

## **TIME TO GET SERIOUS ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

Dealing with climate change will require *steep cuts* in emissions of greenhouse gases, in Canada and around the world. Avoiding the worst risks requires reducing emissions *more than half, perhaps more than 80%, by the year 2050*. Achieving such huge cuts, even over several decades, will mean transforming the world energy system to use climate-safe technologies that eliminate or greatly reduce emissions. This transformation calls for greater efforts than yet mounted in Canada or any nation, sustained over decades.

As world leaders start to grasp the scale of required changes, Canadians face two major risks: risks from climate change itself, and risks that by standing back and letting others lead, Canada will be pushed into ill-considered actions dictated by others, which may be less effective and more costly than necessary. To manage these risks, and to meet our responsibilities to the world and to our grandchildren, we call on Canada's governments, businesses and citizens to take a new approach that gets serious about climate change. In addition, we commit ourselves and our organizations to working together to bring this new approach to reality. The following are key elements of the required new approach.

### ***Time for action***

Despite many years of consultations on climate change and several generations of government programs, Canada's emissions have not declined, but have grown more than 20% since 1990. A new approach is needed, that includes immediate actions making real steps toward the required emission cuts. Granted, we will also need further planning, analysis, and consultation over emission targets and the domestic and international strategies to pursue them. But we can no longer delay actions while we seek full agreement on targets and strategies, which will in any case have to be re-evaluated as we proceed. We know the needed changes are large, and many chances to cut emissions are here today, some of which are lost each month. We must seize opportunities now, even as we continue to formulate and update our longer-term plans and pursue effective global cooperation.

### ***A shared challenge – and a need for leadership***

Limiting climate change will require efforts from all parts of Canadian society – from producers and consumers, from citizens and businesses in every region and sector. But the crucial missing piece has been effective policies, which only governments can enact. Governments cannot solve the climate-change problem by themselves, but effective policies are essential to provide the clear, sustained incentives that create space for leadership and stimulate needed actions throughout Canadian society. Because Canada has many opportunities to reduce emissions that would be attractive under these incentives, such policies will be affordable, or even bring economic advantages. Such policies can also position Canada as a leader in shaping the needed global solution to climate change.

### ***The key ingredient: make emission cuts pay off***

Policies to slow climate change must include measures that put a price on greenhouse-gas emissions. It is these market-based incentives that reward leadership, innovation, and investments to reduce emissions. These measures may take various forms, including emissions taxes, cap-and-trade systems, or combinations of these. To be most effective, measures must be applied consistently across the entire Canadian economy. They can be designed to avoid harming Canada's competitiveness or distorting Governments' budget balances. Other climate-change policies will also be needed – to target incentives on priority sectors such as transport and buildings, to support research and development, and to distribute costs fairly – but these broad measures to price emissions, with an initial level of at least \$30 per tonne of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent emissions, are the essential core of an effective climate-change policy.

### ***Renew the energy system with climate-safe technologies***

We need to develop and deploy climate-safe technologies at a staggering rate. Many technologies can be deployed at much larger scale now, while many also promise large advances from further research. Limiting climate change requires both immediate investments and a sharp increase in energy research, development, and demonstration projects, including substantial public support. It will also require coordination of decision-making to facilitate deployment of new energy infrastructure. Given the scale of the climate challenge, no option should be foreclosed without compelling reason including energy efficiency, distributed systems, larger scale centralized systems, and emission capture technologies. While the signatories to this statement do not necessarily agree on specific technologies, we do agree that we cannot now predict what technology mix will turn out to be most effective.

### ***Embrace uncertainty***

Risk and uncertainty are part of life. Our greatest companies are not those paralyzed by risk, but those that manage it best. There is uncertainty about many aspects of climate change. But demanding certainty before we act is a risky, even reckless course. Uncertainty compels us to act now, because delay risks both more serious climate change and less ability to choose our own path. Uncertainty will also require us to adapt our choices over time, as we learn more about the climate change we face, the cost of cutting emissions, the technology mix we prefer, the effects of policies, and the actions of other nations.

### ***Keep it simple***

Many proposed greenhouse-gas policies are so complex they look like the tax code. Such complexity poses two dangers. It risks diverting efforts into clever

ways to “game the system” and profit from the policies, instead of making the investments and developing the technologies to reduce emissions. And it makes it hard to assess progress, hindering efforts to learn from early actions and hold decision-makers accountable for results. Because we must focus on solving the problem, because we must learn as we go, and because we must ensure accountability, policies must be as simple and transparent as possible. As we strengthen economy-wide incentives to emit less we need to move away from policies that target particular facilities or technologies. We must also aim to harmonize policies within Canada and with our major trading partners.

