

EDITORS: Anne Heber, Karen Sadlier Brown and Lindy Small	email: contact.us@climatelearners.ca
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Sign up for CALL's mailing list to get invitations to our monthly learning meetings and newsletter. You can also opt-in to get invitations for our interest group meetings.

Monthly learning meeting October 4 at 10:00 a.m. on Zoom



Yuill Herbert
Co-Founder & Principal of
Sustainability Solutions Group

Powering Ontario's Future: Is Ontario's energy plan designed for the 21st century?

Our guest speaker is **Yuill Herbert**, Co-Founder and Principal of the Sustainability Solutions Group, a collective of Canada's leading sustainability professionals.

Learn about Ontario's plan for a clean electricity sector and the IESO's report *Pathways to Decarbonization* that informed the plan. A plan that:

- Doesn't explore the potential role of renewable electricity.
- Focuses on the electricity supply side over demand reduction.
- Doesn't adequately enable municipalities for the role that they could play.
- Could result in stranded assets, and higher overall electricity costs.

Discuss the actions and policies that could help transition Ontario's electricity sector to the clean energy needed in the 21st century.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER:](#) You will receive an email confirmation with your personal Zoom link to join the meeting.

CALL interest group meetings in October

<p>Nature-Based Solutions Group nature.based.solutions@climatelearners.ca</p> <p>We learn how we can protect, sustainably manage, and restore our natural ecosystems to mitigate the effects of climate change. We also meet for guided hikes and other activities in nature.</p>	<p>Saturday October 7 at 9:00 a.m. Global Village Speaker Series: A talk by Dr. Roberto Troya of the World Wildlife Fund titled “Restoring our Connections with Nature: A Call for a Nature-Positive World by 2030”.</p> <p>CLICK HERE TO REGISTER</p>
<p>Individual Action Group membership@climatelearners.ca</p> <p>We learn how to lower personal emissions within our homes, vehicles, the food we eat and the things we do.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Guest Speaker on Oct. 10</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;">  <div style="flex-grow: 1;"> <p>Duncan MacLellan is the Project Manager of Environment and Energy Initiatives for the City of Toronto. He previously worked in the conservation department at Toronto Hydro and with other major utilities, including Horizon Utilities Corp, Energy Shop and PowerStream.</p> </div> </div>	<p>Tuesday, October 10 at 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Join the Individual Action Group on the 10th of October for an interesting discussion with guest speaker, Duncan MacLellan.</p> <p>We will learn about TransformTO which is Toronto’s climate action strategy to reach net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2040.</p> <p>The group will have an opportunity to discuss the policies and programs currently in place for individuals and for multi-residential buildings to support energy conservation.</p> <p>CLICK HERE TO JOIN THE MEETING</p>
<p>Advocacy Action Group advocacy.action@climatelearners.ca</p> <p>We learn about climate change policies that will protect future generations on our planet, and together we advocate with all levels of government.</p>	<p>Wednesday October 18 at 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Our Agenda will be to review decisions from the last meeting and report back on the sub-group task. We will also learn how to respond to the public deadline for comments on the draft Federal Clean Air Regulations.</p> <p>CLICK HERE TO JOIN THE MEETING</p>

CALL interest group meetings in November

<p>Individual Action Group membership@climatelearners.ca</p>	<p>Tuesday, November 14 at 10:00 a.m.</p>
<p>Advocacy Action Group advocacy.action@climatelearners.ca</p>	<p>Wednesday November 15 at 10:00 a.m.</p>

Upcoming monthly learning meeting November 1 at 10 a.m. on Zoom

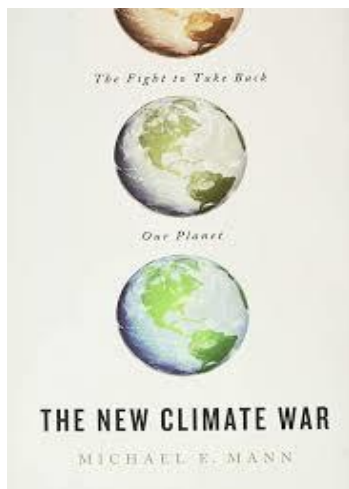


Samantha Green, MD CCFP
Family Physician
St. Michael's Hospital,
Assistant Professor & Faculty
Lead in Climate Change &
Health at the Dept. of Family &
Community Medicine, U of T.



