



Citizens' Climate Lobby Canada

First Quarter Highlights, 2025

At the beginning of 2025, only one thing was for certain: uncertainty. We knew that at least one election would happen this year, but we did not know when. We knew that Canada would see at least one new Prime Minister during the course of the year, but did not know who that would be. We knew that Donald Trump, during his time as President-Elect, had made comments threatening Canada's economy and national sovereignty, but did not know where these threats would lead. We knew that targeted misinformation campaigns had made Canada's price on pollution into a political lightning rod, but did not know what would become of it. Our members remained steadfast in their commitment to securing a liveable future, one riding at a time. Here are some highlights of the admirable and invaluable work that our members have done in the first quarter of this year.



CCL Canada members taking care of themselves in these difficult times by posing jubilantly after our yearly "Standing Our Ground" planning meeting. Yes, we danced together on this call.

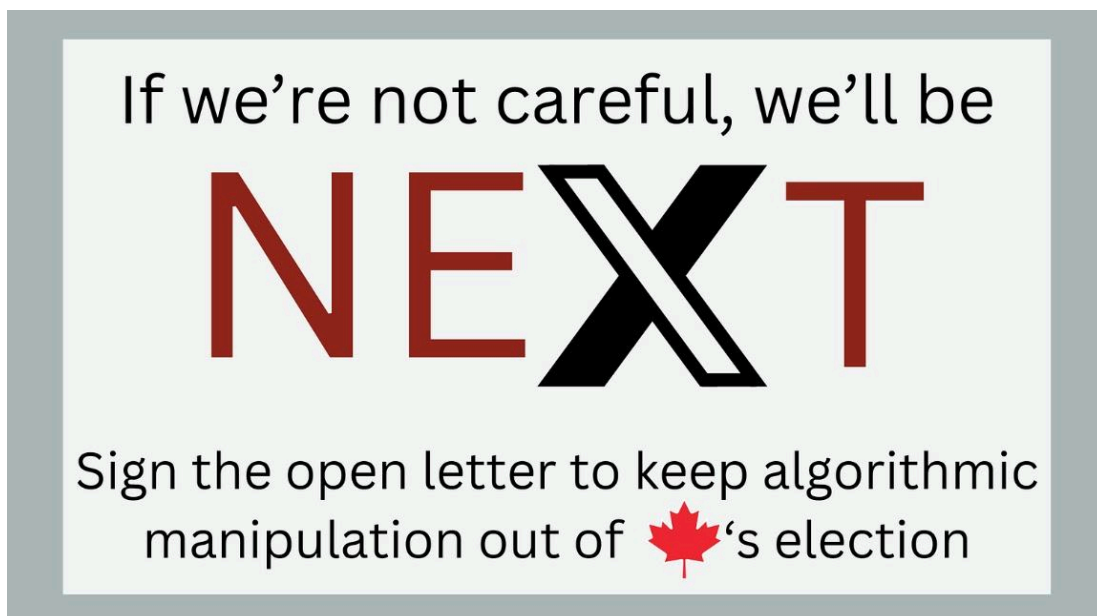
Standing Our Ground

Since 2021, CCL Canada leaders have met every year in January to celebrate our successes from the previous year, reflect on the areas where we would like to improve, and plan for the year to come. This year, we planned for uncertainty. We focused our efforts on being prepared to empower voters to show up for the climate in the federal election and any other elections, whenever they may be called.

