



Joint Ecological Ministry (JEM)* is submitting the following for consideration by the Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology as you discuss and determine federal COVID-19 efforts.

The following actions are endorsed by more than 70 Catholic organizations and communities and 550 individuals. This time of crisis presents us with opportunities to create systems of governance that are just and inclusive of all Creation. A post-COVID world is only possible through a global just transition to a low-carbon economy where the burden of responsibility lies with economically rich countries who pollute the most. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), a just transition can drive a nation's "job creation, job upgrading, social justice and poverty eradication." As a G7 country, Canada has the capacity to lead by example in this collaborative effort to avert climate collapse.

We are hoping that the actions outlined below will be considered in any legislation and policy put forward.

1. **Do not commit public resources** to the oil and gas industry which is already heavily subsidized.
2. **Take steps** to implement the commitment to table and then pass in Parliament the Just Transition Act. This should include strengthening measures to provide oil and gas workers with direct immediate relief and opportunities for training, education and employment in existing low-carbon sectors.
3. **Expand government support** onto low-carbon sectors and programs critical in addressing the climate emergency: building retrofits, energy efficiency, renewable energy, clean public transportation.
4. **Invest in a circular economy** that achieves significant reduction of plastic waste.
5. **Implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)** and develop climate emergency policies in line with Indigenous knowledge and teachings.
6. **Foster global collaboration** by demanding that the IMF take immediate steps to cancel the debt of the poorest nations so they can meet the challenges of the current pandemic as well as climate change.

The window for action to mitigate and minimize the damage to the life on Earth is closing rapidly. We are placing our hopes and prayers on the government to show leadership and collective wisdom to protect Creation from destruction.

The time to act is now. The COVID-19 recession combined with the climate emergency demands us to be creative in imagining new ways of running our economy. Let's make the most of this opportunity.

* Joint Ecological Ministry (JEM) is a collaboration of religious communities and partners using their resources to promote caring for Creation and living within planetary limits.