



*The Honourable Mary Coyle | L'honorable Mary Coyle
Senator for Nova Scotia | Sénatrice pour la Nouvelle-Ecosse*

News Release

Senator urges Canada to meet net-zero carbon emission targets

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--

OTTAWA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2020 — Senator Mary Coyle launched this afternoon a challenge to the Senate and all Canadians with the following words, “I rise today, in a spirit of openness, and a sense of urgency, to launch a Senate Inquiry into Finding the Right Pathways and Actions for Canada and Canadians to meet our net-zero carbon and other green house gas targets in order to slow, arrest, and hopefully reverse human - caused climate change, to ensure a healthy planet, a healthy society, a healthy economy and a healthy democracy.”

As we start this 43rd Parliament and this critical new decade, we, the Senate of Canada, have an opportunity and a responsibility to take a leadership role in examining and influencing action on the defining issue of this century - climate change. As Senators we are independent and less partisan, able to take the long-term perspective due to the stability of our chamber through election cycles.

As time passes, we inch closer and closer to irreversible damage. There is a need to act now and to take bold steps in addressing this crisis.

Canada has committed itself to meet the Paris Agreement targets and Environment Minister, Jonathan Wilkinson has [pledged](#) that Canada would introduce net- zero by 2050 legislation and a transitional plan to address challenges in all sectors of Canadian life.

Climate change is causing more extreme weather events, not only around the world, but right here at home as well. Severe weather in Canada cost [\\$1.3 billion](#) in insured damages last year alone.

Our oceans are warming, floods, droughts and wildfires are increasing. The daily headlines are replete with impacts of climate change and the related tensions in our society.

We know the sources of Canada's emissions and the end target of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

In the December speech from the throne, Governor General Julie Payette said, "Canada's children and grandchildren will judge this generation by its action or inaction on the defining challenge of the time, climate change." Let us go one step further and call attention to the fact that children across this great nation are already judging the inaction of our leaders. As they witness the earth's sixth mass extinction and live through catastrophic weather events in their own hometowns, they are screaming for leaders to take up this cause.

What is needed is a willingness to be bold and take decisive action in every sector and every facet of Canadian life. Action may not be easy, and our path may not be linear, but we are far past the time for debate on the merits of action versus inaction.

All Canadians can be leaders in this challenge of the millennium.

Senator Coyle welcomes Senators from across Canada to rise and speak to this inquiry, and she expressed her hope "that this inquiry will be a spark joining many other sparks to create the energy (renewable of course) needed for a serious and respectful Pan Canadian conversation on solutions to climate change."

For more information:

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