

An open letter to the Government of Canada from more than 70 conservation, climate, and health groups representing hundreds of thousands of supporters in Canada.

November 2, 2022

The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON

The Honourable Wilkinson, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Natural Resources Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON

Re: Report and Reduce GHG Emissions from Logging

Dear Ministers,

As environment and health groups representing hundreds of thousands of Canadians, we are writing to express concern about the lack of government transparency regarding greenhouse gas emissions from logging, which have recently been reported as being on par with emissions from oil sands production¹.

At present, your government does not clearly report logging emissions in your annual GHG inventory. This is in contrast to other large economic sectors, whose emissions are clearly reported.

Currently, logging emissions in Canada can only be determined by piecing together data from various government reports and tables, and by requesting data from government officials.

In addition, your government has no clear plan for reducing GHG emissions from logging. In fact, your government exempts logging-related emissions from Canada's Output-Based Pricing System (OBPS), effectively subsidizing the clear-cutting of forests.

Canada will not meet its 2030 climate and nature commitments unless all economic sectors take action to reduce GHG emissions.

¹ Jennifer Skene and Michael Polanyi (2022). [Lost in the Woods: Canada's Hidden Logging Emissions are Equivalent to Those From Oil Sands Operations](#). Matthew Bramley and Graham Saul (2022). [What are the Net Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Logging in Canada?](#)

We call on you to:

- 1) Clearly and transparently report GHG emissions from logging in upcoming climate reports;
- 2) Develop a strategy to reduce logging emissions and better protect primary and old-growth forests;
- 3) Improve Canada's forest carbon accounting practices to ensure that the full climate impacts of logging are accurately measured and reported in alignment with IPCC Guidelines.

Actions to report and reduce logging emissions and advance forest protection should be carried out in full alignment with Indigenous rights and title.

Thank you for considering and responding to our concerns.

Sincerely,

Alberta Wilderness Association
Ancient Forest Exploration & Research
BC Climate Alliance
BC Spaces for Nature
Bert Miller Nature Club
Bird Friendly City Regina
Burke Mountain Naturalists
Burlington Green
Canadian Association of Nurses of the Environment
Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment
Canadian Environmental Law Association
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - Nova Scotia Chapter
Canadian Public Health Association
Chemainus Climate Solutions
Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation
Citizens' Climate Lobby Canada
Climate Action for Lifelong Learners
Climate Action London
Climate Action Network - Réseau action climat Canada
Community Forests International
Comox Valley Nature
Conservation Council of New Brunswick

CPAWS Yukon
David Suzuki Foundation
Doctors and Nurses for Planetary Health-Kootenay Boundary
Doctors for Planetary Health - West Coast
Echo Ecological Enterprises LTD
Ecotrust Canada
EK Climate Hub
Environmental Defence Canada
FLAP Canada
For Peat's Sake - Protecting Northern Saskatchewan Muskegs
Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society
Georgia Strait Alliance
Grand(m)others Act to Save the Planet (GASP)
Greater Victoria Climate Hub
KAIROS
KAIROS Guelph
Lasqueti Island Nature Conservancy
Le Centre Oblat: A Voice for Justice
London Environmental Network
Mount Work Coalition
Natural Resources Defense Council
Nature Canada
Nature Nova Scotia

Nature Saskatchewan
Naturopathic Doctors for Environmental and
Social Trust
Nurses And Doctors for Planetary Health-
Victoria
Ocean Park Beautification Committee
Office for Systemic Justice, Federation of
Sisters of St. Joseph of Canada
Pender Harbour Wildlife Society
Protect Our Winters Canada
Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario
Saugeen Nature
Sea Smart
Sierra Club Canada Foundation
Skeena Watershed Conservation Coalition

Société pour la nature et les parcs (SNAP
Québec)
South Peel Naturalists' Club
Stand.earth
Target Climate
The Climate Reality Project Canada
The Third Signatory
Toronto 350
Trees Please Winnipeg
Victoria Climate Action Team
Water Watchers
West Kootenay Climate Hub
Wilderness Committee
Wildsight Creston Valley Branch