

## Submission to The Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development, regarding suggested Amendments to Bill C-12

By Judith Fox Lee

May 17, 2021

On behalf of our entire family, many friends, neighbours and (we believe strongly) future generations, we are strongly recommending that key amendments must be made to Bill C-12 to make the government ***actually and enforceable, Accountable*** for attaining the emissions reduction targets necessary in a viable and responsible climate action plan. These must include:

- **Set the first emissions target for 2023, 2024 or at the very latest, 2025**, instead of delaying climate action until it's too late – 2030 is definitely way too late. Shamefully late. **Why or how could it possibly take another 9 years to have a target year?** Having that date alone included in this law would immediately signal to the world that our government is not serious at all about this true, global emergency! ***Forget about being a global leader! Having our first target date of 2030 only demonstrates that we are not even keen, active and genuine partners in finding the solution we need to create, in order to be able to continue to have a world where we can live in a sane and healthy manner, along with other species, in a habitable, clean and resilient environment that supports life for all in the fullest sense.***
- **Create true legal accountability for government.** Set clear, **unconditional obligations on the Minister of Environment** to meet Canada's climate targets on an ***annual basis***, including a **reporting mechanism** whereby the Minister presents the results of our climate plan to the Canadian public with full, required details that unequivocally indicate the successes, the failures and the challenges, changes needed, etc. in our climate action plan.

While there are undoubtedly other important improvements to be made to Bill C-12, for us, as citizens who are not technical/scientific experts, we will limit our submission to requesting these **two absolutely critical amendments to the bill**. We support other suggestions which also put the needs of Canada's native citizens first, that include a green recovery for all Canadians, and which keep clean energy, enhanced public transportation, green building standards and planning front and centre as priorities for all levels of government.

Thanks for your serious and immediate consideration of these recommended amendments, which I summarize as follows

**1) Set the first emissions target for 2023, 2024 or at the very latest, 2025. Taking 9 more years, until 2030, to establish our first target – only would signal that we are not seriously trying to establish and meet any such targets.**

**2) Set clear, *unconditional legal obligations* on the Minister of Environment to meet Canada's climate targets on an *annual basis*, including a detailed reporting mechanism whereby the Minister presents the results of our climate plan to the Canadian public.**

Please respond to our concerns. The urgency of this global situation must be recognized and acted upon by you all, our elected representatives and lawmakers. Please leave partisan politics far behind and do your deepest, most moral, due diligence in this most important bill of our times and indeed, for our planet's future.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Fox Lee

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