

**14th May 2021,
By email: ENVI@parl.gc.ca**

To: the members of House of Commons Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development,

From: For Our Kids North Shore

We are writing on behalf of the North Shore, BC chapter of For Our Kids. We are an active group of parents, working on behalf of our children to campaign for a just and sustainable world for our kids to grow up in. We represent 3 provincial ridings on the North Shore and come from a variety of cultural and professional backgrounds. We are grateful for this opportunity to bring our collective comments on the proposed Bill C-12; Canadian Net Zero Emissions Climate Accountability Act.

Our concerns and our actions on climate change are based on science, and we lean heavily on the scenarios set out by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. In particular, we refer to the IPCC conclusions that global CO₂ emissions need to decline by 45% by 2030 (from 2010 levels), going on to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 in order to achieve a pathway that will limit global-mean temperature to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. The IPCC has also explained that “climate models project robust differences in regional climate characteristics between present-day and global warming of 1.5°C, and between 1.5°C and 2°C¹”, and it is generally accepted that all nations should be aiming for the 1.5°C scenario as an upper limit. Canada in particular, has already experienced temperature increases far greater than the global average² with extremely high levels (up to an increase of 2.3°C) in the northern regions.

Our fundamental concern with the proposed Bill C-12 is that it does not align to the 1.5°C pathway. The current version focuses on a net zero target for 2050, but with a weak target of 30-35% emissions reduction for 2030, against a 2005 baseline, which was later increased to 40-45% in efforts to align to more ambitious targets set by the US. Critically, there is no 2025 target which would be required to set Canada on a path to success, and no clear accountability within this next decade to ensure these targets are met. The need for a 2025 target is particularly important in the context of Canada’s extremely poor track record on climate targets: we have not met a single GHG emissions target from Kyoto in 1997 to Copenhagen in 2009.

It is important that all nations step up to this challenge with ambitious targets, in particular the wealthy nations need to show leadership and demonstrate what is possible. It is our understanding that a 60% carbon reduction target for 2030 would not only be a fair distribution, but is possible and would be effective within the economy³.

We cannot risk moving forward with inadequate targets and limited accountability. Canada needs to step forward with an aggressive carbon reduction plan for the next 10 years, to create the environment for rapid decarbonization and to show the world that we are taking

¹ [Headline Statements — Global Warming of 1.5 °C \(ipcc.ch\)](https://www.ipcc.ch/press/2018/05/01/headline-statements-global-warming-of-1.5-c/)

² [Canada warming at twice the global rate, leaked report finds | CBC News](https://www.cbc.com/news/science/canada-warming-at-twice-the-global-rate-leaked-report-finds-1.5538236)

³ [Towards-Canadas-Fair-Share-April-2021-1.pdf \(d36rd3gki5z3d3.cloudfront.net\)](https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/92-629-x/2021001/article/00001-eng.pdf?tid=6487&cid=6487&did=6487&fid=6487&cid=6487&did=6487&fid=6487)

climate change seriously. As it stands, Bill C-12 is a gesture that gives a message of intent, but will ultimately fail to deliver.

We ask The Committee to consider these amendments:

1. Set a 2025 target. Our window of opportunity to stay on a 1.5°C pathway closes in 2030. We need an aggressive plan of carbon reduction for the next 10 years.
2. Ensure all GHG emissions reduction targets (not just the 2050 target) are legally binding for this government, and all governments of the future.
3. Follow scientific recommendations to reduce emissions in Canada below the 2005 levels by at least 60% by 2030. This has been researched and recommended as an effective target in terms of investment and social return⁴.
4. Establish three-year carbon budgets and reports aligned to the targets, with independent oversight and consequences for overspend. The budgets should be presented each year (like the fiscal budget) and broken down between provinces and industry sectors, therefore providing tangible targets and roadmaps to each sector. This has been recognised as best practice in managing carbon in other countries such as the UK and New Zealand.
5. Require mandatory annual progress reports on Canada's GHG emissions reduction targets to inform planning and help Canadians adapt to a changing climate. Explicit penalties for not meeting the targets are needed. Include reporting on climate risks and impacts that can inform policy and carbon budgets within the Minister's assessment reports every five years.
6. Legislate a cap for the use of carbon credits and international offsets, to enforce a focus on domestic emission reductions, which have to dominate over offsets and technological emission removal techniques. This approach has been adopted in the Swedish Climate Act.
7. Provide a strategy within the legislation to demonstrate how Bill C-12 will promote and support the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP).
8. Establish a framework to enable provincial, territorial and federal governments to share responsibility for meeting our long term targets.
9. Ensure that an arm's length advisory committee is created, composed of, at a minimum, independent climate science experts and Indigenous leaders, and advise on targets, gaps, emission reduction plans, impacts and adaptation. The UK has set up a very effective advisory board that could be the prototype for the development of this committee.
10. Establish a Citizen's Assembly on Climate Change to work alongside the advisory committee.

We are hopeful that you will include these recommendations in the Bill, making it a piece of legislation we can all be proud of. Thank you for your work on helping Canada achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions, for us and more importantly, for our children.

Yours sincerely, For Our Kids North Shore, BC

⁴ [Towards-Canadas-Fair-Share-April-2021-1.pdf \(d36rd3gki5z3d3.cloudfront.net\)](https://www.cloudfront.net/d36rd3gki5z3d3/Towards-Canadas-Fair-Share-April-2021-1.pdf)