

The Canadian Charter of Climate Change Rights and Responsibilities

An initiative of the Canadian Association for the Club of Rome (CACOR), January, 2022

Preamble

- **Whereas** the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms under article 7 stipulates that everyone has ***the right to life, liberty and security of the person***,
- **Whereas**, due to a changing climate, ***these rights are increasingly threatened*** with terrible consequences unfolding for the planet, its ecosystems, and all living species, including the creation of tens of millions of climate refugees and the likely loss of livelihood and territory for millions more,
- **Whereas** this Canadian Charter of Climate Change Rights and Responsibilities is for the sake of those now living and for ***the enduring sustainability of generations yet to come*** and respects the traditional wisdom of Indigenous Peoples,
- **Whereas** we endorse the inclusion of certain ***responsibilities of all citizens and residents***, recognizing that all must play their part, **and**
- **Whereas** we insist on a ***healthy and liveable Canada*** on a sustainable planet,
- **We** the citizens and residents of Canada ***call for this Canadian Charter of Climate Change Rights and Responsibilities to be enacted and supported*** by every level of government throughout Canada: federal, provincial/territorial, and municipal,

Therefore:

The following **Canadian Charter of Climate Change Rights and Responsibilities** is set before all for signature and ratification:

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Canadians and Residents of Canada have the Right to Expect:

- **PROMPT ACTION**, by all current and future governments, to **REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS** that meet or exceed internationally adopted targets.
- **REAL AND CLEARLY DEFINED MEASUREABLE GOALS AND DEFINED PATHWAYS** that include plans for the required infrastructure and technology rollout to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as the regeneration of ecological assets.
- **POLICY MODIFICATION TO ENSURE EMISSION TARGETS ARE MET**
Progress along chosen pathways must be carefully monitored and new approaches implemented. Where progress is slower than anticipated incentives, penalties, and regulation to limit emissions by law must be utilized as required, rather than allowing failure or lowering of targets.
- **ADEQUATE FUNDING BE ALLOCATED** to meet all required domestic initiatives and all international obligations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- **CLEAR AND REGULAR COMMUNICATIONS** at intervals of not more than one year, by municipal, provincial, territorial, and federal governments, to provide accountability and to provide progress reports against greenhouse gas emission reduction goals in all relevant sectors of the Canadian economy.
- **AN ADAPTIVE APPROACH** that is able to respond to potentially improved means, measures, and/or pathways to ensure our greenhouse gas emission reduction targets are actually achieved.
- **SUPPORT AND INITIATIVES** at all levels of government to enable a circular economy with its emphasis on reuse, reduction, and recycling of materials and products so as to decrease greenhouse gas emissions.

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Canadians and Residents of Canada have the Responsibility to:

- **EDUCATE OURSELVES** about current threats to the environment.
- **EXERCISE OUR DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES** by seeking to elect officials who make it a high priority to generate and maintain public policy that serves to mitigate climate change where possible, support adaptive measures now required, and who support and view policies directed toward creating a sustainable planet as fundamental.
- **RECOGNIZE THAT EACH PERSON PRODUCES AN ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT** through resource use and seek to limit our ecological footprints to that which is sustainable for the planet.
- **PARTICIPATE IN MEANINGFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE WAYS TO ARREST THE ADVANCEMENT OF CLIMATE CHANGE.**
- **TAKE ACTION TO MODIFY OUR ACTIVITIES AND LIFESTYLES** consistent with reducing demand on fossil fuels and fossil-based products and those that rely on long distance fossil fuel-based transportation.
- **MAKE OUR HOMES, RESIDENCES, AND MODES OF TRANSPORTATION LESS DEPENDENT ON FOSSIL FUELS** through the use of energy efficient devices and practices.

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Note:

1. In law, many Canadian organizations, particularly corporations, have the status of legal persons, who have rights to enter into contracts or hold property like persons and as such have both responsibilities and rights. Given that their operations have a major influence on climate change: we the citizens and residents of Canada urge governments to clearly enact regulations that limit corporations' ability to emit greenhouse gases while respecting their rights to carry on business in a sustainable manner.

Similarly, we the citizens and residents of Canada urge businesses and corporations to support the Canadian Charter of Climate Change Rights and Responsibilities and beyond regulation to exercise corporate social responsibility to embrace both the letter and spirit of the Charter.

2. Responsibilities of Canadians are limited in some cases by inequity, poverty, and remote geography. Where genuine financial hardship exists, we do not expect the same level of lifestyle modification. However, financial limitations for some should not be an excuse by the majority to fail to assume their full set of responsibilities as described in this Charter.

January, 2022



CACOR is a charitable, non-governmental organization dedicated to intelligent debate and action on global issues.

It is incorporated as the *Canadian Association for the Club of Rome / Association canadienne pour le club de Rome*.

Our Mission is to actively engage the public and decision-makers on key global and Canadian issues by encouraging the sharing of information; We aim to inform and motivate all to take action to limit, stabilize, and reverse demands on local and global ecosystems.

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