Join CALL on November 1 for an important discussion with **Dr. Samantha Green**, President-elect of CAPE ([Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment](https://www.capecanada.org/)). Dr. Green will discuss how climate change is impacting our health, the urgent need for action and what we can do as individuals.

Book club discussion on “The New Climate War” November 22 at 4:00 p.m. on Zoom



As a follow up to our September 6th meeting on disinformation, join a Zoom discussion on *The New Climate War: The fight to take back our planet* by Dr. Michael E. Mann, an American climatologist.

Dr. Mann argues that the *old* climate war of assault on the basic science of climate change by fossil fuel interests has been replaced by a *new* climate war. The opponents of climate action have different tactics:

- Getting climate advocates fighting with each other so that we don't present a unified voice demanding change.
- Deflecting attention away from the needed systemic solutions or policy solutions to focus instead on individual behaviour.

Join the Zoom discussion on Wednesday, November 22 at 4:00 p.m., [RSVP to \[nature.based.solutions@climatelearners.ca\]\(mailto:nature.based.solutions@climatelearners.ca\)](mailto:RSVP%20to%20nature.based.solutions@climatelearners.ca)

Climate news, studies and reports

Canadian Climate Institute	Canada can't reconcile climate change without reconciling with Indigenous Peoples and the Land. READ
Canada's National Observer	Chris Hatch puts Fossils in Focus in his weekly column Zero Carbon. READ
The Guardian	We are being poisoned every day, so why do we keep voting for more pollution? The dirty industries that dominate politics deceive us into accepting dangerous pollutants such as ammonia as part of life. READ
CBC News	Victory on the Greenbelt. Ford apologizes for "wrong" Greenbelt decision, vows to reverse land swap. READ
CBC What on Earth	What's a Greenbelt supposed to do? Contain growing cities and preserve the nature that protects them. READ
Canadian Climate Institute	New report: Heat pumps pay off: Unlocking lower cost heating and cooling in Canada. READ
The Energy Mix	Thorold Gas peaker plant won't be built after a unanimous city council vote. READ
Toronto Environmental Alliance (TEA)	TEA commends city staff's work on finding solutions for retrofitting Toronto's buildings. READ
Smart Prosperity Institute	This new report analyzes the gaps and challenges in the available data to support climate-related financial disclosures. READ
Canada's National Observer	In the fight to prevent extreme wildfires, nature can help. READ

Climate events

October (three sessions) (online)	Talk Climate To Me A three-part course designed for anyone curious to learn more about climate change (and those who might need a boost in optimism/motivation). Choose between the daytime, evening or weekend series. MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTER
October 12 at 7:00 pm (online)	For Our Kids Protecting our pensions and the planet: an info session. MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTER
October 17 at 1:00 pm (online)	Canadian Environmental Law Association The Ontario Ministry of the Environment proposes to exempt harmful activities from licensing requirements. MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTER

November 9 (online)	<p>Building momentum towards net-zero. The third annual pan-Canadian climate conference co-hosted by the Canadian Climate Institute and the Net-Zero Advisory Body. MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTER</p>
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Podcasts worth listening to

