

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau,
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A2

July 25, 2020

Dear Sir,

We know you are aware of the extraordinary opportunity presented by the need to reconstruct Canada's economy after the first wave of COVID-19. We urge you to be fearless in taking this opportunity to build a new Canada, a world leader in climate consciousness, an innovator in 'green' technologies, a country and a people focused on the needs and rights of future generations of humans around the planet.

We appreciate that the regions of our country vary in character, that their human resources, natural resources and histories are different. We appreciate that their economies and cultures, and hence their political cultures, are equally varied. What they all share at this moment is the looming crisis of human-induced climate change. While they will suffer differently from an over-heated planet, they will all suffer. Surely it is your responsibility, as the country's leader, to prevent that suffering as much as possible.

We recognize that there are political risks involved in taking on such leadership. We recognize that the personal and political costs, for you, your government, and for Canada, could be enormous. We urge you to consider that the only politics that matter in this moment are the politics that make possible the continued survival of humanity. Our youth, the world's youth, will recognize the value of such leadership, and its value to the generations that will, we hope, succeed them.

We therefore urge you and your government to withdraw your support for fossil-fuel industries in favour of policies and programs to encourage the rapid development of alternative energy sources and their applications to every aspect of life in Canada. The skills of workers in the fossil-fuel industries are not applicable only to those industries. The economic dependence of provinces on fossil-fuel industries has resulted from deliberate choices made by successive governments over decades. Deliberate choices can also be made to eliminate that dependency in favour of economies that are diverse, innovative and sustainable, economies that will ensure the prosperity of those provinces beyond the twenty-year future left to fossil fuels.

We also want to emphasize the urgency of the present moment by reminding you that the climate change we are experiencing today is the result of greenhouse gas emissions produced in the past. By continuing to produce these emissions, we will exacerbate and accelerate our current problems. We are fast approaching a point where no action we take will stop climate change. There is no time to lose.

Respectfully yours,



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cc. The Honourable Chrystia Freeland,
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

The Honourable Navdeep Bains,
Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry

The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson
Minister of Environment and Climate Change

The Honourable Anthony Rota
MP, Nipissing-Timiskaming

The Honourable Doug Ford,
Premier of Ontario and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

The Honourable John Vanthof,
MLA, Timiskaming-Cochrane

Dan O'Mara, Mayor, ✓
Municipality of Temagami