



Oct. 30, 2023

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister,

You made a promise in 2021 that you have not yet kept – to cap and cut emissions from the oil and gas sector. Indeed, the timeline you set for the promised emission cap keeps slipping. Your government has yet to even present a draft of the proposed regulation to Canadians. This won't do, prime minister. Nurses demand that you live up to this promise. We are speeding toward dire health outcomes.

As we turn the page into November, we look back at the hottest summer on record. The planet's hottest July on record gave way to the hottest August on record and, that in turn, has given way to the hottest September this planet has ever experienced with record jumps in temperature year over year. Canada's wildfire season has, too, been the most severe on record, leading to the evacuations of tens of thousands of Canadians from their homes and smoke enveloping cities and choking Canadians thousands of kilometres away from the source.

If Canada is to live up to our commitments – our end of the international bargain to keep the global temperature increase below 1.5 degrees – immediate emission reductions from Canada's oil and gas sector are a must. It is Canada's fastest growing and largest emission producing sector, accounting for nearly 30 per cent of domestic emission. As this sector continues on a trajectory that puts all of us, everywhere, in peril, it continues to reap enormous profits – \$38 billion in 2022 alone. There can be no doubt that regulation is required to put this sector on a path that allows life on this planet to survive.

What we do in this decade will be decisive in the effort to control global temperatures. In the matter of emission reductions, "the sooner the better" is the operative principle. Having squandered the first half of this decade already, your regulation capping and cutting oil and gas sector emissions must be ambitious and strict. There is no time left for the uncertainty of market or pricing mechanisms. There is no room left for loopholes like offsets and free emission allocations. Indeed, our global commitments demand that this sector not just meet Canada's whole-of-economy target of 40–45 per cent reduction from 2005 levels by 2030 but exceed that target.

As a reminder of the urgency of the task before all of us, United Nations Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, noted in the heat of this past summer that the era of global warming has given way to the era of global boiling. We have a duty to ourselves and to others to respond to this crisis. That response must include living up to the promise you made in the 2021 election to cap and cut emissions from the oil and gas sector. This is more than just about the sanctity of electoral promises – it is about the health and safety of Canadians and the ability of all us across this planet to survive and thrive.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doris Grinspun". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Doris Grinspun, RN, BScN, MSN, PhD, LLD(hon), Dr(hc), DHC, DHC, FAAN, FCAN, O.ONT.
Chief Executive Officer

Copy to:

Hon. Chrystia Freeland, deputy prime minister and federal minister of finance

Hon. Bill Blair, minister of emergency preparedness

Hon. Steven Guilbeault, minister of environment and climate change

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson, minister of natural resources

Hon. Pierre Poilievre, leader of the official opposition of Canada

G rard Deltell, MP and Conservative environment and climate change critic

Jagmeet Singh, MP and leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada

Laurel Collins, MP and NDP environment and climate change critic

Elizabeth May, MP and leader of the Green Party of Canada