

Dear government leaders,

I am so excited that steps are being taken to improve Canada's role in mitigating climate change by lowering our emissions. Thank you.

However, a number of amendments are required to strengthen Bill C - 12 as follows:

- Bill C-12 must ensure that Canada maximizes ambition as soon as possible, including by requiring the Minister to ensure accountability in the next five years and ensuring all targets are consistent with the best available science, international obligations, and equity principles.
- Bill C-12 must place greater emphasis on science and expertise and less emphasis on politics by strengthening the Advisory body's role in establishing targets, plans and reports, and ensure that the body is comprised of independent experts. The Advisory body should also prepare regular impact reports that assess the risks of current and predicted climate impacts in Canada, to inform adaptation planning.
- Bill C-12 must actually hold government to account by prescribing robust minimum standards for planning and reporting, and imposing a legal obligation to meet the established targets.
- Bill C-12 should ensure targets and plans are set further in advance, provide for earlier and more regular progress reporting, and place a low cap on the use of international offsets (or even restrict those offsets altogether, other than to exceed targets).
- Without undermining the need for the federal government to take a leadership role and be willing to backstop climate action where necessary, Bill C-12 should also incentivize and facilitate provincial ambition and recognize shared action. Bill C-12 must also require transparency about the status and direction of greenhouse gas emissions in sub-national jurisdictions.
- Bill C-12 must reflect Canada's commitment to enacting UNDRIP and must include means by which Indigenous peoples can be full participants in climate action.
- In amending Bill C-12, Parliamentarians must ensure a strong relationship between climate accountability and just and equitable workforce transition planning.

I participated in a phoning campaign on this issue and spoke to many Canadians from all parts of the country. I was very pleased with the positive responses I received concurring with me that although the bill is a good first step, the amendments are needed to strengthen it.

Thank you in advance,

With Hope,
Mrs. Diana Hardacker
Chemainus BC