

## CCL International Call Guest Speaker: Celia Paris, Loyola University



Our February guest is Celia Paris, Assistant Professor in Political Science at Loyola University. She is currently working on a book manuscript that explores whether Madisonian ideals for deliberative and collaborative political decision-making have lost their appeal. Titled *Madison's ABCs: Why the Public Still Values Accomplishment, Bipartisanship, and Civility in Congress*, her book argues that the desire for a more Madisonian approach to politics remains alive and well in the American public and that citizens value accomplishment, bipartisanship, and civility.

## CCL Canada February 2018 actions at a glance:

1. Use CCL Nelson's Letter Writing campaign about Fossil Fuel Subsidies **OR** Support Citizens for Public Justice's [Give It Up for the Earth](#) campaign **OR** send a postcard.
2. Start preparing for Earth Day outreach in April. Seek out venues and use our [French](#) or [English](#) resources.

### ONLINE ACTION:

By February 12, 2018, Comment on the [draft legislative proposals](#) to implement the federal carbon pricing at [carbonpricing-tarificationcarbone@canada.ca](mailto:carbonpricing-tarificationcarbone@canada.ca) (note you don't need to repeat this in the action sheets

### ONTARIO ACTIONS:

1. Join the [CCL Ontario Group](#) in CCL Community if you want to help us plan for Election 2018.
2. Environmental Commissioner of Ontario, Dianne Saxe, has released [Ontario's Climate Act: From Plan to Progress](#), her 2017 Greenhouse Gas Progress Report, to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. Listen to her call on Thursday, February 15, 2018 at 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm. [Register here](#).
3. CCL-Rotary members need our help at the International Rotary Conference that will take place in Toronto, June 23-27! It's a big deal, with about 40,000 Rotarians expected to be there. A CCL table will be set up for this event and they need our help. Thus, if you live near the GTA (Greater Toronto Area) or if you know of anybody in that area that would like to help at the Rotary, please contact [peter.garrett@eggi.com](mailto:peter.garrett@eggi.com)

## Each month, we have regularly scheduled CCL calls:

	Date and Time	Call Options
<b>Canada:</b> All CCLers welcome. We check in with each other, share field reports, and go over monthly actions.	Option 1: <b>Thurs, Feb 8, 2018</b> at 6 pm PT/ 9 pm ET Option 2: <b>Fri, Feb 9, 2018</b> at 8 am PT/ 11 am ET Option 3: <b>Mon, Feb 12, 2018</b> at 6 pm PT/ 9 pm ET  Just pick 1 to attend. <a href="#">Sign this doodler</a> to RSVP.	<a href="tel:1-888-570-6238">Uberconference Line (1-888-570-6238)</a> or <a href="#">log in online for free</a> .
<b>International:</b> see above	<b>Sat, Feb 10, 2018</b> at 10 am PT/ 1 pm ET	<a href="#">Zoom Room 2017201717</a> or call +1 877.369.0926, meeting code: 2017 2017 17
<b>Canada Education:</b> CCL Ontario Update	<b>Tues, February 20, 2018</b> at 4 pm ET  All are welcome from across Canada. Especially CCLers in “cap and trade” provinces might want to stay abreast. Note this call will <u>not</u> be recorded and thus not posted either. <a href="#">Sign this doodler</a> to RSVP	<a href="#">Zoom Room 3920795005</a> or call +1 877.369.0926, meeting code: 3920 7950 05

\*\*\*\*\* Special thanks to Judy, Laura, Cathy and Yannick who discussed in detail fossil subsidies this month. \*\*\*\*\*

## ACTION 1: CHOOSE A LETTER WRITING CAMPAIGN ABOUT FOSSIL FUEL SUBSIDIES

**Why:** This month our laser talks and main action concerns fossil fuel subsidies because one of the requests of the G7 Civil Society Taskforce to the G7 leaders is to *“follow through on the commitment to phase out fossil fuel subsidies by 2025, the G7 must now present a detailed roadmap on how member countries will end inefficient subsidies.”* See Laser Talks and images below for details.

