



Citizens' Climate Lobby Lobby Climatique des Citoyens

CCL Monthly Conference Call, Saturday, April 9, 2016

Groups meet at **9:45am PT / 12:45pm ET**. The conference call starts at **10am PT / 1pm ET**.

The call lasts for under an hour and then the groups meet for another hour to plan actions.

Call-in number: 1-866-642-1665: Passcode: 440699#

Instructions: Sign on to the call at **least 5 minutes** before the start time. When you first join the call, announce your name, city, and number of people in the room and then press *6 to mute your line.

Saturday, April 9, 2016 – Renee Lertzman



Author, teacher, consultant and public speaker Renee Lertzman is our guest for CCL's April 9 call. She teaches Psychology of Environmental Education and Communication in the MA program at Royal Roads University in British Columbia. Ms. Lertzman's work focuses on the intersection of psychology, environment and culture to help organizations, governments and businesses devise communication and engagement strategies for the uniquely challenging nature of environmental work. Her latest book is [Environmental Melancholia: Psychoanalytic Dimensions of Engagement](#).

April 2016 CCL Canada Actions:

1. Send out our Earth Day Editorial packet to your contacts at your local newspapers next week. Also, use this editorial packet and our online resources to help you write letters to the editor and opinion editorials.
2. Invite your MP to a climate change reception on Parliament Hill Tuesday, June 7, 2016.
3. With luck, on Earth Day 2016, we hope to begin promoting CCL Canada's carbon fee and dividend e-petition. We will make this work. Stay tuned.

Upcoming CCL Events in 2016 – Please Fill in the Schedule Doodlers

1. Small conference and lobbying days in June in Ottawa June 5-8, 2016 during [Canada's Environment Week](#). Registration will be opened from May 1 to May 31 on our website. Please fill in the Schedule Doodler, so that people will know who is going: <http://doodle.com/poll/d7e6cb5yuv38ixe3>
2. CCL International's conference and lobbying days in June 19-21, 2016 in Washington, DC. <http://citizensclimatelobby.org/ccl-conference-2016/>. Please fill in the Schedule Doodler, so that people will know who is going: <http://doodle.com/poll/v9hhg4scb65fcdyf9ugm5nf9/admin#table>
3. CCL Canada's National Conference and Lobbying Days in November. TBA

350.org's Global Day of Action – Break Free from Fossil Fuels – May 13-14, 2016

May 4-14, 2016: A global wave of mass actions will target the world's most dangerous fossil fuel projects and support the most ambitious climate solutions. Across the world, people are showing the courage to confront polluters where they are most powerful — from the halls of power to the wells and mines themselves.

Find or create a local event in your community here: <http://act.350.org/event/break-free-world/?akid=&zip=>

ACTION #1: Send out our Earth Day Editorial packet to your contacts at your local newspapers next week. Also, use this editorial packet and our online resources to help you write letters to the editor and opinion editorials.

Early next week, we will send out an Earth Day Editorial Packet. Please be ready to send it to your local media contacts. As well, use the editorial packet to help you communicate to the media.

In 2015, CCL Canada got a total of 36 letters to the editor (LTEs), opinion editorials (OpEds), editorials and articles published in the month of April. Let's see if we can beat that number. One way to do that is to send the same LTEs, opinion pieces and articles to more than one newspaper. Be sure to track them to see if they got published. In the past five months we know that members of CCL Regina, CCL Vancouver, CCL Calgary, CCL Perth, CCL National Capital Region, CCL Sudbury and especially CCL Nelson have submitted the same LTE to multiple papers and our media hits are up by over 130% this year.

Our CCL Canada website has resources to help you under the “**Volunteer Resources**” Tab, in the “**All Things Media**” section. <http://canada.citizensclimatelobby.org/volunteer-resources/>

- [Media Releases](#)
- Tips for [writing an OpEd](#)
- [Sample OpEds](#)
- Tips for [writing Letters to the Editor](#) (LTEs)
- Links to former SunMedia [LTE submission pages](#)
- [Power Point Presentation on writing LTEs](#)

ACTION #2: Invite your MP to a climate change reception on Parliament Hill Tuesday, June 7, 2016 cohosted by Citizens' Climate Lobby Canada and MP Paul Lefebvre, Member of Parliament for Sudbury.

