

Call for Climate: How to Talk to Cabinet Ministers about Fossil Fuel Subsidies

A guide

Thank you for being a part of the “Call for Climate” Campaign, brought to you by the [Eastern Synod](#) in collaboration with [Citizens for Public Justice](#)! Calling a cabinet minister is one of the most direct ways to have your voice heard, and when enough people call about the same issue and the chorus of voices becomes palpable, change becomes imminent. Together, let’s ensure Canadian public policy prioritises the needs of ordinary Canadians and all Creation instead of the interests of fossil fuel companies!

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BEFORE CALLING: Familiarise yourself with the basic facts around fossil fuel subsidies. Here are some key points to keep in mind:

- Canada spent \$29.6 billion in fossil fuel subsidies in 2024¹
- The combustion of fossil fuels is the main driver of the climate crisis, and is also the cause of an estimated 5.13 million deaths a year from air pollution²
- According to the government’s own metrics, the cost of fossil fuel companies’ pollution on Canadian society was an estimated \$53 billion.³ (according to the Social Cost of Carbon⁴).
- Meanwhile, in 2024, four of the largest companies in the tar sands made \$20 billion in profits, and invested a combined \$30 billion into expanding their activities.⁵
- Prime Minister Mark Carney committed to ending fossil fuel subsidies during the 2025 election campaign.⁶
- Canada currently lacks any binding legal mechanism to report on and eliminate government fossil fuel subsidies.

¹ <https://environmentaldefence.ca/the-running-list-of-federal-fossil-fuel-subsidies-in-canada-in-2024/>

² <https://www.bmj.com/content/383/bmj-2023-077784>

³ <https://environmentaldefence.ca/report/pipeline-push-ignores-fossil-fuel-costs-to-public-government-and-energy-trends/>

⁴ <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/climate-change/science-research-data/social-cost-ghg.html>

⁵ <https://environmentaldefence.ca/report/pipeline-push-ignores-fossil-fuel-costs-to-public-government-and-energy-trends/>

⁶ <https://ici.radio-canada.ca/rci/en/news/2157321/canada-election-leaders-first-debate-french>

CAMPAIGN DESIGN NOTE: Please note that we are hoping to have calls being made throughout the duration of Lent; so if you would like to make a call later in the season, but are worried you might forget, fill out this quick form to pick a day in Lent when you'll have the time, and the Eastern Synod Climate Justice Committee will send you a friendly reminder email on that day.

[CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE THE REGISTRATION FORM](#)

WHO YOU GONNA CALL?

- Start with the Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Nature, Honourable Julie Dabrusin. If you have time, you can also call the Ministers of Finance and of Energy.
- To call the Minister of Environment, dial: 613-992-9381
 - *Note: if you live in Dabrusin's riding, Toronto–Danforth, you can call her constituency office at 416-405-8914*

ON THE PHONE:

We have provided both a [two-minute script](#) and a [five-minute script](#). Pick whichever you prefer! Keep in mind that these scripts are only intended as a rough guide; as much as possible, try to personalise what you say to whatever feels right and true to yourself.

If no one picks up, be sure to leave a voicemail, including your name and number so that their office can get back to you. You can use the same script below for a voicemail as for a live call.

TWO-MINUTE SCRIPT

- Start with a greeting and introduce yourself with your name and where you live. Then, request to speak with the Minister.
 - **EXAMPLE: “Hello, my name is Joe Blo; I’m from Lethbridge, Alberta. I’d like to speak with the Minister of Environment, Climate Change, and Nature about how the federal government can respond to the climate crisis by ending fossil fuel subsidies. Is the Minister available right now?”**
- The Minister will likely not be available; however, the staff member you are speaking with will ask you if they can take a message, and this is your opportunity to briefly state why you think fossil fuel subsidies should be eliminated. Here is how you can structure your argument:
- State the nature of your call:
 - **EXAMPLE: “I’m calling today as part of the Call for Climate campaign spearheaded by the Eastern Synod of ELCIC. I’m really concerned about the climate crisis, and I want to see the Canadian government take decisive action by eliminating fossil fuel subsidies.”**
- Explain why climate action is important to you.
 - **EXAMPLE: “Both on the news and in my own community, I’m seeing increasingly severe impacts taking a toll on my neighbours in the form of**

extreme heat waves, drought, and devastating wildfires. I believe that urgent action is not just a moral and legal responsibility; it is also about creating a sustainable, equitable economy that works for all Canadians, one that stays resilient against both natural disasters and geopolitical shocks.”

- **Feel free to bring up a specific example of how the climate crisis has impacted you personally.**

