



March 23, 2015

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A9

Dear Prime Minister:

As you know, and as agreed by Canada at the United Nations Conference of the Parties in Lima in December 2014, Canada is expected to announce in March 2015 its intended nationally determined contribution (INDC) to global efforts to reduce greenhouse gases to levels that would keep global warming below 2⁰C above pre-industrial levels. The timeline is intended to support the ongoing climate negotiations and the successful conclusion of a new international climate agreement in Paris in December 2015.

Climate Action Network Canada represents almost 100 environmental, labour, faith, youth, and First Nations organizations (see Appendix). On behalf of our members and organizations endorsing this letter, we urge Canada to commit internationally to an ambitious national greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction target for the next 10 years (by 2025) that leads to zero emissions within 35 years (by 2050). The target must be legislated domestically and significantly exceed the Copenhagen commitment. Although we salute Canada's pledge of \$300M to the Green Climate Fund announced last December, Canada also needs to help finance international action that generates global reductions in line with preventing dangerous climate change. The federal government, working with provinces and territories, should commit to a comprehensive INDC that commits Canada to:

1. A fair share contribution to emissions reductions. We believe that Canada's INDC must include a commitment to a legally binding target to cut our domestic carbon pollution in Canada by at least one third within the next 10 years (equivalent to 37% below 2005 levels by 2025). Canada should also commit to substantial public finance that would lever additional, verifiable emissions reductions from investments in climate change mitigation in developing countries. Together, we believe that domestic reductions combined with reductions achieved through substantial international mitigation investments could constitute Canada's fair share to climate protection efforts.
2. A fair share contribution to achieving the Copenhagen promise of \$100 billion in annual climate finance by 2020. A contribution of \$4 billion annually to publicly funded climate finance divided equally between mitigation and adaptation projects would, in our view be commensurate with our fair share. A \$2 billion commitment to investments in international mitigation projects could lead to global reductions in greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to Canada's remaining domestic emissions. We urge Canada to make these new and additional resources available to United Nations institutions such as the Green Climate Fund to be disbursed as grants, not loans – adding further to the debt burden of vulnerable



countries is not the best approach to advancing sustainable development and climate protection! As noted by the federal Environmental Commissioner in fall 2014, 73 percent of resources allocated to concessional financing in the context of Canada's contribution to the Fast Start Finance program for 2010-2012 have not yet been disbursed two years after the end of that funding period. We believe that grant funds should include capacity building, encourage technology transfer, and support multi-year projects. With respect to mitigation, priority should be given to clean energy and energy efficiency projects so that developing countries avoid carbon-intensive infrastructure investments; no climate finance should be given to projects that involve fossil fuels or large-scale hydro projects. We also endorse the recommendation made by the Green Budget Coalition calling on Canada to direct loan repayments from the fast-start commitments to a revolving fund to support future climate protection investments.

3. **Update targets and plans every five years to reach the long-term goal of near zero greenhouse gas emissions based on the phasing in of a clean energy system.** The federal government should support the goals of complete decarbonization of the world's energy systems within 35 years (by 2050) and to ending net deforestation and expanding forest cover as soon as possible. Commitment periods of five years allow for regular updating and review and course corrections where required. Canada also needs an accountable approach to target setting and planning: our commitment must be to actions that are measurable and verifiable and to processes that are transparent.
4. **Develop and implement a national climate plan to meet domestically legislated targets that complement and enhance provincial/territorial plans.** The plan(s) should:
 - a. Seize Canada's potential in the clean energy economy by, among other measures, establishing, at minimum, a floor price for carbon that applies across the country. The federal government will need to establish a process with provinces and territories to coordinate provincial approaches and to ensure the price on carbon pollution increases rapidly over time.
 - b. Build on provincial/territorial efforts to develop a Canadian Energy Strategy by establishing **positive national objectives** for, as examples, **renewable energy generation** installed (from wind, solar, biomass, hydro), **energy efficiency** (covering homes and buildings retrofitted and built to standards consistent with deep decarbonization, vehicles, equipment and appliances), and **low or zero-emitting vehicles** on the road. These objectives would be set to levels commensurate with achieving national emissions reductions targets. Numerous studies show there is cost-effective potential for a 100 percent renewable electricity system to supply energy to homes, buildings and vehicles.
 - c. Establish **stringent energy efficiency and conservation improvement standards** for all new homes and buildings, appliances, equipment, and vehicles.
 - d. End **subsidies to the oil, coal and gas sector** that encourage exploration, development, refining, and export of these sources of energy and **redirect those subsidies toward low-impact renewable energy generation, energy efficiency and conservation.** According to a 2013



report by the International Energy agency, removing subsidies to fossil fuels could lead to a decrease in global GHG emissions of between 6 and 13 percent by 2050. Redirecting these resources to investment in a clean energy system would put Canada on the path to a low-carbon society.

