

MEDIA RELEASE

WRITE A CLIMATE LETTER WEDNESDAY – AND CANDLES FOR CLIMATE

February 17, 2021

Members of ClimateFast, a grassroots advocacy initiative supporting funding for the City's Climate Plan, TransformTO, **are participating in a letter-writing initiative** to influence their councillor and the Mayor.

This activity is ongoing all day Wednesday.

At 6:15 pm ClimateFast members will gather for a ZOOM Candlelight reflection on the need for the budget to invest in climate.

“Even though Toronto City Council is under budget pressure due to the COVID emergency we cannot afford to ignore the even bigger emergency – the climate crisis” said Lyn Adamson, Co-Chair. “We need to get back on track in our climate planning as this is the turnaround decade.”

The [UN IPCC](#) (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) has called for at least 50% reduction in GHG emissions by 2030.

“Is this a budget for cops and cars? or a budget for people and planet? We need to shift money to reflect our priorities and build a livable community for the future.” said Val Endicott, referring to the funding for the Gardiner rebuild and to the police budget which has not been cut.

Council has one last chance to restore \$2.5M that was cut from the planned expansion of the TransformTO budget, at the City Council budget meeting on Thursday Feb 18.

“This funding is required to meet the climate action commitments the city has made” said Lyn Adamson, ClimateFast Co-Chair. "We need to do our part of keeping global temperature rise below 1.5 degrees C. As Canada's largest city we need to lead."

The group has called on Council to restore the \$2.5 million in funding, to establish a dedicated climate fund, and to shift funding to match the city's priorities to better meet community needs.

The City of Toronto passed a [Climate Emergency Declaration](#) in October of 2019. ClimateFast's budget submission from Jan 26, 2021 can be read [here](#).

For comments on the budget and for access to Candles for Climate on Zoom please email: lyn@climatefast.ca

Or call Lyn Adamson 416-731-6605

www.climatefast.ca/carbonfreeTO