



Canadian Ecumenical
Justice Initiatives /
Initiatives œcuméniques
canadiennes pour
la justice

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L'Église Unie du Canada
Le fonds du Primat pour le secours
et le développement mondial

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July 14, 2021

His Worship John Tory
Mayor, City of Toronto
100 Queen St. W.
City Hall, Second floor, West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Sir,

As residents of the City of Toronto, we represent an ecumenical network across Canada and globally working with partners and communities for human rights and ecological justice. The climate crisis is of grave concern to us. **We are asking you to support the motion to call for a Fossil Fuel Non-proliferation Treaty that will come before Council at the July 15th meeting.** Recently the New York Times [reported](#) that the concentration of CO₂ in the Earth's atmosphere passed 419 ppm, more than 50% higher than in preindustrial times and the curve is heading straight up; global warming is not slowing down. The earth has not had this much CO₂ in the atmosphere for millions of years. We are headed for catastrophic climate breakdown.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) [report](#) requires cuts of 7% of GHG emissions each year every year in this crucial turnaround decade to avoid catastrophic climate breakdown. The International Energy Agency has [warned](#) that there can be no more new fossil fuel projects if we are to keep below 1.5 degrees of warming and an immediate phase-out is needed, with massive ramp up of renewable energy.

Our children ask and need us to take action now to rapidly stop burning fossil fuels. We are already well into the last decade when we can hope to turn things around and steer the ship in the right direction. City Council took a step forward in [declaring a climate emergency](#) in October of 2019.

A new global initiative is underway calling for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty that would end new fossil fuel exploration and expansion, phase out existing production in line with the global commitment to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius and accelerate equitable transition. Support is building internationally, with 101 Nobel Laureates and an open letter signed by 1300 scientists and academics. [KAIROS Canada](#) has signed on to the treaty. The City of Vancouver has also signed on to support the call.

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Toronto City Council should act now to add Toronto's support to this important commitment. **We ask you to support the following recommendations:**

1. City Council formally endorse the call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.
2. City Council request that the City Manager send a letter to the Prime Minister of Canada requesting the federal government to negotiate a global treaty for the non-proliferation of fossil fuels.
3. City Council affirm its ongoing commitment to the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement and the greenhouse gas reduction targets and aspires to meet its proportionate greenhouse gas reductions.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Beth Lorimer
Ecological Justice Program Coordinator
KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives



Jan O'Hearn
Local Chairperson
KAIROS Toronto West

cc.

Councillor Michael Ford, Ward 1 – Etobicoke North

Councillor Stephen Holyday, Ward 2 – Etobicoke-Centre

Councillor Mark Grimes, Ward 3 – Etobicoke-Lakeshore