October 16, 2026

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister:

We write as leaders of Canadian churches, religious orders, and faith-based organizations, brought together through For the Love of Creation, a faith-based initiative for climate justice, and serving communities in every province and territory. Even though our traditions differ in doctrine, governance, and history, we hold in common the conviction that creation is entrusted to us rather than owned by us, that every person carries an inherent dignity no economy may discount, and that a government is measured not by the wealth it generates, but by the wellbeing it nurtures, the justice it upholds, and the future it leaves for generations to come.

We are writing to request a meeting with you and/or the relevant members of the Cabinet to discuss Canada's climate plan, specifically relating to increased production and export of oil and gas, and the federal government's obligations under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

We begin with what we hope for, because we believe it is within reach and you are asking this country for exactly this kind of ambition. We want a Canada that runs on clean electricity and shares it freely across provincial borders. We want the workers and communities who built the old energy economy carried into the new one with their livelihoods and their dignity intact. Public investment should go toward what will still be worth having in fifty years.

What we are seeing

Climate change impacts are already overwhelming communities across Canada, with increasingly destructive storms, harmful heatwaves, and devastating wildfires. When wildfire smoke settles over a town or city, the harm to health falls most heavily on people who are unhoused or living in housing that cannot adequately protect against heat and smoke, on elderly people, on children, and on people who have compromised health. It is affecting vulnerable people who have limited or no means to cope.

Indigenous nations bear a disproportionate share of the evacuations. People living in poverty have the least capacity to absorb the cost when food, insurance, and housing prices rise after each disaster. A generation of young people is being asked to carry a fear about the future that none of us can easily allay.

What troubles us

1. The expansion of fossil fuel production and export. The extraction, production, and subsequent burning of fossil fuels are the main contributors to climate change. No credible pathway to limiting warming to 1.5 degrees includes new production capacity, and the 2018 IPCC Special Report on 1.5 degrees found that even half a degree of additional warming causes significantly greater harm. Public money spent on pipelines and export terminals buys a future for assets rather than for people or the wellbeing of creation. We do not believe a country should stake its children's inheritance on infrastructure whose returns guarantee large-scale environmental destruction. We would rather see those public funds redirected toward the programs, investments, and the supports needed for a just transition, including assistance for the workers, families, and communities most affected by these changes.

2. The weakening of environmental protection and public accountability. We are deeply concerned by the erosion of environmental safeguards and public review processes. Assessment processes are tightening and major projects, like the West Coast Oil Pipeline, are being designated as projects of national interest without due process. Assessments should not be treated as obstacles to overcome but as essential safeguards for communities, ecosystems, and future generations. What is needed instead is robust public consultation and transparent decision-making that helps build public trust, accountability, and integrity.

3. The violation of Indigenous rights. Canada has committed to implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in law and policy. That commitment includes respecting free, prior, and informed consent and upholding the right of Indigenous peoples to self-determination according to the laws and traditions of their nations. The West Coast Oil Pipeline is on track to be designated a project of national interest while consultations with the Indigenous nations whose lands and waters would be affected are still underway. Consultation should be a meaningful process that can influence decisions, not a procedural step on the way to a predetermined result. We ask the government to meet the obligations it has accepted, and to honour the governing and decision-making structures of Indigenous nations in any decision affecting their lands and waters. The Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission provide broad guidance for building relationships that reflect inherent dignity and rights of Indigenous peoples.

What we are for

We ask you to pursue an economy of life: one that measures success by whether people and the living world are flourishing, not by economic output alone.

The government's National Electricity Strategy, announced in May, is to be celebrated. Doubling the grid, training the workforce to build it, and lowering household energy costs are constructive nation-building initiatives if funded adequately. Furthermore, connecting fragmented provincial systems will be an important tool in enabling a full transition to clean, reliable, and inexpensive

renewables-sourced electricity across the whole of Canada. We ask for the rapid rollout of renewables, the electrification of key energy consumption sectors including transport, buildings, and industry, and active support for energy efficiency measures.

We ask you to end subsidies to oil and gas projects, including support for carbon capture and storage and public funding of pipeline infrastructure, and to fund a just transition towards renewables through an excess profits or corporate wealth tax on the fossil fuel sector that has recorded extraordinary earnings while public money carried its risk.

Just as we call for investments in a just transition at home, we believe Canada must support a just transition globally through adequate public climate finance. Communities that have contributed least to the climate crisis should not be left to bear its greatest costs. Supporting adaptation, resilience, and sustainable development abroad is not charity; it is a matter of justice and our shared responsibility for the common good. We ask you to ensure that Canada's newly announced international climate finance commitment builds resilience, not debt, for those experiencing the harshest impacts of climate change.

Lastly, we ask you to consider what kind of future our public investments are building. Billions are committed to pipeline and carbon capture projects, alongside more than $80 billion in new military spending over five years. We question a public accounting that can find billions for these priorities while failing to fund a just transition, a youth climate corps at meaningful scale, and adequate income support for people living in poverty. Security that leaves people breathing smoke, struggling to pay rent, and exposed to climate disasters is not security at all.

Our request
We ask to meet with you and/or members of the Cabinet to discuss these concerns and the alternatives we have set out, before Canada's delegation departs for COP31. Our communities include workers whose livelihoods depend on a well-funded just transition; parents and young people concerned for the present and future health of their children and communities; Indigenous peoples whose rights are directly engaged; and people committed to the care of creation and the common good. We would bring that range of experience and perspective to the table.

Respectfully,

Alain Ambeault, CSV
Executive Director
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The Rev. Lara K. Scholey
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The Right Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath
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