



March 26, 2020

Dear CCL Canada volunteers,

On Tuesday, March 24, 2020, we had our first CCL Canada call specially created for this time we are in. Thank you, Keith (Clearwater BC), Chris (Vancouver BC), Anke (Victoria BC), Lyn (Toronto ON) and Caterina (Kitchener-Waterloo) for joining the call and for sharing your wisdom and energy with us.

Going forward for the next three weeks we will be meeting once a week on Tuesdays at 5 pm PT / 8 pm ET on our Uberconference Line. Sign up for the meetings here: <https://doodle.com/poll/tzaqt8eqnru7zk4v>

The dates of our next meetings are Tuesday, March 31, 2020, April 7, 2020, and April 14, 2020. On our Uberconference Line (1-888-570-6238) or <https://www.uberconference.com/room/citizensclimatelobbycanada>

On the call this week, we were all of the same opinions that the federal government is under pressure to dismantle the already inadequate federal carbon pricing backstop policy in the Federal Budget next week in the face of the COVID19 pandemic. A subsequent conversation with an MP's office confirmed our suspicion. Additionally, while I was on an international climate leaders' conference call yesterday, pressures to dismantle carbon pricing policies during the pandemic was reiterated as an issue in Canada and around the world.

We truly value your time and social capital that you share with us. We only like to give you actions once a month. However, all March CCL Canada Actions are canceled. So, given the times we are in, for the first time ever in the almost 10 years of existence, excluding when we ask you to forward media packets, we are sending you a special action mid-month. This special action aims at preserving if not improving carbon pricing in the Federal Budget. The time you give to read this letter, internalize the communication, make the communication your own, carry out the action and then record it should take you less than three hours this month.

Please take the communication below that focuses on carbon pricing, read it out loud, make it your own and then call your MP's office and follow your conversation up with an email. You can also use this letter to help you frame social media posts and letters to the editor.

Focus is our super-power at CCL but at the same time, we are not so focused as to see all the other things that must be done. I truly marvel at how you all see the big picture and give time to other climate interests. If it so moves you, also feel free to include your own climate passions such as the Green New Deal, Guy Dauncey's 26-Week Plan, Drawdown, lessons from Dr. Dianne Saxe, [financial transparency measures](#) from Celine Bak or whatever lights you up. We trust you always and know that you will not to lose the focus of carbon pricing in your letter.

If anyone wants to translate the letter below, please share it the CCL Canada Action Team in CCL Community: <https://community.citizensclimate.org/groups/home/2021>

After you call and then email your MP, please fill in two field reports: one for the phone call and one for the letter. <https://community.citizensclimate.org/tools/field-reports>

Next week, after we analyze the 2020 Budget, we will then ask you to follow-up with an appropriate message depending on what is in the budget.

Thank you for all you are doing to protect and enhance Canada's carbon pricing policy.

Kind regards,

Cathy

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

I recognize that your workload must be tremendous at this time of the COVID-19 pandemic. I truly appreciate all that you are doing. We are in an emergency situation and Canada is pulling together.

I am a member of Citizens' Climate Lobby Canada. Established in September 2010, Citizens' Climate Lobby Canada is a volunteer-based organization funded solely by Canadians. Our focus has been [Carbon Fee and Dividend](#): an incrementally rising price on carbon pollution where 100% of the fees collected are returned to citizens. Canada's national backstop carbon pricing policy is a form of Carbon Fee and Dividend.

In his recent address to the people of Canada, PM Trudeau praised the youth of Canada for all they are doing to help their parents during this pandemic and for "[trusting in science](#)".

At Citizens' Climate Lobby we trust in science too. Tellingly, [27 Nobel Prize-winning economists and thousands of economists worldwide](#) support Carbon Fee and Dividend.

Next week Budget 2020 will drop. The youth of our nation are making sacrifices to protect us during this pandemic. They are watching us. We owe it to the youth of our nation to protect them from a crisis that will disproportionately impact them: the climate crisis. They will judge us by our actions. We need to show them we trust in science. Thus, at this time, I am asking you to not let the COVID-19 pandemic distract our country from fighting the climate crisis.

Specifically, I ask you to defend Canada's carbon pricing policy in the Budget 2020 Bill.

Gas prices are currently at record lows. The [6.7 cents per litre of gas at \\$30 per tonne](#) carbon price in 2020 will not be a burden. On the contrary: Canada's carbon pricing policy puts money in people's pockets. The fact is, [80% of households come out ahead](#), a finding confirmed by the [Parliamentary Budget Office](#) and [others](#).

We are most likely heading into a recession, if not a depression. When he regained power in 1935 during the Great Depression, Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King implemented relief programs such as the National Housing Act and National Employment Commission similar to or even modeled after the New Deal of US President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The objective was to put money in the pockets of the common people and it worked. We need to do the same again today.

If governments expect Canadians to self-isolate for extended periods of time then those Canadians must be provided with money adequate to cover their needs. The [fossil fee dividend or carbon tax rebate](#) in the [federal backstop policy](#) is a step in that direction and must be preserved, if not expanded.

Also, Canada's carbon pricing policy could be an important stepping stone towards universal basic income. Thinkers and entrepreneurs such as [Karl Widerquist](#) and [Elon Musk](#) have said that universal basic income will become necessary to help people cope with the transition to an economy dominated by automation and artificial intelligence. Perhaps now is the time to begin that transition.

Citizens' Climate Lobby is a network of climate leaders in 57 countries around the world. Our international colleagues tell us all the time that Canada is a world leader in carbon pricing.

When we come out of the COVID-19 crisis the world is going to be a dramatically changed place. This is a time where Canada can shine. The fact is the countries with the best climate policies that include carbon pricing will be better poised to capture part of the [\\$26 trillion opportunities](#) in climate-smart growth by 2030.

Thus, be rest assured if the budget announced next week protects and perhaps improves Canada's carbon pricing policy, locally our group will be cheering you on because, at Citizens' Climate Lobby, we stand behind the politicians who stand up for the climate and, therefore, the long-term interests of all Canadians.

Kind regards,  
<Name, and phone number>