Inviting your MP to a climate change reception on Parliament Hill Tuesday, June 7, 2016 is going to take place in **THREE** stages:

1. **SAVE THE DATE:** As soon as possible, assign someone to phone and email (do both in that order please) your MP's office in Ottawa. Ask your MP to save the date in the early evening (probably 5-7 pm) of Tuesday June 7, 2016 for a climate change reception on Parliament Hill (location to be determined) cohosted by CCL Canada and MP Paul Lefebvre (Sudbury). MP Lefebvre is the MP of Cathy Orlando, CCL's national manager in Canada. Indicate that full details should be known in the next couple weeks and more details will follow.
*Lefebvre: pronounced – LE-FI-(slur to next sound)-EV (it almost sounds like the number 5).
2. **THE REAL INVITATION:** As soon as we can confirm the location, the time and translate the invitation (MP Lefebvre's office is donating that service), we will send you a formal invitation to send. Please phone and then email the invitation when we send it to you.
3. **THE SNAIL MAIL INVITATION:** We will send out bilingual snail mail postcard invitations too as we can. Depending on whether or not your MP commits to attending the climate change reception on Tuesday, June 7, 2016, get your members who like to write letters to send a personal card to your MP saying:
 - Thank you for agreeing to attend the reception. CCL Canada looks forward to connecting with you.
 - We really hoping you can attend the reception.
 - or
 - We know you're busy but if you have any colleagues who might be interested in the issue of climate change and/or carbon pricing please pass this card onto them.

PLEASE CONFIRM MP RSVPs in this Schedule Doodler: <http://doodle.com/poll/c74inakwvg7rv4ka> so that everyone can see who is going in real time. There will also be a formal RSVP in #2.

Note that we asked numerous MPs when is the best time to host an event for Parliamentarians when we were lobbying on Parliament Hill in March. It was quite clear that early evening on Tuesdays is the best time and day.

ACTION #3: With luck, on Earth Day 2016, April 22, 2016, we hope to begin promoting CCL Canada's carbon fee and dividend e-petition on the government's website.

At your meeting this month, set a goal for how many signatures your group will try to secure locally for our upcoming e-petition.

In the past four years many politicians have read CCL Canada's climate petitions in the House of Commons (found on our [Volunteer Resources Page](#)). PM Trudeau is now using online [Parliamentary Petitions to engage](#) and MPs can read them aloud in the House of Commons.

A small team at CCL Canada has been working tirelessly to get this e-petition online and up and running. There have been many hoops to jump through and with luck the plan is to launch it April 22, 2016 and push really hard the first week to make an impact. We have four months to get as many signatures as possible but a powerful first week launch is a critical element to the success of the e-petition.

As soon as this e-petition is online (hopefully Earth Day), in the first seven days we will work together to:

- Send out emails to invite people to sign it.
- **For volunteers in Twitter:** We will tweet about it using infographics and asking you to retweet through various channels (Twitter, emails and CCL Community) using the hashtag #CFDpetition.
- **For volunteers in Facebook:** We will also post infographics in Facebook for people to share on their personal pages, in their FB groups as well as to promote on people's walls the week we launch the e-petition.
- Ask our MP's to promote the petition on their website.
- Ask local organizations to promote the e-petition in their newsletters
- We will also make little cards that you can pass around at events, asking people to sign the petition.

Much gratitude to Caterina in Waterloo for taking the lead on the e-petition and to: Keith in Clearwater; Laurel in Montreal; Cheryl, Tom and Frank in Toronto; Joanne in Halifax; and Guy in Peterborough for helping.

Laser Talk #1: Carbon pricing, national unity and revenue neutrality

On Friday April 1, 2016, Canada's Environment and Climate Change Minister, Catherine McKenna, indicated that moving too fast on climate could damage national unity.

We need to price carbon now because the climate crisis is truly urgent and also on the positive side, so that Canada can tap into the global multitrillion dollar clean tech economy. We need a nationally integrated carbon price because carbon pricing enacted by provinces cannot protect carbon intensive industries via border tax adjustments under the World Trade Organization, whereas a national carbon price can.

