## Pews & Protest: The Case for Faith-Based Climate Action

## A guide

1. BACKGROUND: "We are on a highway to climate hell." Those were the words of UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, echoed this summer in Bishop Pryse's opening words to the Eastern Synod Assembly, and implicit in every image of ashen streetscapes, homes, and churches that came out of Jasper, AB, this summer. As the Climate Justice Task Force of the Eastern Synod, our aim is not only to raise awareness on the dangers of our planet's current trajectory—we also strive to provide hope in our Synod as we reckon with this crisis. This guide is intended to help ordinary people in our Synod—people who may not be very well-versed in climate science, ecotheology, or advocacy—to give a talk in their congregation that educates on the urgency of humanity's current predicament as well as the spiritual dimension of earthly decay. But we will not settle for numb despair. In giving such talks, we must also explore how we can channel the hope of the Gospel into action that is both faithful to our values of Creation care and social justice, as well as strategic in having maximum impact in compelling our democratic institutions to act with integrity and humility in the face of imminent environmental collapse.

As the Climate Justice Task Force launches its campaign in support of the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty for the Season of Creation, we are hoping that Lutherans across the Synod will join us—whether that be in the streets, writing letters, making art, saying a prayer, or just having a conversation. However, many Lutherans may feel little connection to this issue, and will therefore have little reason or motivation to participate. Given the gloom and despair often associated with the topic, one cannot expect that everyone will be as enthusiastic as the members of this Task Force to jump into action. Therefore, this talk is intended to provide a space where people less engaged with this issue can learn, reflect, and connect emotionally with the ongoing crisis, perhaps finding hope in the potential of advocacy and activism to influence the destiny of God's Creation.

#### 2. GOALS:

- a. Educate about the climate crisis, presenting the science on the current climate situation, how people are already being impacted, and what the future holds if our society does not collectively change course.
- b. Allow people to emotionally connect with the climate crisis, going beyond just facts and statistics to the stories of people whose lives have already been altered because of climate disaster. Show that the climate crisis directly threatens each one of us and our loved ones. This isn't about saving the polar bears or just about "nature". This is about preventing human suffering.

- c. Show the connection between faith and Creation care, and how climate change is a spiritual crisis as well as an environmental and sociopolitical one. Reflect on the intersectionality of the climate crisis, and how this relates to the mission and work of the church.
- d. Make people feel empowered by both hope, faith, and strategic considerations to take action.

## 3. LOGISTICAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- a. Advertise the talk in the weeks prior in church announcements/communications such as
  - i. Just before or after worship
  - ii. In the church bulletin
  - iii. With posters in and around the church
  - iv. In the church email newsletter
  - v. Note: When advertising the talk, make it clear that the focus will be on hope and action, not on the gloom and despair often associated with the climate crisis. Be positive in your messaging. Putting an emphasis on hope also puts us in alignment with Season of Creation's theme this year which is "To hope and act with Creation."
- b. Host the talk following a worship service
- c. Ideally, provide refreshments
- d. Set up seating in a circle; the idea is to create a casual, open space where people feel at ease to share their thoughts.
- e. Try to keep the talk to one hour, leaving room afterwards for discussion.
- f. The talk is broken up into several sections. Ideally, have several speakers, each delivering a different section.
- g. Be sure to practise the talk before you give it. Know it well enough so that you don't need to read off of a script (although referring to notes is fine). This guide does not provide a script; rather, it is meant to guide discussion points, from which you can give the talk in whatever manner feels most natural and authentic to you.

**Note:** This talk is rather expansive; feel free to tailor it based on what you think will be of most value to your congregation, cutting or condensing (or adding) sections as desired. However, we strongly suggest that you keep the section in bold at the end, seeing as this talk is meant to inspire action.

#### The Talk

### **GATHERING:**

Welcome participants as they arrive and invite them to be seated. Offer refreshments.

