

Monthly USA Speaker Series: Kajsa Hendrickson, Future 500

(Saturday, April 8, 2023 | 10 am PT / 1 pm ET)



The work to preserve a livable world requires buy-in and participation from all sectors — civil society, government, business, science, academia. Finding common ground among these various sectors is essential to meet our climate goals, and so we talk this month with Kajsa Hendrickson, Director at Future 500, to learn more about stakeholder engagement and collaboration, particularly with the business community. Kajsa works directly to build bridges between groups at odds, or even in conflict, something she honed as a volunteer at CCL in San Diego. She currently collaborates with CCL coordinators, NGOs, and community representatives in the Southeast on a utility-stakeholder information exchange. Before joining Future 500, Kajsa worked on stakeholder engagement with the largest solar incentive program in the country, closing the gap between who has access to and who benefits from sustainable energy.

[Zoom Link](#) and Playback [here](#)

CCL Canada's April Actions at a Glance

1. It's Earth Day month! Have fun connecting at local events that appeal to you and your group. Check out all the Earth Day resources [here](#).
2. Give your local parliamentarians a head's up about our Friday, June 2, 2023 special online event: [All Together Now II - Our rights and a liveable planet](#).
3. Our Earth Hour to Earth Day Fundraiser continues. Lend a hand!
4. **Special Action:** For those of you who have MPs working on ending fossil fuel subsidies, encourage them to joint second [this motion](#) from Mike Morrice.
5. **Special Action:** Ask your friends and family in Quebec to sign a [petition](#) calling for stronger carbon pricing in Quebec.
6. **Special Ontario Actions:** Join the Beyond Gas Advocacy Skills Workshop specifically tailored to Ontarians on April 5.
7. **Special Anaesthetics Action** - only if your lobbied parliamentarian previously
8. **Loser Talks:**
 - IPCC AR6 Synthesis Report: Join Us On the Bomb Squad
 - How to Defuse the Antarctic Climate Bomb
 - CCL Canada's Position on Carbon Capture and Sequestration
 - CCL Canada's Stance on Nuclear Energy
 - Budget 2023: Key Takeaways
 - Our Rights and a Liveable World

Head's up:

- Join our [CCL Canada education call on Tuesday, May 2](#) with Guy Dauncey. on the seven ways to [tackle the climate crisis without raising interest rates](#).

Best practices:

1. Invite members to join our monthly [CCL Canada Catch-Up calls](#) to build institutional wisdom and help carry the load in your ridings.
2. Stay updated on what your MP is saying in the House of Commons with [OpenParliament](#).
3. Record your CCL actions in the [Action Tracker](#)! Politicians take note of highly organized volunteers and we need action trackers statistics for fundraising purposes.

Gratitude

We are grateful to our donors. We would never have been able to conduct nine national conferences and lobby days in Ottawa, four Ontario regional conferences, and lobbied collectively 16 times on Parliament Hill (including virtually during COVID) since 2011 without their unconditional giving and trust. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we also conducted four national conferences too.

Interactive Upcoming Calls Calendar

[Education Calls](#) - [Action Team Calls](#) - [Action Items](#) - [Local Chapter Calls](#) - [Other](#)

APRIL 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 CCL Canada Conservative Action Team Call
2	3	4 Bretton Woods Action Team Call	5 Beyond Gas Advocacy Workshop	6 CCL Canada Catch-up Call #1 FFNPT Consultation	7 CCL Canada Catch-up Call #2	8 CCL USA Speaker Series
9	10	11 CCI Global Check-In Calls	12 CCL Alberta Call	13	14	15
16	17	18 Beyond Gas with Mark Jaccard and others	19 CCI Get To Know Us Calls	20 Talanoa Dialogues	21	22 Earth Hour - Earth Day Fundraising Ends Earth Day
23	24	25	26 CCL Canada LTE-Palooza	27	28	29
30						

