



CLIMATEFAST

LET'S ACT ON CLIMATE - **FAST!**

## CLIMATEFAST NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2022

*The ClimateFast newsletter shares information, resources, news, and activist opportunities about the climate crisis that may interest our readers and does not necessarily reflect the views of ClimateFast members. If you have an event or resource you would like to share, please send it to [newsletter@climatefast.ca](mailto:newsletter@climatefast.ca).*

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### CRUCIAL ELECTIONS FOR CLIMATE IN 2022 - CLIMATE FAST JOINS OCEC

Dear climate advocates

We are in the most important three or four years for climate action. We need to act now so that we don't miss the window to keep temperature rise below 2 degrees. If you follow climate news you will know that government commitments to take action to stay below 1.5 degrees are [slipping away since COP 26](#). In our very own province, we have a government that does not seem to care about climate targets and is increasing reliance on cars, building highways, permitting sprawl, and failing to protect our greenbelt, farmland, wetlands, and forests. Yet there is [good news from science](#) that if we stop fossil fuel emissions we will be able to stabilize the climate.

We have an opportunity to elect a climate-active government on June 2nd and we need to take it. To do so we need to make climate front and centre, and we need to link it to health, jobs, housing, the economy as well as nature protection. These are all of concern to Ontarians, as is the recovery from COVID. You can read more about current public opinion at this [ABACUS site](#).

It's essential that we work closely with our environmental allies, and that we also 'expand our tent' to include major sectors in our society, i.e., Indigenous organizations, labour, faith groups, health professionals, and many more to create an effective voice for climate during this election. For that reason, ClimateFast is working with other groups, including Seth Klein and the Climate Emergency Unit, to create the Ontario Climate Emergency Campaign. We will come out with a 12-point plan for the next government and give it the broadest support possible. We will also work with Climate Voice and other organizations for public demonstrations throughout the spring.

If you are interested in helping develop the Ontario Climate Emergency Campaign or can suggest organizations we can reach out to for endorsements, please email [lyn@climatefast.ca](mailto:lyn@climatefast.ca).

You may also be interested in the [Yours to Protect campaign](#), an initiative of Environmental Defence and the [BC Climate Emergency Campaign](#) - read their [open letter in The Tyee](#).

We must change our governments in 2022. That's essential. Following the provincial election there will be municipal elections across Ontario on October 24th.

Please do be in touch with your ideas for climate action during the election. We'll be sharing more on this soon!

Thank you all for your advocacy for climate. Our voices - and our votes - can make a big difference to our future.

Lyn Adamson,  
ClimateFast Co-Chair

# CALLS TO ACTION

## Day of Action for a Just Transition: Saturday, March 12

Join 350.org in taking action to push Parliament to pass bold legislation that accelerates the transition to 100% renewable energy while creating millions of good, green jobs. From coast to coast, they will visit MP offices and use creative visuals, theatrics, and art to show them the kinds of programs we need to transition off fossil fuels. [Join in.](#)

## Ring of Fire and protecting Indigenous and treaty rights



The Ring of Fire in northern Ontario is a massive planned chromite mining and smelting development project in the mineral-rich James Bay Lowlands. The Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA), in solidarity with the Friends of the Attawapiskat River, is calling for the protection of inherent Indigenous rights and the waters of the Hudson and James Bay lowlands.

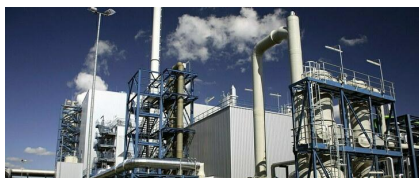
Map: [Environmental Justice Atlas](#)

Like tropical and temperate rainforests, the peatlands sequester a huge amount of carbon and provide critical habitat for wildlife including caribou, wolverines, and many migratory birds.

**You can take action now!** Let Canada and Ontario know that developing the Ring of Fire will lead to unprecedented cumulative impacts and threaten the land that has been home to Indigenous nations since time immemorial. [Click here to send a letter now.](#)

For more information about the Regional Assessment currently underway for the Ring of Fire, read [this backgrounder](#) prepared by CELA and the Friends of the Attawapiskat River. You can read more about the Ring of Fire in this [CBC News article](#), and the destructive impact of mining development in this area in [The Narwhal](#).

## Say no to the carbon capture and storage tax credit.



Leadnow has [launched a petition](#) to Minister Wilkinson, Minister Guilbeault and Minister Freeland against the tax credit and calling for the government to fund real climate action, workers, and communities instead. [Environmental Defence](#) has also launched a letter-writing campaign, providing a letter that you can customize and send to Minister Freeland.

## Help Leadnow halt the destruction of Small's Creek



Leadnow has prepared a [Tweet](#), asking for support in directing pressure towards Metrolinx calling to stop construction planning until ecological restoration plans are in place.

## Provincial budget survey deadline extended



The deadline for Ontario Budget Consultation has been extended to February 21st. The budget proposals presented in the survey are inadequate for climate action, equity and justice, so ClimateFast has developed a [public resource](#) to boost the scope of the budget proposals and make it easy for you to add ideas that have been missed.

