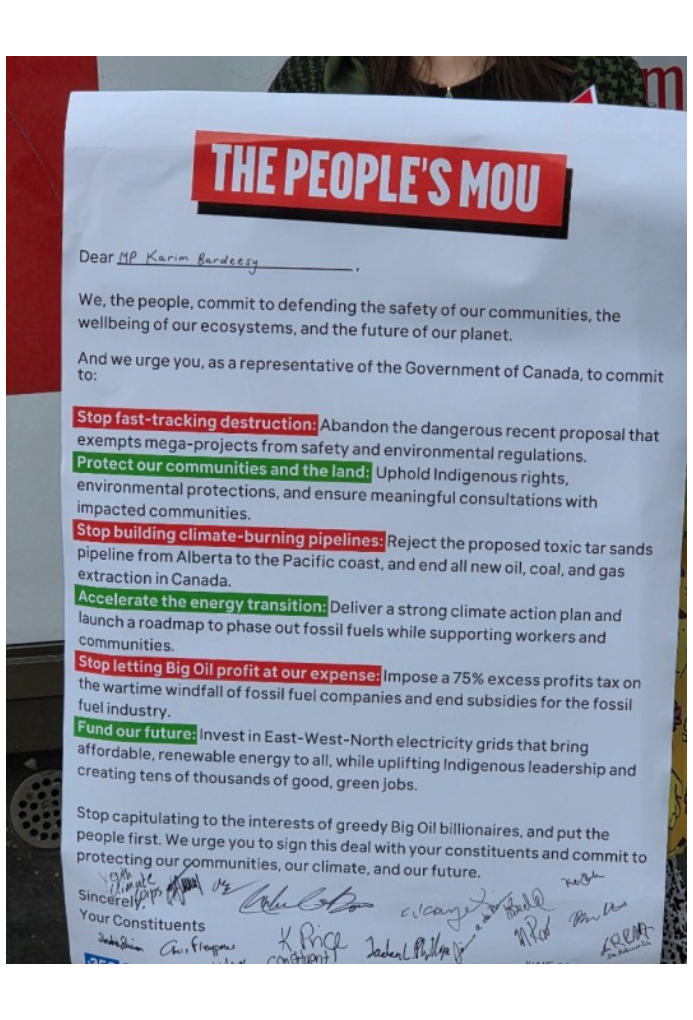
Satisfaction in Mobilizing

According to The National Observer oil company CEOs “want out from under the carbon capture and storage project they’ve been… promoting for years”. And according to 350.org “the federal government has finally slowed down thanks to people power… they delayed their plans to turn a devastating proposal for fast-tracking the approval of destructive megaprojects into legislation.”

In other words, pressure works.


