The Hon. Steven Guilbeault, P.C., M.P

Minister of Environment and Climate Change

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Dear Minister,

I am a member of [add church name] Presbyterian Church in PLACE. In 2022, The Presbyterian Church in Canada wrote to the government, asking for greater efforts to be made to address climate change. I am writing to affirm that request.

This past year has seen a considerable number of climate change-related events both in Canada and across the world. The increasing intensity of storms and other weather phenomena has made apparent the insufficient capacity of many infrastructure and agricultural practices to withstand such intense phenomena. The devastation in British Columbia from fires, floods and mudslides, for example, continues to impact many people with regard to damaged or destroyed homes and livelihoods, as well as vulnerable ecosystems wherein the plants and animals dependent on them have also been harmed. There is a clear need for more and improved regional data to better understand how our changing climate is affecting different regions. All levels of government will need to work together to prepare for emergent, climate-related disasters.

People in our community are facing… [*outline the climate crisis impacts you have noticed that are affecting your community*]

Increased federal funding is needed to help Canada adapt to the changing climate, to mitigate the impact and cost of future disasters, and to put in place policies and practices that will help communities and ecosystems be better prepared in the face of severe climate-related events.

Slowing and stopping the factors that are driving climate change is just as crucial. The Government of Canada’s targets to keep global warming to below 1.5 degrees Celsius, reduce carbon emissions by 40%–50% below 2005 levels, and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 are important. Canada will only meet these targets, however, through a drastic reduction in emissions from the oil and gas sector.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada supports and strongly encourages governments to implement just transition and just recovery programs, which 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 address the overarching need to reduce carbon emissions, while upholding the rights and dignity of people whose livelihoods are affected by the difficult but necessary changes required to transition to a low-carbon economy. The government’s plan for a just transition and recovery must also support communities, especially Indigenous communities and communities in the global south that are disproportionately harmed by a climate crisis to which they have not historically contributed.

The Government of Canada is only one of many parties that needs to come together to address the climate crisis, but your leadership is crucial. Thank you for the efforts you have already made. I offer prayers of support for you in your difficult and imperative work to address the climate crisis.

Sincerely,

[Your name]