## It's not too late to weigh in on Federal Budget priorities



Join the David Suzuki foundation in sending a clear message that the 2022 federal budget must end subsidies and other public financing for fossil fuels. [See the campaign here.](#)

## Federal Liberal Party wants your opinion on budget priorities



The Liberal Party of Canada is asking for your opinions on federal budget priorities. This survey offers some options to choose climate action and other priorities that are aligned with ClimateFast's values. [Fill in the federal budget priorities survey](#)

## SUPPORT A PEDESTRIAN AND BIKE FRIENDLY AVENUE ROAD!

In August the [tragic death](#) of a teenage cyclist galvanised community energy around a redesigned Avenue Rd., one that is safe for pedestrians and cyclists. One look at the photo on this [petition page](#) will show you how unsafe the road currently is.

## SUPPORT BICYCLE FRIENDLY BLOOR ST. IN MISSISSAUGA

Mississaugans! Active Transportation needs your support for a bike lane on Bloor. Residents are raising objections so an extra [consultation meeting](#) is planned on March 9<sup>th</sup>. [Read about the resident pushback.](#)

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# NEWS

## **Campaign to Put Climate in the Municipal Budget**

The City of Toronto has adopted an ambitious climate target, Net Zero by 2040, and a plan to go with it. Concerned that the funds allocated in the proposed 2022 budget were insufficient to meet the climate action and climate justice goals, ClimateFast, in partnership with other organizations, campaigned for full funding for the Transform TO climate plan. Efforts included writing letters to the Mayor and Council, giving deputations at budget committee meetings and [co-signing a letter](#) as one of 59 organizations calling for the Mayor and City Councillors to address the crises in our city, and to improve the budget process. [Read more about our municipal budget campaign.](#) Thanks to everyone who deputed, emailed their councillor and signed the online letter. City Council met on Feb. 17th and passed the budget, with some amendments. Here's a [link](#) to their motions, amendments and how the councillors voted.

## **Request for an environmental assessment for the Bradford Bypass denied**

The office of the Federal Environment Minister, Steven Guilbeault, confirmed on Feb. 10th that the second request for a federal environmental assessment of the proposed Bradford Bypass highway was denied. The Bradford bypass will negatively affect woodlands, the Holland Marsh, wetlands, and wildlife habitats. It will also enable an increase in single vehicle car use.

However, the project's future isn't guaranteed. Ontario is a few months away from an election and all the opposition parties at Queen's Park are either calling for the bypass to be cancelled or re-examined. [The Simcoe County Greenbelt Coalition](#) has not given up the fight. You can share information and strategies that support stopping the Bradford Bypass through the [Bradford Bypass Organizing Group](#). For more information about the Bradford Bypass [read this article in the Narwhal](#).

## **An End to Oil and Gas in Quebec**

Bill 21, introduced in the National Assembly of Quebec on February 3rd, will put an end to the exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons, namely oil and gas, in the territory of Quebec. [See the press release from Centre Québécois du droit de l'environnement](#). Also, CBC News reported that, as of December 31, 2021, Quebec has [banned oil heating in new homes](#) and will make it illegal to replace existing oil furnaces with any sort of heating system powered by fossil fuels after Dec. 31, 2023.

## **Burnaby City Council endorses the FFNPT**

On January 24th, Burnaby City Council voted to endorse the [Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty](#), becoming the sixth municipality in Canada to do so! The others are the [City of Toronto](#), [City of Vancouver](#), City of New Westminster, District of North Vancouver, and District of West Vancouver. A total of 34 cities & sub-national governments have endorsed the treaty, along with 152,737 Individuals and over 1,000 organizations.

## **Gas stoves leak methane even while off, boosting climate change**

(CBC Jan 28, 2022)

According to a study published Thursday, Jan. 27, 2022, in the journal [Environmental Science & Technology](#), gas stoves are worse for the climate than previously thought because of constant tiny methane leaks even while they're off. Many communities have bans on gas stove use in future new construction that will take effect in future years. [Read more of the CBC article](#).

## Ontario to initiate a registry for clean energy credits

Ontario has announced a new voluntary registry for businesses that want credit for using non-emitting electricity, both renewable and nuclear. The Ford government **says** the clean energy credit (CEC) registry will give companies another option to meet their sustainability targets, and is headlining the system as a way to attract new investors to the province. However, the Pembina Institute cautions that an open-ended market for clean energy credits won't be enough to drive the renewable energy development the province needs. [Read more about it in The Energy Mix.](#)

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## EVENTS



### Ready to Talk Climate in Ontario?

March 2, 7-8:30pm

This is the second session of our “Talking Climate in Ontario” series. As the Ontario provincial election approaches, it is clear we need actions that protect our health, build strong communities, and create a climate just future. Raising awareness of climate impacts and solutions can move us closer to a healthy future. This session is designed to help you feel more comfortable talking about climate justice. [Register](#)



### Letter-Writing Bee

Tuesday March 15th, 8:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Get together with others to identify issues and craft letters to politicians to urge them to take action on the climate. For more information contact [volunteer@climatefast.ca](mailto:volunteer@climatefast.ca).