### INTRODUCTION:

- Once everyone is ready, say a word of welcome and thank everyone for coming. You may want to acknowledge the discomfort of the topic at hand, and commend participants on their courage for being willing to engage with it.
- Make a brief Land Acknowledgement. Research which Indigenous groups' territories your group is located on.
  - Resources to help you:
    - <a href="https://www.kairoscanada.org/territorial-acknowledgment">https://www.kairoscanada.org/territorial-acknowledgment</a>
    - https://native-land.ca/
- Introduce yourself. Explain why you decided to give this talk (Was there a certain event that inspired you to take action on the climate crisis? Something you saw on the news? Concern about your children/grandchildren's future?)
- Share what this talk is about: a discussion of the active threat that the climate crisis presents to our society, how we can respond faithfully, and upcoming events to attend.
- Make note that some of the content of the talk could be emotionally distressing. Ask people to stay in touch with their feelings.
- Offer a brief prayer. Can be any of your choosing, or the following:
  - An Invitation from the Earth:

Take off your shoes.

Like Moses, take off your shoes.

This is holy ground.

Walk gently through my woods.

Tread softly on my face.

Walk reverently through my garden.

This is holy ground. This is God's sanctuary,

I invite you to worship with your feet this day.

I invite you to walk across my landscape and sense the life within,

the glory that fills my body – God's presence below.

I invite you to reach down to the holy ground beneath you.

Walk in the water. Sink in the sand. Stand on a rock.

You are walking on fire, the fire of God's glory vibrant within.

Take off your shoes. This is holy ground. This is the sanctuary of God.

## Amen.

Source: [1]

- Go around the circle, and invite everyone to introduce themselves as well as give an answer to 1 or 2 of the following discussion questions:
  - When you hear the words "climate crisis", what's the first image that comes to mind? Describe that image.
  - Describe how you feel about the climate crisis in one word.
  - When it comes to the climate crisis, what are you most worried about?
  - How do you talk about the climate crisis to other people? Your kids? Your friends? Your parents? Your relatives?

As a speaker, use the responses to whichever question(s) you select to inform which parts of the talk you will emphasise. If people seem relatively unconcerned, put more emphasis on the current situation and the kind of future the science is presenting us with. If people seem despairing, put more of an emphasis on the hope afforded by climate advocacy and activism.

#### **FAITH GROUNDING**

- Make a general statement about how we are all gathered here because of our faith, and how Scripture calls on us to be good stewards of Creation. This could like something like one of the following:
  - "In the very beginning, when God made Creation, God said repeatedly that it was good. Surely, whenever we hear the laughter of a waterfall, when we observe drops of dew on a rose, when we gaze at landscapes ablaze with autumn foliage, or when we simply enjoy the shade of a tree in our backyard [insert whatever aspects of nature are special to you]—we can only agree. At a time when Creation is decaying, we must remember that one of God's first directives to humanity was to be good stewards of His/Her/Their/God's masterpiece."
  - "One of God's first commandments to humanity was to take good care of His/Her/Their/God's beloved Creation. All these years later, the ongoing climate crisis reminds us we have failed to do so. Our faith calls us into reconciliation with nature."
  - "Scripture gives us a lot of directives on how to live our lives. Love your neighbour. Don't steal. In the very beginning, God also commanded us to take good care of what He/She/They/God created. Genesis 2:15 reads: 'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.' The ancient Hebrew words used in this passage are 'abad,' which means 'to serve' and 'shamar' which means 'preserve.' When we look at the the damage the climate crisis has inflicted on Creation, whether that be the devastating wildfires in Jasper this summer, the costly flooding in Toronto, or the deadly heat waves worldwide, it becomes clear that we, collectively, have failed this mandate"

## PART ONE: THE CLIMATE SCIENCE

• Give a quick recap of how climate change works. If your group is less familiar with climate change, give a quick recap of the greenhouse gas effect, how this causes rising global temperatures, and how this in

turn increases the frequency and severity of natural disasters, as well as how this is causing human displacement.