### ACTION 1a: Use CCL Nelson’s Letter Writing campaign about Fossil Fuel Subsidies

**Why:** During our 2017 lobbying days, many MPs told us that they need to receive more letters from us. They want to act on climate change, but need evidence of our support, ideally through individual letters.

Earlier this year, members of CCL Nelson acted on this feedback from MPs. They booked the local library, wrote sample letters, did a press release, published a small ad in the local paper, and gathered supplies.

The three hour event was so popular that they were at the library for four hours, and over 140 letters were sent.

CCL Nelson plans to run the letter writing event quarterly, and hope that this idea can spread beyond their chapter. They have prepared a package of materials so that this outreach project can be easily replicated. The package includes an outline of the steps to take before, during and after the event, a materials list, and sample letters that are easy to adapt.

CCL Nelson already has requests for the letter writing event package from local church groups, a high school environmental club, and an environmental organization in Penticton. We also hope to get lots of requests from CCL chapters across Canada. It is a quick project to set up and certainly brought our chapter a lot of satisfaction.

You can access the package in 3 ways:

1. Refer to the attachments in the e-mail with these action sheets
2. Visit <https://canada.citizensclimatelobby.org/volunteer-resources/> and go to “Outreach and Tabling”
3. Click here: [Write4Climate plan](#) , [Letter writing tips](#), [Photo permissions](#) , [Targets Template](#), [Carbon Price Template](#), [Subsidy Template](#)

**QUESTIONS:** Please ask here: [ccl.westkootenay@gmail.com](mailto:ccl.westkootenay@gmail.com)

## ACTION 1b: Citizens for Public Justice's *Give It Up for the Earth* campaign

CPJ invites you to [Give it up for the Earth!](#) from February 14 to March 29, 2018. For 40 days, commit to make changes in your life to reduce your greenhouse gas emissions, and let the federal government know that you want them to **end all subsidies to the fossil fuel sector right away**.

The **Give it up for the Earth!** campaign is centred on a postcard that includes:

1. a pledge to individual climate action, and
2. a call for the government to end all subsidies to the fossil fuel sector right away.

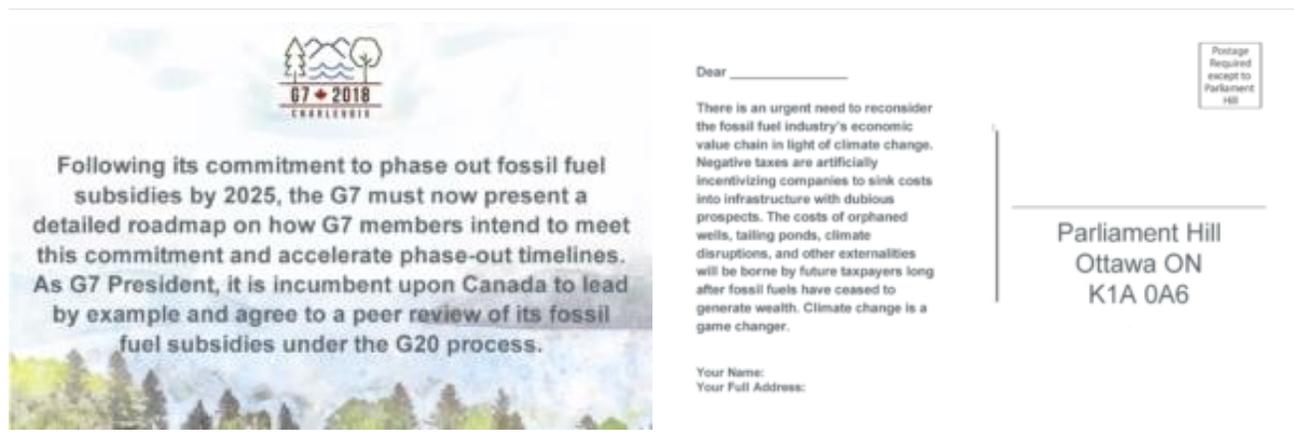
You can make a personal commitment now using this [online form](#). Please visit <https://cpj.ca/fortheearth> for details. Note this action is especially good for CCL volunteers who attend church.

