

Dear Committee Members,

In response to Bill C-12, I submit the following comments derived from my many years of work in the area of climate change and climate justice and as a member of the Mediators Beyond Borders International Climate Change Policy Committee.

(a) requires that an emissions reduction plan, a progress report and an assessment report with respect to each target be tabled in each House of Parliament;

on an annual basis to show what remains to be done and by whom so that the emissions reduction plan and progress reports are informed by unbiased audits provided by all industries, ministries, and sectors in Canada. Unfortunately the focus has often been too narrow and left out key sectors that are significant polluters such as the military.

(b) provides for public participation;

and that this not only includes not-for-profit organizations but individuals at the grassroots level. To accurately monitor the situation public consultation will need to be broad-based and available using online, face-to-face, and written participation. In addition it must be easy to find and simple to respond. Public participation draws on the power of the collective to act to for the greater good and so marginalized group, individuals and communities must be sought out specifically.

(c) establishes an advisory body to provide the Minister of the Environment with advice with respect to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 and matters that are referred to it by the Minister;

the advisory body and public participation must work in unison so that the Minister is not misled by special interest or lobby groups such as the fossil fuel sector which continues to unduly influence the climate decisions that in fact a majority of Canadians would prefer. In addition - 2050 is far too late, we need strong metrics and support to change to renewable energy sources and move away from fossil fuels and fossil fuel supported industrial processes now. The industrial agriculture sector has a huge influence on climate and yet is often given a free pass.

(d) requires the Minister of Finance to prepare an annual report respecting key measures that the federal public administration has taken to manage its financial risks and opportunities related to climate change; and

beyond the financial risks, it will be important to report on and show how subsidies from fossil fuel industries including fracking have been removed from receiving subsidies and how those subsidies are now moved to sectors with the innovation and design thinking skills to move into a new world order that no longer relies on fossil fuel and other contributing factors such as the use of herbicides and pesticides and numerous chemicals that are allowed to pollute water and soil systems.

(e) requires the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development to, at least once every 5 years, examine and report on the Government of Canada's implementation of measures aimed at mitigating climate change. Every five years is too long, reporting must be ongoing and annual as a summary with clear guidelines as to how to make up for missed targets or how to address those industries sectors and government bodies who continue to have an impact on climate and the ultimate viability not only of Canada as a Nation, on the Indigenous Nations, and on individuals.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,

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