

Mr. John Aldag, M.P.
Chair
Standing Committee on Environment
and Sustainable Development
House of Commons
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Dear Colleague:

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I would like to thank the Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development for its important report entitled *Clean Growth and Climate Change: How Canada Can Lead Internationally*, which was tabled in the House of Commons on April 9, 2019. Please accept this letter as the Government of Canada's response to the Standing Committee's report.

Canada has taken significant steps since 2015 to enhance its leadership on climate change, both at home and abroad. Canada committed to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 30 percent below 2005 levels by 2030, and was among the first countries to sign and ratify the Paris Agreement. In 2017, this country updated its nationally determined contribution under the Paris Agreement based on the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change, this country's climate plan developed with provinces and territories, as well as Indigenous Peoples.

Canada has been advancing international climate diplomacy with its leadership increasingly called upon for implementing and meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement.

The country has become a leader in climate finance by supporting a low-carbon, sustainable and climate-resilient future for all. New investments and innovative approaches led by Canada are helping to reach the global goal of mobilizing US\$100 billion per year by 2020 from public and private sources.

Canada is delivering Can\$2.65 billion over five years, and scaling up to Can\$800 million in 2020, to support developing countries both in terms of mitigation and adaptation efforts and their transition to clean and climate-resilient economies. With Can\$1.5 billion in initiatives announced so far, Canada is positioned as a leader through a number of multilateral and bilateral initiatives, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's Green Climate Fund to which Canada is providing Can\$300 million.

In addition, Canada co-chairs the Ministerial on Climate Action with the European Union and China, bringing together more than 35 ministerial and senior representatives from major economies and other key players to support the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Canada is advancing the links between climate action and global trade and clean technology markets, and is a strong advocate for advancing a wide range of environmental issues in its free trade agreements. This country is working to include references on climate change and meeting commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement as part of the negotiation. For example, Canada is leading on innovative approaches to mobilize climate investments from the private sector, including to mitigate risks that deter investment in key areas such as resilient infrastructure, climate-smart agriculture, and renewable energy.

Canada's leadership extends to numerous other international fora and bilateral/multilateral environmental agreements for advancing issues/initiatives with links to climate action. This includes commitments as part of the Canada–European Union strategic partnership agreement, the Canada–China Joint Statement on Climate Change and Clean Growth, the Canada–France Climate and Environment Partnership, and the Canada–United Kingdom Partnership on Clean Growth and Climate Change.

Canada is a founding member of several other high-profile international climate partnerships such as the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (to assist developing countries to reduce emissions of short-lived climate pollutants), the Powering Past Coal Alliance (which it co-leads with the United Kingdom to support global transition away from coal-fired electricity), and the Arctic Council, as well as co-chair of the Global Methane Initiative.

Furthermore, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is an important part of Canada's climate finance commitment, consistent with its Feminist International Assistance Policy.

While Canada has significantly elevated its profile and leadership within the international community for collectively advancing climate action, the Government of Canada is cognisant that more work is required to influence and drive global efforts. As such, the Government welcomes the recommendations of the Standing Committee and will use them to guide ongoing international policy and engagement.

As well, respectfully acknowledging the dissenting report of the Official Opposition, and consistent with the principle of the Standing Committee's recommendation 8 (that the Government of Canada work toward making climate

policy a non-partisan issue), the Government thanks the Official Opposition and looks forward to working together to ensure Canada maintains a high level of engagement on the international stage.

I extend my appreciation to the Members of the Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development, their staff and other officials, as well as the witnesses who provided important testimony with a view to help guide the Government of Canada in its efforts to enhance climate action leadership internationally.

Please accept my best regards.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.