

7 Calls to Climate Action for Mennonite Church Canada

SUMMARY

***This good world that God so loves is in a Climate Emergency.
And it is too late not to act.***

In 2015, the global community agreed that humanity must limit warming to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels. We are currently at 1.09 degrees and on track to blow past the 1.5-degree limit in five to 10 years.

Even if countries fulfill current emission reduction pledges, the best-case scenario is between 2.7 and 3.2 degrees of warming by 2100. In such scenarios, the extent of mass suffering and death—from floods, droughts, heat waves, fires, storms, food shortage and resulting conflicts—is beyond comprehension.

In this emergency, we as the church are called to care for creation, defend those most vulnerable, and expose and disarm the powers of destruction.

Therefore, we—The 7 Calls Committee (an ad hoc, volunteer group)*—call on Mennonite Church Canada, to:

- 1) Tell the truth.** “What we do over the next three to four years, I believe, is going to determine the future of humanity” (Sir David King, former Chief Scientific Advisor to the UK government). That is the hard truth. We need to face it, and with God’s help, tell it.
- 2) Create a Climate Emergency Mobilization Ministry** with full-time staff and a fulsome budget. The primary focus would be organizing our people into vulnerable and risk-taking collaborative action. Beyond education, greening buildings and individual actions, the aim would be to address systemic evil. *(Church members are invited to pledge money toward this.)*
- 3) Support Indigenous land defenders** by designating 1% of the overall MC Canada budget to support Indigenous land defenders.
- 4) Support climate refugees and displaced people** by designating 1% of MC Canada overall budget to help congregational efforts to support people displaced as a result of climate change, both through assistance in place and through resettlement to Canada.
- 5) Affirm nonviolent civil disobedience to defend creation** as a normative expression of Christian discipleship.
- 6) Divest from all fossil fuel-connected investments.** “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Mt. 6:21).

- 7) Embrace conversion and accountability.** Specifically, we call on Mennonite Church Canada leaders to:
- live lives of simplicity in solidarity with the poor;
 - establish fixed times of prayer, fasting, and study with attention to our ecological crisis, discerning “what the Spirit is saying to the Church” (Rev. 3:22); and
 - participate in preaching and public discourse regarding the ethical and moral choices before us as we seek to address the climate crisis.

With respect to accountability, we call on leaders to:

- organize a semi-annual check-in with a Youth Climate Action Council.

It is too late not to act.

See www.7callstoclimateaction.org for the full 7 Calls Document

**This effort is organized by several members of various MC Canada congregations, independent of any institution or organization. For a list of organizers and others who have endorsed the 7 Calls, see www.7callstoclimateaction.org*

TAKE ACTION

To lend your name to the 7 Calls, please see www.7callstoclimateaction.org or contact: 7callstoclimateaction@gmail.com. Your signature of support will make a difference whether you are a member of a Mennonite Church Canada congregation, or part of the greater community. You can also support this initiative by donating, spreading the word, and participating in our hunger fast. See our website for more info on how to put each of these into practice.

1. **Pledge monies to help create the Climate Emergency Mobilization Ministry.** We're calling on MC Canada to create a full-time mobilization ministry to fight the good fight. Let's help make this happen by pledging funds that can help make this a reality. Send us an email with your pledge amount and contact info – 7callstoclimateaction@gmail.com. Follow our webpage to see the latest totals!
2. **Join the hunger fast.** Through the month of November (and beyond), many of us will be praying with our bodies, asking God to move the hearts of church leadership. Join us!
3. **Spread the word & rally support.** Tell friends and your congregation that you support the 7 Calls, share why you're excited about this on social media, invite your Youth group to do an action, or send MC Canada's executive minister, Doug Klassen (dklassen@mennonitechurch.ca), an email expressing your support for urgent and ambitious climate action.