EDUCATION CALLS				
Name	Description	Date	Time	Call Options
CCL USA Speaker Series	Join the monthly USA Speakers Series call to hear from Kajsa Hendrickson, Director at Future 500	Saturday April 8, 2023	10:00 am PT / 1:00 pm ET	Zoom Link Playback here
CCL International Global Check-In Calls	Build relationships with worldwide CCL leaders on the second Tuesday each month and learn about upcoming international events, Laser Talks, and reports from around the world.	Tuesday April 11, 2023	5:00 am PT / 8:00 am ET	Zoom Link Passcode 123
			11:00 am PT / 2:00 pm ET	
			5:00 pm PT / 8:00 pm ET	
Beyond Gas Event: Mark Jaccard (OCEC & CAPE) Good for all Canadians	Join experts exploring renewable energy solutions for a thriving livable future in Ontario as the alternative to gas-fired electricity. A discussion with Dr Mark Z. Jacobson (No Miracles Needed) and local experts, Jack Gibbons (Chair, Ontario Clean Air Alliance) and Gaby Kalapos (Executive Director, Clean Air Partnership)	Tuesday April 18, 2023	4:00 pm PT / 7:00 PM ET (1.5 h)	Registration and More Info here
Get To Know Citizens' Climate International (CCI) Calls	Get to know CCI on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Keep abreast of international climate progress, learn about carbon pricing, and get a refresher on the CCL-way.	Wednesday April 19, 2023	5:00 am PT / 8:00 am ET	Registration and More Info Here
			11:00 am PT / 2:00 pm ET	
			5:00 pm PT / 8:00 pm ET	
Citizens' Climate International's Global Talanoa Dialogue For Climate Ambition - Spring 2023	From March 15 to April 10 we are taking video and audio submissions from climate leaders around the world for our 2023 Spring Talanoa Dialogues for Climate Ambition.	Thursday April 20, 2023	5:00 am PT / 8:00 am ET	Registration and more info here
UPCOMING CALL CCL Canada Education Call	Special Guest: Guy Dancey Topic: Seven ways to tackle inflation without raising interest rates	Tuesday May 2, 2023	2:00 pm PT / 5:00 pm ET	Registration and More Info here
ACTION TEAM CALLS				
Name	Description	Date	Time	Call Options
CCL Canada Conservative Action Team Call	Do you have a Conservative MP? CCL Canada's Conservative Outreach Group welcomes new members and meets regularly on the first Saturday of the month	Saturday April 1, 2023	8:00 am PT / 11:00 am ET	Zoom Link Contact Andy Kubrin to join.
CCL International Bretton Woods Action Team Call	Help drive reform at the World Bank to ensure a planned retreat from fossil fuels. Everyone is welcome, but there is no pressure to join.	Tuesday April 4, 2023	5:00 am PT / 8:00 am ET	Zoom Link Passcode 123
			5:00 pm PT / 8:00 pm ET	
CCL Canada Catch-up Call	Since September 2010, CCL Canada leaders have been meeting monthly to share reports from the field and review the monthly Action Sheets. There are two calls every month. Track your participation in the CCL Action Tracker	Thursday April 6, 2023	5:00 pm PT / 8:00 pm ET	Dial Pad log in online for free . Can't get online? Please call in. 1-888-570-6238
		Friday April 7, 2023	8:00 am PT 11:00 am ET	

CCL Canada LTE-Palooza Call	New to letter-writing or looking for inspiration? Join us for a crash course on writing letters to the editor and an opportunity to tackle current events with other writers! 1 - 1.5 hours in length.	Wednesday April 26, 2023	6:00 pm PT / 9:00 pm ET	Zoom Link Passcode 123
ACTION ITEMS				
Name	Description	Date	Time	Call Options
Join the Beyond Gas Advocacy Skills Workshop	CCLers in Ontario are encouraged to join this campaign that is highly focused on methane-fired electricity - it is totally in our wheelhouse and we are on the team.	Wednesday April 5, 2023	4:00 pm PT / 7:00 pm ET	Register here
FFNPT North American Consultation	Citizens' Climate Lobby Canada has been supporting the Fossil Fuel Non Proliferation Treaty since May 2021. They are currently seeking input from North Americans into the Treaty Principles.	Thursday April 6, 2023	11:00 am PT / 2:00 pm ET	Register Here
LOCAL CHAPTER CALLS				
Name	Description	Date	Time	Call Options
CCL Alberta Meeting	Monthly joint meeting for the CCL Alberta Chapters. Anyone from Calgary, Edmonton, or elsewhere in Alberta is welcome! We meet the second Wednesday of each month.	Wednesday April 12, 2023	7:00 pm MST / 9:00 pm ET	Zoom Link
Do you have a local Chapter call or other call you'd like to advertise? To have it featured here, please e-mail Mark . For a full list of CCL USA National calls and trainings please visit the Events page .				

