

CLIMATE CHANGE
TOWN HALL MEETING
Wednesday, July 13, 2016
6:30 pm

Les Compagnons, 327 Dudley Street, North Bay ON

54 Attendees

Anthony Rota thanked all attendees for participating. He said that the Government of Canada is seeking public opinion on how to address climate change and promote clean growth in Canada.

He provided a presentation “Tackling Climate Change – Canada’s Approach” that included the following topics : Objective – Why We are Here; A Global Challenge; The Paris Agreement; In Canada; Emission Targets; National Action in Canada; Waring Groups; The Process; Key Questions for Discussion.

For further details , please visit : [https://www.canada.ca/.../climate change/climate -action /action -climate -change](https://www.canada.ca/.../climate%20change/climate-action/action-climate-change)

All concerns, comments, observations and suggestions are welcome!
Results will reflect the North Bay/Nipissing region opinion!

1. What have been your own experiences with the impacts of climate change?

- Concerned about sustainable life for future generations and how climate change is affecting the boreal forests, rain forests, the Great Barrier Reef, and Himalayan glaciers that fill rivers that, in turn, support a billion people. The earth has limits!
- The economy and the environment are intertwined – protect what we have – our natural resources and water!
- Allergies due to changing weather patterns – pollen.
- I am concerned about the future of my children and grandchildren!
- Generally, fewer winter days of having to plug in the car and fewer days of ice cover on the lakes.
- Pessimism and anxiety about the deteriorating state of the climate and environment.
- I feel and believe that our insatiable hunger for constant economic growth is the root of the problems we face. Does anyone remember the notion of a steady state economy?
- Hotter summers! And more precipitation – flooded basement.
- Shorter winters, more thaws / freezing rain. Impacts winter sports / activities and tourism.
- I worry a lot about the pipeline through North Bay.
- Exhaustion from news of disasters.
- So many more hot days.
- I’ve learned to garden – permaculture, pollination gardens, rain gardens, and vegetables.
- Am learning about the connection between climate change and capitalism, and social justice issues (or more correctly – social injustice) and democracy.
- Only 1% can afford solar panels.
- My children work in the energy sector and have their lives in danger with fires from drought.
- I am affected by particulate matter from tar sands projects.

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- My grandchildren's water and air is at stake with a projected growth in the tar sands; methane emissions from in-site extractions threaten our lives.
- More severe storms – major flooding.
- If we keep doing what we are doing, we are destroying the life supporting systems of earth: acidification of oceans, melting ice caps, rising sea levels.
- Time is of the essence – we are at a tipping point – our children and grandchildren will endure unbearable hardship if we don't act NOW!!
- Green algae blooms in Callander Bay causing people to sell neighbouring cottages.
- Protection of Canada's fresh water is the most important issue – it's our main resource – should be a national responsibility!
- A young man from Tuktoyaktuk (2010) told me that his grandfather has seen insects, birds and fish for which they have no name.
- Waded into the Bering Sea and it felt no colder / saltier than Trout Lake – a resident regularly swims in the Bering Sea.
- Please discuss the Leap Manifesto – it is not a one-party plan – it concerns all of us! Not a political issue - a MORAL one!
- Moratorium on new oils sands development.
- Noise pollution in the oceans severely disturbs aquatic animal life who communicate through sound – whales, narwhales, porpoises, seals.
- Consider ocean temperatures impact on the fish – water is too warm!
- Speckled trout decline in the Ottawa River – water too warm.
- The pipeline affects many ridings – you must convince your Liberal colleagues that North Bay objects to the pipeline! The risk to our drinking water is too great!
- Institute mandatory environmental education of elected members of Parliament

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2. What are the solutions to reducing greenhouse gases that you would like to see our government, businesses, and communities implement?

