Guest – Bessie Schwarz, Yale Program on Climate Change Communication

Bessie Schwarz is the Communications Strategist for the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication, managing media, and outreach analysis. She comes to YPCCC with extensive experience designing, running and winning national and local grassroots campaigns. She has worked with Citizens’ Climate Lobby to help CCL groups leverage the polling information found in YPCCC’s Climate Opinion Maps, which provide state- and district-level detail on public opinion about climate change and climate solutions. As we approach our lobby day on June 21, we’ll talk about how to use Yale’s data in meetings on the Hill.

JUNE 2016 CANADIAN ACTIONS

1) By June 30, 2016 comment on the Ministry of National Defense’s website for public input into Canada’s national defense strategy. Make links between climate change and global security using this month’s laser talks.

2) Using email and/or Facebook messaging, quantify and document who amongst your friends has signed our online parliamentary petition for carbon fee and dividend. The key here is to document who signed the petition. For every 20 confirmed signatures, that counts as one outreach point.

Ongoing:

1) Be sure to attend your MP’s climate town halls, which are being scheduled across Canada right now. See the May 2016 Action Sheets for details. Not only make the case for carbon fee and dividend using our outreach and tabling materials but also for science-based targets using this month’s laser talk on how woefully inadequate Canada’s current targets are.

2) Over the summer months, when you speak with your local representatives and community leaders as well as write letters to the editor, remind everyone you can that Canada’s GHG targets are woefully inadequate (one of this month’s laser talks).

Upcoming:

1) In July and August, ask your MP to promote our e-petition for carbon fee and dividend on her/his website and in social media.

2) Start thinking about how you will get to Ottawa in November for our national conference. Date to be announced by Labour Day.
In April 2008, Britain’s Royal United Service Institute warned that a failure to acknowledge climate change security threats is as dangerous as neglecting the risks of terrorism or nuclear weapons proliferation (1). In 2011, in the United States, A New Strategic Narrative for the 21st Century was presented to the Joint Chiefs of Staff. It identified climate change as a key threat to economic and political stability (2).

In 2014, in the 5th report from the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change contained an extensive chapter on the implications of climate change for human security. It detailed threats to global security and possibilities of violent conflict (3).

In March 2015, Scientific American published a paper that outlined how climate change hastened Syria’s Civil War (4). In March 2016 the US Pentagon made climate change a long-term global security goal (5).

Global security should be a concern to everyone, yet Canada is not doing our fair share internationally to cut carbon emissions. Canada’s climate commitments are currently still the previous government’s commitments and these commitments are inadequate (6, 7).

In 2011, the International Energy Agency warned that the point of no return for the climate would be crossed in 2016 (8). If this government is truly serious about terrorist threats and national security, doing our fair share internationally to reduce greenhouse gas emissions should be an integral part of our long term plans and we must start now. A robust price on carbon pollution is critical piece of reducing gas emissions (9).

Canada can help reduce global security threats and lead internationally with a nationally integrated carbon fee and dividend with border adjustments.


7) Canada’s 2015 INDC’s (Climate Action Tracker) http://climateactiontracker.org/countries/canada.html


The good news is that 160 out of 187 countries submitted their intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs)* to the Paris agreement. They covered around 95% of global emissions in 2010 (excluding Land Use and Land Use Change and Forestry or LULUCF) and 98% of global population. A further 3% of global emissions are coming from international aviation and maritime transport. Almost 1% of global emissions are covered by countries that are not Parties to the UNFCCC.

The bad news is that even if all these countries meet their pledges, the world will still fall woefully short of the emissions reductions needed to stay with the 2 degrees Celsius threshold of warming that scientists say is manageable.

Moreover, Canada’s INDC’s* have fallen behind the USA’s targets, so much so that Carbon Tracker gave Canada the lowest ranking: Inadequate. Emissions targets in this area are less ambitious than the 2 °C global increase limit deemed safe by the world community. If all governments adopted an inadequate position, warming would likely exceed 3-4 °C. If Canada wants to lead on the climate our INDCs must align with science and we must contribute our fair share to reduce emissions, otherwise we lose moral authority internationally.

*Feel free to replace “INDCs” with “GHG targets” where appropriate. For the National Defense submission INDC is probably best whereas in the media GHG targets are probably better.

**ACTION #1: Make the connection between national defense and climate change**


By June 30, 2016 comment on the Ministry of National Defense's website for public input. Make links between Canada’s inadequate GHG targets, climate change and global security using this month’s laser talks. **On the Thursday June 23, 2016, CCL Canada Education call we will walk through together how to make submissions on this website.**

**DEFENCE POLICY REVIEW: PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS**

*Official Deadline:* July 31, 2016

**Ways to engage:** There are two main ways you can provide feedback: anonymously, via a workbook, or by joining a discussion forum, which requires you to log in and will allow you to see what others have posted and discuss the issues. Both of these services are being offered by an independent research firm.

**Note:** This is the first white paper on national defence since 2008 (before that was 1994). This is the first time that the public has been invited to comment on national defence since 2005.

**Web site:**

ACTION #2: Using email and/or Facebook DIRECT messaging, quantify and document who amongst your friends has signed our online parliamentary petition for carbon fee and dividend.

Over the next three months, set aside a day or two to track who has signed our e-petition (#e297) for carbon fee and dividend. The key is to get people to tell you they actually signed the petition. For every 20 confirmed signatures, that counts as one outreach point.

SUGGESTED EMAIL MESSAGE:

Dear __________________,

Good news! CCL Canada surpassed the 500 signee mark on our parliamentary e-petition for carbon fee and dividend within 3.5 days of launching it in May. The petition closes September 8, 2016. After that it will be read in the House of Commons.

The goal is for every riding to have a lot of signatures so their MPs will have the courage to support carbon fee and dividend. So I don’t keep bugging you, can you please tell me that you signed the petition in the next couple days.


IMPORTANT: After you sign the e-petition online be sure to then look in your email box to confirm that you signed the e-petition. Please shoot me an email after you signed it too so that I don’t ask you again to sign it.

Even better ask friends and family to sign it too and tell me they signed it too.

Thanks,______________

SUGGESTED FACEBOOK MESSAGE via DIRECT MESSAGING:

Hey ________. Please sign the carbon fee and dividend petition, be sure to confirm you signed it: check your email box. And please tell me when you do it so I don’t bug you again. Thanks! You know how much carbon pricing is important to me. https://petitions.parl.gc.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-297

Dr. James Hansen supports our petition http://canada.citizensclimatelobby.org/opinion-canadian-common-sense-petition-e297-james-hansen/

RECORD 20 CONFIRMED SIGNATURES AS OUTREACH

When you have confirmed that 20 people have signed our e-petition, #e297, record who you are certain signed our petition and submit a field report under Outreach to keep track of who said yes:

https://community.citizensclimatelobby.org/field-reports/