THE PEOPLE'S MOU

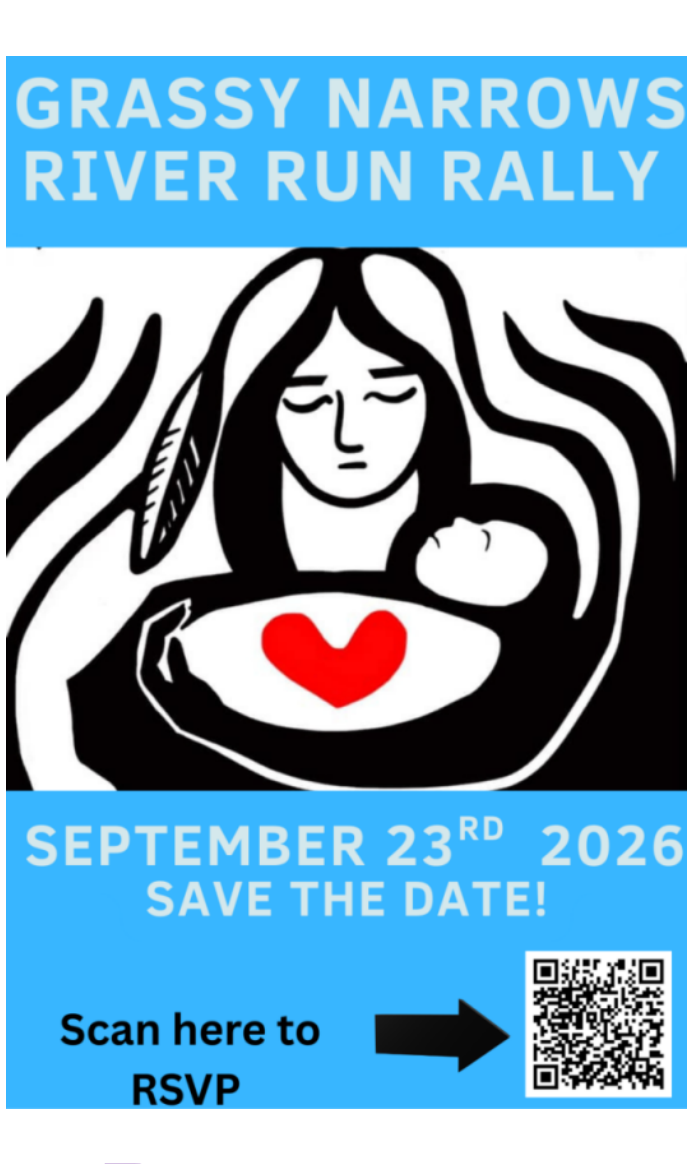
Day of Action: the people's MOU

At the end of June, 350.org instigated 35+ actions across the country. They encouraged climate activists of all ages to rally outside MPs’ offices to protest the MOU signed by the federal government with Alberta, including the office of Minister of the Environment, Climate Change and Nature, Julie Dabrusin (photo at the top). SCAN! members rose to the call, presenting the People’s MOU to multiple MPs on the Day of Action. Click to see more photos and read media accounts, like this one from Kingston.

On the legal front

The National Observer reports that Ecojustice filed a lawsuit in federal court, arguing the government’s current climate plan violates a law called the Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act. It demands the federal government create a credible plan to meet its climate targets.

The lawsuit by three Canadian youth, Environmental Defence and Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE), asks the court to order the federal government to amend its 2030 climate plan. It says a new plan is needed to include measures that can actually make up the gap and get Canada to its emissions target of 40 to 45 per cent below 2005 levels by the end of the decade.



River Run

What will it take for the people of Grassy Narrows in Ontario to finally have clean water, improved health and environmnental justice? The pressure must continue. People will arrive from around the province to Toronto to march in solidarity on September 23.

The Pan-Canadian Action Committee

Check out their new page with a plethora of important and relevant actions these past several months.

Pan-Canadian Perspectives

There is an addition to these perspectives – from Quebec. Written in French and translated into English, read fascinating insights into their climate struggles.

Taiaiako'n - Parkdale - High Park

Chapter highlights - Toronto

The People's MOU was presented at rallies in three ridings on the 350.org Day of Action.

Two fundraisers were held for SCAN! in Toronto, one in a downtown music venue and the other in Oakville, where music was also central to the entertainment.

Opposition to the proposed expansion of Billy Bishop airport on the Toronto Island to allow for jet travel has been increasingly gaining ground. The chapter sent out template letters to all of its members, asking them to pressure Liberal MPs. Only the federal government can put a stop to this travesty. Local organization, No JetsTO, has teamed up with Environmental Defence for this battle, which pits US bank greed against the health, environmental and housing concerns of Toronto residents.

Speaking of opposition to Premier Ford, the chapter provided a speaker to the May anti-Ford demonstration at Queen’s Park and did so again in June. 22 members came out to protest.

The Community Resilience and Resistance campaign in one riding in particular, Taiaiako'n–Parkdale–High Park, (photo above) has made big gains. Partnering with four climate activist groups, they delivered 70 post cards on the climate crisis to their MP.

SFC Toronto (SCAN! and Climate Action for Lifelong Learners) participated in Toronto Climate Week, inviting the “climate curious” to The Power of Local Action. Following panel presentations and table conversations, they created their own lyrics to a climate song with the help of a local musician. You can see a clip here.

Brantford Hamilton Niagara Norfolk (BHNN)

The chapter participated in two events in May as well as joining local “Fight Ford” protests and municipal actions.

In early May, they joined with Eco-Locke at First Unitarian Church in Hamilton for an event titled “Water is Life”. At their table, they handed out information about SCAN!, CPP Divestment postcards and postcards about wildfires addressed to Mark Carney. There were good conversations with local residents concerned about climate issues.