- Retro fit existing dams for generating hydroelectric power; do not build new dams without providing for Hydro-electric generation. i.e. Big Chaudière Dam on French River system; Big Falls Dam in Bracebridge.
- Use solar power for highway lighting.
- Very grateful that this government has adopted and will implement the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Recommend the presence of Indigenous leaders, elders and grandmothers concerned about care for the earth at Climate Change forums and summits.
- I would like to see parliament debate the merits of the “Leap Manifesto”.
- Massive investments in renewable energy, especially solar.
- DO NOT APPROVE ENERGY EAST! as this will promote expansion of the oil sands for decades to come.
- STOP ENERGY EAST!
- All the people who lose their jobs should be re-trained for jobs in green energy.
- Subsidize homeowners to make homes more energy efficient.
- STOP subsidizing the fossil fuel economy.
- Study what Germany has done – huge decreases in a short time.
- Immediately stop all subsidies to oil companies and offer subsidies to green energy companies.
- No Energy East and therefore no further expansion of the tar sands.
- Have the political will to put climate change and the environment first! (look at Germany and Denmark)
- Legislation i.e. all new development must be energy self-sufficient using renewable energy.
- Incentives to retro-fit homes, businesses from oil / gas heating to green energy systems.
- Incentives to improve windows and insulation.
- Incentives to transition to electric cars.
- Absolutely NO pipeline.
- Give oil industry workers jobs in green energy industries.
- Create market conditions that allow green energy industries to flourish. (Read Naomi Klein’s – “This Changes Everything” and Jeff Rubin’s “The Carbon Bubble”) – these should be required reading for every politician.
- Commit to actions with clear and meaningful deadlines and open consultation with the public throughout the process.
- Building pipelines is inconsistent with meeting our obligations under the Paris Agreement.
- Support companies that provide green energy.
- Some things do not require huge sums of money and can help reduce emissions – for example, promoting active transportation – bike

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paths should be built before more roads.

- R & D on tar sands emissions.
- Why are the States not talking about methane escaping?
- Develop new technology – grow plants, algae for electricity.
- Tax the crap out of dirty companies who are toxic in chemistry effluents in water and air.
- Maintain natural gas delivery infrastructure and support research into decarbonizing the product by adding some hydrogen gas to the feed and/or adding locally generated methane from organic wastes.
- Reduce energy requirements for heating and cooling by supporting renovations of existing infrastructure – better insulation, etc.
- Encourage agricultural sector to develop healthier soils which would sequester carbon as organic matter and also result in more porous soils that reduce runoff / flooding – also reduces need for fertilizers which are often produced from fossil fuels.
- Price / tax on carbon!
- Stop all fossil fuel subsidies (election promise!)
- Re-invest in green / renewal energy.
- No new fossil fuel infrastructure i.e. pipelines
- Strive to achieve the Paris Agreement / Accord.
- Phase out fossil fuels.
- Stop subsidizing fossil fuel companies and support green energy resources.
- Distinguish between “true” economy and “false” economy.
- NO EXPANSION OF OIL/TAR SANDS – Millions of barrels are getting out now – why do we need new pipelines???
- Tar sands development negates efforts to mitigate climate change effects. I’m willing to live with fewer hydro carbon inputs to stop further tar sands and fracking developments. Canadians have never been given a clear choice regarding what sacrifices we may need to make to have environmental security.
- Develop green energy and green infrastructure.
- Debate the Leap Manifesto!
- No subsidies for oil and gas industry.
- Plant trees to stop desertification – Middle East.
- Use wood and wood fibres in building materials.
- Put solar energy in every home.
- Develop a Northern Ontario industrial strategy – invest in renewable resources – anything good for the climate is good for the communities and the people within the communities.

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3. What are your ideas to both grow the economy and jobs while reducing emissions?

