Encouraging News in Discouraging Times

Seven young Ontarians behind the landmark *Mathur et. al. v. Ontario* constitutional climate case are ready for the next chapter in their years-long fight to hold the Ford government to account for its climate record.

The Ontario Court of Appeal provided critical guidance confirming that the case will return to the Ontario Superior Court of Justice for a hearing, originally scheduled for December 2025. The Ford government repealed Ontario's climate law and emissions target framework at the eleventh hour, in what appeared to be a move to skirt accountability and avoid facing the youth in court. [*Coward*.]

Calls for AI data centre moratorium

Two wins – in Oakville Ontario, they enacted a one-year moratorium on data centres, as developers and AI companies race to build digital infrastructure across the country. And in Centre Wellington, Ont., a rural community of 35,500, they voted for a one-year data centre moratorium.

Many communities across the country have been opposing data centres with a few big wins in Alberta. Need a lift? Read this and this.

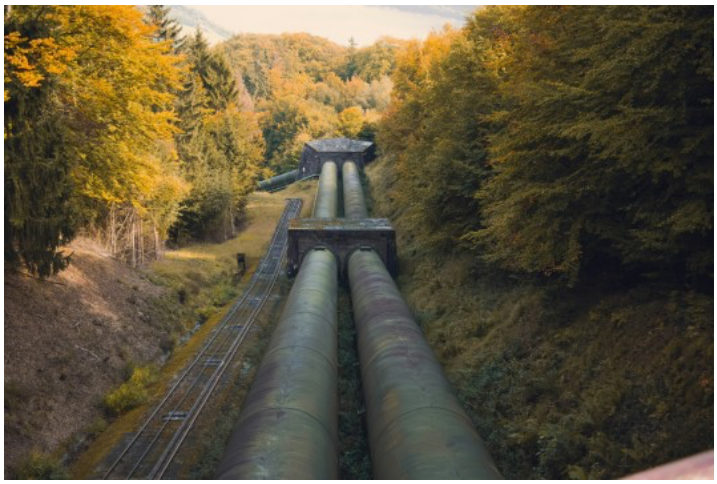

Photo by Quinten de Graaf on Unsplash

The federal government wants to push through the West Coast Oil Pipeline as a project of national interest under the *Building Canada Act*. Indigenous nations have fought back.

People can support opposition here.

The government consultation document reads:

"Those who wish to provide views on any considerations that should guide the Government's decision may submit them by September 18". Over to you.

September 15th. Over to you.

SCAN! calls for a windfall tax

Joining the call to claw back some of the outrageous Iran war profits from oil and gas companies, SCAN! wrote a media release and sent it out to all SCAN! members. Many have taken up the challenge to send to their local media and/or use it as a basis for a letter to the editor. Keep it up.

SCAN! submissions

SCAN! sent two recent submissions to the federal government. This one on sustainable finance taxonomy and this one on the National Strategy Respecting Environmental Justice and Environmental Racism.

We owe a debt of gratitude to our members who work long and hard on these submissions.

A SCAN! member's op ed was published. Read it here

Ontario's nuclear struggles are back in the news. In Port Hope, Ontario, over several decades, a radium refinery plant dumped contaminated soil,

rocks and building materials across Port Hope. Now the Ford government wants to build the "World's Largest" nuclear plant.

Here is SCAN!'s statement and here is a letter to sign

sign!

Wildfies and droughts are still wreaking havoc. Have you sent a letter to your MP, yet? Go to the home page and scroll down to "First wildfires - and now drought".

The Many vs. the Money

We look forward to reports after climate activists including SCAN! members arrive from across the country to oppose the Ottawa summit of the 200 richest CEOs on earth. Please send your accounts and photos to media@seniorsforclimateactionnow.org

News from the Chapters

London

Four members met with London Centre Liberal MP, Peter Fragiskatos, in July. Specific concerns discussed included environmental threats from proposed AI data centres with their massive electricity demands, high water consumption, and elevated greenhouse gas emissions. A blowup of the Peoples' MOU was left at the MP's office.