Elections and Democracy

Taking on Election Interference

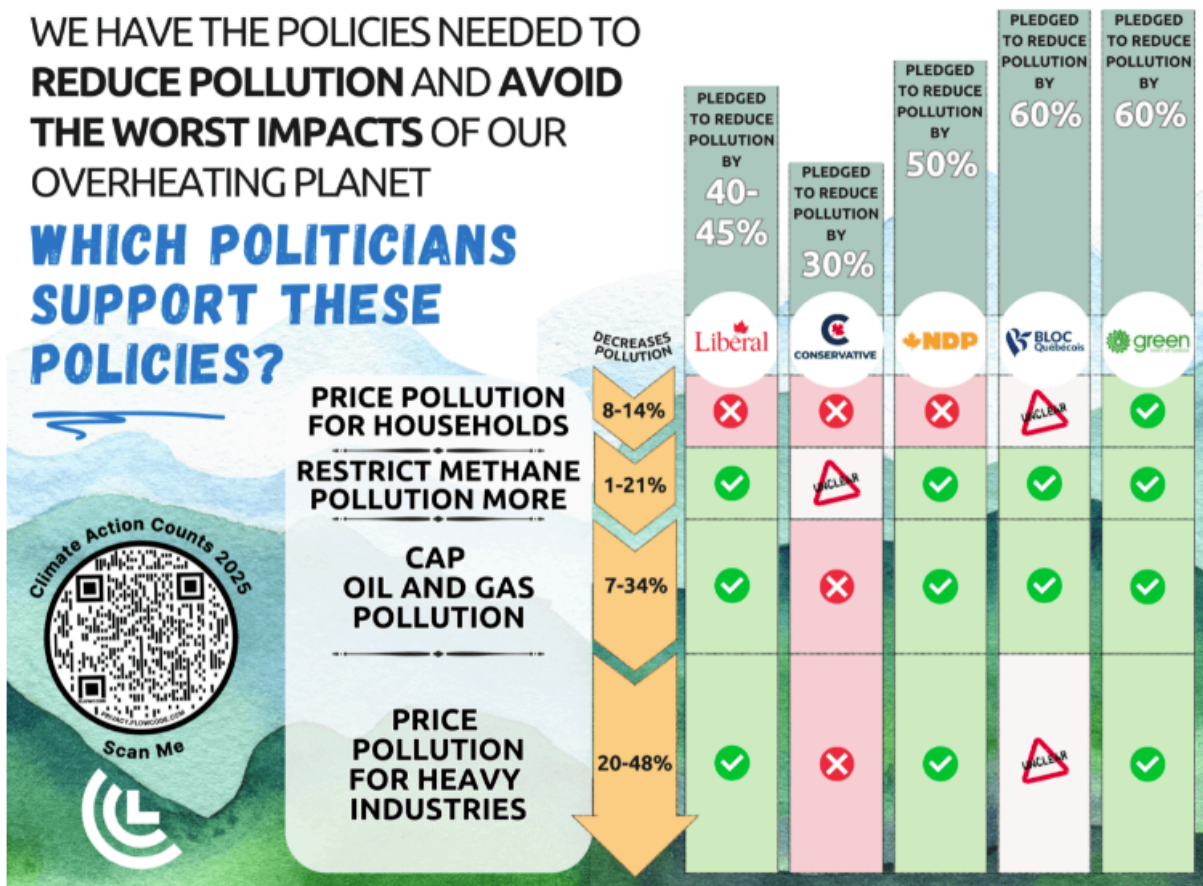
At CCL Canada, we work to preserve a liveable planet by empowering climate-concerned citizens to become climate champions in their communities. A functioning democracy is therefore essential to the work that we do, and our democracy is under attack because of misinformation, disinformation, and foreign election interference. Social media is a powerful tool and many have used it for good, but it has also changed the landscape of public discourse and created new opportunities for information manipulation by wealthy individuals. In the first part of 2025, CCL Canada approached the challenge of election interference head-on. We put out an [open letter](#) to keep foreign interference out of Canadian elections, and it got **over 500 signatures**. We also hosted an [education call with Duff Conacher](#) of [Democracy Watch](#), focused on the current threats to our democracy and the actions we can take to protect it.



An image that we used to promote our election interference open letter.

Provincial and Federal Elections

This year started off with much uncertainty, with the possibility of early elections being called federally and in Canada's most populous province (Ontario). Indeed, the writs ended up dropping in Ontario and federally at the end of January and March, respectively. In February, many CCL Ontario members were active in their ridings getting out the vote for candidates who could support climate action at Queen's Park. In preparation for the federal election, following the leadership of CCL Montreal, CCL Canada members created [informational resources](#) detailing the different parties' positions on key climate policies. We also created informational resources on [how, where, and when to vote](#), and how voters can find out about the candidates in their ridings. CCL Canada is a nonpartisan organization, and we do not endorse or denounce any one party. However, we do work to empower volunteers to create the political will for a liveable world in their ridings, and getting out the vote is part of that. If you were a pro-climate voter in 2019, your vote had [the equivalent of taking 14 cars off the road](#) for an entire year! In this and every election, get out and vote!



A graphic showing the stances of the five major parties on four key climate policies.

The Baby Carriage Campaign

On March 24—in partnership with Seniors for Climate Action Now! Ottawa, Grand(m)others Act to Save the Planet, and For Our Grandchildren—CCL Canada hosted a non-partisan and celebratory gathering for climate on Parliament Hill. The three key messages were:

- Later Is Too Late
- Protect What We Love / Elbows Up
- Vote for the Next Generation

