

A Message for Prime Minister Trudeau on his visit to Victoria on July 18, 2019

Posted by Joan Russow

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RECALLING THAT in 1988 in the Climate Change Conference in Toronto, the participants concluded: Humanity is conducting an unintended, uncontrolled, globally pervasive experiment whose ultimate consequence could be second only to a global nuclear war. The Earth's atmosphere is changed at an unprecedented rate by pollutants resulting from depositions of hazardous, toxic and atomic wastes and from wasteful fossil fuel use ... These changes represent a major threat to international security and are already having harmful consequences over many parts of the globe.... it is imperative to

act now. (Climate Change in the Conference statement, Changing Atmosphere Conference in 1988)

In the Conference statement for Changing Atmosphere Conference in 1988, they called for the global community, to Reduce CO2 emissions by approximately 20% of 1988 levels by the year 2005 as an initial global goal. Clearly the industrialized nations have a responsibility to lead the way both through their national energy policies and their bilateral multilateral assistance arrangement.

NOTING THAT, in 2013, Canada agreed to Sustainable Development Goal 13- “Climate change presents the single biggest threat to development, and its widespread, unprecedented impacts disproportionately burden the poorest and most vulnerable. Urgent action to combat climate change is needed

APPRECIATING THAT in 2015. at COP 21, Ban Ki Moon, in Paris, urged states to negotiate with a global vision not a vested national interest

BEING ALARMED THAT In 2019, the IPCC have warned that there are only a dozen years for global warming to be kept to a maximum of 1.5C, beyond which even half a degree will significantly worsen the risks of drought, floods, extreme heat and poverty for hundreds of millions of people.

WELCOMING in August 4 2018, Secretary General Antonio Guterres’ statement: “ We are facing a grave climate emergency. We need urgently to accelerate with Climate

Action for the transformation the world needs. This is the battle of our lives. It is a battle we can win. It is a battle we must win.

Implementing SDG13 addressing the emergency, and achieving A global vision for Canada would be:

(i) Fulfilling article 2, The ultimate objective of this Convention and any related legal instruments that the Conference of the Parties may adopt is to achieve, stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system

(ii) Being determined to protect the rights of future generations, and to invoking the precautionary principle (Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage from climate change, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as

a reason for postponing such measures to prevent the threat),

(iii) Supporting the principle of common but differentiated responsibility, compensating for instituting a fair and just transition for workers and communities affected negatively by the new

(iv) Ending subsidies for fossil fuel, and the investment in fossil fuels through the Canada pension fund

(v) Closing down the tar sands, not rationalizing the continuation of the tar sands to fund socially equitable, ecologically sound renewable energy

(vi) Conserving carbon sinks -such as old growth forests and bogs, planting trees and strengthening conservation of biodiversity,

(vii) Compensating for historical emissions, and instituting a fair and just transition for

workers and communities affected negatively by the new vision

(viii) Promoting nature-based solutions and socially equitable and environmentally sound transit and energy such as solar, wind, tidal, and geothermal, and avoiding all false solutions such as nuclear, geo-engineering, fracking and biofuels

(ix) Reducing the military budget by at least 50% and transfer savings to address the climate change emergency, and end exemption of greenhouse gas emissions from militarism

(X) Making a commitment to use the baseline of 1990, and given the climate change emergency, in COP 25 to use time lines and targets reflecting existing and emerging science such as " 50% below 1990 levels by 2020, 65 % below 1990 levels by 2025, 75% below 1990 level by 2040 and 100% below 1990 emissions by 2050, decarbonization with 100% ecologically sound renewable energy,"

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