

September 17th, 2024

To: Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change

CC: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance

Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources

Anita Anand, President of the Treasury Board

Honorable Minister Steven Guilbeault,

Nearly three years have passed since Prime Minister Justin Trudeau first committed to limiting and reducing emissions from the production of oil and gas in Canada. Since that time, the development of the oil and gas emissions cap has encountered multiple delays, while greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the [oil and gas sector continue to rise](#) and cause climate change. The proposed oil and gas emissions cap is essential not only to help Canada meet its climate commitments but also to protect the future of all Canadians.

The emissions cap must be implemented without further delay. Canadians are already experiencing the severe impacts of the climate crisis, which are projected to worsen unless we take swift action to reduce pollution from fossil fuels. **We strongly urge the Government of Canada to release the draft regulations for the proposed oil and gas emissions cap as soon as possible, with final regulations in place by 2025.**

Further delay in releasing the draft regulations allows oil and gas companies to continue polluting, at a time when climate-related disasters are ravaging the country. Canadians are looking to their federal government to hold the oil and gas sector accountable for drastically reducing their level of pollution.

The oil and gas sector has an outsized influence on Canada's GHG emissions. Its rising emissions account for nearly a third (31 per cent) of Canada's domestic emissions. Despite repeated promises of climate action, the sector has shown [no progress in reducing emissions from its operations](#).

It is clear that oil and gas companies are unwilling to voluntarily reduce their emissions. These companies have invested millions of dollars in greenwashing and spreading misinformation to the public through extensive advertising campaigns. Even though they continue to make billions in profit, these companies have shown they must be forced to make investments into reducing their emissions.

The Government of Canada has the opportunity to send a powerful message to Canadians and the world by becoming the first nation to implement a sector-wide emissions cap on the oil and gas industry. This regulation, which has [widespread support across the country](#), can achieve what no previous national government has done—holding the oil and gas companies accountable for their pollution and compelling them to contribute to the fight against climate change.

Further delays in releasing the draft regulations risks leaving the promise to cap and limit oil and gas emissions unfulfilled by the end of the current federal mandate. This would not only place Canada's climate targets further out of reach, but also undermine Canada's credibility as a global climate leader.

This, at a time when Canada will be taking over the G7 presidency and other countries are taking decisive action within their own jurisdictions to advance climate progress.

We call on the Government of Canada to prioritize the health and safety of all Canadians over the narrow interests of the oil and gas sector and its shareholders, and to move forward with the oil and gas emissions cap so that this country can work to reduce the ever-increasing emissions from this sector. The oil and gas sector is endangering our health, future, and climate. Canadians cannot afford to allow the industry to continue polluting unchecked. Without this regulation, Canada stands little chance of meeting its climate targets.

Signed,

Environmental Defence Canada

Grandmothers Act to Save the Planet (GASP)

Alberta Wilderness Association (AWA)

Alberta Beyond Fossil Fuels

Ecojustice

Canadian Health Association for Sustainability and Equity (CHASE)

Shift: Action for Pension Wealth and Planet Health

David Suzuki Foundation

re•generation

Canadian Unitarians For Social Justice

Climate Action Network - Réseau action climat Canada

Protect Our Winters Canada

The Council of Canadians

Citizens for Public Justice

EcoAnalytics, a project of Makeway

Équiterre

Climate Emergency Unit

Citizens' Climate Lobby Canada

Stand.earth

Greenpeace Canada

Canadian Interfaith Fast For the Climate

Climate Caucus

West Coast Environmental Law

Green Majority Radio

Conservation Council of New Brunswick

Neighbours United

The Climate Justice Organizing HUB

For Our Kids

Leadnow

Sustainable Energy Group

Sierra Club Canada Foundation

Clean Energy Canada

Indigenous Climate Action

Citizens Environment Alliance

Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE)

Nature Québec

Trottier Family Foundation

Just Earth

Climate Justice Saskatoon

Green 13

Georgia Strait Alliance