



May 19, 2020

BY EMAIL: JONATHAN.WILKINSON@PARL.GC.CA  
ORIGINAL TO FOLLOW BY MAIL

Dear Minister Wilkinson,

**Re: Environmental organizations and the Green Economic Recovery**

We write this letter as Canada looks beyond the horizon of the current COVID-19 crisis and works to ensure an equitably green economic recovery. Thank you for your leadership in working towards a sustainable future. We share this vision, and we want to help.

We are a group of national and provincial networks that represent over 400 grassroots environmental organizations across Canada. For over 40 years we have helped the Government of Canada and provincial governments fulfill their consultation requirements and address our country's pressing environmental challenges. For example, we contributed to key legislation such as the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* and the *Fisheries Act*; we helped create the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency; and we provide ongoing consultation on the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*. Through training and experience, our members have expertise in scientific, social, political and economic aspects of environmental sustainability and hold first-hand knowledge about what is happening in communities in Canada and around the world.

For decades, governments have trusted our networks to help them identify and connect with the organizations and individuals best suited to provide advice and expertise, or to carry out sustainability programs on the ground. As non-partisan organizations, we consistently promote sustainable development and environmentally-responsible public policy even as political values vary through election cycles. Due to our broad geographical reach, we are well-versed in the art of building coalitions and collaborating across virtual platforms. We are therefore well-positioned to play a meaningful role in citizen engagement and to contribute informed perspectives as your government addresses the coming challenges.

Non-profit environmental organizations play a direct role in strengthening the economy. Our community-based interventions drive local economic activity and civil society engagement to create high-quality jobs for Canadians. As a sector in which the majority of jobs are held by women, non-profit organizations are also instrumental in promoting gender equity.

By working together, the Government of Canada and the non-profit sector can create a sustainable, equitable post-pandemic economy that achieves the Sustainable Development Goals and creates sustainable employment. We can ensure that decisions are based on the best available evidence. We can build a democracy that is stronger, more transparent and more resilient than ever.

There is no question that our country and our world will be forever changed by this crisis. Together, we can choose to use this moment as an opportunity to create positive change and build a sustainable post-pandemic future. We look forward to this new reality, in which we continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the Government of Canada in a “whole of society” approach.

We would be pleased to meet virtually with you or someone from your Department to explore how we can assist with the enormous task ahead. You may reach us through the Canadian Environmental Network at [secretary@rcen.ca](mailto:secretary@rcen.ca). Please do not hesitate to reach out.

Yours truly,

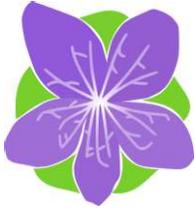


Ian Peace, Chair  
Canadian Environmental Network/  
Réseau canadien de l'environnement

### **Affiliate Networks**



Diana Baird, Chair  
Newfoundland & Labrador Environment Network



Raissa Marks, Executive Director  
New Brunswick Environmental Network



Glen Koroluk, Executive Director  
Manitoba Eco-Network



Andrew McCammon, President  
Ontario Environment Network



Chris White, Chair of the Board  
Nova Scotia Environmental Network



Shanon Zachidniak, Co-chair  
EnviroCollective, Saskatchewan

## Supporting Members



Michael Simpson, Executive Director  
British Columbia Council for International Cooperation



Tracy Hucul, Executive Director  
Green Action Centre



Bernard Fournier, President  
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Mark Cohoe, Executive Director  
Bike Winnipeg



Deborah Carr, Executive Director  
Water & Environmental Protection for Albert County



Lois Corbett, Executive Director  
Conservation Council of New Brunswick



Barbara MacKinnon, PhD, President and CEO  
Canadian Network for Human Health and the Environment



Barbara MacKinnon, PhD, President and CEO  
New Brunswick Lung Association



Bonnie Hamilton Bogart, Secretary  
Voices for Sustainable Environments and Communities



Sarah Blenis, Project Coordinator & Environmental Educator  
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