

Letter to Canadians

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Open letter to Canadians

The climate of the world is changing due to the way our industrial society is powered. We can see the impact this has in Canada in many items of our daily news. Urgent action is required to limit the changes that human activity is having on our climate. Now is the key time for Canadians who want to make a difference to act. There will be a federal election in the fall of this year and we must ensure that our politicians know that Canadians support action on fighting climate change so that they can prepare effective policies to tackle this problem.

Our elected officials must stand for election every 4 years. A government will always try to enact policies that are favoured by the section of the public that supports them to enhance their chances of re-election. If there is no clear mandate from the majority of the electorate to support action to limit climate change, our governments will do nothing or will enact ineffective policies

I urge all Canadians that care about the impact climate change is having on our country and the world. to do one or all of the following:-

As soon as possible

- 1) Tell your member of parliament that action on climate change action is important to you by writing to them or meeting with them in person.
- 2) If you are a supporter of a political party find out what their climate change policy is. If it is vague or seems ineffective to keep the global temperature below 1.5 degrees. demand that they improve it.
- 3) If you are not a supporter of any particular party write to all of them and ask them to send you their climate change policy and follow up with each of them.

During the election process

- 1) Attend all candidate meetings and ask questions about the candidate's climate change policies – let them know this is the most important issue for you.
- 2) Vote for the candidate in your riding who is a member of a party that has an effective climate change policy and has a realistic chance of being elected.

I urge all political parties to prepare a policy report that provides details of what their government will do to reduce Canadian Green House Gas emissions to meet the goal of limiting the global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees. The policy should include a costing of the changes required and a timeline for the reduction in the use of fossil fuels (coal, oil and gas) and which options will be used to replace them including solar, wind, tidal, hydro and nuclear and the plans for power storage. There are clearly many other components to a comprehensive plan to deal with global warming that should also be provided in the party's policy document. These include programs to enable the industrial and social changes that will be required to support an economy that does not depend on fossil fuels including retraining of workforces, transport, infrastructure and carbon capture research.

I urge Canada's experts on climate change to review the political party's policies on climate change and publicly comment on how workable the policies are. This will assist Canadians in evaluating the party policies and deciding which party deserves their support.

As a parent and grandparent, I have serious concerns about the kind of world I am leaving to my children, my grandchildren and to their children. My wish for them is that they have the same opportunities that we have had. This will take action on the part of each of us. I do not think it is enough to plant a tree or turn a light off. The problem we face is a global problem that can only be handled by policies and regulations at all levels of our governments, City, Provincial and Federal. This can only be achieved by our direct participation in the electoral process. I urge you to take part in this.

F Gerald Oakham
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