

To the Honourable Members of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development,

As a new grandmother, I am afraid of the kind of world in which my 10-month-old grandson will grow up. The Climate Crisis, and Canada's contribution to it, is an existential threat that we need to face head-on. This requires bold and courageous leadership and action on the part of all of us.

While Bill C-12 is welcome, it does not go nearly far enough.

During the ongoing global pandemic, all levels of government in Canada and around the world have acted rapidly and decisively to address the emergency that threatens everyone's lives. The Climate Crisis requires the same rapid and decisive action.

I agree with the approach that Seth Klein outlines in his book, *A Good War: Mobilizing Canada for the Climate Emergency*.

Klein outlines four steps necessary in an Emergency.

1. Spend what it takes to win. e.g. Huge public investment in green and social infrastructure.
2. Create new economic tools to get the job done. e.g. A Federal 'Climate Emergency' 'Just Transition' Transfer (framework for cooperation)
3. Shift from voluntary and incentive-based policies to mandatory measures. e.g. Ban all production of new fossil fuel cars by 2025.
4. Tell the truth about the severity of the crisis and communicate a sense of urgency about the measures necessary to combat it. e.g. Daily climate briefings on CBC news.

C-12 is the opportunity to ensure Canadians know we are in an Emergency! The heavy lifting needs to be done now. We need a 2025 milestone. We know that the climate emergency has continual multiplier effects. We need action immediately, not leaving it to future governments. Instead of targeting greenhouse gas emission reductions by 30 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030, we need to follow the recommendations in the Science community for Canada to reduce its emissions by 50% by 2030.

Targets must be ambitious and bold. The present government, along with the oil and gas industry, must be held accountable for what we have done to the earth in our greed to buy more, to build more, without much thought to future generations. We owe it to our grandchildren. Build real Accountability in C-12.

Science must be at the centre of all planning, specifically for targets and evaluating success in meeting the targets. Reporting has to be by independent Science experts. The planning must be consistent with equity principles and we must work with Indigenous leadership and respect the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Believe the Science. Lead with Science.

Canada needs transformative action and courageous leadership to transition us to a low-carbon economy. Fighting the climate crisis requires collaboration from all parties and all citizens. Solutions are

already available. Economist Dr. Jim Stanford. and banker Dr. Mark Carney both agree to a call for a new kind of economics and more importantly, they believe the transformation to a low carbon economy in Canada is achievable.

Jim Stanford explains step by step how a transition to a fossil-free Canada is in reach for workers and their communities. "Canada's labour market and environment will both be stronger for it. Canada can transition away from fossil fuel jobs. What is required is a firm, consistent commitment to do so, and the provision of meaningful support to make the transition effective, steady and fair." Mark Carney, with his 10-point plan for a sustainable recovery, wants to "channel the market in service of society" and apply a climate lens to every financial decision. His idea is a fundamental transformation based on values, not market values. He calls on "leaders and citizens to restructure society and enshrine human values at the core of all that we build for our children and grandchildren." Both agree that addressing the climate crisis goes hand-in-hand with lifting the economy. We are noting congruency in the words and action of President Biden with our Canadian climate experts. C-12 will boost this transformation with bold and robust legislation that includes strengthening amendments.

We have a momentous opportunity to pass an ambitious climate accountability act that will protect future generations. 70% of Canadians are concerned about climate change. 62% of Canadians feel climate change is a major crisis and over half would pay higher taxes to combat it. People are ahead of politicians.

The recent Supreme Court decision on March 26 cleared the way for courageous progressive climate actions by our federal government. "Canadians know we have to act, we have to be ambitious in fighting climate change," said Canadian Environment Minister Jonathan Wilkinson at the press conference following the constitutional 'win.' Minister Wilkinson, show you mean it! Strengthen C-12.

I concur with and support the following Grandm(others) Act to Save the Planet (GASP) Amendments to Bill C-12:

1. Bill C-12 should be amended to include: a target for 2025 and a stronger emissions reduction target of at least 50% by 2030.
2. Bill C-12 should be amended to measure the 5-year milestone targets as carbon budgets rather than emission reduction targets.
3. Bill C-12 should be amended to include requirements for regular reporting on climate change impacts, plans for adaptation, and progress toward implementing those plans, in order to ensure a just transition for workers, Indigenous peoples, and all communities who will be most affected by climate change.

My concerns are for my grandchildren and all future generations. It is incumbent on all of us to be their protectors and ensure they inherit a safe liveable planet. As it stands, the Accountability Act fails in its most sacred duty to protect Canadians. We cannot afford to wait and neither can the planet. Be bold! Be courageous!

Sincerely,

Jeannine d'Entremont