ACTION #1: Earth Day Resources

Editable Trifold Brochure

1. [English Version in Word](#). It is therefore editable. You can only view it. Thus you have to make a copy first.

The graphic novel: Because IPCC

In February 2022 we introduced CCLers to the graphic novel: Because IPCC. It is a great resource for presentation and tabling. Check out our [Laser Talk](#) about Because IPCC to find out more and how you can download free copies and graphics for your outreach.

Paper Petitions

Instructions on our [Resources Page](#) under Parliament Petitions on or March 2023 Action Sheets

1. Climate Aligned Finance Act Petition : [CAFA English](#) and [CAFA Francais](#)
2. FFF Sudbury request to support youth in Qualicum Beach: [Fridays for Youth Petition 2023](#)
3. NEW: [Methane-fired Electricity Petition in Word](#). Please note this was asked for by Lyn A. and Jeffrey L. at the Methane-Fired Electricity Action Team was the chief editor. Teamwork makes for Dreamwork.

ACTION #2: All Together Now Event - Friday, June 2

We are doing it again. We are asking all our Parliamentarians to attend an [national online event](#) with special guest speakers where they will be able to ask the guest speakers questions.

It is too early to ask our parliamentarians to attend. They don't plan that far in advance. We will send you final information on May 1. For now ask your local parliamentarians to circle the date Friday, June 2 in the morning in the western time zones closer to midday in the eastern time zones. Exact timing has yet to be nailed down. Be prepared to send out a formal invitation at the end of the month.

The resources will be bilingual as our leader at CCL Montreal has graciously offered to coordinate this effort. If there is a need we will hire a translator too. If you want to help on this team be sure to join the monthly Catch-Up calls.

ACTION #3: Earth Hour to Earth Day Fundraising

You're diligently working to make sure future generations inherit a healthy climate. If you are able, please also consider donating to CCL Canada. Monthly donations of even \$10 a month over the course of a couple of years would really help us a lot.

Our last fundraising campaign was in [June 2021](#).

Please consider supporting the best volunteers money can't buy by:

- Passing the hat within your groups and donating money during your monthly meetings in March and April
- Making individual monthly donations. (We currently receive \$125 monthly from recurring donors)
- Asking friends and family
- Keeping your Action Tracker up-to-date during this time so we have great metrics to share.

There is still time to defuse the climate bomb. All we need now is the courage to facilitate the reallocation of the world's financial resources away from fear and towards life and love. And that is what we have been doing at Citizens' Climate Lobby Canada since 2010.

Our volunteers want to do more, and they will with your help. [Here is our donation page](#).

SPECIAL ACTION #4: Joint second a motion from Mike Morrice

We stand behind the politicians who stand up for the climate and MP Morrice has asked to do this. Note this is not one of our official lobbying asks and has not been since 2018 when the G20 countries agreed to end subsidies. Fossil fuels subsidies are handled well by many other groups.

Why is it no longer our ask? Fossil fuel subsidies are quite complicated to communicate. There are many. Plus, removing them does little to reduce GHGs because much of the financing for fossil fuels comes from the private sector. If there is momentum in your riding to end subsidies, and your group is comfortable asking your MP to do this action, then go for it.

PS this was a request from your fellow CCL KW members.

SPECIAL ACTION #5: Ask your friends and family in Quebec to sign a petition calling for stronger carbon pricing in Quebec

CCL Montreal is pushing for reforms to Quebec's cap-and-trade system, and as part of that effort have launched a digital campaign. You can see it here:

<https://canada.citizensclimatelobby.org/stoppez-les-cadeaux-aux-pollueurs/>

Please consider sharing this link with your contacts in Quebec. Below is a sample email that you

could use to share this petition with your friends and family in Quebec.

Salut,

Je t'écris aujourd'hui pour te parler d'un sujet qui me tient à cœur : la lutte contre le changement climatique.

Je soutiens l'organisation Lobby Climatique des Citoyens, un groupe de bénévoles travaillant pour la protection de l'environnement. Ils ont mis en place une pétition pour une tarification plus forte du carbone au Québec.