At the end of May, chapter members and members from Guelph, Kawarthas and Toronto as well as SCAN!'s Indigenous Solidarity Committee members, met in Brantford. The agenda included touring the Mohawk Institute, a former residential school, now a museum. Some members went to the performance at the Mohawk Institute called “Continuance” featuring Kaha:Wi dancers with a light display on the side of the Mohawk Institute. The day and events were very meaningful and provided a glimpse into this painful history.

Barrie

They gathered across from the Farmers’ Market to get MP postcards signed for the CRR campaign, and also to get the People’s MOU signed for 350.org. They got 123 signatures in one hour (!), which they delivered to the local MPs.

They did it all again at the Fight Ford protest. Lots of impressive green Ts really made an impact.

Edmonton

Their Seniors for Climate Environment Week activities included: their second in-person climate cafe; a webinar about Indigenous Climate Action and their journey back from pandemic dissolution to a functioning climate action group; a documentary movie and tabling called “Earth’s Greatest Enemy” about the US military and its effect on the environment. Activities culminated in an outdoor event in Edmonton’s river valley, featuring guided nature walks and indigenous music.

Their online GMM featured Phillip Meintzer, an activist involved in their Polluter Pays coalition against oil and gas companies They abandon non-working oil wells on farmland without cleaning them up.

And finally, their ReConnect to the Land and Each Other event took place in early June. It was co-hosted by SCAN! Edmonton, Edmonton River Valley Conservation Coalition, For Our Kids and Touch Grass Club. The event included guided nature walks, Tobacco Ties creation and teachings sessions, DIY air filter demonstrations, song performances and art display by youth from Human, River Cree Singers, drumming and round dance, native plant sales, tree giveaways, climate conversations, visioning space, kids forest play, prize draws, and 20 local organizations that tabled and provided hands on activities. *[Whew ed.]*

Over 180 people took part, with 25 volunteers (16 of which were SCAN! members!) giving their time to make the ReConnect Event a fun, engaging and meaningful afternoon of connection to nature, land, water and each other.

NO MORE PIPELINES
MAKE A DEAL WITH THE PEOPLE NOT BIG OIL
STOP FAST TRACKING DESTRUCTION

Guelph

Above a photo of members outside their MP's office. They comment:

And guess who was a no-show? But at least her assistant came out and took the MOU. She was in a ‘meeting’…. And even though we said we would wait for her, “she’s not coming out”. *[Too scary a bunch, eh?]*

In early June, Guelph City Council held a public meeting to discuss the change in designation of a 20-acre parcel of land from "Residential" to originally-designated "Open Space". SCAN! Guelph members delegated, wearing their bright SCAN! Ts. They explain that In Guelph, there is a little piece of wilderness called the "Niska Lands", a former waterfowl park. Many community organizations and individuals have led the fight to have these lands preserved as greenspace. A final piece of the land puzzle is this 20-acre parcel.

They asked Council to:

- ensure the designation of the 20-acre parcel of Niska Lands as Open Space Parkland;
- reject any planning arguments that would permit ecological degradation of these lands; and
- publicly reaffirm the City of Guelph’s commitment to environmental stewardship and climate responsibility.

Council decided to refer the matter to the province for redesignation, which provides some hope....

They also had a Toxic Trivia event at the end of June.

Kawartha

SCAN! Kawartha had a great event as part of "Bobcaygeon 150" celebrations.

They joined Seniors for Climate's campaign to "Break the Silence on Climate" during Earth Week with a booth, featuring activities for kids and their parents. Kids painted two banners: one illustrating the things they love in nature and want protected; the other showing things they worry about related to climate. The banners will be presented to municipal councillors. Parents participated in a marble poll to indicate their concerns about climate and signed postcards urging MPs to act on climate NOW.

On the 350.org Day of Action, they met with local MP, Jamie Schmale, to oppose the fast-tracking of projects exempted fro safety and environmental regulations that protect our communities and respect Indigenous Rights (see photo above).

YASIR NAQVI
Member of Parliament | Député
Ottawa Centre
6 SOMERSET STREET WEST
THE PEOPLE'S MOU

Ottawa

Pictured above, a call for a People’s MOU: Yes to Nation Building! No to Nation Burning!