The theme for the July Anti-Ford Rally at Victoria Park was climate. A chapter member spoke about SCAN! in general and Doug Ford's climate crimes in particular. A second member spoke about the folly of nuclear power and the need for collaboration with other groups, especially youth, who are going to be stuck with future climate challenges. About 25 promotion cards and the latest postcards were handed out.

Ottawa

They are working with Fridays for Future, Community Action for Environmental Sustainability (CAFES), Climate Justice Ottawa and other groups to plan a Climate March on September 19.

"Stop the Burning: Protect our Climate" is the march theme. In preparation, SCAN! Ottawa held a banner making workshop in late August.

The chapter's Awed Squad turned up at Blues Fest in July with their banner and handouts, as people were arriving for the evening show.

Edmonton

SCAN! Edmonton tabled at the Old Strathcona Market in Edmonton in July. Nine members volunteered to table. People stopped to fill in the MP Act Now cards and a sign-up sheet, indicating their interest in becoming a member and receiving the newsletter, increasing their presence in the community.

They hosted a Climate Cafe in late July with 10 people around the table.

They had a methane committee meeting at Earth's Refillery Cafe resulting in a few new members. They appreciate the committee's intention to visit local communities in Edmonton detailing the location of abandoned wells. The number reported by the government and the Alberta Energy Regulator of methane leaks is seriously under reported; i.e., they believe that there is 7% more methane in the atmosphere than reported.

Kingston

They got good coverage of the press conference on Extreme Heat. The event took place as Kingston was under an Environment Canada heat warning and suffering apocalyptic toxic wildfire smoke. They are pleased with the positive outreach and community organizing which brings groups together and provides leadership to focus on key issues at the local and the federal level. They are forming deep, ongoing connections with community activists and leaders.

A subcommittee will continue the campaign for the maximum temperature bylaw; and plans include an online petition, a questionnaire for candidates in the upcoming municipal elections and a pledge for mayor and councillor candidates to support the bylaw.

In late July, SCAN! Kingston organized a special joint meeting to bring together: SCAN! Kingston; 350 Kingston, Kingston Climate Justice Coalition;

350 Kingston, Kingston Climate Justice Coalition, and the Kingston Health Coalition. They focused on protecting people from the impacts of extreme heat and the campaign for a maximum temperature bylaw as well as building opposition to the federal government's abandonment of climate policies and actions. In particular: the plan to fast track more pipelines and expand oil and gas production. 22 people attended the meeting; and a number of actions were shared and more planned. They intend to seek another meeting with MP Gerretsen with representatives of the four groups. They also rallied at his office in late August. Another rally will confront MP Gerretsen at the Labour Day picnic with the banner, "Don't BBQ the planet". [*Gotta love it*.]

They continue with regular Fridays for Future rallies downtown each Friday. As handouts, they have been using the petition opposing LNG and the petition calling for a Maximum Temperature Bylaw. They also held a SCAN! information table as part of the Princess St. Promenade street closure in early August, for which they created a

new leaflet.

Barrie

Like SCAN! chapters across Ontario, they took part in a first Fight Ford Protest and participated again in August (see photo above). They connected with the organizer and are promoting these protests on social media. They made some good contacts and some new members. [*Yay!*]

In early September, they will attend the Congress of Labour picnic and will table, using climate quizzes. The theme: fire. Also upcoming: Walk a Mile in her Shoes for Women's Shelters and taking the Grassy Narrows bus from Barrie to Toronto on September 23.

Guelph

Members met with MP Dominique O'Rourke. They let her know they were deeply troubled by the lack of urgency in both the government's response to the crisis and in the transition away from oil and gas. In the end, she agreed to share their concerns in writing with the Prime Minister, the Minister of the Environment and the Minister of Natural Resources.

