

Guess What?



We Want to Adopt!

**ADOPT-YOUR-MP TODAY:
An Action Guide**

adopt@ourclimate.ca



Adopt-an-MP Campaign – Save the Climate: an Action Guide

Welcome, and thanks for volunteering with the Canadian Youth Climate Coalition!!

About Us

The Canadian Youth Climate Coalition (CYCC) is a united front of youth from across Canada tackling the biggest challenge of our generation, the emerging climate crisis. In the absence of significant action by industry and government, we will make climate stabilization a priority that all Canadians need to address. Acting locally, provincially, federally, and internationally, we combine our forces to organize actions, influence government and implement concrete solutions. Working in schools and communities from coast to coast to coast, we are calling for and building a just and prosperous transition to the new Canada we all need to see.

Campaign Concept

It has long been a strategy of the environmental movement to 'adopt' things that are in danger or in need of care. One can adopt a highway (and agree to clean it up), adopt animals at the Zoo, and so on. Canada's youth believe that the political system is in danger, as there is not enough leadership or action being taken on climate change.

We commit to adopt our local *Members of Parliament* (MP) across the country to educate them about climate change and help them reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. For Canada to effectively lead on the issue of climate change and meet its Kyoto commitments, its political representatives must implement the structural changes needed to allow individual Canadians to act and must lead by example in their own lives.



This is a non-partisan campaign. No MP will graduate from the program until Canada has met its Kyoto commitments. We will support those MPs that are constructively engaging in the climate change debate and educate those MPs that need to step up to the plate and take concrete action.

Please let us know if you are able to adopt your mp at adopt@ourclimate.ca

We are a
united front
of youth
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Adopting Your Very Own MP



Each month we will forward out an MP *Challenge of the Month*. Challenges could be as small as trying to get your MP to sign the Youth Declaration on the Climate, or bigger tasks such as doing in-office assessments of your MP's light bulbs or mode of transportation to work.

Your job is to carry out the assignment and report back on your findings by the end of the third week of each month. We are going to keep a tally of how all the MPs are doing so that you can compare your adoption to others! At the end of each month we will publicize the results based on the best, worst, and most-improved MPs of the month from across Canada. On the last Friday of each month, we will request all CYCC members to mail or fax in kudos or disappointments to the selected MP.

What Do We Ask For?

The most important thing you can ask your MP is to make climate change policy a top priority. Ask them for a "science based" climate policy that will stop global warming below 2 degrees Celsius. In the beginning of your adoption, don't be too worried if you don't know much about the details of climate change or what specific policy to ask them to support. Just ask them for a bold, immediate, and comprehensive plan to act on climate change. As you gain experience and begin to work with other students on this campaign, you will learn more from other people as well as available resources.

The goal of this program is to turn every Member of Parliament in Canada and every Congress Person in the United States into an ally for moving forwards with climate change solutions.

Learning about Climate Change

Start at:

www.davidsuzuki.org/Climate_Change/

"The most important thing you can ask your MP is to make climate change policy a top priority."

Lobbying Guide

Isn't lobbying something only paid men in suits do?

No. While plenty of lobbyists do fit this description, there are plenty who don't—like you. Anyone can lobby; it is simply using democracy. You meet with your elected officials, and tell them how you and others feel about a particular issue. Then, you find out how the elected official you are meeting with feels about it. To finish it off, you request support (which you may or may not get, but don't despair; keep trying).

Lobbying is a tactic, not a strategy, yo.

We can never rely solely on lobbying to win a campaign; it is merely a tactic we use within the campaign. For example, at the beginning of your campaign you meet with the official to see where he or she stands on the issue; if it is not what you had hoped, you go home, generate massive support for your issue through pressure and media tactics, and then schedule another lobbying visit. With that constituent support you have generated, then see where he or she stands. Perhaps she or he will have changed his or her mind. Perhaps not. Then you make a new plan.

Requesting a visit

Requesting a meeting with your Member of Parliament is a formal process, so make sure you start early. The first thing you should do is:

- 1 Call the MPs Office. You can find this number on their public web page.
- 2 Say, "Hello my name is Juanita Garcia, I'm a student at the University of Alberta and I'd like to schedule a meeting with the Honourable Rona Ambrose regarding the C-30 climate bill."
- 3 The MP's scheduler may ask you to send in a meeting request letter. (We have plenty of samples) If so, make sure you call back to follow up- they won't call you.

Before the Meeting

- 1 Plan ahead what your goals are and divide up what each of you will say
- 2 Research your MP and know where they stand and what motivates them
- 3 Put together any materials or petitions etc you will bring

In the Meeting

- 1 Dress nicely, be on time, & bring a pen/notepad.
- 2 Introduce yourself
- 3 Thank the MP
- 4 Introduce your issues (keep it short)
- 5 Present arguments (keep it short)
- 6 Ask for support
- 7 Listen
- 8 Restate your arguments
- 9 Establish next steps

Anyone can
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democracy

You meet with
your elected
officials, and
tell them how
you feel
about an
issue

After the Meeting

- 1 Send a thank-you note that reiterates any commitments the Member made
- 2 Follow up and follow through

Taking Action

Sound good? Sign up at adopt@ourclimate.ca and finalize your adoption today.

We very much hope that you enjoy your MP and that she or he makes a life-long commitment to solving and taking action on the climate crisis. We wish you an adoption filled with immense joy (rather than frustration).

To celebrate your adoption, print out the certificate below:



Have questions?

Contact Mike Hudema
Action Coordinator
Itstimetoriseup@gmail.com

You can find more information about the campaign on the Canadian Youth Climate Coalition website www.ourclimate.ca

Thank you again for your adoption. Please spread the word as there are many MPs that need a lot of love!