On Mothers’ Day, SCAN! members carried out a pop-up event at Ottawa’s Tulip Festival. They set up an easel with "Mother Earth Questions." People put coloured stickers in answer to various questions, such as "Do you use cold water for washing clothing?" They also covered a table with banner paper and asked children if they wished to write/draw a message for Mother Earth and/or their mother or just draw. Parents were then a captive audience for the adjacent easel. A steady stream of people came to the "display." Excellent conversations with the children and the adults, as well as those passing on the sidewalk.

For Environment Week they attended three different events around the city - based on the Mother’s Day model, with tabling, the climate quiz, the Raging Grannies, and the flash mob. They also participated with Citizens Climate Lobby in early June.

The chapter has been working with CAFES (Community Action for Environmental Sustainability) to plan a fall workshop based on the David Suzuki Foundation “Stronger together" model. CAFES obtained just over $5,000 from the federal New Horizons for Seniors Program for this workshop. It is being led by the chapter and will focus on empowering vulnerable seniors to advocate for their needs.

CLIMATE ACTION NOW!

Northumberland

An annual outdoor promotional event by the Northumberland Electric Vehicle club was held outdoors on a chilly and very rainy Sunday in June at the Northumberland Mall in Cobourg. They had a separate tent, table and chairs so that members of Northumberland SCAN! could display educational materials and spread the word about the need for immediate climate action.

WE WANT
SENIORS for CLIMATE ACTION NOW!
CLEAN AIR
CLEAN WATER
CLIMATE JUSTICE
PLANET EARTH IS IN DEEP TROUBLE
SCAN! HAS A CALL TO ACTION FOR ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMEMT TO ACT

London

The chapter held a Community Resilience and Resistance rally in mid-May in front of Liberal MP, Peter Fragitos’ office. A record 9 chapter members and collaborators got the attention of many honking and waving motorists. They also met Liberal MP Arielle Kayabaga at her London West Constituent Office in mid- May. They shared the seven demands and let her know that they would continue to rally. For the Water Festival Family Night in mid-May, they had a binder of thirteen *“What’re Facts”*. And at the end of May, they staffed a SCAN**!** table at the Main London Public Library.

Kingston

Members continue the CRR campaign targeting MPs with monthly rallies.

They have actively petitioned with allied organizations against the proposed expansion of Kingston's Urban Boundaries. That petition was successful and resulted in a vote in Kingston City Council to postpone the vote on the expansion of urban boundaries until 2027. *[Yay!]*

They also wrote a petition opposing the expansion of LNG, (in support of the Not in Our National Interest campaign). They used large posters on LNG and pipelines, and distributed information. Following conversations with people, a number signed their contact list.

In late May, some members joined the Kingston Health Coalition on the train to participate in the Defend Public Healthcare demonstration in Toronto.

SCAN! Kingston had information tables at a number of events, including the Kingston Climate Summit, Earth Fest in Confederation Park and Princess St. Promenade on National Indigenous Peoples' Day.

In late June, they were instrumental in bringing together a number of groups to support the 350 Canada National Day of Action, 'The People's MOU': 350 Kingston, Kingston Climate Justice Coalition, and the Kingston Health Coalition. They rallied at MP Mark Gerretsen's office and called on him to sign the People's MOU. They also delivered the LNG petitions with 450 signatures to his office. About 35-40 people attended the rally where they garnered two new members. His staff will ensure that the LNG petitions are delivered to the House when Parliament resumes, and will accept more of their petitions over the summer for delivery to Parliament in the fall.

Currently, SCAN! Kingston is organizing an "Extreme Heat Awareness Day" press conference to be held at City Hall on July 15. The City has agreed to a proclamation to declare July 15th Extreme Heat Awareness Day. Kingston was recently successful in getting the City to institute a pilot program of $17,000 to distribute some air conditioners to vulnerable low-income seniors. The press conference seeks to build awareness of the dangers of extreme heat. They will also use it to call on the City of Kingston to pass a maximum temperature bylaw.

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,

https://www.instagram.com/scan_guelph/

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 and Instagram: scan.canada
https://www.instagram.com/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