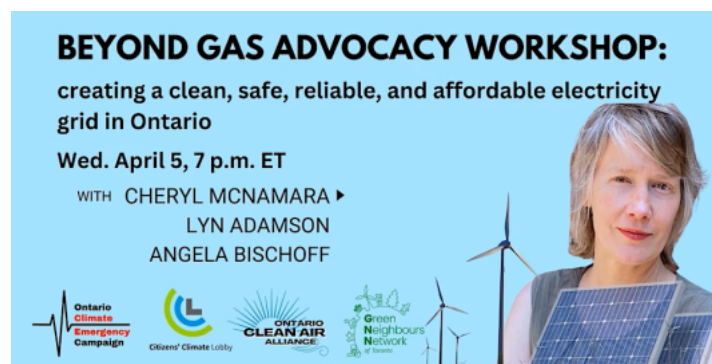
Ça ne prend que quelques minutes pour signer la pétition et la partager avec tes amis et ta famille. Voici le lien :

<https://canada.citizensclimatelobby.org/stoppez-les-cadeaux-aux-pollueurs/>

En signant cette pétition, tu peux aider à faire pression sur le gouvernement pour qu'il prenne des mesures concrètes pour réduire les émissions de gaz à effet de serre.

Merci beaucoup pour ton aide.

SPECIAL ACTION #6: Join the Beyond Gas Advocacy Skills Workshop (Ontario)



CCLers in Ontario are encouraged to join this campaign that is highly focused on methane-fired electricity - it is totally in our wheelhouse and we are on the team. Be sure to record the training as volunteer development and your lobbying efforts in your Action Tracker.

The Ontario Climate Emergency Campaign, the Ontario Clean Air Alliance, and Citizens' Climate Lobby Ontario invite you to be part of a non-partisan advocacy effort aimed at stopping construction of new gas plants and expansion of existing gas plants in Ontario. This will be our kick-off event for participants (or those considering participation).

The Ontario government has tripled the use of gas power in the last 6 years, and is planning to double it yet again by 2043. If you are an Ontarian concerned about high electricity costs, and the staggering irreversible environmental and public health harms being caused by increased fossil fuel use, then join us in raising the alarm.

You will learn:

- background to the issue
- how to request a meeting with a politician (at the municipal, provincial, or federal level)
- how to prepare for a meeting
- how to conduct the meeting - key principles
- how to follow up from the meeting

Speakers will include:

- Special guest Cheryl McNamara, Citizens Climate Lobby (Canada)
- Lyn Adamson, Climate Fast and Ontario Climate Emergency Coalition, experienced mediator and conflict resolution trainer
- Angela Bischoff, Ontario Clean Air Alliance

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's most recent AR6 Synthesis report for its sixth cycle (AR6) was unequivocal – no new fossil fuel infrastructure is to be built and all developed countries must reach net-zero electricity generation by 2035. Ontarians: together we can diffuse Ontario's methane climate bomb! [REGISTER HERE](#)

SPECIAL ACTION #7: Desflurane update only if your lobbied parliamentarian previously

In March, Scotland became the [first country in the world to ban the anaesthetic desflurane](#). In January, the [Canadian Anaesthesia Society \(CAS\) Guidelines of Practice \(2023\)](#) now recommends not using Desflurane.

If you lobbied your MP or MPP/MLA/MHA to dump Desflurane you might want to send them a short note about what Scotland and the CAS have done and ask them to consider dumping Desflurane, too. More information [here](#) and [here](#).

Laser Talk: IPCC AR6 Synthesis Report

On Monday, March 20, 2023, in Interlaken, Switzerland, the IPCC released its final assessment report in its sixth cycle (AR6) – [the Synthesis report](#). The report is a how-to guide on diffusing the climate time-bomb.

The planet will reach 1.5 C global temperature rise in the early 2030s. Now there is an urgent call for developed nations to reach net-zero by 2040 and developing nations by 2050. The good news is that it is achievable.

The United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres [announced a plan](#) to massively fast-track climate action. He has proposed a [G-20 Climate Solidarity Pact](#) that includes an Acceleration Agenda which calls for:

- an end to coal, net-zero electricity generation by 2035 for all developed countries and 2040 for the rest of the world,
- a stop to all licensing or funding of new oil and gas, and any expansion of existing oil and gas reserves.
- GHG needs to go down now and be cut by almost half by 2030.