- Develop a carbon-use pricing / taxation model: use these revenues to subsidize green energy R&D. – see “Carbon Fee and Dividend – REMI Report.
- Create national centres for the research and development of alternative energies. The creation of a R&D hub in Alberta could mitigate the social and economic consequences of shutting down the tar sands.
- Promote a green economy.
- Invest in rail and get transports off our highways.
- We need to shift away from being a “resource economy” to a “value-added economy”.
- Alberta has great economic potential for development of agriculture to offset reduced value of heavy oils and bitumen – the opportunity created by serious droughts in traditional agricultural areas of the world will continue and there will be world-wide demand.
- Expand rail infrastructure including passenger rail which is more efficient than highway use and support the development of high quality and well-integrated public transit to facilitate utilization.
- Consider opportunities to install regional heating systems – capture what would otherwise be wasted heat.
- Re-direct fossil fuel subsidies to renewables.
- Carbon tax also redirected to renewable energy – low carbon economy.
- NO DAMS!
- End to oil and gas company subsidies.
- Invest in rail travel / industry.
- Invest in green technology i.e. gravity assisted hydroelectric generation. Review ARES.
- Wave energy.
- No oil pipelines – NO ENERGY EAST!

4. What are some ideas to promote innovation and new technologies in the effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions?

- Change existing composition and representation on the National Energy Board.
- Government leadership to create a “Manhattan Project” for development of alternative energies.
- The transition should happen quickly. The issue is profoundly a moral one. The real concern is whether the Government will place the preservation of nature (our life support system) ahead of corporate greed.
- Scholarships for green technology.
- Subsidize green technology R&D.

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- Tax breaks for new “green” companies.
- Focus on local economies. The TPP is detrimental to promoting local economies besides which transporting goods over the globe fossil fuels. It is not necessary or healthy.
- All communities should have residential & business solar energy.
- R & D healthy materials. Say no to any bad chemicals so use real heritage seeds with organic compost to grow food and the waste be used for energy.
- Industry tends to wait for clear signals regarding opportunities before they will invest. Government investments in specific technologies can significantly encourage business development.
- Encourage (offer financial incentives) senior communities to modernize their homes with environmentally-friendly heating and cooling systems. i.e. solar power and geothermal options.
- Green energy development – new homes should have green energy for heating water – it’s done in Portugal now.
- Clean up contamination – research new ways to do this.
- Real investment in northern Ontario transit options.
- No fracking.
- Find ways to address the rights of indigenous people.
-

5. What can Canada do to better adapt to impacts of climate change and support affected communities including indigenous communities?

- DO NOT APPROVE ENERGY EAST.
- Massively invest in solar, wind and geothermal technologies.
- Do not invest in massive hydro projects as these radically alter river ecology and create numerous harmful consequences.
- Respect indigenous communities.
- Introduce green technologies to indigenous communities.
- Anticipate needs rather than reacting long after.
- Immediately stop all activity that is contributing to more negative impacts.
- Get our heads out of the sand – why focus on adapting to climate change now when we are supporting activities and businesses that are continuing to accelerate climate change.
- Pay attention to permaculture principles. The natural systems of the earth, if left alone, or reproduced in our infrastructure, will go a long way to building resilience. i.e. build to allow rain water to run into the ground and aquifers instead of into the sewer systems.
- Build local and resilient economies!
- The rich are getting richer and the poor will be left behind as the world stops turning as it once did.
- Stop corporations from turning labour into robots. STOP IT

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ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

