

This is a sample letter urging Members of Parliament to endorse the Fossil Fuel Non- Proliferation Treaty. It is filled with information. Feel free to use all or some of it and add your own context. To find out who your MP is, please visit [Our Commons](#). Your letter could also be sent to Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources and Steven Guilbeault, Minister of the Environment. Season of Creation reminds us “We are called to hope and act together with Creation”; this is a beginning.

Sample Letter

Dear Mr. Baldinelli, MP for Niagara Falls Riding

The events of the past few years have demonstrated that climate change is real: floods, wildfires, scorching heat, drought, extreme weather events, crop failures and the list goes on. Governments must act now before we are at the point of no return, and they must act together both nationally and internationally.

The Paris Agreement was successful in providing guidance regarding temperature goals but did not address the major contributor to climate change: fossil fuels. In fact, the words fossil fuels, oil, gas and coal are absent from both the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The world desperately needs a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty now. I am asking for your support for this life-giving endeavor.

According to a report by the United Nations Environment Programme fossil fuel companies and governments aim to produce 110 % more fossil fuels by 2030 than would allow humankind to survive.

“The International Energy Agency determined that there needs to be a decline of fossil fuel use from four-fifths of the world’s energy supply today to one-fifth by 2050.”

These are scary statistics as are the words of the United Nations Environment Programme “more fossil fuels than would allow humankind to survive.” 13 nation-states at the Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) Conference have proposed a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, supported by the World Health Organization, the European Parliament, 115 local governments, 2000+ faith institutions and 3000+ scientists. These treaties do work, if one only looks at those for nuclear weapons and landmines. They can be implemented quickly. It is imperative that Canada supports this effort. Yes, we are still producing fossil fuels, but we need to commit to phasing out fossil fuels as we increase our use of renewable energy. We are the fourth largest oil producer in the world and according to a UN report, Canada is increasing production “by 25% above 2022 levels by 2035”. This is irresponsible at a time of climate crisis. We have a provincial example of climate leadership. Quebec has banned fossil fuel exploration and development. The David Suzuki Foundation says that “Quebec is the first jurisdiction on

Earth to ban fossil fuel development in its territory — a visionary lead for all of Canada, and the world.”

The Secretary General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres did not mince words in his speech on World Environment Day June 5, 2024.

Climate change is the mother of all stealth taxes paid by everyday people and vulnerable countries and communities. Meanwhile the Godfathers of climate chaos— the fossil fuel industry --rake in record profits and feast off trillions in taxpayer-funded subsidies.

Environmental Defence warns that despite its promises, our government continues to subsidize the fossil fuel industry to the tune of \$8.6 billion in 2021. This must stop. This number does not even include the amounts paid by federal and provincial governments for carbon capture which add up to approximately \$5.8 billion. Renewable energy is available; this is where our funding should be focussed. Carbon capture presented as a climate solution is the exact opposite. Research done by Environmental Defence shows that in Canada’s case our subsidized carbon capture amounts to 3.55 million tons of carbon per year, only .05 % of our emissions. 70% of our carbon captured results in more production, so more emissions. We need to stop these greenwashing subsidies as well.

According to Environmental Defence, we know the government has heard from the oil and gas lobbies at more than 1255 meetings in 2023; the time has come for governments to listen to the people.

The Secretary General says, “We need an exit ramp off the highway to climate hell”, that exit must involve an end to the use of fossil fuels. Canada could be a leader among the fossil fuel producing countries proving our determination to work for climate justice. Joining other nations in a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty would be an excellent first step. It would allow nations to make the 1.5 °C Paris goal possible. I urge you to take this vital step to a cleaner, healthier future for our planet and ourselves. Please discuss this with the Prime Minister, the Minister of the Environment and the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources; our children are depending on you.

Sincerely

Maria Featherston

St. Luke’s Lutheran Church, Ridgeway

