



Update from MCM Climate Action Working Group (CAWG)

RE: Mennonite Church Manitoba's 2024 resolution calling for a fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty

September 8, 2024

Greetings, siblings in Christ,

As you will recall, delegates at our 2024 Mennonite Church Manitoba (MCM) Annual Gathering passed a resolution to sign the open letter from faith leaders calling for nations of the world to develop and implement a binding Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty (FFNPT). This resolution passed with a large majority, and you can now find Mennonite Church Manitoba listed on the FFNPT website (fossilfuel treaty.org) as a signatory of the open letter from faith leaders. We, as CAWG, are grateful for this commitment made by the MCM body.

What does MCM's endorsement of the call for a fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty mean for MCM members and churches?

It means we are raising our collective voice in calling for a different world, one that is more just and equitable. It also means that we are calling for all the societal and lifestyle transformation that will be necessary for a global transition away from fossil fuel energy.

What's next, now that we as a church body have made this public statement?

It is integral that we keep reminding our government leaders about our convictions around fossil fuels and the need to move away from our addiction to them.

One simple and important action churches and individuals can take is to write to their Members of Parliament and other elected officials, including:

- Prime Minister Justin Trudeau
- the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, Jonathan Wilkinson
- the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Steven Guilbeault.

Included below is a simple letter that members of your congregation, or your congregation as a whole, could personalize and send by mail or email.

In addition to calling on our government leaders to enact change, we each as individuals and congregations have a role to play. We invite you to spend time, both individually, and as congregations, prayerfully imagining what our lives could look like as we free ourselves from fossil fuel dependency, and then take concrete steps to bring that new vision to reality. CAWG welcomes invites to join you in these conversations, to speak in worship services, and to facilitate Adult Sunday School sessions.

CAWG is in the midst of discerning our next steps as a group and imagining how best we can further conversation and action within our MCM congregations. If you have ideas for CAWG, we'd love to hear from you. And watch for our annual event this fall!

As your Climate Action Working Group, we are eager to hear from you what you are discerning. We need each other in this work. We can't do it alone.

Praying for God's Kingdom to come on Earth,

MCM CAWG

Marta Bunnett Wiebe (co-chair), Matthew Wiens (co-chair), Carla Bergen, Nate De Avila, Doug Dyck, Marilyn Houser Hamm, Aria Klassen, Kenton Lobe, Josiah Neufeld, Sandy Plett.

Invitation to action on a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty

Send letters to:

- your Member of Parliament
- Prime Minister Justin Trudeau
- the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, Jonathan Wilkinson
- the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Steven Guilbeault.

Letters can be addressed, postage-free, to:

[Name of Member of Parliament or elected official]
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada
K1A 0A6

Find the email address of your Member of Parliament [here](#).

Sample Letter (feel free to adapt and personalize)

Dear [insert name of your Member of Parliament],

I am writing to draw your attention to the international call for nations of the world to develop and implement a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty (fossilfuel treaty.org). At our 2024 Mennonite Church Manitoba Annual Gathering, delegates passed a resolution to join the call of faith leaders (fossilfuel treaty.org/faith-letter) from around the world for governments to implement a binding Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty (FFNPT). We support a treaty that would do the following:

- 1. **End expansion of any coal, oil, or gas production** in line with the best available science as outlined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the United Nations Environment Programme;*
- 2. **Phase-out existing production of fossil fuels in a manner that is fair and equitable**, taking into account the respective dependency of countries on fossil fuels and their capacity to transition;*
- 3. **Ensure a global just transition to 100% access to renewable energy globally**, support dependent economies to diversify away from fossil fuels, and enable all people and communities, not least the Global South, to flourish.*

We ask that you, as our Member of Parliament, work to get Canada to join with other nations to develop a binding FFNPT.

Sincerely,

[Your Name, Address, Postal Code]