- Protect the water! We can't drink oil!
 - Stop exports of asbestos!
 - Implement low impact development strategies more broadly to improve resilience.
 - Support the development of digital elevation models of the landscape so that we can identify areas at risk of flooding during more severe storm events which will be experienced in the future – and predict specific impacts – support appropriate development.
 - Inform the populace of the impending changes. i.e. public education on climate for increased buy-in.
-
- “Someone vocalized the absence of young people in this town hall meeting. Our children and their friends (in their 20's) shake their heads in disbelief at the ongoing fossil fuel industry, the rigidity to change, the lack of support to innovation and development of new technology and the obsession with business profits to the detriment of the environment. Reach out to college and university engineering departments and youth on college and university campuses for input. Give them a reason to believe that this isn't just more talk... Demonstrate that there is the political will to transform to a green economy.
 - Suggest Canadians adopt a new slogan – much like the medical profession- “Do no harm.”
 - Exporting logs cost Canadians jobs! Process and add value on Canadian soil.
 - Exporting oil costs Canadians jobs! Process and add value on Canadian soil.
 - Pipelines exports jobs! Why are transporting unrefined oil? Refine it in Alberta – good jobs. Add value in Canada.
 - Committing to Energy East is committing to decades of expansion and the environmental risk!
 - “A rain forest is no place for a pipeline.” – PM J. Trudeau
vis-à-vis:
“Alongside pristine Trout Lake is no place for a pipeline.” – North Bay Public
 - Trout Lake is the finest source of drinking water on the planet – NASA
 - Clean air, water and healthy animals is the wealth Canadians prefer rather than simply economic wealth.

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- Bring back the “Navigable Waters Protection Act”!!!
- Learn from B.C.’s experiences with oil pipelines!
- Encourage the participation of Canada’s young people through youth forums.
- “Climate Change Town Hall Submission – Donna Sinclair, July 15, 2016 – “As a report and researcher, I am assaulted on all sides by climate data..... I am quite often wrapped in profound grief over the loss of so many interconnected and elegant examples of the universe’s genius.” full e-mail attached
- “Climate Change Town Hall Submission – Diane Wallace, July 13, 2016 – “I do wish to tell you, once again, how opposed I am to the Energy East Pipeline, for so many reasons.....” full e-mail attached

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS ATTACHED: “Climate Change Town Hall Submission –Donna Sinclair – July 15, 2016
“Climate Change Town Hall Submission – Diane Wallace – July 13, 2016

ACTIONS: Provide a detailed break-down of pie-chart.

From: Diane Wallace [REDACTED]
Sent: July 13, 2016 10:34 AM
To: Rota, Anthony - Riding 1B
Subject: Energy East Pipeline and Climate Change

Cc: pm@pm.gc.ca
Subject: Climate Change

Dear Anthony

I have just received an email re the Energy East Meeting you are hosting tonight. I am so pleased that you and your government are taking this initiative to reach out to Canadians for input on this issue most critical to our planet.

I am so sorry I won't be able to attend, as I have just returned from Toronto where I had surgery Monday.

I do wish to tell you, once again, how opposed I am to the Energy East Pipeline, for so many reasons, all of which I have written to you before:

Risk to Canadian water,

Risk to entire environment, fish and wildlife, land and air

Destruction of environment adjacent to and downstream from Tar Sands. Much of this affected environment is the home of Indigenous People, whose health, livelihood, and very existence is severely threatened by the devastation of the land and water caused by oil extraction.

Most critically, building of this pipeline and other pipelines will sentence Canada to the extraction and use of fossil fuels, with dire environmental results, for many years into the future. This would ensure that Canada does not even come close to meeting the climate change targets which our Liberal Government pledged to meet in Paris last year. It is a no brainer to me that fossil fuels must be left in the ground, and that our financial resources must be used instead to encourage the use of green energy. We have the technology for solar, geothermal, tidal, electric cars, etc! Many of our hydroelectric dams, which are intentionally not being used to capacity, could be ramped up.

Should Canada's focus, instead of continuing to extract and pollute with these dirty fossil fuels, not be to immediately shift in a major way to the use of green, renewable energy?

Anthony, I believe we should be very proud of, and looking for assistance from, a variety of Canadians, who have been working tirelessly and without much government appreciation, (many have been scorned, and threatened, instead, by our former government), for many years, to combat climate change. These people and groups include:

David Suzuki
David Suzuki Institute and Blue Dot Tour
Maude Barlow
Council of Canadians
Elizabeth May
Pembina Institute
Stop Energy East, North Bay
Our Scientific Community, researching so many areas of green energy
And many more!