- Resources to help you:
  - Video from National Geographic: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G4H1N\_yXBiA
    - To make your job easier, consider simply showing your group this video (if you have the technical means)
  - United Nations Source:
     https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/what-is-climate-change
  - If you are catering to a more conservative audience, it may be worth bringing up that the LCA, a predecessor to the ELCIC, released a social statement in 1972 that already used the language of "crisis" to describe the environmental situation:

    <a href="https://elcic.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/1972-A-Social-Statement-on-the-Human-Crisis-in-Ecology.pdf">https://elcic.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/1972-A-Social-Statement-on-the-Human-Crisis-in-Ecology.pdf</a>
- Talk about the 1.5 degree limit set in 2015 at the Paris Conference.
  - E.g. "At the Paris climate conference of 2015, scientists and nations from around the world agreed that, in order to avoid the most devastating impacts of the climate crisis, humanity would need to limit global warming below 1.5 degrees of warming compared to pre-industrial temperatures."
- Talk about how, this June, a report revealed that the past 12 months had been hottest consecutive months on record, with global average temperatures 1.63 degrees above pre-industrial averages.<sup>3</sup>
- O This means that if we have not already surpassed the 1.5 degree limit, which refers to averages over the course of a decade, we are perilously close. UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has emphasised that the 1.5 degree target isn't just a goal; "It is a physical limit"
- Talk about what the world would look like at 2.0 degrees of warming, the next major threshold.
   We could be seeing:
  - Over a billion people displaced by 2050, according to the Institute for Economics and Peace.<sup>5</sup>
  - According to the scientific paper <u>The Future of the Human Climate Niche</u> in a business-as-usual scenario, about 20% of Earth's surface would have an average temperature above 30 degrees celsius. Currently, only 0.8% of Earth's surface is that hot (mostly in the Sahara desert—in other words, completely uninhabitable). <sup>6</sup>
  - Trying to understand the impact that 1 billion refugees would have on global society, we can consider the Syrian refugee crisis. That was a situation where 13.8 million people were displaced. Think of the chaos, suffering, international implications, and death that ensued. Now consider that 13.8 million is just a fraction of the 1 billion we could be seeing.

- In sum, the UN said this spring that humanity has two years to radically cut emissions to avoid the worst of the climate catastrophe.<sup>8</sup>
- Talk about the real world impacts
  - Make it clear that the climate crisis is not an "impending" crisis. It has indelibly touched down in our society and is already destroying people's homes and livelihoods.
  - Bring up much of Jasper burning to the ground, including both the local Anglican and United churches now reduced to rubble. The flames in this fire were 100 metres tall, and firefighters said that it was beyond their capacity to control. 9
  - Choose one of the two following examples of how the climate crisis has affected
     Canadians:
    - 2023's wildfire season:
      - 240,000 people evacuated in Canada last year due to wildfires<sup>10</sup>
      - Wildfire smoke felt around the world<sup>11</sup>
      - o 5% of Canada's forests destroyed<sup>12</sup>
      - Death toll: 8 firefighters, <sup>13</sup> as well as a nine year old boy who died because of complications of asthma that were exacerbated by the wildfire smoke<sup>14</sup>
    - 2021 heatwave in British Columbia
      - o 619 died due to the extreme heat. 15
- Make the point that these facts show that we have not only failed to protect God's Creation, but that, in failing to do so, we have also failed to protect our neighbours.
- Reframe the climate crisis as an injustice, not a tragedy. There are solutions, it's just that so far, our governments and society have been reluctant to deploy them.
- Acknowledge the intensity and gravity of this information. Express how, while you, the speaker, take no
  pleasure in sharing this distressing information, you consider it nevertheless important to be aware of
  these scientific truths. Commend participants for their courage in being willing to think about this
  future. Acknowledge the temptation of simply looking away.

# **DISCUSSION QUESTION:**

Follow-up from the previous round of discussion questions: "How do you feel about the climate crisis, given what I've just shared?"

## Second question:

What impact has the climate crisis had on your life? What impact could it have?