The report finds that the economic benefits for people's health from air quality improvements alone would be roughly the same, or possibly even larger than the costs of reducing or avoiding emissions. To be effective, these choices need to be rooted in our diverse values, worldviews, and knowledge, including scientific knowledge, Indigenous Knowledge, and local knowledge.

The synthesis report is quite clear that there is sufficient global capital to rapidly reduce greenhouse gas pollution if existing barriers are reduced. Global capital is all the savings held by banks, pensions, financial institutions, governments and individuals.

Increasing finance to climate investments is important to achieve global climate goals. Governments, through public funding and clear signals to investors, are key in reducing these

barriers. Investors, central banks, and financial regulators must also play their part.

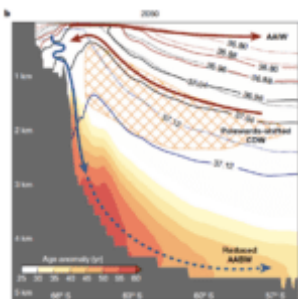
Much of the [trillions of dollars](#) of financing for fossil fuels come from the [private sector](#). Thus, redirecting private sector finance away from fossil fuels is key. Policies such as an incrementally rising price on [carbon pollution pricing with equal dividends](#) to households, [carbon border adjustment mechanisms, reforms](#) at the World Bank, and climate risk disclosure rules for financial institutions would provide clear signals to redirect financial flows away from fossil fuels while not burdening the taxpayer.

Citizens' Climate Lobby Canada's lobbying focus is protecting and improving Canada's carbon pricing policy. We support [Senator Rosa Galvez Climate Aligned Finance Act](#). A group of us have joined Citizens' Climate International's [Bretton Woods Action team](#). Alongside our colleagues across the planet we are personally connecting with the offices of our executive directors at the World Bank and kindly asking for reforms that will create a thriving and equitable planet.

One of the key conditions for enabling a liveable future is inclusive governance. Citizens' Climate Lobby Canada has been training volunteers to build healthy relationships with their parliamentarians and community since 2010. We are ready and able to defuse the climate bomb.

Laser Talk: Help Us Defuse the Antarctic Climate Bomb

A new paper in [Nature](#) published in the last week of March 2023, shows how meltwater increases around Antarctica are set to slow down dramatically the Antarctic overturning circulation, with a potential collapse this century. This will devastate the marine biodiversity around the Antarctic because the food chains will collapse. The good news, this is avoidable.



In the [simulations](#), scientists found that when they include upcoming meltwater changes around Antarctica, the abyssal overturning cell declines by more than 40% by 2050.

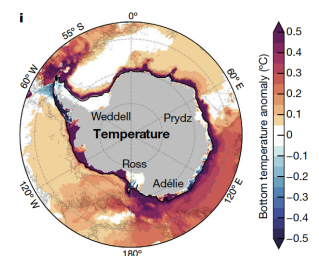
This is driven by a reduction in the density of surface water around the Antarctic margin, which in turn sees greater intrusion of warm Circumpolar Deep Water onto the shelf.

The resulting subsurface warming in the Amundsen – Bellingshausen Seas is particularly concerning. This would lead to an amplifying feedback with further ice shelf melt and sea-level rise, in a region that we know from paleo records is vulnerable to ice sheet collapse.

Another concern is that as the Antarctic overturning slows, nutrient-rich water is left to accumulate on the seafloor, instead of being returned to the surface to feed marine ecosystems.

A reduction in the ocean uptake of carbon dioxide has also been documented in this same study. Another amplifying feedback.

Final important point: the projections were run under a 'business as usual' scenario. Deep and urgent emissions reductions will give us a chance of avoiding an ocean overturning collapse.



The overall conclusions of the IPCC AR6 Final Synthesis report [were clear](#): we can diffuse the climate time bomb and there are the financial resources globally available to do so.

To have a chance of saving the Antarctic ecosystem, we must directly address the primary source of greenhouse gas pollution: fossil fuels. More specifically, *we must redirect trillions of dollars of financial flows away from fossil fuels if we are to prevail*. As well, we must be mindful that some within the fossil fuel industry have been running a [disinformation campaign](#) for decades to confuse the masses.

In the 2000s many of us started learning about the science of climate change. In the 2020s, it is imperative that we all learn the basics of climate finance. As the Mandalorian would [say](#): *This is the way*. The key now is public understanding of the powerful ways to redirect financial flows globally away from fossil fuels and towards a thriving and equitable future. That is our wheelhouse at Citizens' Climate Lobby Canada. We need you on the bomb squad. Join us to find out more.