I was very encouraged by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's inclusion of Elizabeth May at the Paris Climate Summit last November. Work on the issue of Climate Change needs participation by so many partners with expertise. Good on our Liberal Government for starting down this path. We have the expertise! It will take a major attitude shift by many large corporations in this country to switch gears and changeover to green energy. I believe your government has the grass roots support to do this. We know that there would be vastly more jobs for Canadians in a Canada fuelled by green energy.

Canada could become a world leader in Green Energy, but we must have a comprehensive plan, using our experts, and get going!

So many of the green technologies would ensure that electricity could be produced locally, which would encourage cities and communities to become independent in the area of power production. Canada could become independent power producer! The ramifications for our country and the entire world order would be tremendous!

Anthony, I thank you for the opportunity for all of us to speak about this most important issue. I am encouraged that our Liberal Government is on the right track in so many areas, and in my mind, focus on further prevention of Climate Change is of primary importance.

Thank you for listening to the people!

Diane Wallace

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Sent from my iPad

Hi -- here is the questionnaire, filled out electronically. Hope this makes the deadline. Thanks again for the town hall.

Donna

PS will also include in the message body here.

Climate Change Town Hall

North Bay, July 13, 2016

Submitted by Donna and Jim Sinclair

Thanks for hosting this town hall. It was wonderful to see and hear so many passionate and committed speakers, and I appreciate your deft and respectful leadership.

My own experiences with climate change:

As a gardener, I see lengthened and intensified weather patterns.. longer dry periods, longer wet periods. I grew up in Northern Ontario, so I have a 72-year period to report on. The winters are less harsh, the summers are hotter. Anecdotal evidence only, of course. Wish I had kept a log. The more frequent, localized flooding we now are seeing in many Canadian communities is going to increase pressure on infrastructure. Bridges and roads that should have lasted for 25 years won't last as long when they are constantly subjected to the new normal in terms of flood damage.

As a person of faith, whose national church is involved in refugee issues, I am also extremely aware of increased migration due to climate change. The Syrian crisis is at root a climate-instigated conflict, caused by rural farmers moving to the cities after years with insufficient rain to survive on the land. The already-fragile Syrian state could not cope. More to come. I hope Canada's renewed (and laudable) interest in peacekeeping takes this into account. Especially if we plan to go into Africa in this capacity.

As a reporter and researcher, I am assaulted on all sides by climate data. As a specialist in religious reporting, I am constantly trying to figure out how some people manage to have hope in the midst of despair. There is no doubt in my mind that we are in the midst of the planet's sixth great extinction. I am quite often wrapped in profound grief over the loss of so many interconnected and elegant examples of the universe's genius.

Solutions to greenhouse gases:

The problem is so vast it requires government -- state and international -- solutions, if any are to be found. Paradoxically, it requires deep citizen engagement to provide "social license " for these solutions. (Social license is not required only for large oil and gas projects.)

However, if governments could extract themselves from the enmeshment with large transnational corporations (especially oil and gas) that is the current situation, that would be a beginning. As many people said clearly on Wednesday evening, ending subsidies for exploration would be a start. That money could be redirected into any number of initiatives, including **home and institutional building retrofits, support for solar, geothermal, wind and tidal power, and new builds that are energy self-sufficient.** We shouldn't be wasting money on power distribution in cases where we can produce power locally, even individually. If there's a catastrophic storm and the grid goes down, everything comes to a halt. But we have the ability now to operate in smaller units, not as a huge power grid. We need to go in that direction.

We need to look much more carefully at large trade deals that stand in the way of these initiatives. Too often these simply enhance corporate power to the disadvantage of democratic institutions.

