

## #5. 14th July...TARGETING CLIMATE CHANGE through RHUC and other Groups

### Canada's Changing Climate Report... <https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/canadas-changing-climate-report/21177...>Government of Canada Report

It focuses on answering the questions: how has Canada's climate changed to date, why, and what changes are projected for the future? This report provides a climate science foundation for the forthcoming National Assessment reports addressing the impacts of climate change in Canada and how we are adapting to reduce risk.

Canada has some unique challenges in connection with the following aspects of Climate Change...

**Temperature changes...**Both past and future warming in Canada is, on average, about **double the magnitude of global warming. Northern Canada has warmed and will continue to warm at even more than double the global rate**

**Changes in rainfall and snowfall...**Precipitation has increased in many parts of Canada, and there has been **a shift toward less snowfall and more rainfall**. Annual and winter precipitation is projected to increase everywhere in Canada over the 21st century. However, reductions in summer rainfall are projected for parts of southern Canada under a high emission scenario toward the late century.

NB: with the increase in mean temperature. **Ex-treme warm temperatures have become hotter, while extreme cold temperatures have become less cold.**

**Changes in snow and ice...**Over the past three decades, the proportion of Canadian land and marine areas covered by **snow and ice have decreased and permafrost temperatures have risen**. These changes are consistent with those observed in other northern regions of the world.

**Changes in freshwater availability...**The seasonal availability of freshwater is changing, with an **increased risk of water supply shortages in summer**. Warmer winters and earlier snowmelt will combine to produce higher winter flows in streams and rivers, while smaller snowpacks and loss of glacier ice this century will combine to produce lower summer flows. Warmer summers will increase evaporation of surface water and contribute to reduced summer water availability in the future despite more precipitation in some places.

**Ocean changes...**Oceans surrounding Canada have warmed, become more acidic, and less oxygenated, consistent with observed global ocean changes over the past century. **Ocean warming and loss of oxygen will intensify with further emissions of all greenhouse gases, whereas ocean acidification will increase in response to additional carbon dioxide emissions**. These changes threaten the health of marine ecosystems

**Sea level change...**Coastal flooding is expected to increase in many areas of Canada due to local sea-level rise. Changes in local sea level are a **combination of global sea-level rise and local land subsidence or uplift**

**Continuing Information on other Groups that RHUC is working with through our Net Zero Team and the Community team of "Targeting Climate Change".**

**TARGETING CLIMATE CHANGE... Alan Collier(leading the team)...a.collier@sympatico.ca**

TCC is made up of representatives from most of the churches in RH, together with groups operating on Climate Change approaches in RH, the wider community, right up to International Groups. There was a very successful series of Gatherings in various locations Richmond Hill, with the last on June 8th, where more than 50 people attended an open discussion with a Panel of very committed and knowledgeable people. There were opportunities to meet with groups in the RH area, wider community and globally.

**We are pleased to announce that the next event will be on October 5th at RHUC. Please mark this date in your calendar.** More info will be coming as the agenda is firmed-up.

**BLUE DOT...Terry Knight & Kathleen Wong...<https://www.yorkregion.com/news-story/5542314-blue-dot-environmental-commitment-confirmed-by-richmond-hill-council/>**  
Richmond Hill last week officially became one of three municipalities in Ontario to **support the David Suzuki Foundation's Blue Dot pledge of residents' right to a healthy environment.** Council at its formal meeting made a **commitment to people's right to live in a healthy environment, including the right to breathing clean air, drinking clean water and enjoy nature.**

**NEIGHBOURS FOR THE PLANET...Carrie Tai...**

<https://www.neighboursfortheplanet.ca>

URGENT and UNPRECEDENTED CHANGES are NEEDED  
According to the October 2018 report published by the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, we need to act immediately to prevent catastrophic impacts of global warming resulting from an increase of more than 1.5° C over pre-industrial levels. In fact the Secretary General **stated** that "If we do not change course by 2020, we risk missing the point where we can avoid runaway climate change, with disastrous consequences for people and all the natural systems that sustain us".

At Neighbours for the Planet we believe that climate change is the defining problem of our generation.

- **We believe that it is in our power to solve this problem if we all rally together.**
- **We believe that contributing to the solution is empowering and fun.**
- **We believe that we should invest in solutions which will reap economic benefits in the future.**
- **We believe that we are custodians of the earth for future generations.**
- **We believe that healthy humanity requires a healthy natural world.**
- **We believe it is our duty as citizens both to take action on an individual level and to pressure governments for action at regional, national and international levels.**
- **We believe that no matter your age you have an important contribution to make.**

**Web-site Includes Proposed Actions at Personal, Community & Global Levels  
Sign-up for Weekly Newsletter, including info from other groups.**