Laser Talk: CCL Canada's Position on Carbon Capture and Sequestration

Carbon Capture and Sequestration (CCS) is a general term for a range of different industrial processes that can separate carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from smokestacks and store it underground indefinitely as toxic waste. CCL does not oppose or support any specific technologies.

It should be noted that previous studies found that without [adequate carbon pricing](#), CCS deployed at scales required to meet climate targets is unlikely.

In June 2022, the International Energy Agency [reported](#) that CCS facilities currently capture almost 45 megatonnes of CO₂ globally, but this [needs to increase](#). Project developers have announced ambitions for over 200 new capture facilities to be operating by 2030, capturing over 220 Mt CO₂ per year. However, only around 10 commercial capture projects under development have official financial approval as of June 2022. Nevertheless, even at such a level, CCS deployment would remain substantially below what is required in the Net Zero Scenario by 2050. This is now even more urgent in that we are in a Net Zero Scenario by 2040 (IPCC AR6 Synthesis Report, March 2023).

An April 4, 2023 [analysis](#) in Nature concluded: *Humanity has never removed an atmospheric pollutant at a global, continental or, even, regional scale — we have only ever shut down the source and let nature do the clearing up. This is the case for chlorofluorocarbons and stratospheric ozone destruction, for sulfur dioxide and acid rain, and for sulfur and nitrogen oxides and photochemical smog. We must be prepared for CCS to be a failure, leaving us to rely on the environment to stabilize atmospheric CO₂ over thousands of years. This is another argument for rapid decarbonization.*

CCL Canada is fully supportive of the [UN High-Level Expert Group on net-zero commitments](#) (HLEG) report [Integrity matters: Net zero commitments by businesses, financial institutions, cities, and regions](#). One of the key recommendations is that technologies must come as advertised. As well, one of the key conclusions of the final [IPCC AR6 synthesis report](#) (March 2023) was clear – existing and currently planned fossil fuel projects are already more than the climate

can handle.

Given the inequitable and catastrophic impact that exceeding a global temperature rise of 1.5°C will have on everything and everywhere, planning for any new fossil fuel infrastructure on the premise that it can be reversed by unproven carbon capture and sequestration capacity is indefensible.

Laser Talk: CCL Canada's Stance on Nuclear Energy

Citizens' Climate Lobby Canada does not advocate for or against nuclear power generation.

We understand the science that shows the low-carbon generating capacity of nuclear power, and we understand the objections that many people raise, regarding risk to health and safety, costs and to the environment.

Dr. Hansen—the world's preeminent climate scientist and a member of our sister organization Citizens' Climate Lobby USA's Advisory Board—supports nuclear energy as a way to help speed the transition from fossil fuels to a zero-emissions energy economy.

Fourth Generation nuclear power generation can theoretically reduce the amount of radioactive waste the world must deal with, but cost projections for the business model are uncertain, and reactors using this technology will take decades to develop. As with any energy technology or climate solution, we stick to our focus on a livable future for all—that means energy systems a) should not pollute, b) should not disrupt the climate system, c) should operate safely at all times, and d) should not impose massive hidden costs on society and nature.

Our aim is to support citizen volunteers in their efforts to create political will that will redirect financial flows away from climate-destabilizing pollution and towards a thriving and equitable future. This is a heavy lift that deserves constant attention to the highest standards. We agree with the United Nations' [Integrity Matters](#) report: net zero strategies need to be verifiable, and materially low-carbon and clean.

As the adage says, "He who runs after two hares will catch neither."

Laser Talk: Our rights and a liveable world

(note you do not need to "internalize" this laser talk. It is meant to give hope and proof that the fossil fuel industry is on shaky legal ground. It should also give you context of what to expect at our June 2 event.)

On December 10, 2023, the world will celebrate 75 years since the United Nations (UN) Universal Declaration of Human Rights. ([General Assembly resolution 217 A](#)).

In the 21st century our rights to a liveable world are gaining traction - and none too soon.