 <p>Energy vs CLIMATE how climate is changing our energy systems</p>	<p>Albertan Attitudes Toward Energy Transition – In the first episode of the season, the hosts speak to Dr. Melanee Thomas from the University of Calgary on her research which investigates the politics of energy transition in Canada.</p> <p>In the conversation, the hosts dive into Dr. Thomas’ research into Albertan’s attitudes to the energy transition, the oil and gas industry, coal, and climate change. LISTEN</p>
	<p>The Nuclear Option – This podcast provides a balanced discussion of the pros and cons of nuclear energy. Guests are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Melissa Lott, Senior Director of Research at the Center on Global Energy Policy, Columbia University ▪ Jacaopo Buongiorno, TEPCO Professor of Nuclear Science and Engineering, MIT ▪ Allison Macfarlane, Director of the School of Public Policy and Global Affairs, UBC and former Chair, Nuclear Regulatory Commission <p>LISTEN</p>
	<p>The Extraordinary Costs of Climate Denial, Part One – With his new book, <i>The Parrot and the Igloo: Climate and the Science of Denial</i>, David Lipsky explores the long history of our understanding of climate science and the massive, industry-funded anti-science movement that worked to undermine action and cause an astonishing amount of destruction. In this episode, the New York Times best-selling author explains why he thinks climate deniers were so effective and how Republican politicians came to embrace the anti-science cause. LISTEN</p>
	<p>America’s Industrial Strategy for the Energy Transition – This episode deals with how the surge of clean energy investment is changing the US economy; what sectors and regions are benefitting the most; and what is still needed to get the U.S. on track to meet its climate goals. LISTEN</p> <p>Also from the Columbia Energy Exchange – Climate Change in Courts: New Trends and Legal Grounds – Activists around the world are turning to the courts to hold major polluters accountable for climate change. LISTEN</p>



Zero – Our favorite climate numbers -- In this episode, Zero explores whether two wheels are better than four. Can cutting commuting cap carbon consumption? And where is all the clean energy coming from? This bonus episode talks about stats that show where people are acting on the climate crisis. [LISTEN](#)

Special Report by Jennifer Penney on the Ontario Provincial Climate Change Impact Assessment



On Friday August 25th, late in the afternoon, the Ford Government quietly released the Technical Report of the Ontario Provincial Climate Change Impact Assessment (PCCIA). This is typical behaviour of a government forced to release a report which it prefers that no-one take notice of.

Initially, this strategy worked quite well. There was no media coverage of the report for more than two weeks after it was released.

This changed when Seniors for Climate Action Now! got wind of the report, almost two weeks after it was released. Jennifer Penney, a member of both SCAN! and CALL, had been trying to access the report for a year. She wrote to the Minister of the Environment asking for the report and later contacted individual MPPs in the NDP, Greens and Liberals, who then made their own requests. She then submitted a Freedom of Information request. None of these initiatives were successful.

In late July, SCAN! initiated an Open Letter to the Ford Government, calling for the release of the PCCIA and for an earlier report by the government's Advisory Panel on Climate Change. By late August, the Open Letter had more than 1200 names, including those of many CALL members. We were preparing a press conference, supported by MPPs from the three opposition parties. We believe the government got wind of this plan and released the report to deter yet another major criticism of a government already besieged by the Greenbelt scandal.

No matter. SCAN! sent out a press release to the Queen's Park and other media. This was picked up by CBC reporter Mike Crawley, whose story initiated a flurry of media attention. CTV followed as did the Globe and Mail, Toronto Star, National Observer, the Narwhal, the Energy Mix and others.

Why is this important?

The PCCIA is an attempt by the Ontario government to get a handle on the range of impacts that climate change is already having on the province and that will continue in the future. It is vital for Ontarians to understand what is coming and what needs to be done to prepare for it. The question is whether the Impacts Assessment released by the government actually provides the information we need. In my opinion, the jury is still out.

For starters, what the government has released *is not the whole of the Impact Assessment*. It is the 533-page Technical Report and its appendices, *just one of four “products” prepared as part of the process*. Three companion reports have not been released. These include:

- An **Adaptation Best Practices** report, which should lay the groundwork for adaptation programs across the province.
- **Decision-Making Supports**, or “targeted information briefs” for provincial and local government staff, industry associations and NGOs.
- **Summary Reports** for each area of focus (people and communities; infrastructure; food and agriculture; business and the economy; and the natural environment).