The national carbon price should be revenue-neutral so that the free market and not the federal government will pick the energy winners and losers. If the federal government picks the energy winners, it tends to pit provinces against each other.

Thus for the sake of national unity, Canada's nationally integrated carbon price must be revenue neutral.

<http://www.nationalobserver.com/2016/04/01/news/moving-too-fast-climate-could-damage-national-unity-catherine-mckenna-says>

LASER TALK #2: The BC Carbon Tax Vs CCL's Carbon Fee and Dividend

The province of British Columbia (BC) enacted a revenue-neutral carbon tax in 2008 (1). It has been touted as "the most significant carbon tax in the Western hemisphere" (2). Consequently, much ado about the BC Carbon Tax has been made by CCLers over the years. BC's Carbon Tax and Carbon Fee and Dividend are similar in that they are both revenue neutral carbon taxes. Here are four key differences that should be noted:

1. Where carbon is priced:

Carbon Fee and Dividend: carbon is priced upstream at the well head, mine or port of entry.

BC Carbon Tax: carbon is priced downstream when a fossil fuel is purchased such as at a gasoline pump.

2. Carbon price increases over time:

Carbon Fee and Dividend: will increase incrementally from \$15 tonne/ CO₂ going up \$10 tonne/ CO₂ / year until Canada's total CO₂ emissions have declined to 10% of the level of Canada's CO₂ emissions for calendar year 1990.

BC Carbon Tax: increased incrementally over 5 years (2008-2012), from \$10/tonne CO₂ in 2008 to \$30/tonne in 2012. The Liberal government in BC was re-elected under Premier Christy Clark in 2013, on a campaign promise that they would freeze the carbon tax for at least 5 years [4].

3. Exemptions, incentives and border tax adjustments:

Carbon Fee and Dividend: there are no exemptions. Governments, businesses, corporations and individuals all pay the carbon fee when they consume fossil fuels directly or indirectly. There is no need for exemptions because carbon fee and dividend will be integrated nationally, setting a base national carbon price and thus, businesses will be protected from competition with border tax adjustments on imports from jurisdictions without equivalent carbon pricing.

BC Carbon Tax: of note fossil fuels purchased for agriculture (starting in 2013) is exempt from the BC carbon tax. The cement industry was given \$3 million dollar incentive in 2015. These exemptions and incentives are meant to protect the industries from competition outside of BC because subnational governments cannot enact border tax adjustments to protect carbon intensive industries.

4. Revenue recycling:

Carbon Fee and Dividend: 100% of the fees collected (minus administrative costs) shall be distributed as equal monthly per-person dividend payments via cheques to be made to all Canadians (1/2 per child under 18 years old, with a limit of 2 children per family).

BC Carbon Tax: In the 2012-2013 fiscal year 73% of BC's carbon tax went towards reducing corporate and small business taxes. Another 21% went toward reducing personal income taxes, and 17% went toward low income tax credits (4). Yes, the numbers don't add up because more money was returned in tax deductions than was collected in carbon tax revenue. Revenue from the BC carbon tax has also been used to give subsidies to the film industry, amongst other things, putting into question its claim of revenue neutrality (5).

(1) "[Carbon Tax Act](#)" 2008 Legislative Session: 4th Session, 38th Parliament.

(2) [British Columbia's Carbon Tax: By the numbers](#), (2015). Carbon Tax Centre
Last accessed 04-01-2016

(3) Baily, I., 2013. B.C.'s Clark vows to freeze carbon tax for five years, The Globe and Mail, April 3, 2013.
<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/british-columbia/bcs-clark-vows-to-freeze-carbon-tax-for-five-years/article10728482>

(4) British Columbia Ministry of Finance, 2014. Budget and fiscal plan 2014/15 – 2016/17, February 18, 2014, p. 64.
http://bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2014/bfp/2014_Budget_Fiscal_Plan.pdf

(5) Can the Swiss show B.C. how to use carbon tax revenue? Silvia Tzenkova, August 2015
<http://www.vancouversun.com/opinion/op-ed/opinion+swiss+show+carbon+revenue/11332978/story.html>