On July 28, 2022 the UN General Assembly [declared](#) access to clean and healthy environment a universal human right ([In favour: 161, Abstentions: 8, Against: 0](#))

On March 29, 2023 the UN backed landmark Pacific-led resolution clearing the way for [International Court of Justice \(ICJ\)](#) advisory opinion on climate obligations. Through the resolution, world leaders asked the ICJ to form an advisory opinion clarifying international legal consensus on climate change's impacts on human rights and the rights of future generations.

The opinion will be non-binding, but experts say it could influence the outcome of climate change court cases around the world. The opinions themselves are not judgements, and the ICJ does not have the power to jail, fine or punish individuals or companies on the basis of them. But they carry legal weight and moral authority that can influence future decisions.

On **December 9, 2019** the national Commission on Human Rights of the **Philippines** [announced](#) the findings and recommendations from its path-breaking four-year inquiry into the human rights impacts of climate change in the Philippines and the contribution of 47 Carbon Major companies to those impacts. The inquiry was the first of its kind to undertake a serious examination of how the world's largest producers of fossil fuels have contributed to climate-related human rights violations. The Commission found that climate change constitutes an emergency situation that demands urgent action. The Commission further concluded that Carbon Major companies played a clear role in anthropogenic climate change and its attendant impacts. The Commission found that, based on the evidence, Carbon Major companies could be found legally and morally liable for human rights violations arising from climate change.

On **December 20, 2019**, the **Dutch Supreme Court**, the highest court in the Netherlands, upheld the previous decisions in the [Urgenda Climate Case](#), finding that the Dutch government has obligations to urgently and significantly reduce emissions in line with its human rights obligations. A truly historic outcome!

On **November 29, 2022** sixteen **Puerto Rican Towns** filed Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Suit against Chevron, ExxonMobil, Shell, and other fossil fuel giants for colluding on climate denial. "The 2017 Atlantic hurricane season, featuring six major hurricanes and more than a dozen named storms, caused at least \$294 billion worth of damages in the U.S. territory," [Reuters reported](#), citing the lawsuit. "Hurricanes Irma and Maria contributed to an estimated 4,600 deaths and the failure of critical infrastructure in Puerto Rico, the municipalities said."

In 2023, many climate cases are in the queue. Here is just a sample.

On **March 29, 2023**, thousands of elderly **Swiss** women joined forces in a [groundbreaking case](#) heard at the European Court of Human Rights, arguing that their government's "woefully inadequate" efforts to fight global warming violate their human rights.

In the **USA** the court will see a case go to trial when a group of children and young people between the ages of five and 21 square off against the state of **Montana**. Over two weeks in June, [they will argue that the US state](#) is failing to protect their constitutional rights, including the right to a healthy and clean environment, by supporting an energy system driven by fossil fuels. They will also say climate breakdown is degrading vital resources such as rivers, lakes, fish and wildlife which are held in trust for the public.

In **Canada**, a ruling is expected this year in the country's first climate lawsuit to have had its day in court. Seven young people made history last autumn when they [challenged the Ontario government's](#) rollback of its 2030 greenhouse gas emissions reduction target. Theirs is the first climate lawsuit based on the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms to reach a full hearing in any Canadian court. Win or lose, these young people have brought the issue of climate change on youth and future generations to the forefront of the national debate. As well, two of the youth plaintiffs are members of CCL Canada: Sophia Mathur and Alex Neufeldt.

In Mexico, young people have led several important court cases challenging the slow pace of the country's clean energy system. The supreme court is [due to decide](#) whether they are allowed to seek justice in at least one case.

Natural laws have always existed and there is a legal basis for living in harmony with nature. We are now retracing our steps.

Pertinent resources

- The [Global Trends in Climate Litigation 2022](#) (Report, Grantham Research Institute, LSE)
- [Why 2023 will be a watershed year for climate litigation](#)
- United Nations Report (March 2023): Women, girls and the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment – Report of the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment

Summary: Canada Budget 2023

Behind the Canadian Budget 2023 was 21st century economic competitiveness and the USA's **Inflation Reduction Act**. The federal government is banking on tax breaks for companies — **\$80 billion between 2024 and 2034** — to usher Canada into a low-carbon economy. Adjusting for the size of our economy, it is twice as ambitious as the **US\$369 billion** that will be spent over 10 years as part of the U.S. Inflation Reduction Act.