The photo above is the Guelph August chapter meeting. A mayoral candidate and four councillor candidates showed up unannounced. The invited speaker shared past city budget priorities and emissions data for the city - disheartening - and suggested they ask their councillor/mayoral candidates, "How are you going to fix this mess?"

Saving the best for last, here is what was written on the screen:
Where Guelph is Now:

Community GHG missing targets and getting worse

City operations emissions rising

City cut climate capital budgets - $16.2 M (-42%)

Residents are doing the heavy lifting -3% reduction

Brantford Hamilton Niagara Norfolk (BHNN)

Three chapter members met with Ned Kuruc, Conservative MP for Hamilton East-Stoney Creek. They discussed AI Data Centres, the potential for green jobs and Hamilton air quality. Mr. Kuruc continues to be receptive and engaged during their meetings. He called MP Aslam Rana, Liberal for Hamilton-Centre to urge him to take a meeting with the group. They met with him in early August.

In July they attended Hamilton Art Crawl and asked people to sign postcards. They set up a “mail box” as suggested by the London chapter and collected 55 signed postcards for various MPs, the majority of which were addressed to MP Aslam Rana, Hamilton-Centre. [*Wow!]*

The reception at the first Art Crawl was very successful, so they also attended the one in August. They noticed that postcard signers were

mainly in a younger age group.

They met with Aslam Rana, at a social event to spread the message and sign up new members. They also had a collaborative meeting with JP Danko, Liberal MP for Hamilton West-Ancaster-Dundas.

Toronto

SCAN! Toronto participated in the planning and

execution of a rally outside Environment Minister Julie Dabrusin's office calling for no jets at the Island airport, which was covered by Global and cp24. Collaborating with Artists for Real Climate Action (ARCA) and Toronto East Residents for Renewable Energy (TERRE) was a positive, energizing experience. During other events, members handed out brochures against allowing jets at the airport.

CRR actions continue in 8 ridings (Toronto St. Paul's above). Increasingly, there is follow-up with interested passers-by, some of whom have asked for presentations at their workplace or in their community.

The July chapter meeting focused in part on data centres and the importance of municipalities calling for a moratorium. The chapter spent much of the August meeting preparing its work for the October municipal election as well as focusing on local, critical by-elections. Leaflets for the municipal election have a summary of the climate crisis and potential local solutions. The back will have specific questions for people to ask their candidates at the door and at public meetings. They plan to blanket the city including the Labour Day parade.

Toronto members will also hand out flyers for River Run on September 23, where Indigenous leaders will arrive to protest the ongoing poisoning of their water 60 years later, as well as their attempt to protect local forests and land from aggressive clearcutting and mining.

Earth's Changing Climate – Confronting the Challenge

Seniors for Climate Action Now!

Climate Action for Lifelong Learners

Ready to learn something empowering together?

The on-line course will review and analyze the global impacts of the worsening climate crisis.

A total of eight 50-minute live presentations will be given on Zoom, each followed by a question-and-answer session. Recordings will be available until two weeks after the last class.

Subjects covered

- Global Overview
- Why is Climate Changing?
- Global Energy Transition
- Electrification
- Disinformation & Denial
- Climate in Canada
- The Nuclear Question
- Taking Action

Image by Greenpeace from Pixabay

Presented by Dr. Martin Bush

Classes starting Tuesday, October 13 for eight weeks ending December 1
1:00–2:30 PM ET

$25.00

Contact Us

climate.course@climatelearners.ca

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER
or email
climate.course@climatelearners.ca
or QR Code to get registration link

Climate course

Register here for this course presented by Dr. Martin Bush.

Classes start Tuesday, October 13 and run for eight weeks ending December 1. 1:00-2:30 PM ET. $25.00. Proceeds from the course will be shared by CALL and SCAN!

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. 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 website and click on Join us".
Questions? email us: info@seniorsforclimateactionnow.org