



Climate Justice: Fulfilling Canada's Commitments

Questions for Candidates

- **Will you and your party adopt the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including respecting the right to free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) in the development of all energy projects?**
- **What is your party's plan to help Canada, especially communities that depend on the fossil fuel economy, transition to a renewable economy?**
- **Will you end all public financing of the fossil fuel industry? If so, when?**
- **What are the top two climate actions that your party will take to make sure Canada meets its commitments to limit the average rise in global temperature to 1.5°C?**

Why Ask These Questions?

In 1995, The United Church added "to live with respect in Creation" to A New Creed as another vocation to which we are called as people of faith. Today it is imperative that we heed this deeply spiritual call.

Background Information

- The world's leading climate scientists have warned that urgent and unprecedented changes are needed to keep global warming to under 1.5°C. A 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report points out that even half a degree more will significantly worsen the risks of drought, floods, extreme heat, and poverty for hundreds of millions of people. Youth, Indigenous communities, island states, and countries in the global South that will be most affected by inaction have contributed the least to the problem. They are providing strong leadership for global climate action.
- Effective climate action is affordable and feasible. For Canadian Settlers, it means unlearning ways of being and learning new ways of relating to the land. It also means calling on the federal government to adopt the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) as embodied in the Indigenous teaching "all my relations," which is now part of The United Church of Canada crest.
- The Truth and Reconciliation Commission called on the Government of Canada to adopt the principles, norms, and standards of UNDRIP as the framework of reconciliation. The principles of UNDRIP include the right to self-determination; the right to participate in decision-making; and the right to free, prior, and

informed consent. This means no decisions can be made on projects that are on or cross Indigenous lands without the full participation and free, prior, and informed consent of the Indigenous peoples affected.

- On average, Canada is warming twice as fast as the rest of the world. The areas most affected are the North, the Prairies, and northern British Columbia. Across Canada temperatures have increased 1.7°C annually since 1948, while they have risen 2.3°C each year in the North.
- In 2015, Canada signed the Paris Agreement, which seeks to limit average global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. Countries that signed the agreement committed to reducing carbon pollution and to submitting a plan to cut annual greenhouse gas emissions. In 2015, Canada pledged that, by 2030, it would cut greenhouse gas emissions to 30 percent below 2005 levels. This target is far below what is needed to prevent the catastrophic changes that would

happen with a 1.5°C increase in global warming. Sadly, Canada is nowhere near meeting its target.

- Exports of Canadian oil and gas contribute substantially to global greenhouse gas emissions. For example, if action is not taken, GHG emissions from Canadian oil alone will use up 16 percent of the total global carbon budget outlined in the Paris Agreement. A carbon budget is "the amount of carbon dioxide emissions that can be emitted while still having a likely chance of limiting global temperature rise to 2.0 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels" (www.wri.org/ipcc-infographics).
- As the economy moves away from fossil fuels to renewable energy, we need to make sure no community, group, or worker is left behind. To help with the shift, Canada needs to make sure communities and workers who depend on fossil fuels get the supports they need.

Learn More

www.united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/climate-change

www.united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/un-declaration-rights-indigenous-peoples

climateactionnetwork.ca/2019/06/14/getting-real-about-canadas-climate-plan

cpj.ca/ecological-justice

<http://fossilfreefaith.ca>

<http://greeningsacredspaces.net>

<http://priceofoil.org/2017/01/19/climate-on-the-line-why-new-tar-sands-pipelines-are-incompatible-with-the-paris-goals/>

<https://climateactionnetwork.ca/2019/06/14/getting-real-about-canadas-climate-plan>

www.cbc.ca/news/technology/canada-warming-at-twice-the-global-rate-leaked-report-finds-1.5079765

www.faithfulfootprints.org

www.ipcc.ch/sr15

www.kairoscanada.org

www.oikoumene.org/en/what-we-do/climate-change

www.wri.org/ipcc-infographics

I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

John 10:10b