Brooke Lydbrooke, 78 ans, membre du groupe Seniors Climate Witness, est escortée hors de l'enceinte de la colline du Parlement par des agents du Service de protection parlementaire après avoir tenté de remettre des documents sur les impacts climatiques à des députés à la Chambre des communes, à Ottawa, le mardi 22 septembre 2026.

PHOTO : LA PRESSE CANADIENNE / KEITO NEWMAN

To hell in a handbasket? Not so fast

September was packed with protests. From the Many vs. the Money, to support for migrant workers, to marching with Grassy Narrows, to the Seniors Climate Witness caravan – SCAN! was there.

Several SCAN! members joined Seniors Climate Witness in Ottawa.

A total of 11 were arrested (see our member above) and given trespassing notices. They are barred from Parliament Hill until Sept. 23, 2027. Coverage was extensive, likely because of the brave seniors who stood up for the planet and for peace over war. They even figured on "This Hour Has 22 Minutes.

You can read more here.

Many vs. the Money

Police presence at the rowdy Toronto demonstrations was very heavy. Nonetheless, they made their voices heard.

SCAN! members joined over 1,000 protesters. CBC reported on them, quoting our ally at World Beyond War: "He [Carney] is selling our public resources without any guaranteed returns and at the same time growing industries that will push the world towards greater war and climate catastrophe."

Migrant workers' support

The Migrant Rights Network held protests across the country on Sept. 20. SCAN! joined allies to call for: an end to exploitation; status for all; an end to deportations; and renewal of work permits. We will see an accelerating influx of climate refugees in the years ahead, many of whom will join the ranks of workers subjected to increasingly difficult working conditions caused by the climate crisis.

River Run

An estimated 9,000 people gathered in Toronto on September 23 to welcome representatives from Grassy Narrows, who travelled over 2,000 km. for the rally and march. They have been dealing with the effects of mercury poisoning for over 60 years, caused by industrial dumping in their river. Recent effluents have exacerbated the toxicity of methylmercury.

They have not only fought against this egregious attack on their health, well being and economy, but they have also had to fight unregulated logging and mining on their land.

SCAN! Toronto, SCAN! Barrie, SCAN! Guelph. SCAN! Brantford/Hamilton/Niagara/Norfolk (BHNN) were all represented.

COP17 action letter

You will be familiar with the climate meetings known as COP. This year's is COP31. But you may not be familiar with COP17 on biodiversity.

We would like you to sign on to this letter:

The Canadian government will be sending delegates to COP17, an international convention

delegates to COP 17, an international convention on biodiversity taking place October 19-30. Biodiversity is declining at an unprecedented rate in human history. Species are disappearing, wildlife populations are in steep decline, and terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems are being seriously damaged.

Yet over the past year the federal government has removed environmental safeguards and opened the door to exemptions to legislation protecting species and biodiversity.

Help us tell the government: to promote protection and restoration of biodiversity at COP17 and outline the actions and timelines it will take to meet its existing international commitments to biodiversity!

And we also publish

The Pan-Canadian Action Committee (PCAC) has now written nine submissions. Their research skills are exceptional. Dogged determination and sheer hard labour have gone into these latest submissions. The letter we are asking you to sign (see above) was generated by them.

Let's start with electrification. They write:

Natural gas-powered electricity generation is *not* a low-emission technology. This is a fiction. Read more in their submission on the National Strategy for an Electrified Canadian Economy.

Here is their Species at Risk Act consultation (Public Consultation on Proposed Critical Habitat Protection Regulations for Federal Lands).

And their Submission to the Major Projects Office regarding the 2026 proposal of listing the West Coast Oil Pipeline as a project of national interest.

Visit the PCAC page on the website.

A member has also written a response to Ontario's economic and stategic assessment framework for new data centres, which may be of use to people across the country calling for a moratorium.

It is equally important to amplify work done by allied organizations. Immediately after details of the horrendous Bill C-39 was published, Environmental Defense wrote this and Ecojustice

published this biting criticism.

Chapter highlights

Kingston

SCAN! Kingston members participated in Labour Day events (photo above). They have also been determinedly pursuing MP Mark Gerretsen. Watch this delightful video.

From their press release:
“We decided to confront MP Gerretsen after reading last week’s stark new UN report warning that government inaction on the climate crisis has guaranteed that the world will exceed 1.5°C of heating.

I was outraged today to hear him defend his government’s plan to spend tens of billions on a new tar sands pipeline while the climate alarm is blaring,” said Nancy Nicol, the SCAN! member who spoke with MP Gerretsen earlier today. “The climate science is clear, there can be no new pipelines on a burning planet. I hope more

Canadians will join me in confronting MPs who are knowingly leading us down this reckless path."

Toronto

With the upcoming municipal election, the chapter has printed leaflets with background information on one side and questions for candidates on the other. You can see the leaflet here. Scroll down to "Toronto City Council Candidates: what will you do to fight the climate crisis?" Some of the questions, although Toronto-specific, may be useful to other chapters.

Members have been handing out flyers wherever there is an all-candidates' meeting - so far, to good reception.

Indigenous solidarity

SCAN! sets aside 10% of all its general revenues to support Indigenous organizations whose goals and activities address the causes of and solutions to the climate crisis.

to the climate crisis.

This year's Indigenous Solidarity Fund awards go to:

Legal Advocates for Nature's Defense (LAND);

Donations

Lax'Yip Firekeepers; Donations
firekeepers@laxyip.com

Turtle Protectors Donations:
info@msitnokmaq.com

Here We Stand video; Donations

Namaygoosisagagun First Nation; Donations

Syilx Nation;

via Okanagan Indian Band: put "OKIB" in the memo line, send to: finance@enowkincentre.ca

Communications

SCAN!'s FB page gets a lot of traffic. We now have over 2,000 followers.

Some chapters have started a FB group or page. There are also several Instagram accounts. Toronto, Ottawa, Edmonton.

As well, many of us follow the Seniors For Climate Instagram account.

You can also follow SCAN! on Bluesky. Some chapters have their own Bluesky accounts.

It is always important to amplify to get the message out. It's great to "like" but better to "share".

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