

Written Submission for the Pre-Budget Consultations in Advance of the Upcoming Federal Budget

By: Dr. Eugenie Waters and Dr. Sarah Sloan (on behalf of 545 Physician Mothers from across Canada who have signed E-Petition 2180)

Recommendation #1: Act upon the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment "Healthy Recovery Plan" (July 2020) outlining a path towards a healthy and sustainable future in Canada;

Recommendation #2: Act upon the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment "Call to Action on Climate Change and Health" report (February 5, 2019), which has clearly outlined specific measures towards zero emissions;

Recommendation #3: Prioritize the elimination of emissions and preservation of a healthy environment as part of every portfolio and in every decision made by our federal and provincial parties;

Recommendation #4: Implement a nationwide carbon pricing strategy;

Recommendation #5: Commit to the rapid elimination of fossil fuels and coal from our economy;

Recommendation #6: Commit to rapid incorporation of green energy and net-zero infrastructure across the country;

Recommendation #7: Eliminate single use plastics.

I am writing to you as a Canadian Physician. My goal is that your Government use the COVID19 economic recovery plan to fundamentally transform Canada into a healthy, sustainable, and more resilient society. Physicians across Canada and around the world are calling for the same:

-The Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE) has created a "Healthy Recovery Plan" outlining 25 recommendations to save 112,000 lives and create over 1 million clean energy jobs by 2050 through investment in a #healthyrecovery (https://cape.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/CAPE_Report2020_EN_HealthyRecoveryPlan-1.pdf)

-Canadian Physician Mothers have created a video (<https://youtu.be/XPhbKfMc9HQ>) calling for a #healthyrecovery from COVID19 in support of the recommendations from CAPE's Healthy Recovery Plan

-545 Canadian Physician Mothers have united to request climate action per E-petition 2180 (<https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-2180>)

-40 million healthcare workers from around the world have signed an open letter to G20 leaders calling for a #healthyrecovery from COVID19 (<https://healthyrecovery.net/>)

Canadian Physicians and healthcare workers have spent COVID19 working to keep our patients and our communities safe. Though difficult, we have been honoured to be able to serve our fellow citizens. But we do NOT want a future of repetitive health emergencies. There will be no second chances. COVID19 is a planetary health emergency. It will not be the last. This is the moment to invest fully in a sustainable future for Canada and do everything possible to reduce the frequency and severity of future planetary health emergencies that will be the new normal if climate change is left unchecked.

We ask you to ensure that Canada's recovery from COVID19 ensures a rapid decarbonization of the Canadian economy, is free of any fossil fuel subsidies, and follows the 25 recommendations from the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment's Healthy Recovery Plan.

Sincerely,

Dr. Eugenie Waters and Dr. Sarah Sloan, Ottawa Ontario

August 7, 2020