

Minister
of Natural Resources



Ministre
des Ressources naturelles

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E4

September 29, 2022

Reverend Dr. Robert N. Faris
The Presbyterian Church in Canada
c/o KSisk@presbyterian.ca

Dear Reverend Dr. Robert Faris:

Thank you for your correspondence of August 25, 2022, regarding the environmental impacts of climate change and the need for a just transition in Canada.

As you have noted, many locations and communities in Canada have been severely impacted by the environmental effects of a shifting climate. Natural Resources Canada leads on a series of reports called Canada in a Changing Climate: Advancing Our Knowledge for Action. Reports in this series assess how and why Canada's climate is changing; the impacts of these changes on our communities, the environment and the economy; and how we are adapting across the country. The science and knowledge are clear that we need to take action.

As Indigenous communities are disproportionately affected by climate change, achieving adaptation through coordination between governments, industry, and Indigenous Nations will be crucial to ensure the safety and prosperity of these communities. Natural Resources Canada has been engaging the Chiefs of Ontario through a bilateral Federal-Assembly of First Nations table that brings representatives from regional Assembly of First Nations chapters to the table with the leads on different federal climate change initiatives.

In December 2020, Canada committed to developing its first National Adaptation Strategy for release this fall, working with provincial, territorial and municipal governments, Indigenous Peoples, and other key partners and stakeholders. The strategy will reflect how all parts of Canadian need to collaborate to incorporate adaptation actions into their day-to-day operations and long-term planning.

Canada is also committed to working with all stakeholders to decarbonize the oil and gas sector and setting a cap on emissions while maintaining competitiveness, energy security, affordability, and market access. In November 2021, Canada joined other countries and committed to end new direct public support for the international unabated fossil fuel energy sector by the end of 2022. Building on this, through the 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan, the Government set out guideposts for each sector to further reduce emissions and highlight the measures and strategies for an emissions reduction of 40% below 2005 levels by 2030.

Canada

A clean energy future is not only necessary to combat climate change: it is also a significant economic opportunity. The transition to a low-carbon economy will bring new, dynamic opportunities, which will create jobs, economic growth, and a more inclusive future for all Canadians. In Budget 2021, our government announced \$17.6 billion toward measures to deliver nearly 500,000 new training and work opportunities and help workers in oil and gas sector transition. These investments include the \$960-million Sectoral Workforce Solutions Program that will help both workers and employers by supporting solutions to address current and emerging workforce needs.

The Government of Canada has committed to comprehensive action, including legislation, to ensure a just transition in Canada through the creation of sustainable jobs in every part of the country. The proposed legislation was guided by broad consultations that took place over the course of a year. For more information, please visit the [Just Transition webpage](#).

Another key element to the Government's approach to creating sustainable jobs will be to identify and pursue opportunities for regional economic diversification that will lead to sustained net-zero economic growth. To accelerate regional growth opportunities and energy systems transformation, the Government of Canada is investing \$25 million toward Regional Energy and Resource Tables that will drive economic prosperity and the creation of sustainable jobs in a net-zero economy.

Canada is also promoting a just, inclusive, and equitable transition on the international stage, by placing an inclusive, people-centred energy transition at the forefront of global discussions. In 2021, Canada launched the Empowering People Initiative with the United States and European Commission, with a goal to highlight critical socioeconomic elements of the energy transition as it relates to advancing skills, inclusivity, and workforce development in clean energy. Through the Empowering People Initiative, Canada is working to ensure that workers and communities are equipped with the right skills so that they can benefit from the energy transition and become full participants in a low-carbon economy.

In closing, I want to assure you that the Government will continue to work for the health and wellbeing of Canadians and for a cleaner, more resilient, and prosperous world for current and future generations. Once again, thank you for writing on these important matters.

Again, thank you for writing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Wilkinson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, P.C., M.P.
(he/him/il)

c.c.: The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
ministre-minister@ec.gc.ca