

Call for Climate Leadership Leader Guide

We are in a Climate Emergency. Mother Earth is hurting. The burning of fossil fuels is warming the planet at an alarming rate and causing devastation.

We, humans, are but one strand in a web of life, and only one being among many relations. The land and waters are not resources to be exhausted. Serious disruption and harm has been and continues to be caused by colonization and extractivism in the material and the spiritual.

We need to be leaders that seek balance, repair relations and live with respect in Creation today and for seven generations.

Thank you for your interest in the Call for Climate Leadership.

As part of [Together for the Love of Creation Earth Week 2026](#), The United Church of Canada invites you and your community to reflect on these words, their own convictions and concerns around Creation and to share these with their local Member of Parliament, along with six calls for Climate Leadership, by personalizing and signing our [Call for Climate Leadership letter](#).

When introducing this opportunity,

You, and your community, may wish to

- Go deeper on our relationship with Creation
- Explore and share local examples of where these calls for climate leadership need to be upheld
- Learn more about one or more of the 6 calls

Collectively, we ask you to:

1. Print copies for your group/church so that each person can personalize and sign a letter. Have pens and drawing utensils available. Register your “Call for Climate Leadership” on [Earth Week Map](#).
2. Introduce the opportunity and give time for people to reflect on their convictions and concerns, and personalize and sign their letter. You may want to share the [Earth Week video](#).
3. Collect the letters. Take photos of drawings and personal messages on the letters and post on [padlet](#), or transcribe messages (with permission).



4. Deliver the collection of letters to your Member of Parliament, share what leadership you are taking for the climate, and invite their leadership. Take a photo of delivering the set of letters and post on padlet or email to justice@united-church.ca for us to post.

In May, Climate Motivators will Call for Climate Leadership of their MPs and will amplify all the calls posted on the padlet.

You can include this letter-signing as part of your in-person events during Earth Week, e.g. [Earth Sunday Service](#), bike blessing, neighbourhood clean-up, gardens, Faithful Footprints retrofit tours (more ideas on [Earth Week page](#)).

Some Background Information

Relationship with the Earth

We cherish Creation's rich diversity and respect its inherent value and right to protection. Creation, in all its diversity, complexity, and interdependence, is a reflection of the divine Creator. We humans are not lords and masters of the earth, but are one strand in the web of life. The healing and mending of Creation is part of God's plan and the work of the church. We intentionally speak of sacred earth and the good creation challenging the doctrine of conquest and exploitation that has often characterized our culture's relationship to the earth.

([Our Song of Faith](#), 2006)

"The earth is our ground of being. The earth is our Mother. The earth is our sustenance. The earth is our Eden. Creator made us from our Mother the Earth."

"Access to the earth has been stolen from us and others now eat from her provisions. We have been marginalized and separated from our own lands. It was stolen from us by a false Doctrine of Discovery. This doctrine was repudiated by the United Church. We must return to the provisions of the land. The land will sustain us as it has for millennia."

([Calls to the Church](#), 2018)

Spiritual Harm

Some examples: See [Addressing Spiritual Violence Against Indigenous Peoples in Canada](#), 2025

An origin: [Rene Descartes philosophy](#) of the separation of mind and the body. This led to permission to desecrate the earth, and give primacy to actions of humans over the earth causing physical destruction and a harmful spiritual disconnect from creation, and even our own bodies, now deemed devoid of spirit.



To Live with Respect in Creation: In 1995, [“to live with respect in Creation” was added](#) to [A New Creed](#) explicitly acknowledging that Creation has a moral status independent of its use value, and made abiding by this a matter of Christian confession, not individual choice.

Extractivism: A way of living that treats the Earth as something to be used up rather than cared for ([World Council of Churches, Global Systemic Climate Fast](#)).

“For me, climate solutions aren’t valued by how much carbon is removed from the atmosphere but by the changes to the systems that have oppressed my people and sanctioned the very structures that have created the climate crisis—colonialism, capitalism, extractivism and white supremacy.”

—Eriel Deranger, *Indigenous Climate Action* on receipt of [2024 Climate Breakthrough Award](#)

We Are Not Alone

A [March 2025 Leger poll](#) shows that most Canadians (67%) agreed that the Canadian government should make climate action and protecting nature a high priority, and most Canadians (65%) agreed that Canada should invest in renewable energy instead of fossil fuel developments.

My concern and call:

In the empty box in the Call for Climate Leadership letter, invite personal messages of heart and concern.

What this leadership looks like:

In this section of the letter, there are six calls in plain language capturing key components of what Federal leadership would look like. Intentionally general without detailed policy asks, these foster conversation and relationship building on this theme among your community and with your MP.

In case you want to go deeper, we have pulled together some specific asks and some additional background.

Emissions, Renewables and Climate Finance

Reduce Canada’s greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) to 160% below 2005 levels by 2030 to meet obligations under the Paris Agreement and contribute a “fair share” of the global climate effort based on Canada’s wealth and contribution to emissions. This means reducing our domestic emissions by 80%, and contributing at least \$58bn per year from 2025–2035 for global climate mitigation alone.



