MP for Hamilton Centre.

The chapter has scheduled an event on Earth Day, April 22, at Port Rowan to show an Australian document/movie and inviting school groups. Tables and stands will be available from various environmental groups, including one from SCAN!. Later in April, they are planning an event for Boil Alert, a film by Layla Staats, in collaboration with groups they we worked with on Draw the Line.

SENIORS CLIMATE ACTION NOW!

Toronto

Pictured above, Toronto's new banner displayed against a living wall at IWD 2026.

The first ever SCAN! newsletter for a seniors' residence has been printed and distributed at one residence with a view to distributing hard copies to others.

The chapter is making plans for an Earth Day event, initiated by Artists for Real Climate Action (ARCA). A giant globe (see photo at the top) will be carried across the city, stopping for events at strategic points along the way. SCAN! Toronto has adopted one park for such an event.

Rallies continue outside MPs' offices in six ridings as part of the SCAN! CRR campaign.

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

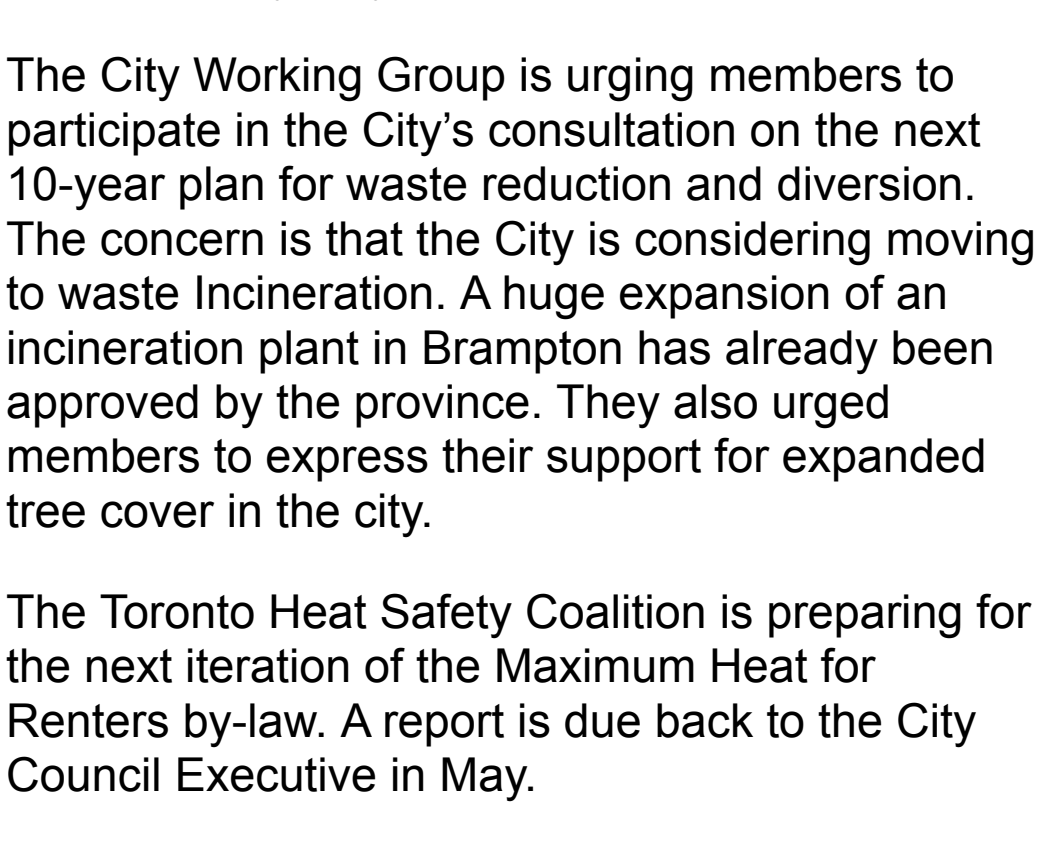
Members took SCAN! promo cards and (fabulous new) banner to participate in the International Women's Day rally and march.

The City Working Group is urging members to participate in the City's consultation on the next 10-year plan for waste reduction and diversion. The concern is that the City is considering moving to waste Incineration. A huge expansion of an incineration plant in Brampton has already been approved by the province. They also urged members to express their support for expanded tree cover in the city.