The Technical Report relies heavily on climate modelling. It is not clear that the authors integrated many empirical studies of just how climate has changed in the province in the last several decades, including the incidence of heat waves, floods, storms, wind speed, and tornadoes.

Still, some of the climate trends laid out in the PCCIA Technical Report include:

- Warmer temperatures and big increases in extreme heat days (from 18 on average today to 60 by 2080 in the southwest, central and eastern regions of the province).
- More precipitation in general and more extreme precipitation days.
- More rain in winter.
- Increases in moisture deficit across the province, leading to periodic droughts.
- Increasing frequency of wildfires.

What do these climactic changes lead to?

Even if the analysis of climate trends could be more comprehensive, the Technical Report makes a strong case that climate change is having major impacts on Ontario now and will continue for many years, “transforming ecosystem structure and function, damaging infrastructure, disrupting business operations, and imposing harm to human health and well-being”.

It’s not easy to provide a summary of the impacts outlined in the Technical Report. Here are a few:

- **Declines and losses in agricultural production** due to periods of extreme heat; extreme precipitation events; drought conditions and associated water scarcity; increases in insect pests, plant diseases, and invasive species; declines in pollinator species, etc.
- **Damage to infrastructure** such as buildings, electrical power, telecommunications, transportation (road, rail, air and shipping), water, stormwater and wastewater systems, (many of which are already in a poor state of repair) from: extreme temperatures that accelerate deterioration of equipment; flooding, freezing rain and freeze-thaw conditions; and wildfires.
- **Exacerbated declines in biodiversity and ecosystem health** already threatened by habitat loss and pollution. The report outlines threats to fauna; flora; aquatic ecosystems; terrestrial ecosystems; “provisioning ecosystems” (freshwater, wood); “regulating services” (carbon storage, pollination, water flows); and ecosystem “cultural services” such as nature recreation and fishing.
- **Deteriorating quality and loss of life** for people and communities. Indigenous people, the homeless, seniors, low-income and migrant workers are especially vulnerable. Demands on the health care and social services systems will increase, especially during extreme weather.
- **Shocks to business / the economy** arise from extreme weather that disrupts power distribution and transportation; damages buildings; reduces productivity of forests and fisheries, etc.

There is no doubt that the report makes a significant contribution to our understanding of climate impacts on the province, though there hasn't been time yet for it to be rigorously reviewed by climate scientists. What remains to be seen is what the Assessment recommends that the province do to protect us from these impacts. We won't wait quietly for this information to be released.

Jennifer Penney conducted and published research on climate impacts and adaptation for the Clean Air Partnership in Toronto for six years before retiring in 2011. She holds a doctorate in Work Environment Policy from the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

Link to report on the government website >> <https://www.ontario.ca/files/2023-08/mecp-ontario-provincial-climate-change-impact-assessment-en-2023-08-17.pdf>

Link to CBC story > <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ontario-climate-change-impact-assessment-1.6964662>

Take action

Environmental Defence	Establish deposit-return for all beverages in Ontario. Tell the Premier and big beverage industries that we want an effective deposit-return system for non-alcoholic beverage containers in Ontario. TAKE ACTION
Ecojustice Canada	This is Canada's worst wildfire season on record. Tell your MP to stop fueling wildfires. TAKE ACTION
David Suzuki Foundation	Climate strikes are over...now what? Hold Big Oil accountable for its climate pollution. TAKE ACTION

CALL leadership team (contact.us@climatelearners.ca)

Michael Barkley
JoAnne Hunter
Joan Laurie

Peggi Liswood
Karen Robbins
Karen Sadlier-Brown

Caroline Taylor
Sharon Zeiler