## ACTION 1c: Send a postcard to MPs regarding fossil subsidies

Using the images below, or your own image, send MPs postcards regarding fossil fuel subsidies.

If you wish to work with the image file, right-click on the image, choose save image as and save it onto your computer. The postcards can also be found on our website here:

<https://canada.citizensclimatelobby.org/volunteer-resources/post-card-project/>



## ACTION 2: Start preparing for Earth Day outreach in April

Seek out venues to share CCL including [Rotary Club Presentations](#), as this year, the Rotary International President is focusing on climate change and Rotary International has two conferences in Canada.

If tabling use our [French](#) or [English](#) resources. An outreach checklist, parliamentary petitions, postcards, posters, cartoons, and many other great resources developed for Canada can be found in the links above. If you do print a CCL banner, please do not forget to send the [2015 logo guide](#) to the printers.

## Laser Talk 1: Inefficient Fossil Fuel Subsidies and the G7

Canada is the [G7 President](#) in 2018. Climate change is included in [the five pillars](#) of their G7 presidency. In alignment with the [Global Taskforce](#) to the G7, Citizens' Climate Lobby endorses their following recommendation to the G7: *Following its commitment to phase out fossil fuel subsidies by 2025, the G7 must now present a detailed roadmap on how G7 members intend to meet this commitment and accelerate phase-out timelines. As G7 President, it is incumbent upon Canada to lead by example and agree to a peer review of its fossil fuel subsidies under the G20 process.*

## Laser Talk 2: Fossil Fuel Subsidies and the Carbon Bubble in Canada

A January 2018 study by the [Parkland Institute](#) estimates that the [Big Five](#) (Canadian Natural Resources Limited (CNRL), Suncor Energy, Cenovus Energy, Imperial Oil and Husky Energy) in Alberta are sitting on an almost two trillion liability. "Alberta's oil sands industry is a carbon bubble—a petroleum-oriented economy that has a high risk of instability, crisis, and even collapse," the report states.

There is an urgent need to reconsider the fossil fuel industry's economic value chain in light of climate change. Fossil fuel subsidies are artificially incentivizing companies to sink costs into infrastructure with [dubious](#) prospects. The costs of [orphaned wells](#), tailing ponds, [climate disruptions](#), and other externalities will be borne by future taxpayers long after fossil fuels have ceased to generate wealth. Climate change is a game changer.

## Laser Talk 3: What are fossil fuel subsidies, and why are we concerned?

Fossil Fuel subsidies work against efforts to reduce Greenhouse Gas(GHG) emissions. The Canadian Auditor General's [2017 report on fossil fuel subsidies](#) concluded: that "... inefficient subsidies to the fossil fuel sector encourage wasteful consumption, undermine efforts to address climate change, and discourage investment in clean energy sources."

Canada and the [G20 committed](#) in 2009 to "rationalize and phase-out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies" by 2025, and reaffirmed that commitment in 2016. Ending fossil fuel subsidies was a clear and specific promise in the Liberal Government's [2015 election platform](#).

The Auditor General provides this list of potential fossil fuel subsidies:

- government grants and contributions,
- government loans or loan guarantees at favourable rates,
- resources sold by government at below-market rates,
- research and development funding,
- government intervention in markets to lower prices, and
- measures which reduce taxes payable.

Some, including the [International Monetary Fund \(IMF\)](#) would expand the list to include the financial impacts of GHG emissions on the environment and human health. Estimates of subsidies could potentially also include "in kind" expenditures for government programs aimed at facilitating or promoting fossil fuel development and use.