The Toronto Heat Safety Coalition is preparing for the next iteration of the Maximum Heat for Renters by-law. A report is due back to the City Council Executive in May.

The chapter is beginning to plan their activities for the municipal election.

At the March chapter meeting, Carolynne Crawley, the founder of Msit No'kmaq and co-founder of Turtle Protectors gave a presentation on their work.

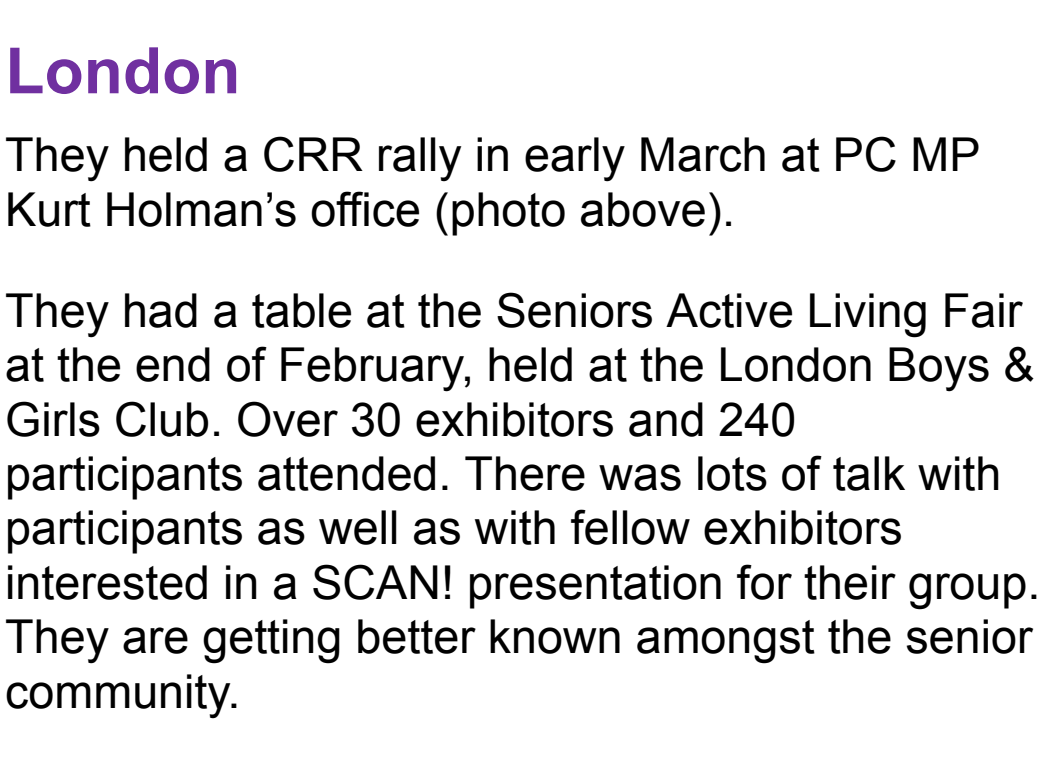

SENIORS CLIMATE ACTION NOW!
THERE IS NO PLANET B
SENIORS FOR CLIMATE ACTION NOW!
SENIORS 4 CLIMATE ACTION NOW!

London

They held a CRR rally in early March at PC MP Kurt Holman's office (photo above).

They had a table at the Seniors Active Living Fair at the end of February, held at the London Boys & Girls Club. Over 30 exhibitors and 240 participants attended. There was lots of talk with participants as well as with fellow exhibitors interested in a SCAN! presentation for their group. They are getting better known amongst the senior community.

The chapter held a social event at the end of March.



Ottawa

The rally at MP Jenna Sudds (Kanata) office, pictured above, was attended by six members, half of whom were her constituents. Afterwards they adjourned to a local pub. The next rally took place in Orleans at the office of Marie-France Lalonde. There are 20 people all together who have taken part in these rallies.

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) Ottawa Valley held a forum on protecting the Greenbelt at the Canadian Museum of Nature. SCAN! members who attended made a number of important contacts.

Last fall, with their partner organization CAFES, they submitted a grant application to the federal New Horizons for Seniors Program for a project called "Engaging Seniors in Eco-Participation and Eco-Action in Ottawa". The grant to CAFES was approved: approximately $20,000. A steering committee between CAFES and SCAN! will oversee the project. The grant will enable CAFES to hire an organizer to conduct two community workshops and two community dialogues in rural areas of Ottawa.

