



GRAND(M)OTHERS ACT
TO SAVE THE PLANET

GASP Amendments to C-12: Canadian Net Zero Emissions Climate Accountability Act

Grand(m)others Act to Save the Planet (GASP)

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We are Grand(m)others Act to Save the Planet (GASP): A grassroots, nonpartisan group of grandmothers and grand 'others' who care deeply about the world our descendants will inherit. We represent members in 10 ridings in Southern Ontario and have affiliations with grandparent, women, and climate groups across Canada and internationally.

Louise Brownlee
Lorraine Green
Carole Holmes
Michelle Tom

Website GASP4change.org

Email info@gasp4change.org

Instagram [GASP4Change](#)

Facebook [GASP Grandmothers Act to Save the Planet](#)

Twitter [Gasp4Change](#)

Strengthen C-12 Climate Accountability Act

INTRODUCTION

The Climate Crisis makes us fearful for the future of our grandchildren. If we do not radically change the way we live, we will put their lives at risk. We heard Greta Thunberg and the urgent voices of our grandchildren and we pledged to work with them to advocate for climate justice. Many of us *voted for the present government based on their climate change promises.*

We were pleased to see the government develop the C-12 Climate Accountability Act. We were heartened by this historic step to embed in law, a commitment that Canada achieve net-zero GHG emissions by 2050. But this is not near enough. We have waited six years for strong, bold action. This is not it. As the Act moves through the House of Commons, we urge the Standing Committee to strengthen the legislation.

C-12 lacks Urgency, Accountability, Science, & Transformative Action

1. URGENCY

We have a Climate Crisis but we ***do not*** act like it.

We have a Covid Crisis and we ***do*** act on it!

We, as a country, mobilized very quickly to respond to the pandemic emergency. For example, we introduced CERB, we authorized the Bank of Canada to buy \$5 billion in federal government securities per week, we mobilized for PPE and vaccines, and gave daily press briefings that told the truth about the severity of the pandemic.

Seth Klein¹ outlines four steps necessary to know if a country “gets it” when in an Emergency. To mobilize for the pandemic, all our governments quickly shifted into emergency mode and checked off all four steps.

For the Climate Crisis, we should act in the same way. Below are the four emergency steps and an example of bold action associated with each step:

1. Spend what it takes to win.

- Huge public investment in green and social infrastructure.

2. Create new economic tools to get the job done.

- A Federal ‘Climate Emergency’ ‘Just Transition’ Transfer (framework for co-operation)

¹ Seth Klein, speaker and author of “A Good War Mobilizing Canada for the Climate Emergency”

3. *Shift from voluntary and incentive-based policies to mandatory measures.*

- Ban all production of new fossil fuel cars by 2025.

4. *Tell the truth about the severity of the crisis and communicate a sense of urgency about the measures necessary to combat it.*

- Daily climate briefings on CBC news.

Shockingly Canada is missing all 4 steps when it comes to the Climate Crisis.

C-12 is the opportunity to ensure Canadians know we are in an Emergency!

2. ACCOUNTABILITY

The heavy lifting needs to be done now. We need a **2025 milestone**. We know that the climate emergency has continual multiplier effects. We need action immediately, not leaving it to future governments.

Instead of targeting greenhouse gas emission reductions by 30 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030, we need to follow the recommendations in the Science community for Canada to reduce its emissions by **50%** by 2030. Targets must be ambitious and bold.

The present government must be held accountable, as should every one of us be held accountable. This particularly applies to my generation and yours. We must be held accountable for what we have done to the earth in our greed to buy more, to build more, without much thought to future generations. GASPs today are taking responsibility to fight this existential threat to our environment, a threat that is ours to fix or at the very least to mitigate its worse impacts. We owe it to our grandchildren.

Build real Accountability in C-12.