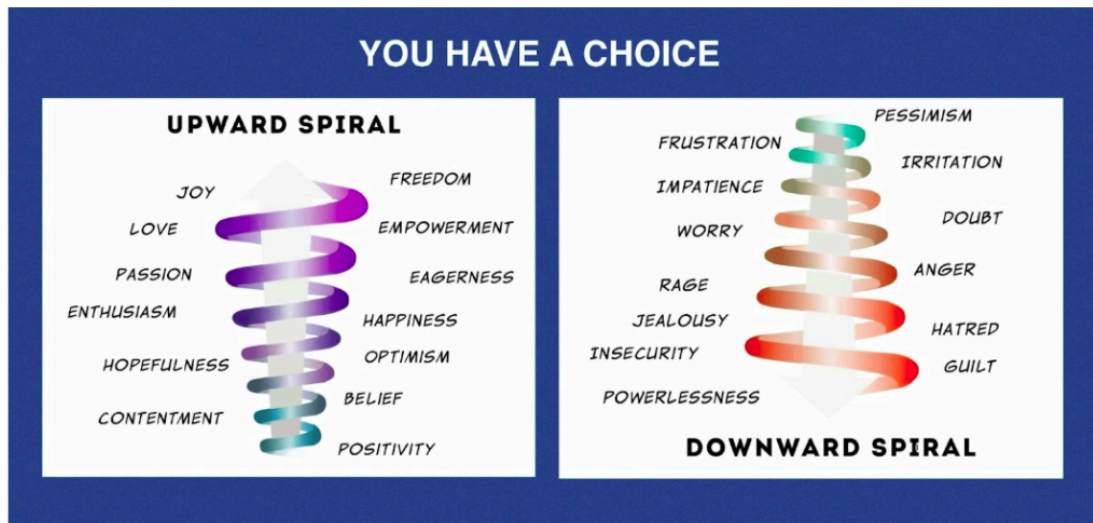
Videos from the event can be viewed on our [social media](#), and the story was picked up by [Radio Canada](#), [Le Droit](#), and a community newspaper in Ottawa. At this event, Vanessa and Bill made our first [get-out-the-vote video](#) for social media.



CCL Canada and partners stood up for future generations on Parliament Hill.

Staying Informed

It is now more evident than ever that we must use all of the tools at our disposal to counter misinformation, and one key way to do this is to spread correct information. This is why media releases and laser talks have been a priority in the first part of 2025.



A graphic about effective communication from our most recent [laser talk booklet](#).

Media Releases

To support truthful reporting, we put out four media releases this year on [Justin Trudeau's climate legacy](#), [MP Charlie Angus's call to investigate Elon Musk for election interference](#), [climate disinformation countermeasures](#), and [Canada's sovereignty in the clean energy transition](#).

Laser Talks

Laser talks are another piece of the puzzle; these concise but thoroughly researched write-ups on climate-related topics help to keep our members informed and help them to spread truthful information in their communities. For Valentine's Day, we released a laser talk compilation booklet to fight climate disinformation: "[For the Love of the Planet, Get Your Facts Straight](#)." The [laser talks in our February action sheet](#) focus on effective communication, election interference, and the role of the media in our democracy. Our March action sheet contains [a special laser talk initiated by Glenn M in Toronto West](#) about making renewable energy procurement more competitive in Ontario.

Expanding Our Toolkit: District Energy

A Dialogue about District Energy with the Boltzmann Institute

Buildings create a significant challenge to reducing our greenhouse gas emissions because of the energy required to heat and cool them. In January, John Stephenson—a retired engineer, CCL member, and co-founder of the Boltzmann Institute—gave a presentation for CCL Canada volunteers on district energy. District energy is a system that produces and distributes thermal energy—such as heating, cooling, or hot water—from a central plant to multiple buildings through a network of underground pipes. It improves energy efficiency and reduces emissions by using renewable sources, waste heat, or combined heat and power. District energy is not currently one of our core lobbying asks, but we are always interested in learning more about the many climate solutions available. More information about district energy and the video of the presentation can be found [here](#).



CCL members Glenn Marshall (Toronto West), Joan Mercer (French River), John Stephenson (Toronto West), Mary Blake Rose (London), and Cathy Orlando (Sudbury) at the Boltzmann Institute's event on heating planning.

Should Ontario Municipalities Be Required to Engage in Heating Planning?

In March, five CCL Canada members attended a day-long event hosted by the Boltzmann Institute focused on heating planning. Large-scale and long-term plans for how to heat (and cool) buildings can allow for larger-scale solutions, such as district heating. The government of Germany requires all municipalities to have heating planning for their buildings. This got us thinking that perhaps Canada's federal government should provide funding to municipalities to do heating planning. All policies must be evidence based, have community input, and be responsive to the local needs of the [over 5000 municipalities](#) across Canada (including cities, towns, villages, townships, and other types of local governments).. Thank you to our friends at the Boltzmann Institute for such an informative event, and we look forward to continuing to learn about heating planning.

Special Note

This year, we are not comparing our metrics from Q1 2025 to our metrics from Q1 2024 because this would be like comparing apples to oranges and our data is incomplete at this time. Our aim will be to give full metrics in our Q2 report.

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who has donated, come to our planning meetings, or worked to change hearts and minds in your community!