The Community Workshops will centre on civic engagement with climate issues, including participatory training on civics, and reflection on individual, family and intergenerational; neighbourhood and municipal sustainability actions. It will be an opportunity to hear from seniors about their concerns and what they would like to see addressed during the project.

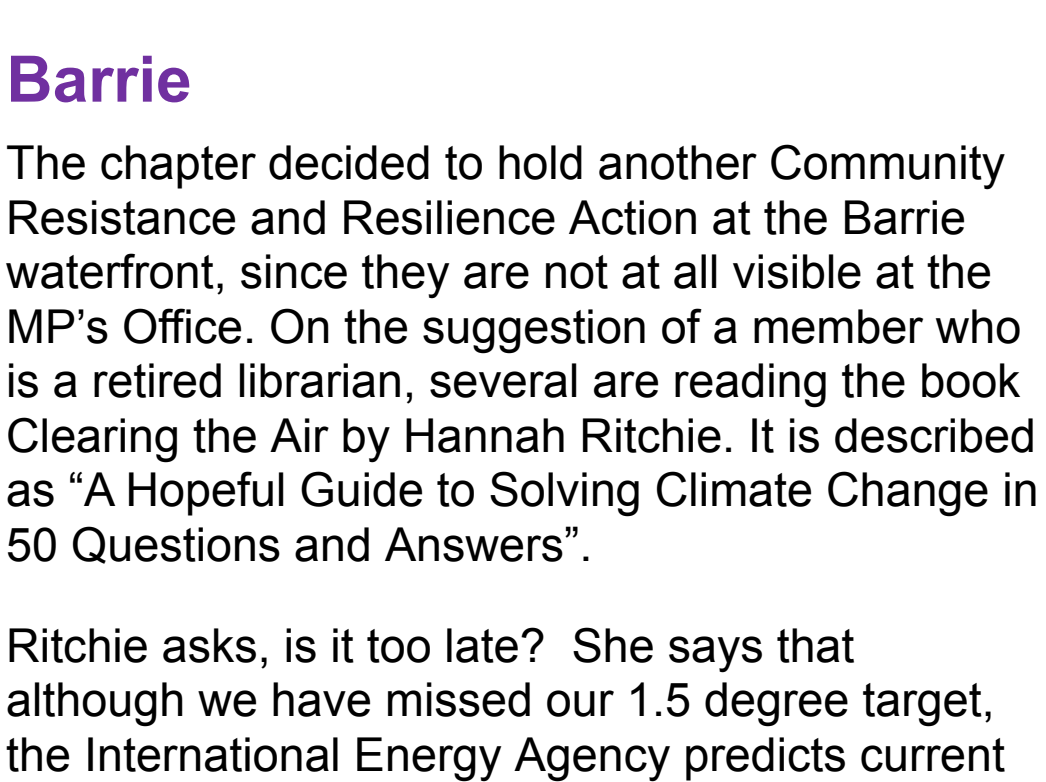
The Community Dialogues will be reciprocal teaching and learning workshops. A key element will be identification of the impacts of climate-related events on seniors' health, including how to identify when medical help may be needed and community resources available for seniors.

SCAN! members also attended the CAFES AGM, and a workshop on Climate and Your Cash organized by SHIFT.

Barrie

The chapter decided to hold another Community Resistance and Resilience Action at the Barrie waterfront, since they are not at all visible at the MP's Office. On the suggestion of a member who is a retired librarian, several are reading the book Clearing the Air by Hannah Ritchie. It is described as "A Hopeful Guide to Solving Climate Change in 50 Questions and Answers".

Ritchie asks, is it too late? She says that although we have missed our 1.5 degree target, the International Energy Agency predicts current policies put us at 2.5-3 degrees Celsius by 2100, our 2030 commitment puts us at 2.4; and net zero pledges would result in 1.8 degrees of warming. Ritchie says we need to be honest, not give up, avoid worst case scenario headlines, and continue living in an environmentally friendly manner, keeping in mind tipping points won't occur all at once.