- For this question, start by giving an answer yourself. Try to find a way in which the climate crisis has personally affected you. Otherwise, you can research stories of people who have either lost their homes or businesses because of wildfires or other disasters, and share that.
  - o Examples:

- Jasper wildfire: <a href="https://broadview.org/jasper-united-church-fire/">https://broadview.org/jasper-united-church-fire/</a>
- Lytton wildfire:

  <a href="https://www.cbc.ca/arts/q/meghan-fandrich-on-devastating-wildfires-moving-forwar-d-after-tragedy-and-healing-through-poetry-1.7044903">https://www.cbc.ca/arts/q/meghan-fandrich-on-devastating-wildfires-moving-forwar-d-after-tragedy-and-healing-through-poetry-1.7044903</a>

**PART TWO: HOPE** 

# **DISCUSSION QUESTION:**

How does the climate crisis relate to the rest of the church's work?

- Emphasise how our faith calls us to face truths head on, how we are called to experience that discomfort if it means we're able to then act appropriately.
- Reflect on how, while the UN warning of humanity having two years left to take urgent action, but on the flip side, this is cause for hope, not despair, as it shows that there still is time to act. This is not game over. A lot can happen in two years.
- Show how hope in desolate situations pervades Scripture. Read the following and encourage participants to reflect on how these passages apply to our current situation.
  - "The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in." (Isaiah 58:96-12)
  - "We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience." (Romans 8: 18-25)
- Reflect on how we can find hope as people of faith. Here are some potential talking points:
  - It is through action that we find hope. Hope is not just an emotion. It is a moral code that guides our actions. Hope without action is daydreaming.
  - There is no climate superhero who is going to come down and save us. However, as church, our belief centres on redemption, of Christ overcoming death. As we all make up Christ's Body, we can take part in God's redemptive work. At a time when God's Creation is clearly in peril, it is our job as Christians to embody a society that responds to and averts the worst of the climate crisis, thus avoiding countless deaths.

#### PART THREE: THE CASE FOR CHRISTIAN CLIMATE ADVOCACY

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** What is Jesus doing now amidst the climate crisis? What would Martin Luther do about the climate crisis?

Qualities in both that could inform answers:

- Jesus:
  - He never shied away from difficult situations; in fact, He would pursue them, intentionally
    entering houses where people had died, where people were in mourning.
  - He was never one to keep quiet in the face of wrongs, famously overturning the tables of merchants in the temple.
  - Jesus could also be a pragmatist; even though it was forbidden to work on the Sabbath, that did
    not stop Jesus from healing or healing people on that day. In other words, where He identified
    a need, He sought to mend, even in a way that contravened social norms.
- Martin Luther:
  - Unafraid to speak truth to power.
  - Reformation: while it may not even have been his intention, he seriously reformed society. In a society predicated on fossil fuel consumption, we could use a reformation of our own!
  - Martin Luther is rumoured to once have said: "Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go
    to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree."

Use mention of Martin Luther to segue into asking participants to consider how Christians have been motivated by faith in the past to act on injustice.

- Bring up how Martin Luther King Jr.'s activism was informed by faith
  - Quote: "We are all caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."
  - This relates to the theological concept of every person being an image-bearer, of every person possessing unequivocal dignity, which is an ideal King subscribed to. This is, in part, what motivated him and countless others to take to the streets to advocate for racial and economic justice.
  - King was also fuelled by the knowledge that he was fighting for something greater than himself.
    - In his final sermon before he was assassinated, he referenced a "promised land" in which injustice would have been overcome. He also mentioned how he would potentially not be able to see this "promised land" in his lifetime, but that that did not reduce his fervour in pursuing that cause.
    - This also applies to the current climate crisis. We may not be able to truly appreciate the impact of our actions within our lifetimes, but perhaps our descendants will
  - Source:
    - https://www.vox.com/2015/1/19/7852311/martin-luther-king-faith
- Make comparisons between the injustices MLK was fighting against, and the injustice of the climate
  crisis, and how both warrant moral indignation and action from everyday people.