This [lack of consensus](#) on what should be classed as a fossil fuel subsidy is a significant impediment to their phase out. The [Auditor General](#) concluded that without a clear understanding of the fossil fuel subsidies covered by the G20 commitment, and a implementation plan with timelines, the Canadian Department of Finance cannot provide the support needed for Canada to meet the commitment by 2025.

Since 2010, [CCL Canada's position](#) is that governments need to phase-out all existing fossil fuels subsidies, including tax credits, over the five years following enactment of a federal carbon price. The first step is to reach agreement on what constitutes a fossil fuel subsidy.

## Laser Talk 4: Details about Canadian Fossil Fuel Subsidies

The [International Institute for Sustainable Development \(IISD\)](#) concluded that Canadian fossil fuel subsidies (which they define as financial benefits in the form of tax breaks and direct cash) amounted to about \$3.3 billion in 2013-2014. Half of these were provincial while the other half were federal subsidies.

The biggest federal subsidy identified by the IISD, about \$1.0 billion per year, was for Canadian Development Expenses. Other federal subsidies have declined since the 2013-2014 snapshot used by the IISD:

- Canadian Exploration Expenses for oil and gas (about \$150M per IISD) ended in 2017
- Atlantic Investment Tax Credit (about \$130M per IISD) was phased out from 2009 to 2015
- Clean Energy Fund (about \$130M per year) ended in 2015.
- Accelerated Capital Cost Allowances (ACCA):
  - for oil sands (about \$300M in 2009) was phased out from 2007 to 2015
  - for coal (value uncertain) is being phased out from 2013 to 2020
  - for natural gas (about \$9M in 2016) started in 2015 and may expire in 2025.

Provincial fossil fuel subsidies are also significant. An OECD database provides an approximate estimate of total provincial subsidies at [\\$3 billion in 2016](#). To put this in perspective, annual carbon tax revenue in BC and Alberta was [\\$1.2 billion](#) and [\\$1 billion](#), respectively, in recent years. In [Ontario](#) fossil fuel subsidies are estimated at \$0.6 billion, compared to the [\\$1.9 billion](#) in revenues from cap and trade in 2017.

CCL Canada continues to lobby all levels of governments to phase out fossil fuel subsidies.

## Laser Talk 5: Indirect Fossil Fuel Subsidies

When fossil fuels are produced and consumed, there are many unintended negative impacts on the environment and on human health. The cost of dealing with these unintended effects, or “externalities”, falls to society, rather than to the consumer of the fossil fuel. When governments take on the costs of the fossil fuel industry’s unintended impacts, some would argue that governments are subsidizing the industry.

In 2015 the International Monetary Fund (IMF) released a [working paper](#) which estimated fossil fuel subsidies at an unprecedented level of \$5.3 trillion. The IMF included externalities in this estimate, defining energy subsidies as the difference between what consumers pay for energy and its “true costs”.

Not everyone agrees that externalities should be viewed as subsidies. Neither the [International Institute for Sustainable Development\(IISD\)](#) nor the [Organization for Economic Cooperation and development\(OECD\)](#) include externalities in their estimates of fossil fuel subsidies.

Yet the costs to governments of these unintended impacts of fossil fuels are significant. Here are just two examples:

1. The [World Health Organization](#) estimates the direct damage costs to health from fossil fuels at \$ 2-4 billion/year by 2030.
2. As the fossil fuel industry winds down and abandons assets, taxpayer funded cleanups will effectively subsidize fossil fuels even further. Alberta alone already risks a [cumulative bill of \\$8 billion](#) for cleaning up orphan wells in the event of a long-term industry downturn. That is without considering the possibility of a global phase-out of fossil fuels. Orphaned wells in Alberta already represent a [\\$31 billion liability](#).

Given the [urgency of the climate change crisis](#), we need to be aware of the many ways we may be subsidizing fossil fuels, and in effect working against carbon pricing.