CORNELL TOWER OFFICES
CLIMATE ACTION NOW
NO NEW PIPELINES
Windmills NOT Weapons
GERRETSEN WHERE'S YOUR PROMISED CLIMATE ACTION?
Restore our public health care

Kingston

In late March, the SCAN! chapter and the Kingston Health Coalition (KHC) held a joint rally at MP, Mark Gerretsen's office, as part of nationwide campaigns to demand climate justice and the enforcement of the Canada Health Act. About 30 people participated, chanting "money for healthcare, not for war; money for climate action, not for oil". Member, Nancy Nicol, spoke on behalf of SCAN!. The demonstration was covered in the Whig Standard.

A small group then went to delivered a letter and information leaflets to MP Mark Gerretsen's office. They were prevented from entering the building on the grounds that it is 'private property'. After a call to the MP's office, office staff came downstairs and they were finally allowed in to deliver the letter Following the rally they met at a local coffee shop for conversation.

SCAN! Kingston has been holding monthly rallies at MP Mark Gerretsen's office since November. SCAN! and KHC have made repeated requests to meet with him since October 2025. Shortly after they sent the press release for the joint rally, his office extended an invitation to meet. *[This is how we do it! - ed]*

In addition, the chapter is organizing a family-oriented Earth Festival in Confederation Park on June 6. They want to build a large community event for all ages with information booths, activities and music. The goal is to remind those who attend how much we value the planet.

At the municipal level, members are meeting with their council members to follow up on questions identified in the Climate Report Card, as well as the draft municipal Plan and the recently released Climate Adaptation Report. Members met with the Kingston Climate Justice Coalition – which coordinates work at the municipal level, bringing together environmental and climate groups across the city. The chapter is particularly concerned with advancing a maximum temperature bylaw.

Their efforts resulted in a small step toward protecting tenants from extreme heat. A motion was passed at City Council:

“Council direct staff to review best practices such as the City of Toronto and Hamilton, consult with the Southeast Public Health Unit, and report back to Council by the end of April 2026 on options for a residential air conditioning unit program that would support vulnerable individuals with medical conditions within the City of Kingston."

The Kingston Climate Change Adaptation Plan include these key highlights:

- *“Incorporate climate change considerations into the City's capital plans, master plans, and maintenance procedures to protect public infrastructure from climate-related risks…”;*
- *“Enhance the City's emergency preparedness and response capabilities to address climate-related risks…”; and “continue …to develop a comprehensive 'Heat Response Plan' that outlines short and long-term strategies…”. and*
- *“Strengthen Kingston’s Climate Change Adaptation Plan by embedding climate justice, accessibility, and reconciliation into all adaptation efforts.”*

Edmonton

SCAN!Edmonton is planning for the future – lots of activities coming up in the spring.

They are getting ready for the Vested Interests Fashion Show that they are hosting as a fundraiser on April 26.

In May, Public Interest Alberta is having a conference and has asked SCAN!Edmonton to present a joint session with C4RE and For Our Kids.

Their Indigenous Solidarity Committee has been busy collaborating with For Our Kids, Seniors for Climate (SFC) and The Edmonton River Valley Conservation group to plan for June 7 for SFC, which will be a nature-based event in their river valley called “Break Through Climate Silence”.

They were very involved in getting as many members and other constituents to visit their MPs as part of the CRR campaign. They have three MPs that they are currently targeting on a monthly basis. They held a workshop in early March to discuss the seven demands and how to present them to the MPs.

They are also working closely with - and supporting - the Polluter Pays and Mature Assets campaign groups. These groups are planning town halls in small towns around Edmonton to get the information out about orphaned oil wells - and who should pay for their clean-up. That is, taxpayers should not be on the hook as the UCP intends. There will be a vote on these issues.

They sent a rep to a dinner being held in Edmonton for International Women’s Day and set up a table there.

Some members attended the CPP Investment Board meeting held in Edmonton in early March. Some of the members of the board work for the fossil fuels industry. When asked about this potential conflict of interest, the board replied that their main goal is to make money (!) and they need the very best financial specialists on the board.

Thanks to a member who has been attending “Green Drinks”, a monthly meeting of business people, researchers and people in NGOs who exchange views about climate issues, they have a new networking event.

They invited a speaker to their meeting about the orphan wells situation in Alberta.

Their education committee has reached out to local universities and colleges to extend presentations to campuses, in particular, targeting the staff who are nearing retirement to become members of SCAN!.

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

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 us: info@seniorsforclimateactionnow.org