



Science for Peace

toward a just and sustainable world

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July 13, 2021

Dear Mayor Tory and Councillor Matlow:

RE: Fossil Fuels Non-Proliferation Treaty

I am writing to urge City Council to endorse the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty (Member Motion MM35.29) on Wednesday (July 14th). This treaty calls for an ending of the expansion of coal, oil and natural gas production, an orderly and rapid phase out of existing production, and a just transition to renewable energy.

Canada and many other countries in the world have promised to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 – less than 30 years from now. To achieve this goal, there can be no new fossil fuel infrastructure built of any sort, and yet both the Canadian government (through its purchase and expansion of the TMX pipeline and its support of liquified natural gas exports) and the Ontario government (through its drive to increase natural gas supply to homes and natural gas generation of electricity) are doing just that.

Toronto's endorsement of the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty would send a clear message to both levels of government,; it would also continue Toronto's fine tradition of acting pro-actively to fight global warming. Toronto for several decades (beginning with the Toronto Atmospheric Fund and Energy Efficiency Office in the early 1990s) and continuing through to the present (through the TransformTO plan and other measures)). The recent shocking heat waves in western Canada, the western US, and elsewhere underline the urgency of rapid measures to phase out our use of fossil fuels.

We have entered the decisive decade in human history. Let Toronto be on the right side of this history.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Sandbrook, D.Phil, FRSC
President, Science for Peace