- e. Stimulate **sustainable transportation** by investing in accessible urban and intercity public transit, active transportation like cycling and walking, discourage single-occupancy automobile use, and shift freight movement from road to rail through federal/provincial-territorial/municipal infrastructure partnerships.
- f. Ensure all federal funding for infrastructure investments are tied to meeting stringent criteria adapting to long-term climate change.
- g. Require **independent third party audits and assessment of climate plan** outcomes.
- h. Accelerate **research and development in emerging renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies**, including storage, with the aim of positioning Canada at the forefront of the global clean energy revolution.

Prime Minister, we are confident that our INDC proposal would sustain the country's economy and well-being; a failure to act risks harming us all. We look forward to working with you to advance effective climate protection efforts across Canada that also accelerates the transition to a clean energy system accessible to all Canadians. Climate Action Network Canada would welcome a meeting with you and your officials to explore options for pursuing a comprehensive approach to our promised domestic contribution to the United Nations negotiations on climate protection. Canada has a contribution to make to the Paris negotiations to ensure an agreement that sets the world on the path to climate protection for the sake of the health, security and well-being of all people.

Sincerely,

Louise Comeau
Executive Director, Climate Action Network Canada

cc. Environment Minister Leona Aglukkaq



Appendix

Members of Climate Action Network Canada and Organizations Endorsing this INDC Letter

Acadia Center
Act for the Earth
Algonquin Wildlands League
Aquatic Ecosystem Health and Management Society
Bathurst Sustainable Development
British Columbia Sustainable Energy Association
Canadian Association for Renewable Energies (CARE)
Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE)
Canadian Centre for Policy Ingenuity
Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC)
Canadian Environmental Law Association
Canadian Federation of University Women
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS)
Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice
Canadian Voice of Women for Peace (VOW)
Canadian Youth Climate Coalition (CYCC)
Centre Hélios - Helios Center
Citizens Environment Alliance of Southwestern Ontario
Citizens for Public Justice
Citizens' Climate Lobby
Clean Air Partnership
Clean North
Clean Nova Scotia Foundation - Climate Change Centre
Climate Change in Focus
Climate Change Lawyers Network
ClimateFast
Climate Reality Project Canada
Columbia Institute
Community Based Environmental Monitoring Network
Conseil Régional de l'Environnement (CRE) - Capitale Nationale



Conservation Council of New Brunswick
Conservers Society of Hamilton and District
Development and Peace
David Suzuki Foundation
Ecology Action Centre
Ecology North
Ecology Ottawa
Environmental Coalition of PEI (EcoPEI)
Environmental Defence
ENvironnement JEUnesse (ENJEU)
Équiterre
ETC Group
Faith and the Common Good: Greening Sacred Spaces
For Our Grandchildren
ForestEthics Canada
Friends of the Earth Canada
Georgian Triangle Earth Day Celebrations
Green Action Centre
Green Communities Canada
Green Neighbours 21
Green13
Greening Niagara
Greenpeace Canada
Hoof and Cycle - Active Transport Workers Guild
Jour de la Terre Québec - Projets Saint-Laurent
JustEarth: A Coalition for Environmental Justice
KAIROS
Keepers of the Athabasca Watershed Society
Keepers of the Water Council
L'Association québécoise de lutte contre la pollution atmosphérique (AQLPA)
LeadNow
Living Oceans Society
Manitoba Wildlands
National Union of Public and General Employees (NUPGE)
Nature Canada



Nature Saskatchewan
New Brunswick Lung Association
Ontario Clean Air Alliance
Our Horizon Society
Oxfam Canada
Oxfam Québec
Pacific Peoples' Partnership
Passive Buildings Canada
Peace NB
Pembina Institute
Polaris Institute
Post Carbon Toronto
Saskatchewan Eco Network (SEN)
Saskatchewan Environmental Society
Science for Peace
Sierra Club of Canada Foundation
Sierra Youth Coalition
STOP
Students on Ice Alumni Delegation
Sustainable Solutions Group
Tides Canada/Clean Energy Canada
Toronto 350.org
Toronto Environmental Alliance
Transition Initiative Kenora
United Church of Canada
United Steelworkers
University of Waterloo Coalition for Sustainable Development
Vegetarians and Vegans of Alberta
Voters Taking Action on Climate Change (VTACC)
West Coast Environmental Law
Windfall Ecology Centre
World Federalist Movement Canada
Yukon Conservation Society
Zero Carbon Ontario