

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this important conversation about our future and possible solutions for a New And Greatly Improved Canada. As a Canadian citizen, I want to be part of the discussion. Along with "Rights" of citizenship, I believe I also have the "Responsibility" to be involved in decision making for laws that govern my country.

There is no question that we are at a critical moment in our history. Effects of climate change are being felt everywhere by everyone. Severe flooding incidents like what happened in Merritt, BC, in November 2021. Severe flooding that is happening now around Winnipeg, Man. Forest fires that destroy landscapes and fill our sky with haze. I remember looking across the water from a dock in downtown Vancouver in 2018 and couldn't see the North Shore mountains due to forest fire smoke. How many people are in shock when they learn about forest fires in Siberia in the past few years? Then, there are glaciers disappearing at an alarming rate, increasing sea level rise as they destroy chances for communities to obtain clean water supplies. Permafrost in Northern BC is melting and land is falling into the sea, creating havoc for structures dependent on iced earth. Last summer, Vancouver experienced a "Heat Dome" incident that killed about 600 people in BC. What more do you need to hear to say it is time to make different choices in Canada?

There is no question that we are at a critical moment in our history. The problem is that governments, even Canada, continue to make decisions that favour "Business As Usual" to prop up their revenue stream. The problem is that governments refuse to create EFFECTIVE solutions to remedy the situation, prompting scientists and the UN Secretary General to issue a "red alert" for humanity.

https://www.nationalobserver.com/2021/10/07/news/any-way-you-slice-it-canada-one-worst-emitters-planet?mkt_tok=Nzc0LVNITy0yMjgAAAG

Several years ago, a neighbour and I decided to contribute comments to the Northern Gateway project in Northern BC. I filled my paper with numbers about oil spills and other statistics. My neighbour talked about how she learned that we would have a different society and world when she was a University student in the 1960s. Here she was, years later, fighting "same olde, same olde". Here I am, fighting "same olde, same olde, in 2022.

In Canada, there is a growing movement to include "Right To A Healthy Environment" in our Constitution. Ecuador and other countries have done so already

https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/scotland-could-first-county-make-24762289?mkt_tok=Nzc0LVNITy0yMjgAAAF_B84

When it comes to financial viability, I am tired of hearing about how much fossil fuels contribute to our economy. The fudge it numbers obscure the Billions that fossil fuel corporations receive in subsidies. The fudge it numbers refuse to acknowledge that these same corporations would be gone in an instant the moment they would be held responsible for cleaning up their abandoned well/contaminated land messes in the industry with "polluter pay" legislation. How convenient that taxpayer money makes it possible for them to declare massive profits. I don't want to leave out the Billions spent on repairing damage after climate change events. The insurance industry is at the forefront of paying for repairs after events have destroyed lives and environment:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/mark-carney-says-climate-change-could-have-huge-cost-to-insurers-1.3250136>

http://wcel.org/resources/environmental-law-alert/canada%E2%80%99s-ghg-emissions-cost-world-8800-lives-and-154-billion-every?utm_source=LEB

https://www.theenergymix.com/2022/02/07/extreme-weather-in-europe-killed-90000-cost-500-billion-over-40-years%E2%80%99s-ghg-emissions-cost-world-8800-lives-and-154-billion-every?mkt_tok=Nzc0LV

https://www.nationalobserver.com/2022/03/28/news/bcs-largest-fossil-fuel-subsidy-cost-province-over-1b-last-year?mkt_tok=Nzc0LVNITy0yM

I am asking you to flick the switch to a Renewable Energy Economy, to remove the Fossil Fuel Noose from our economy. There are many creative people offering creative solutions:

<http://gizmodo.com/renewables-now-exceed-all-other-forms-of-new-power-gene-1788195297>

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/niallmccarthy/2017/01/25/u-s-solar-energy-employs-more-people-than-oil-coal-and-gas-combined-infographic/#39ecce212800>

<http://www.workersclimateplan.ca/>

https://thenarwhal.ca/oilsands-solar-farm-fort-chipewyan/?mkt_tok=eyJ

NO MORE SUBSIDIES TO FOSSIL FUEL CORPORATIONS. A JUST TRANSITION TO A NEW ECONOMY.

That is what I and millions of other Canadians are asking for and banking on as we move into a new century. I ask you to be the leaders we need to get us there.

For our children. For our grandchildren. For our survival.

Onni Milne
May 3, 2022