

Honourable Julie Dabrusin,
Minister of the Environment, Climate Change and Nature

I am writing this letter as both a concerned taxpayer and on behalf of the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada's *Call for Climate* Campaign.

The effects of climate change have become more apparent over the last year: floods, wildfires (even in the tundra), scorching heat, drought, extreme weather events, crop failures and the list goes on. The United Nations has identified fossil fuels "as the largest contributor of climate change accounting for 75 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions and nearly 90 percent of all carbon dioxide emissions."

The time has come to honour our climate change commitments. In order to accomplish this, it is critical to eliminate fossil fuel subsidies as Prime Minister Carney has already promised. Studies by Environmental Defence have revealed that in 2024 the federal government gave more than 29.6 billion dollars to the fossil fuel industry. I say more than, because that number does not include numerous tax credits such as those allowed for mining companies (including oil and gas) to claim exploration expenses. In 2021 the Parliamentary Budget estimated the impact of this credit at \$218 million. More transparency is needed in this sector; taxpayers should be aware of what tax credits are going to large corporations.

Carbon capture is not a cost-effective climate strategy, and functions more as an expensive greenwashing subsidy. In October 2025 Energy and Natural Resources Minister, the Honourable Tim Hodgson, announced more than \$11 million for the research and development of carbon capture, utilization and storage technology. A week later Environmental Defence reported 49 groups (environmental, indigenous and health organizations) sent a joint letter to the Prime Minister urging the rejection of Pathways Alliance Carbon Capture Storage's request for \$16.5 Billion. The concerns of the groups included safety of storage, limited climate benefits as oil and gas emissions would only be reduced by 5%, extending our dependence on fossil fuels and possibly breaking the International Court of Justice's advice "that fossil fuel subsidies may constitute an "internationally wrongful act". Oil and gas companies are already profitable; they do not need these subsidies that take money from people who are already struggling.

Environmental Defence reports that "in 2024, the [cost of] pollution from oil and gas companies operating in Canada was an estimated \$53 billion." This pollution affects the respiratory health of Canadians adding to healthcare costs. Fossil Fuel subsidies are fiscally irresponsible when cheaper, cleaner forms of energy are available.

Canada needs to stop subsidizing the fossil fuel industry and put those savings into developing and expanding renewable energy and making lives more affordable for ordinary Canadians. This is a vital step toward climate justice and a healthier future for our planet and ourselves. We urge you to discuss our concerns with your colleagues, the Minister for Energy and Natural Resources, the Minister of Finance, as well as the Prime Minister. Our children are depending on you for a cleaner, healthier, more affordable future. Canadians are becoming more aware of the need for climate action and the need for fiscal responsibility and will be looking for such action when the next election is called. Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

Sincerely,