



**Office for Systemic Justice**  
Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph of Canada  
London ON, N5X 2T1

The Honourable Steven Guilbeault  
Minister of the Environment and Climate Change  
House of Commons  
Ottawa ON, K1A 0A6

April 22, 2022

Dear Minister Guilbeault,

On this Earth Day 2022, one of the ways the Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph of Canada is expressing our deeply-held care for creation is by urging the federal government to strengthen its *2030 Emissions Reduction Plan – Canada's Next Steps for Clean Air and a Strong Economy* (ERP).

First, we note that the ERP has created a solid foundation for climate action by establishing sector by sector expectations for emissions reductions. This approach will allow the government and the public to know which sectors are making the necessary carbon cuts, and which are not.

However, while the ERP is the best climate plan Canada has developed so far, the 40 per cent goal is not aligned with the Paris Agreement goal to limit global warming to well below 2 C, preferably 1.5 C.

The dissonance between the ERP and the new report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is concerning. The IPCC report insists that, to avoid the worst impacts of the climate crisis, the world's greenhouse gas emissions need to start falling before 2025. This requires a swift move away from fossil fuels and increased investments in renewables.

The IPCC report found emissions from "existing fossil fuel infrastructure could single-handedly exhaust the remaining carbon budget," indicating there is no place for new fossil fuel infrastructure, such as the recently approved Bay du Nord project, in credible national plans for action on climate change. UN Secretary-General Guterres reiterated this point when he insisted that "investing in new fossil fuel infrastructure is moral and economic madness." We echo Guterres' call for nations to "triple the speed of the shift to renewable energy," by immediately moving investments and subsidies from fossil fuels to renewables.

Another disturbing inconsistency between the IPCC report and Canada's ERP is the approach to Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage (CCUS). While Canada's ERP is heavily dependent on tax credits to fossil fuel companies for implementing carbon capture technology, the IPCC's recent report found CCUS to be one of the least effective and most expensive options available to reduce emissions through 2030.

We urge the federal government to strengthen the Emissions Reduction Plan by:

- **Increasing Canada's emissions reduction target** of 40-45 percent to a 60-67 percent emissions reduction target, in line with the 2022 IPCC Sixth Assessment Report.
- **Reversing approval** of Bay du Nord project.
- **Legislating a Just Transition plan** which includes
  - financing clean energy, supporting oil and gas workers as the industry is phased out and, more widely, ensuring all jobs are good jobs.
  - increasing access to strong social protections to ease transitions between jobs for all workers.
  - respecting and supporting Indigenous environmental leadership and self-determination as they chart their own unique paths toward a decarbonized future.
  - developing a more robust Care Economy rooted in both care of ecosystems and care of one another at all stages of life.
- **Ending all oil and gas subsidies** from the federal government, including tax credits for CCUS, by 2023, and shifting financial support to green energy.

We appreciate your consideration of our recommendations.

Sincerely,

Sue Wilson, CSJ



Sue Wilson, CSJ  
Executive Director, Office for Systemic Justice  
Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph of Canada  
519-432-3781 ext. 402  
[swilson@csjcanada.org](mailto:swilson@csjcanada.org)