

**December 14, 2021**

**TO:** The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change  
The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Natural Resources  
**CC:** The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

Dear Ministers Guilbeault and Wilkinson,

Congratulations on your appointment to cabinet during the 44th government of Canada. While no party received a majority of seats in this last election, Canadians from coast-to-coast-to-coast overwhelmingly voted for parties that promised action on the climate crisis.

The Council of Canadians brings people together through collective action and grassroots organizing to challenge corporate power and advocate for people, the planet and our democracy. In this minority parliament, our 150,000 supporters have tasked us with pushing for change on issues that matter to them. We issue you this mandate letter on their behalf.

During the election, you promised swift climate action, and Canadians share this urgent priority.

Your ministry must take action in line with climate science and Indigenous knowledge by implementing a plan to reduce emissions by at least 60 per cent by 2030 and 100 per cent by 2050, with annual, enforced targets. This means going above and beyond Canada's Paris Agreement commitments.

The federal government should follow through on its 2019 promise to enact legislation to create a comprehensive plan for a just transition for workers and communities as the economy moves to a low-carbon future. The legislation should incorporate the recommendations of the Task Force on Just Transition for Canadian Coal Power Workers and Communities. It must be ambitious, transformative legislation applicable to any sector and inclusive of all communities impacted by the changes needed to reach Canada's climate goals.

A just transition will ensure that the economic transformation needed to address the climate crisis is carried out equitably, is rooted in climate justice, respects the rights of Indigenous peoples, and creates more than a million jobs in the process.

The federal government has a critical role to play. Ministers responsible for responding to the climate crisis must implement a just transition for workers and communities that:

- Reduces emissions by at least 60% below 2005 levels by 2030, and makes significant contributions to emissions reductions in countries in the Global South
- Winds down the fossil fuel industry and related infrastructure, ends fossil fuel subsidies, and transitions to a decarbonized economy
- Creates new public economic institutions and expands public ownership of services and utilities across the economy to implement the transition



- Creates good green jobs and drives inclusive workforce development, led by and including affected workers and communities, and ensures decent, low-carbon work for all workers
- Protects and strengthens human rights and worker rights, respects Indigenous rights, sovereignty, and knowledge by including them in creating and implementing this legislation, ensures migrant justice, and emphasizes support for historically marginalized communities
- Expands the social safety net through new income supports, decarbonized public housing, and operational funding for affordable and accessible public transit countrywide
- Pays for the transition by increasing taxes on the wealthiest and corporations and financing through a public national bank

In this minority government, Canadians make up the balance of power. The federal government must rise to the challenge of the climate crisis, while protecting those most impacted by it. Fundamentally, you have a responsibility to implement a just transition rooted in Indigenous rights, equity, climate justice, and workers' rights.

You have been entrusted with tremendous responsibility. We hope we can count on you to deliver this important mandate.

We await your response.

Sincerely,



Ravi Joshi  
Co-Executive Directors



Christina Warner