3. SCIENCE

There is no negotiating with Science. We have discovered this with the Covid Crisis. “Maybe we’ll just open a little bit”... Lives are lost when we do so. Science must take priority in a pandemic AND in a climate crisis. Science must be at the centre of all planning, specifically for targets and evaluating the success in meeting the targets. Reporting has to be by an **Independent Science experts** at the helm. The planning must be consistent with equity principles and we must work with Indigenous leadership and respect the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Believe the Science. Lead with Science.

4. TRANSFORMATIVE ACTION

“Canada hasn’t seen this type of mobilization since the Second World War. These are the biggest economic measures in our lifetimes, to defeat a threat to our health....

We all need to answer the call.”

Prime Minister Trudeau, on April 1st, 2020

Yes, the **Prime Minister’s Call to Action** is necessary to fight the climate crisis with collaboration from all parties and all citizens. We are encouraged that economist Dr. Jim Stanford, and banker Dr. Mark Carney both agree to a call for a new kind of economics and more important, they believe the transformation to a low carbon economy in Canada is do-able.

Jim Stanford explains step by step how a transition to a fossil-free Canada is in reach for workers and their communities. “Canada’s labour market and environment will both be stronger for it. Canada can transition away from fossil fuel jobs. What is required is a firm, consistent commitment to do so, and the provision of meaningful support to make the transition effective, steady and fair.”²

Mark Carney, with his 10-point plan for a sustainable recovery, wants to “channel the market in service of society” and apply a climate lens to every financial decision. His idea is a fundamental transformation based on values, not market values. He calls on “leaders and citizens to restructure society and enshrine human values at the core of all that we build for our children and grandchildren.”³

Both agree that addressing the climate crisis goes hand-in-hand with lifting the economy. We are noting congruency in the words and action of President Biden with our Canadian climate experts.

C-12 will boost this transformation with bold and robust legislation that includes strengthening amendments.

² Jim Stanford, Director at the Centre for Future Work, studies how work is changing in the modern economy and author *Economics for Everyone*.

³ Mark Carney Vice Chairman and Head of Impact Investing at Brookfield Asset Management and author *Values: Building a Better World for All*

CONCLUSION

We have a momentous opportunity to pass an ambitious climate accountability act that will protect future generations. 70% of Canadians are concerned about climate change⁴. 62% of Canadians feel climate change is a **major crisis** and over half would pay higher taxes to combat it.⁵ People are ahead of politicians. ***We are your voters. Please listen to us.***

The recent Supreme Court decision on March 26th cleared the way for courageous progressive climate actions by our federal government. “Canadians know we have to act, we have to be ambitious in fighting climate change,” said Canadian Environment Minister Jonathan Wilkinson at the press conference following the constitutional ‘win.’ GASPs could not agree more. Minister Wilkinson, show you mean it! ***Strengthen C-12.***

Our concerns are for our grandchildren and all future generations. It is incumbent on all of us to be their protectors and ensure they inherit a safe liveable planet. As it stands, the Accountability Act fails in its most sacred duty to protect Canadians. We, grandmothers, do not need more reassurances. ***We need concrete actions now.*** Do not continue to try to distract us or try to ease our fears and our consciences with more promises. We cannot afford to wait and neither can the planet. ***Be bold. Be courageous.***

GASP Amendments to Bill C-12⁶

1. ***Bill C-12 should be amended to include: a target for 2025 and a stronger emissions reduction target of at least 50% by 2030.***
2. ***Bill C-12 should be amended to measure the 5-year milestone targets as carbon budgets rather than emission reduction targets.***
3. **Bill C-12 should be amended to include requirements for regular reporting on climate change impacts, plans for adaptation, and progress toward implementing those plans, in order to ensure a just transition for workers, Indigenous peoples, and all communities who will be most affected by climate change.**

⁴ <https://globalnews.ca/news/6312773/Canada-climate-change-poll> Polling by Research Co, CBC report. June 28, 2020

⁵ Research Co., CBC Report June 28, 2020

⁶ "Leave Behind" Document on Bill C-12 for MPs prepared by For Our Kids. Amendments consistent with Ecojustice lilla@forourkids.ca