#### PART FOUR: THE PLAN

- The climate crisis is not a tragedy. It is an injustice. We have the means and the solutions to stop it. Our governments are simply electing not to deploy them.
- Reflect on how the pandemic showed how, when people's lives are at risk, the government does have the capacity to take swift measures that drastically change how society works and how the economy is structured.
  - For more on this topic: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OS1Eu9-t9V8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OS1Eu9-t9V8</a>
- Talk about solutions
  - We know that the vast majority of carbon emissions come from the burning of fossil fuels
  - In the Canadian context, we are still one of the largest exporters of fossil fuels in the world. Our
    government still invests billions in the industry annually, and is still in the process of approving
    and building new oil and gas projects:
    - The Trans Mountain Pipeline just opened in the spring of 2024. 16
    - The Canadian government invested at least \$18.6 billion in the fossil fuel and petrochemical industry in 2023.<sup>17</sup>
    - The government continues to say yes to new oil projects, such as the Bay du Nord Project in Newfoundland and Labrador in 2022.<sup>18</sup>
  - O This aggressive investment in fossil fuels runs contrary to Canada's commitments in the Paris Agreement. This is in part because that agreement never mentions oil, coal, or gas as being the primary drivers of the climate crisis.
  - In order to avoid the worst of the climate crisis, we need Canada to make a robust commitment to transition to renewable, zero-carbon energy, phasing out fossil fuels.
- Enter the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty!
  - Spearheaded by small island nations in the Pacific that are rapidly disappearing because of rising sea levels.
  - Is designed to complement the Paris Agreement to be a legally-binding global treaty under which nations would have the obligation to
    - Halt all new fossil fuel expansion and investment
    - Rapidly phase-out of fossil fuels and a transition toward green energy, investing in renewable energy and energy efficiency measures.
    - Makes provisions for a just transition, leaving no one behind, including oil and gas workers.
  - It is inspired by successful international treaties, like the Montreal Protocol and the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty
  - Countless organisations, faith groups, academic, activists, and ordinary people have already signed on, including:
    - 13 countries, including Colombia, which, like Canada, is a fossil fuel heavy country
    - The World Health Organisation
    - Most major cities in Canada

- Faith groups that the Eastern Synod works with, including Citizens for Public Justice, KAIROS, and Faith and the Common Good.
- The Eastern Synod is in the process of endorsing this treaty.
- Explain what Season of Creation is and how it's partnering with the FFNPT this year.
  - Bring up theme of "To hope and act with Creation"
- Talk about the need for advocacy; individual actions, while still important, are ultimately insufficient to achieve the mass societal change we need to be seeing.
  - Encourage people to write to their MP urging them to support the FFNPT
    - Use this template: W Climate justice letter.docx
    - You can also host a letter-writing party!
  - O Depending on your location, urge people to attend local climate demonstrations
    - Ottawa: Fridays for Future Climate Culprits March.
    - Montreal: Ashes to Action
  - Collaborate with a local climate action group: 🗏 Mapping Climate Groups
  - o Propose making climate advocacy a regular initiative, even beyond Season of Creation.
- That may seem like a daunting task; it is only possible as much as we believe it is possible. Just as we have faith in God, we must have faith in the future.

# **DISCUSSION QUESTION:**

How do you see yourself getting involved?

## OPEN UP THE FLOOR TO QUESTIONS/COMMENTS/CONCERNS

Once discussion has come to an end, close in prayer:

- Select one of the following:
  - A PRAYER FOR OUR EARTH, LAUDATO SI, POPE FRANCIS: All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.
  - o Prayer:

Every part of this earth is sacred every shining pine needle, every sandy shore,

every mist in the dark woods,

every clearing and humming insect is holy.

The rocky crest, the juices of the meadow, the beasts and all the people all belong to the same family.

Teach your children that the earth is our mother

Whatever befalls the earth, befalls the children of the earth,

The water's murmur is the voice of our father's father.

We are part of the earth and the earth is part of us.

The rivers are our brothers; they quench our thirst.

The perfumed flowers are our sisters.

The air is precious,

for all of us to share the same breath.

The wind that gave our grandparents breath also receives their last sigh.

The wind gave our children the spirit of life.

This we know, the earth does not belong to us;

We belong to the earth.

This we know, all things are connected.

Our God is the same God, whose compassion is equal for all.

For we did not weave the web of life;

we are merely a strand in it.

Whatever we do to the web,

we do to ourselves.