Reducing emissions requires investing in renewable energies, not fossil fuels, and supporting communities in transition. Renewable energy sources like sunlight, wind, and heat from the earth are abundant, replenished by nature, and reduce our dependence on fossil fuels leading to a more reliable, affordable, and greener future. Nuclear power is not renewable, nor the solution to the climate crisis ([On Green Energy 2009](#)).

Triple Canada's climate finance to support communities in the Global South, the most burdened and least responsible for climate change, to \$15.9 bn for 2026–2031. Funding should be gender-responsive and in the form of grants, not loans, with equal climate adaptation and mitigation measures, and designated funds for Loss and Damage. This is still less than Canada's fair share contribution, but it would demonstrate a step up in ambition.

You can read more at [Canada's Fair Share](#) which The United Church of Canada has endorsed.

The [Climate Action Tracker](#) shows Canada's record on key metrics as of November 2024.

Additional related asks to reduce emissions from fellow For the Love of Creation members:

[Call for East-West Electricity Grid](#) – Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue and Climate Witness Project

[Call for Climate – End Fossil Fuel Subsidies](#) (Prime Minister Mark Carney did [commit to ending Fossil Fuel subsidies](#) but has yet to fulfil this promise.) – Eastern Synod of Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and Citizens for Public Justice

What's at Stake?

Last June, with [Federal Bill C-5](#), the government fast-tracked and approved legislation that enabled projects deemed “in the national interest” to bypass existing requirements for public participation, environmental protection, and Indigenous Peoples [right of free, prior, and informed consent](#) recognized in the *UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. This is only one example of rights and protections dismissed in name of the economy or security.

In these times, vigilance and leadership to uphold the rights, knowledge, sovereignty, and leadership of Indigenous Peoples and of Environmental Protection (including protected areas) and human rights is critical.



Some United Church of Canada Resources

[Harvests of Hope in Kenya](#) is an example of how local communities are addressing climate change through the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

[Voices of the Land: Indigenous perspectives on Climate Justice \(October 23, 2025\)](#) is a webinar featuring Indigenous leaders with The United Church of Canada and from around the world, speaking about their [Indigenous Spiritualities, Land Rights, and Climate Justice Report](#) through the World Council of Churches.

[Prioritize Indigenous Approaches to Climate Action](#) is a blogpost on Indigenous approaches.

[Roll Away the Stone for Climate](#) is a webinar with global partners from Kenya and Philippines.

[Energy in One Earth Community](#) covers the increase in renewables and the reduction in nuclear energy and fossil fuels.

[Earth Sunday Prayer Service](#)

On average, [Faithful Footprints decarbonization projects](#) achieve an average of 24% reduction in carbon emissions with an average of reduction of more than 1,697 tCO₂ per year.

What Does the Climate Emergency Look Like?

The greatest burden of climate change is on people in the Far North and the Global South—those who have contributed least to the problem. Here are a few resources that show the current impacts.

- To remind us of devastating impacts of climate change, and to be attentive to climate chaos, the World Council of Churches pulled together these [Climate Change Images](#).
- [#TheWorldWeWant](#) highlights the experiences of those most affected by climate with compelling, locally-produced, short smartphone videos:
- [Climate impacts in countries in Africa with Call for Climate finance](#) (loss and damage)
- [Hurricane Iota devastates Colombia](#)
- For testimonies: [31 Global Citizens Share How Climate Change Affects Them Every Day](#)



Succeed at Advocacy: Earth Week online workshop, April 7 @ 2 pm ET

Learn more and provide opportunity to be creative about how one might carry out this letter-signing. [Register here](#). If you can't make it but want to receive recording and follow up resources a group might create, please still register and you'll get a follow up email.

If you find or develop resources to share or are seeking information, please email Lori at justice@united-church.ca



Call for Climate Leadership Letter - Earth Week 2026

Dear my Member of Parliament: _____

We are in a Climate Emergency. Mother Earth is hurting. I urge you to act.

We, humans, are but one strand in a web of life, and only one being among many relations. The land and waters are not resources to be exhausted. Serious disruption and harm has been and continues to be caused by colonization and extractivism—materially and spiritually.

I call for leadership that seeks balance, repairs relationships, and lives with respect in creation today and for seven generations to come.

My concern and call (personalize this with text, drawing, ...)

What this leadership looks like at the federal level:

- Listen to the experience and solutions of those most affected by climate change.
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions through legislation.
- Uphold the rights, knowledge, sovereignty, and leadership of Indigenous Peoples.
- Increase climate finance grants for communities facing climate devastation in the Global South.
- Invest in renewable energy, not fossil fuels, and support communities in just transition.
- Uphold environmental protections and human rights.

I look forward to hearing from you on how you are taking this leadership and ways I can help build support. **Your leadership matters!**

Sincerely,

Name: _____ Address: _____
City/Prov/Postal: _____ Email/Phone: _____

