

*Ottawa*

Room 349, Confederation Building  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6  
Tel.: 613-996-1119  
Fax: 613-996-0850



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

*Ottawa*

Pièce 349, Édifice de la Confédération  
Ottawa (Ontario) K1A 0A6  
Tél. : 613-996-1119  
Télééc. : 613-996-0850

*Constituency*

9711 Fourth Street Suite 1  
Sidney, British Columbia V8L 2Y8  
Tel.: 250-657-2000  
Fax: 250-657-2004

*Elizabeth May*

Member of Parliament / Député(e)  
Saenich — Gulf Islands

*Circonscription*

9711, rue Fourth suite 1  
Sidney (Colombie-Britannique) V8L 2Y8  
Tél. : 250-657-2000  
Télééc. : 250-657-2004

By Email: [Justin.Trudeau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Justin.Trudeau@parl.gc.ca)

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau  
Prime Minister of Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa K1A 0A6

November 29, 2022

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

As you know, Canada is far off-track in our commitments to hold global average temperature increases to 1.5 degrees Celsius and, failing that, to as far below 2 degrees C, as possible.

The April 4, 2022 report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) makes it clear that GHG emissions globally must peak, at the latest, well before 2025, and drop rapidly from there or the chance to hold to 1.5 or 2 C disappears forever. Clearly, that requires no new fossil fuel development, no new infrastructure and no new fossil-generated electricity.

The TMX pipeline expansion, drilling in our offshore, and the Coastal Gas pipeline all contribute to what United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres calls the “highway to climate hell... foot on the accelerator.”

We can and must do more. One way that your government can show climate leadership is in heading off the plan by the Ontario government to ramp up emissions associated with electricity generation.

This fall, Ontario Premier Doug Ford’s government announced plans for *new* gas-fired power plants while increasing the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of the province’s *existing* gas plants by 375% by 2030 and more than 600% by 2040.

This new plan is a clear and unequivocal threat to Canada’s ability to meet its Paris Agreement climate targets. It will cancel out half the pollution reduction benefits Ontario achieved by phasing-out its dirty coal-fired power plants.

Fortunately, Ontario has realistic, achievable options at hand that offer viable alternatives to the Ford Government’s ill-advised directions.



Ontario can move to a [clean electricity future and lower energy costs by 2030](#) by investing in energy conservation and efficiency, wind and solar energy, and by increasing its electricity cooperation with Quebec, including using its neighbour province's reservoirs to serve as a giant storage battery for Ontario's wind and solar energy.

According to a report released by Ontario's Independent Electricity System Operator on September 30, 2022, Ontario can avoid the need for *new* gas plants and lower its electricity costs by up to **\$290 billion** [by investing in zero-carbon options](#) to keep our lights on, including solar power, energy storage and smart efficiency programs.

Former Environment and Climate Change Minister Catherine McKenna played a key role in the United Nations' High-Level Expert Group on the Net Zero Emissions Commitments. The Climate Expert Group recommended strongly that "New fossil fuel-based electricity generation should not be permitted."

As you know, [Canada has had nine climate plans since 1990 and has failed to meet any of their targets](#). In fact, far worse than failing to hit a target, we have not gotten the direction right. We promise to reduce emissions and yet they increase. According to federal Environmental and Sustainable Development Commissioner Jerry DeMarco, Canada has been the worst performer among G7 nations on meeting climate targets since the Paris Agreement was adopted in 2015. But it is worse than that. We have the worst record in the G-7 since signing the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1992.

It is past time for your COP21 pledge that "Canada is back!" to be delivered. The world needs Canada to make a bold leap from laggard to leader.

During the 2021 federal election your party's platform pledged to a net zero-carbon electricity grid by 2035. Furthermore, your March 2022 Confidence and Supply Agreement with the New Democratic Party obliges you to "identify ways to further accelerate the trajectory to achieve net-zero emissions no later than 2050."

Thanks to the phase-out of dirty coal power and its proximity to Quebec, Ontario is well positioned to lead among Canadian provinces when it comes to achieving a net zero electricity system. Given Ontario's lack of progress in reducing climate damaging emissions, it is important to clearly convey to the province the need to take action to meet its own 2030 targets, rather than regressing and harming Canada's climate action objectives.

Moving Ontario to a zero-carbon electricity system will help grow the provincial economy by attracting businesses looking for clean energy. It will also create vast new economic opportunities in renewable energy development, district energy, load control technologies, cold climate air-source heat pumps, and bi-directional chargers which will allow our electric vehicles' batteries to provide power back to the electricity grid during peak demand hours.

*Now is the time to act.*

**Please establish federal Clean Electricity Regulations that will a) prohibit the building of new gas plants in Ontario effective immediately; and b) require Ontario to move to a net zero-carbon electricity grid by 2030.**

We need strong leadership and meaningful climate action from you and your government. We stand at a crossroads between climate hell and a livable world offering security and health to our children and their children.

We cannot continue speeding down the highway to climate hell.

Yours sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth May". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Elizabeth May, O.C.  
Member of Parliament  
Saanich-Gulf Islands  
Leader of the Green Party of Canada