Let us give thanks for the web and the circle that connects us all.

Thanks be to God, the God of all.

Amen.

# Season of Creation 2024 Prayer:

Triune God, Creator of all,

We praise you for your goodness, visible in all the diversity that you have created, making us a cosmic family living in a common home. Through the Earth you created, we experience love and nourishment, home and protection.

We confess that we do not relate to the Earth as a Mothering gift from you, our Creator. Our selfishness, greed, neglect, and abuse have caused the climate crisis, loss of biodiversity, human suffering as well as the suffering of all our fellow creatures. We confess that we have failed to listen

to the groans of the Earth, the groans of all creatures, and the groans of the Spirit of hope and justice that lives within us.

May your Creator Spirit help us in our weakness, so that we may know the redeeming power of Christ and the hope found in him. May the groans of the Spirit birth in us a willingness to serve you faithfully, so that we may hear and heal Creation, to hope and act together with her, so that the firstfruits of hope may blossom.

Loving and Creator God, we pray that you will make us sensitive to these groans and enable us to have the same compassion as that of Jesus, the redeeming Lord. Grant us a fresh vision of our relationship with Earth, and with one another, as creatures that are made in your image.

In the name of the one who came to proclaim the good news to all Creation, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

# HAVE FELLOWSHIP! SOCIALISE:)

**RELAX:** You just gave a talk on the greatest threat humanity has ever faced and you absolutely knocked it out of the park!

# APPENDIX I: DEALING WITH DIFFICULT QUESTIONS

Q: Isn't climate change a hoax, anyways?

A: Point to the vast amount of scientific evidence for the climate crisis. Point to the increase in natural disasters around the world, such as wildfires, which, in Canada in 2023, were 6 times more severe than average. <sup>19</sup> Ask them whether they believe in other scientific discoveries, for example, that insulin can be used to treat diabetes, and tell the person that the same scientific method used in those discoveries is now telling us that the climate crisis is real.

Q: Why should I engage in advocacy/activism? Aren't individual actions enough to fight climate change? A: While it is important that every individual take steps to reduce their personal emissions, we also need the government to lead by example by implementing policy that expedites the process of shifting away from fossil fuels. This is a complex process that is beyond individuals' capacity to accomplish. We've known about the climate crisis for decades now, and individual lifestyle changes have been insufficient in terms of significantly reducing emissions. What is required to fight climate change is system change, meaning a transformation of where we get our energy from, and what industries we invest the most in, and ultimately government policy is the most efficient way to accomplish that.

Q: Protests take place every day and nothing ever changes. Why should I get involved?

A: While one demonstration is unlikely to have a direct effect, it is a sustained effort, that engages people from all backgrounds, and that uses a diversity of tactics, that has the potential to change society. It is only with the sustained effort of people constantly taking to the streets that women's right to vote and an end to racial segregation were won. We must do the same if we want to avoid climate catastrophe.

Q: What's the point of getting in the streets? Aren't we all doomed? Might as well enjoy life in the present. A: This argument runs counter to what the science is telling us. There is still a broad scientific consensus that, while time is of the utmost essence, we still have the capacity to avoid the worst of the climate crisis. We just need to seize the opportunity. More specifically, in the spring of 2024, the top climate chief of the UN, Simon Stiell, said that acting within the next two years will be crucial toward securing a livable future. Scientists also agree that limiting warming by even a tenth of a degree can make a difference on how heavily the climate crisis will impact people and communities.

Q: Canada only contributes a fraction of global emission? How will anything we do ever make a difference? A: As one of the world's largest exporters of fossil fuels, Canada has a unique opportunity to be a global leader in showing how a shift away from a fossil fuel based economy is possible. It is also important to consider that, while domestic emissions be lower than other countries, Canada is still one of the highest emitters in the world in terms of emissions from exported fossil fuels.<sup>22</sup> In addition, how could Canada ask high-emitting countries like the U.S., China, and Russia to reduce their emissions, if it is not doing the same domestically? Finally, Canada holds the unfortunate title of being one of the highest per capita emitters in the world.

#### Sources:

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