



July 27, 2020

Dear MPs Carolyn Bennett, Chrystia Freeland, Julie Dzerowicz, Han Dong, Yvan Baker, Ahmed Hussan, Adam VanKoeverden and Nathaniel Erskine-Smith,

We, the undersigned members of ClimateFast and residents of your ridings, are writing to ask your support on two immediate concerns related to the climate emergency.

First, we are deeply concerned that the proposed expansion of the Vista Coal Mine in Alberta may be exempted from a Federal Environmental Assessment despite the fact that it would produce [22 to 33 MT of CO₂ per year](#) (the equivalent of 5 to 7 million vehicles). Preliminary assessments show that the expansion would also jeopardize the survival and recovery of sensitive species in the area such as at-risk trout populations and will have adverse effects on wildlife habitat and Indigenous peoples and their associated traditional activities.

In this time of climate emergency, Canada needs to be shutting down coal production - NOT expanding production.

Do you agree that the proposed expansion should undergo a full Federal Environmental Assessment? If so, will you contact Minister Wilkinson and urge him to use his discretionary power to require a full Federal Assessment of the project?

Second, we are deeply troubled by a [report](#) this week from the International Institute for Sustainable Development that, since COVID-19 hit, the Canadian government has provided \$16 billion in support to oil and gas industries, compared with only \$300 million for clean energy. This news is shocking: in this time of COVID-19 recovery we must seize the opportunity to support clean energy and a sustainable economy instead of giving huge sums of money to the oil and gas industries which have contributed greatly to causing the current global climate emergency.

Our understanding is that Prime Minister Trudeau tasked Ministers McKenna, Wilkinson and Guilbeault with developing a "Green Recovery" plan. Where is this plan? When will the public be consulted on it? If the Government is committed to a green recovery, why is the Government providing many times more support to oil and gas than to clean energy?

We urge you to raise your voice for a just and green recovery and call for an end to support for the oil and gas sector. We need to move away from extractive industries that profit a few while making the planet less habitable and instead focus on clean energy and a just recovery.

[Recent data](#) show that, despite proclamations of a climate emergency, Canada still burns the most fossil-fuels per capita of any nation on earth.

Will you raise your voice and use your influence to urge the Cabinet to stop flowing billions of COVID-19 recovery dollars to the oil and gas sector and instead to release a Green Recovery plan that prioritizes clean energy and green jobs and accelerates our just transition to a zero-carbon country?

As your constituents, we encourage you to work towards environmental protection, climate action, and a just recovery for all.

With respect and thanks,

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