

An open letter on Canada's plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the aviation sector

July 20, 2022

The Honourable Omar Alghabra
Minister of Transport
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

The Honourable Steven Guilbeault
Minister of Environment
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Ministers,

We are deeply concerned about the continued rise of greenhouse gas emissions from Canada's aviation sector.

According to the [latest report](#) from Transport Canada, GHG emissions from Canadian airlines increased by 74% between 2005 and 2019, to over 22 million tonnes annually, the equivalent of emissions from almost five million passenger vehicles.

This rise in aviation emissions is incompatible with Canada's commitment to reduce total GHG emissions by 40-45% by 2030.

We are pleased that Canada is developing a new Action Plan to reduce aviation GHG emissions, for release by early fall.

We are very concerned however, to hear that Transport Canada is consulting with the aviation industry on the plan, but has no intention to consult the public and other stakeholders on its content.

Without strong public consultation there is a significant risk that the new plan, like the previous [2012 Plan](#), will fail to reduce aviation emissions (aviation emissions have risen by over 35% since the 2012 Plan was released).

Canada is lagging behind other countries - and its own airlines - by failing to commit to reduce aviation emissions in the near term.

Denmark, for example, has committed to make all domestic flights fossil-fuel free by 2030. And Air Canada has committed to reduce GHG emissions from flights by 20% over the same period.

For too long, Canada's aviation industry has been allowed to increase its levels of destructive climate pollution.

We urge you to take immediate action to ensure: a) that public and non-industry stakeholders are consulted on Canada's new aviation emission reduction plan before it is finalized and released, and b) that the new plan contain strong and binding emission reduction targets of at least 30% (from 2019 levels) by 2030.

We are counting on you to ensure that the aviation sector, like all other sectors, does its fair share to reduce harmful GHG emissions and protect a liveable future for all.

Sincerely,

350.org Canada

Burnaby For Our Kids

Canadian Association of Nurses for the Environment

Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment

Canadian Health Association for Sustainability and Equity (CHASE)

Canadian Public Health Association

Canadian Voice of Women for Peace

Citizens' Climate Lobby Canada

Climate Emergency Unit

ClimateFast

Cowichan Carbon Busters

David Suzuki Foundation

Drawdown Toronto

Earth Day Canada

Environmental Defence

Équiterre

For Our Kids

Grand(m)others Act to Save the Planet (GASP)

Island Transformations (ITO)

Jesuit Forum for Social Faith and Justice

Joint Ecological Ministry (JEM)

Le Centre Oblat: A Voice for Justice

Naturopathic Doctors for Environmental and Social Trust

Office for Systemic Justice, Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph of Canada

Office of Religious Congregations for Integral Ecology/Bureau des congrégations religieuses pour une Écologie Intégral

Ontario Climate Emergency Campaign

Ontario Public Health Association

People's Climate Movement, Toronto/GTA

Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario

The Climate Reality Project Canada

The Global Sunrise Project

Youth Climate Save Canada



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of Physicians
for the Environment

Association Canadienne
des Médecins
pour l'Environnement
ACME



CHASE

CANADIAN HEALTH ASSOCIATION
FOR SUSTAINABILITY & EQUITY



CANADIAN
PUBLIC HEALTH
ASSOCIATION

ASSOCIATION
CANADIENNE DE
SANTÉ PUBLIQUE



Ontario Public Health Association
l'Association pour la santé publique de l'Ontario
Established/Établi 1945



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Citizens' Climate Lobby Canada
Lobby Climatique des Citoyens



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