At least one speaker on Wednesday evening called for Parliament to have a close look at the LEAP manifesto. It's not really as scary as many pundits think. And it upholds the same respect for First Nations values that I would like to hope is evidenced by the Liberal Party's recent actions in ratifying UNDRIP.

Growing the economy:

We need to start talking about alternatives to endless growth. As a gardener, I know there is a moment when the plant grows out of the pot and simply dies. That's what we are doing. However, if we can retrieve our manufacturing capacity from the power handed over to multinationals under trade deals, and make our own solar panels (and apparently our own solar windows, roads, shingles etc.) and manufacture our own windmills (better ones, that don't drive the neighbours crazy) maybe we could find jobs for everybody. Maybe we'd need a shorter work week, and lower executive compensation. Maybe we'd need more family farms and fewer industrial megafarms.

If all this sounds like utopian dreaming, it probably is. But the brilliant critic Northrop Frye always said that we need to be able to imagine a better universe in order to have one. (He said it best in his Massey lectures, *The Educated Imagination*.) So let's get imagining.

Promoting new technologies:

See above. We need to stop privatizing everything that stands still, because big business does not worry about climate change. Just stop. PPP ventures are, to be blunt, financially stupid. Citizens need health care and education and prisons and universities and transportation, and we need the bodies in charge of them to be accountable. Otherwise the profit motive takes over, naturally, and the old technologies cling. And tax payers (formerly known as citizens) end up paying anyway, only much more.

So government needs to be decisive about R and D (and smart, and a little cynical too. We don't want to encourage those who scent easy money producing applications for non-existent or suspect projects. It's happened. Read Linda McQuaig.)

But government does need to support R and D, wisely, come up with suitably disruptive technologies, protect them and help put them into action.

And (let me repeat) government needs to stop supporting iffy ventures like carbon capture, and cleaning up toxic tar sands waste, that have not produced any significant returns. Let's be much tougher on tar sands operators, for instance, who are contaminating an entire landscape, without putting aside sufficient funds to remediate. (Perhaps that's because it is impossible to fully remediate. You can't restore the boreal; it is an elegant and complex ecosystem. You might be able to create an aspen parkland. But that is not going to be the lungs of the planet.)

What can Canada do?

See above. Stop doing counterproductive things. Just stop. The Site C dam in BC is a case in point. Climate change is going to seriously affect our capacity to grow food. Why then are we flooding one of the most supremely productive areas of the country for power that BC does not need? This is a project opposed by the First Nations in the area as well as (naturally) the local farmers whose land will be under water. The federal government has the power to withhold permits for BC Hydro. It should do so at once.

Stop contaminating the water. Everywhere. Climate change is going to adversely affect fresh water sources. Why then are we contaminating the Athabasca River, and the third-largest watershed in the world? The terrible cost of tar sands operations will be felt not only in GHG emissions and a ravaged landscape. It is going to be borne by that entire massive part of the country whose water, fishery, livelihood, and way of life will be affected.

Finally, we need to allow ourselves to think differently. We as a nation, and a planet have been propagandized (if there is such a word.) We have been told over and over that government should be small and that taxes are unfair. Physicist and peace activist Ursula Franklin described Canada as an occupied country – occupied by an army of profiteers. And so we are. However, there is now a resistance movement. In many ways, the previous federal government inadvertently brought it into being. The anti-Energy East movement is only a small part of it. Little grassroots organizations are springing up to defend the planet, here and all around the world.

So what Canada can do (and the Liberal government shows signs of understanding this, if not always acting on it as quickly as we would like) is to become part of that resistance movement. Restore federal environmental regulation to Canada's waterways, right away. Stop the CRA from hounding charities that advocate for the poor and the environment, right away. Live out the apology to First Nations by fulfilling the recommendations of the TRC. (I mention this because the value systems First Nations espouse are in much closer harmony with a healthy planet than the value systems Canada as a whole has been propagandized into accepting.)

Thanks again, so much, for holding these climate town halls. They're a good idea.