Dear Member of Parliament,

I am a member of NAME Presbyterian Church in PLACE. In 2021, The Presbyterian Church in Canada wrote the government, asking for greater efforts to be made to address climate change. I am writing to affirm that request.

In the past year, we have seen a significant number of climate change related events both here in Canada and across the world. The devastation of heat domes, fires, floods and mudslides in British Columbia last year point to the complex interplay of regional climate change impacts.

People in our community are facing….[*outline climate change impacts that you have noticed or that you know are impacting your community*].

All levels of government will need to work together to prepare for emergent, climate-related disasters, to help affected people and ecosystems cope with these impacts, and to find ways to adapt to future crises.

Communities living with the impacts of the climate crisis must be consulted about the supports they need to heal and recover from climate-induced devastation, as was seen, for example, with the fires in BC. These communities must be supported in recovery and with taking the necessary steps to build towards climate change resiliency that prioritizes the wellbeing of people and the integrity and limits of ecosystems.

My church supports and strongly encourages governments to implement just transition and just recovery programs that are necessary to move Canada into a more sustainable economy, even as the world is struggling to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Such programs would assist those whose livelihoods are affected by the difficult but necessary changes Canada must make toward a low-carbon economy, while working to support the rights and dignity of people affected by these changes.

I support Canada’s participation in international decision-making arenas that work to address this crisis globally in ways that will keep warming to under 1.5 degrees Celsius. Any global decisions must fairly and justly work with countries in the Global South that are disproportionately experiencing harmful impacts from the climate crisis that they have not historically contributed to.

As a Christian, I believe that the role of humankind in creation is one if kinship, not mastery, and that we must honour the integrity of Earth’s ecosystems if we wish to see humankind survive and thrive on our planetary home.

Sincerely,