### Council of Canadians Town Hall: Building a Stronger Democracy

Feb 22nd 7 pm ET

The Council of Canadians invites you to a public panel discussion and webinar to bring us together to reflect on and make sense of the moment we're in. [Register](#)



### Parkland Institute Conference 2022

February 23-24: Registration closes Tuesday, February 22

Learn how other countries are implementing just transition strategies at this two-day online conference with community leaders, researchers, advocates, and distinguished speakers. To be successful, the transition must involve workers and communities who will be affected. All levels of government need to engage with their citizens to ensure that environmental, social, and economic policies will support a more equitable future for all. [Register](#)



## Pathways to Decarbonization

Thursday, February 24th, 1 p.m. ET.

This engagement will inform stakeholders about the approach of the Independent Electricity System Operators (IESO) to the Pathways to Decarbonization study and key timelines to seek technical input from stakeholders on key assumptions to be used in the analysis.

The Ontario Clean Air Alliance is encouraging people to attend this webinar to tell the IESO that you want it to develop a plan to decarbonize our electricity grid by 2030 and lower our electricity bills by investing in cost-effective energy efficiency and renewable electricity options. It's time for the IESO to listen to the [32 Ontario municipalities](#), representing almost 60% of the province's population, that are calling on the Government of Ontario to phase-out our gas-fired power plants. [Register](#)



### Eric Krause Memorial Lecture 2022

Thursday, March 03, 2022, 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm (online)

Internationally renowned Columbia University and NASA scientist Dr. Kate Marvel will discuss using climate models, observations, paleoclimate reconstructions, and basic theory to study climate change at present and the future. [Register](#)

## From Climate Laggards to Leaders: Transforming Public Pension Funds

Webinar: March 9, 2022 2:00 PM-3:30 PM EST

Climate Legacy  
CONNECTING SENIORS TO CLIMATE ACTION

shift

Climate Legacy, in partnership with SHIFT, is hosting an online workshop for working and retired federal public servants on the Public Service Pension Investment Board (PSP) and the climate crisis. [More information and registration](#)



**Earth Hour 2022 is Saturday, March 26th, from 8:30 - 9:30 p.m.**

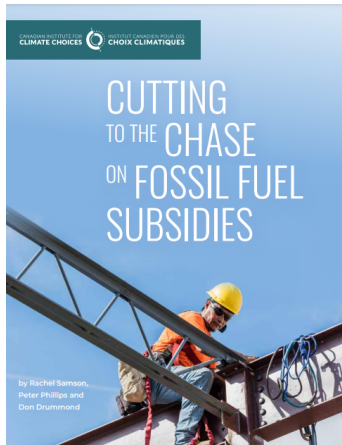
Every year, at 8:30 pm on the last Saturday of March, millions of people across the world turn off their lights for an hour to show their support for our planet, and raise awareness of nature loss and climate change. This year, Earth Hour is creating a [Virtual Spotlight](#) by dropping a must-watch video on all their social media pages and inviting you to take one simple action - share it. [Learn more](#)

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# RESOURCES

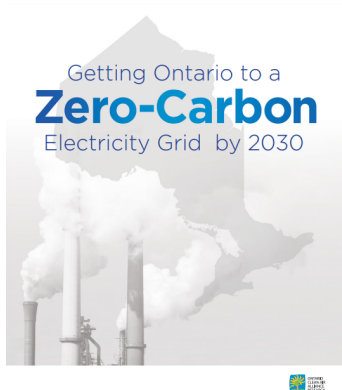


[Etobicoke Climate Action](#) has released [Achieving Net Zero Buildings by 2050](#), a summary of recommendations for reducing GHG emissions associated with Canadian buildings. They recommend the creation of a Climate Emergency Response Organization (CERO), endorsed by all levels of government, with participation from academia and industry.



The [Canadian Institute for Climate Choices](#) has released a new report that assesses whether existing and proposed government measures support or hinder the private investment needed to drive Canada's long-term success through the global low-carbon transition. Success, in this context, means both strong economic growth and a smooth transition for workers and communities.

[Read the report](#)



The Ontario Clean Air Alliance has published a report critiquing the October 2021 response of the Independent Electricity System Operators (IESO) to 32 Ontario municipalities that are calling on the Government of Ontario to phase-out our gas-fired power plants. According to the IESO, it would be impossible to phase-out Ontario's gas plants by 2030. This report provides alternative data and recommendations for getting Ontario to a zero-carbon electricity grid by 2030. [Read the report.](#)



The [Outdoor Learning Store](#) offers [climate change & sustainability](#) resources and workshops, with proceeds donated to non-profit outdoor & environmental learning programs.

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ClimateFast participants are volunteers; your donation will be used for expenses such as mailings, flyers, room rental and transportation. Your support is very much appreciated!

You may donate [online](#) or by cheque, made payable to:

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