The suite of federal investment tax credits targets clean electricity, [hydrogen \(a.k.a. natural gas and methane\)](#), [carbon capture and sequestration \(CCS\)](#), critical mineral extraction and manufacturing of clean technology related to electric vehicles, nuclear and energy storage. Of the \$80.8 billion earmarked for tax credits over the next 11 years, \$56.5 billion are new commitments or increases to previous announcements, representing a **232 per cent leap** from the previous year.

To get off fossil fuels we need to electrify everything and Canada aims to be a clean electricity superpower by 2050. Key will be inter-provincial-territorial cooperation to build an East-West and North-South grid. The clean electricity investment tax credit is expected to be worth ~\$25B. It is a 15 percent refundable tax credit. This should improve electricity affordability and fairness and cut greenhouse gas pollution. The commitment is also historic because it grows the role the **federal government will play in this provincially-managed sector** and respects that jurisdiction.

A **poison-pill** in the package is that *abated natural gas-fired electricity* is included in the clean electricity investment tax credit. By abated this means Carbon Capture and Sequestration (CCS). Natural gas is a fossil fuel – methane – a very potent greenhouse gas. CCS has been plagued with failures for [over 50 years](#) and the International Energy Agency has [warned](#) CCS deployment would remain substantially below what is required in the Net Zero Scenario by 2050. The latest IPCC report was clear – no new fossil fuel infrastructure can be built. Given the inequitable and catastrophic impact that exceeding a global temperature rise of 1.5°C will have on everything and everywhere, planning for any new fossil fuel infrastructure on the premise that it can be reversed by unproven CCS capacity is indefensible.

The 2023 Budget contains no acknowledgement of the **\$10 billion the fossil fuel industry had**

demanded to help pay for the CCS it sees as its ticket to future oil and gas extraction. In mid-October, the Pathways Alliance, whose six members account for 95% of Canadian oil sands production, [announced](#) a \$24.1-billion investment in a carbon capture hub in Alberta and a series of other emission reduction projects, but made it conditional on federal support—despite [record industry profits](#), and on top of the [\\$7.1 billion tax credit](#) that Freeland had already sent their way in her 2022 budget.

Budget 2023 contained [Contracts for Difference](#). These contracts de-risk investment in the low-carbon economy to help create jobs and drive growth. The oil and gas industry needs contracts for difference in order to pay for CCS. The fact is without carbon pricing, CCS is economically unviable. An unfortunate circumstance of Contracts for Difference, is that if at the next election, a new government cancels carbon pricing, the taxpayer will be paying for the CCS as a result of Contracts for Difference. This happened in Ontario after the Ford Government tore apart all the clean energy contracts and cap and trade in 2018.

The budget also included direction to redeploy significant existing buckets of money by increasing the [long-term capital allocations](#) of the Canada Infrastructure Bank to clean power and green infrastructure projects to a total of \$20 billion (\$10 billion in each) and announcing that the team at Public Sector Pension Investment Board ([PSP Investments](#) - one of Canada's largest pension investment managers) will take charge of deploying the previously announced [\\$15-billion Canada Growth Fund](#). [Worrisomely, PSP Investments has huge ties to fossil fuels.](#)

Carbon pricing is the most [silver bulletish policy](#) that we know of but carbon pricing alone is not going to get us to a liveable planet.

Canada needs other policies and to pay for them Canada needs [tax reform](#) missing in the Budget. For example, tax reform could pay for a [national energy efficiency program](#) accessible to low-income Canadians who can't afford up-front costs for insulation, air sealing, and clean heat. It could also pay for better wages and working conditions for persons in no-carbon sectors of the economy such as the care economy, (nursing, personal support workers, and early childhood education) which tend to be female-dominated. There is support for transitioning fossil fuel workers, critical mineral mining, and electric battery production which are male-dominated professions. This is unbalanced.

Lastly, it must be kept in mind that the budget was developed in a net-zero by-2050 framework. The IPCC AR6 Synthesis Report has pushed down on the pedal and we are now in a scenario where developed countries must reach by [net-zero by 2040](#).

Overall, the budget is mostly a win but there are flaws. The next steps are to push for policies that will push finances away from fossil fuels while not burdening the taxpayer as well building the political will for a liveable world so we don't go backward on climate action at election times both provincially and federally.

Further Reading:

<https://www.corporateknights.com/category-climate/mostly-a-win-for-clean-energy-budget-2023-fails-to-end-fossil-fuel-subsidies/>