Transforming Canada’s energy system to limit climate change is a historic challenge, but with serious, sustained efforts it is an achievable one. Canada alone cannot slow climate change. But standing back and waiting for others to lead means facing more severe climate-change impacts, losing the chance to shape our own path, and shirking our world responsibilities. The new approach we call for holds the hope of avoiding the worst of climate change, while also sustaining Canada’s prosperity and re-asserting Canadian leadership in the world. Canadians have a choice, and the time to make it is now.

<b>Last</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Title And/Or Comments</b>
Atwood	Margaret		Author & Joint Honorary President of Bird Life International's Rare Bird Club
Berman	Tzeborah	Forest Ethics	Strategic Director
Bramley	Matthew	Pembina Institute	Director, Climate Change
Bronfman	Stephen R.	Claridge Inc.	President & CEO
Brown	Michael	Chrysalix Energy Management	CEO
Campbell	Kim		Former Prime Minister
Campbell	Paul	SITQ - Real Estate	President and CEO
Cappe	Mel	Institute for Research on Public Polidy	President and CEO
Carter	Morag	David Suzuki Foundation	Climate Change Director
Chender	Michael	Metals Economics Group	Founder
Clark	Ian D.	University of Toronto	Professor, School of Public Policy and Governance
Clark	Joe		Former Prime Minister
Diamond	David	Headlines Theatre	Artistic and Managing Director/Joker
Dowdeswell	Elizabeth	Nuclear Waste Management	President
Dowlatabati	Hadi	University of British Columbia	Canada Research Chair in Global Change
Elgie	Stewart	Sustainable Prosperity	Founder
Gibson	Graeme		Author, Preservationist & Joint Honorary President of Bird Life International's Rare Bird Club
Godfrey	John		Member of Parliament (Retired)
Gray	Tim	Ivey Foundation	Program Director
Guilbeault	Steven	Équiterre	Deputy Executive Director
Heintzman	Andrew	Investeco Capital Corp	President
Heintzman	Tom	Bullfrog Power	President
Hazell	Mark	Summit REIT	Senior Vice President (Retired)
Homer-			Author of The Upside of Down
Dixon	Thomas	University of Waterloo	CIGI Chair of Global Systems, Balsillie School
Ivey	Rosamond	Ivey Foundation	Chair
Jaccard	Mark	Simon Fraser University	Professor

Keith Klein	David Naomi	University of Calgary	Canada Research Chair in Energy and the Environment Department Chemical and Petroleum Engineering Author of The Shock Doctrine
Lazar Lazar	Avrim Stuart	Forest Products Association of Canada	President and CEO
Hourie	Bruce	King Street Capital Inc.	Partner
Maroun	Louis	Ivey Foundation	President
Martin	Paul	ING Real Estate Canada	Executive Chairman
MacMillan	Ross	Tides Canada	Former Prime Minister
McTeer	Maureen		President and CEO
Morton	Ian	Summerhill Group	Lawyer and Author
Ogden	David S.	ISG Capital Corporation	CEO
Ondaatje	Michael		President and CEO
		University of Calgary	Author
Parson Pederson` de Pencier	Edward A. Tom Michael	University of Victoria, University of Michigan University of Victoria Key Publishers Company Ltd.	Dean of Science Chairman Chancellor and Former Premier of the Province of Ontario
Peterson Poole	David PJ	University of Toronto Arctos & Bird	
Raynolds	Marlo	Pembina Institute	Executive Director
Ribaux	Sidney	Équiterre	Co-founder, Executive Director
Ritchie	Gordon		
Roy	John	Summit REIT	Former CEO and Chairman
Ruby C.M.	Clayton		Civil Rights Lawyer Professor Emeritus Engineering
Scott Smith Smith	David Sanborn Gordon Meran	University of Victoria, University of Toronto University of Victoria Forest Ethics	Author of Smelling Land, The Hydrogen Defence Against Climate Catastrophe Director, Center for Global Studies Climate Director

Smith	Rick	Environmental Defence Canada	Executive Director
Swain	Harry		Former Deputy Minister, Industry Canada
Torrie	Ralph	ICF Consulting	Vice President, Energy Policy and Climate Change
Trotter	Kate		Actor
			Author of "the Geography of Hope -- A Tour of the World We Need"
Turner	Chris		Former Prime Minister
Turner	John	University of Victoria	President and Vice-Chancellor
Turpin	David H.		Canada Research Chair in Atmospheric Science
			School of Earth and Ocean Sciences
Weaver	Andrew	University of Victoria	CEO
Westeinde	Jonathan	Windmill Development Group	President Emeritus
White	Terry	University of Calgary	President and CEO
Wiebe	John	Globe Foundation	Author and Physician
Weil	Andrew		Media Innovator
Znaimer	Moses		