- **Talk solutions:**
 - **EXAMPLE: “At a time when so many Canadians are struggling to make ends meet, Canada must take a long hard look at its spending and consider how taxpayer money can be invested back into the lives of everyday people. In 2024, Canada spent \$29.6 billion dollars in fossil fuel subsidies, according to Environmental Defence. Meanwhile, fossil fuel companies continue to make massive profits, and their emissions are resulting in worsening climate impacts. As we deal with both a climate crisis and an economic crisis, now is not the time for handouts to these profitable companies.”**
- **Ask for a commitment:**
 - **EXAMPLE: “During the 2025 election campaign, Prime Minister Carney committed to ending fossil fuel subsidies. As such, I urge the Honourable Julie Dabrusin to live up to that promise and to work together with her colleagues, the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources and the Minister of Finance, to eliminate fossil fuel subsidies in Canada. I also urge the Minister to initiate a comprehensive and transparent review of all government financial measures, from any government agency, department, or Crown corporation, that support the fossil fuel industry, and to enact legally binding mechanisms to discontinue existing fossil fuel-supporting measures and prevent new ones. Will the Honourable Minister do the right thing and commit to ending fossil fuel subsidies?”**
- **At this point, give the staff person a chance to respond. They may simply say that they will pass on your message to the Minister. Before concluding, however, leverage your vote:**
 - **EXAMPLE: “I’ll conclude by saying that climate action and fiscal responsibility are two things that I keep close to my heart at the ballot box. I know that, when the next election comes, Canadians will be looking for leaders and policies that invest in everyday people, not multi-billion dollar corporations, while also putting us on a path toward a just energy transition and clean, affordable, reliable energy.”**
- **Express gratitude:**
 - **EXAMPLE: “Thank you for taking the time to hear my concerns. I look forward to seeing Canadian public policy bend toward justice and a sustainable future.”**

IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE PHONE CALL (!!IMPORTANT!!): Please fill out the following form after calling the Minister. This allows us to track the number of calls made, helping us gauge the impact of the campaign! We intend to leverage the number of calls made in the context of future correspondence with relevant cabinet ministers, meaning that filling out the form is a crucial way to strengthen our movement. Any information you provide in this form will be held in strictest confidence.

[CLICK HERE TO FILL OUT FEEDBACK FORM](#)

JUMP TO: [Next Steps](#)

FIVE-MINUTE SCRIPT

- Start with a greeting and introduce yourself with your name and where you live. Then, request to speak with the Minister.
 - **EXAMPLE: “Hello, my name is Jane Doe; I’m from Bruce County, Ontario. I’d like to speak with the Minister of Environment, Climate Change, and Nature about how the federal government can respond to the climate crisis by ending fossil fuel subsidies. Is the Minister available right now?”**
- The Minister will likely be available; however, the staff member you are speaking with should then ask you if they can take a message, and this is your opportunity to convincingly state why you think fossil fuel subsidies should be eliminated. Here is how you can structure your argument:
- State the nature of your call:
 - **EXAMPLE: “I’m calling today as part of the Call for Climate campaign spearheaded by the Eastern Synod of ELCIC. I’m really concerned about the climate crisis, and I want to see the Canadian government take decisive action by eliminating fossil fuel subsidies.”**
- Explain why climate action is important to you.
 - **EXAMPLE: “Both on the news and in my own community, I’m seeing increasingly severe impacts taking a toll on my neighbours in the form of extreme heat waves, drought, and devastating wildfires. I believe that urgent climate action is not just a moral and legal responsibility; it is also about creating a sustainable, equitable economy that works for all Canadians, one that stays resilient against both natural disasters and geopolitical shocks.”**
 - Feel free to bring up a specific example of how the climate crisis has impacted you personally.
- Draw the connection between climate disasters and fossil fuels:
 - **EXAMPLE: “Everyone knows that the combustion of fossil fuels is the main driver of the climate crisis. Fossil fuel emissions are also responsible for 5 million deaths worldwide every year due to harmful air pollution. It’s impossible to separate the dignity and health of Canadians from a just transition away from fossil fuels and toward economic diversification.”**

- Explain that moving away from fossil fuels strengthens Canada's energy sovereignty:
 - **EXAMPLE: "Fossil fuels also keep us vulnerable against an increasingly volatile geopolitical situation and economic aggression from the United States. In 2023, 97% of Canadian crude oil exports went to the U.S., accounting for a sizable share of Canada's export value; this does not bode well amidst an ongoing trade war. Furthermore, as the world inevitably transitions toward clean energy, investment in fossil fuels risks saddling Canadian taxpayers with stranded assets that will burden future generations."**
- Talk solutions:
 - **EXAMPLE: "At a time when so many Canadians are struggling to make ends meet, Canada must take a long hard look at its spending and consider how taxpayer money can be invested back into the lives of everyday people. In 2024, Canada spent \$29.6 billion dollars in fossil fuel subsidies, according to Environmental Defence. Meanwhile, fossil fuel companies continue to make massive profits; in 2024, four of Canada's largest tar sands producers made over \$20 billion in profits. As we deal with both a climate crisis and an economic crisis, now is not the time for handouts to profitable oil companies."**
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AFTER:

- If you have the time, call the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, Tim Hodgson, and the Minister of Finance, Francois-Philippe Champagne. You can use the same script as above. Here are their offices' numbers:
 - Honourable Tim Hodgson: 613-996-3374
 - Honourable François-Philippe Champagne: 613-995-4895
- To maximise the impact of this campaign, reach out to friends, family, coworkers, church members and ask them to also give these ministers a call. It's a numbers game :)

FOLLOW-UP

- To really drive your point home, you can follow-up on your call(s) with an email or letter. Feel free to use this template: [W letter re fossil fuel subsidies.docx](#)
Instructions: [W instructions for subsidies letter.docx](#)
- You can also make a follow-up call a few weeks after your initial call to inquire on whether any progress was made on your original request. This shows you are deeply committed to the issue.

OTHER COOL THINGS YOU CAN DO:

- Write a letter to cabinet to stop the extension of coal-fired power generation in Saskatchewan
- Become a "Friend of the Committee" to stay tuned on updates from the Eastern Synod Climate Justice Committee ***more information on how to do this will be released during the Season of Lent***
- Become a member of Citizens for Public Justice: <https://cpj.ca/become-member/>