

#16. 20th October...FEDERAL ELECTION ON MONDAY 21ST OCTOBER...GET OUT AND VOTE!!..."Neighbours for the Planet"

We are down to the wire with only the weekend between now and the 2019 Federal Election. Pundits are predicting a Minority or Coalition Government after the election. The Leaders are still pressing their positions. We will be waiting into the night to see the results.

Let's hope that the result is a Parliament that will see the Climate Change Crisis as the most important issue facing our Beautiful Planet Earth.

PLEASE DO GET OUT AND VOTE...Everyone will count!!

from "Neighbours for the Planet" (for more info
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For the 1st time, millennial voters will make up the biggest voting bloc in a federal election

"For the first time ever, millennial voters are set to make up the biggest voting bloc in a federal election.

More millennials are now eligible to vote in Canada than baby boomers, [according to Abacus Data](#), an Ottawa-based research and strategy firm that specializes in data on voting trends and millennials.

However, the big question in the upcoming federal election remains whether large numbers of millennials will come out to vote in support of Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau as they did in 2015.

According to Abacus, millennial voters — individuals born between 1980 and 2000 — could have a significant impact on the result of the upcoming federal election, but only if they come out to vote in droves."

130 banks worth \$47 trillion adopt new UN-backed climate policies to shift from fossil fuels

"UNITED NATIONS (Reuters) - Banks with more than \$47 trillion in assets, or a third of the global industry, adopted new U.N.-backed "responsible banking" principles to fight climate change on Sunday that would shift their loan books away from fossil fuels.

Deutsche Bank, Citigroup, and Barclays, were among 130 banks to join the new framework on the eve of a United Nations summit in New York aimed at pushing companies and governments to act quickly to avert catastrophic global warming.

"These principles mean banks have to consider the impact of their loans on society – not just on their portfolio," Simone Dettling, banking team lead for the Geneva-based United Nations Environment Finance Initiative, told Reuters.

Under pressure from investors, regulators and climate activists, some big banks have acknowledged the role lenders will need to play in a rapid transition to a low-carbon economy."

Thanks to Extinction Rebellion, we're experiencing a climate culture change

"Rightwing critics fulminate against the protesters, but the public is finally waking up to the gravity of their cause

In the Mall, up Whitehall, or crossing Trafalgar Square early this morning, the climate activists looked like rush-hour office workers and civil servants – mainly 30 to 50-year-olds, with no dreadlocked tree-huggers, SWP banners or black-masked anarchists looking for a punch-up. Chanting about the climate emergency, frankly, they seemed a bit sheepish, not used to it. Their ordinariness makes Extinction Rebellion, or XR, especially effective: farmers, scientists, doctors, Cumbrians and other local platoons stand at the 12 key roadblocks.

After their successful capture of central London in April, local cells or "affinity groups" all over the country have trained and planned for this protest. Deciding who would be "arrestable" for highway obstruction – and who wouldn't be, because of jobs or young families – they were primed to expect a tougher police response after rightwing press complaints against the friendly policing last April, when officers were caught dancing at a blocked Oxford Circus."

from "Corporate Knights"

Firms ignoring climate crisis will go bankrupt, says Mark Carney

Companies and industries that are not moving towards zero-carbon emissions will be punished by investors and go bankrupt, the governor of the Bank of England has warned. Mark Carney also told the Guardian it was possible that the global transition needed to tackle the climate crisis could result in an abrupt financial collapse. The Guardian revealed last week that just 20 fossil fuel companies have produced coal, oil and gas linked to more than a third of all emissions in the modern era.

"As the climate crisis escalates," writes The Guardian, "we will not stay quiet."

Car-free cities are picking up speed

Oslo, London, Berlin and even Toronto are among a growing list of cities paving the way for cleaner commutes

When a Labour-Green coalition replaced the Conservative party at Oslo's city hall in 2015, change was on the table. But one of the council's promises – to become the first European city to ban motor traffic in the heart of the city – collided head-on with

angry motorists and a business group that claimed such a ban would create a “poorer city” and a “dead town.”

So the Norwegian capital tried a new tack. It has just phased out the last on-street parking spaces in the city centre, giving an edge to transit, pedestrians and cyclists without banning cars.

The initiative included incentives for cyclists such as new bike lanes, including better lighting and snow removal, along with subsidies for electric bikes and cargo cycles. Council also expanded transit services and lowered fares.

But Oslo is just one of many cities taking aim at traffic. Here are a few steps some cities are taking to reduce pollution and boost quality of life.

- **London, England**, just announced that it will close 20 kilometres of roads for its biggest car-free day yet on September 22 and promises to launch weekly and/or monthly car-free days in different locations across London. This year it will unveil a new transportation strategy for its “Square Mile” centre that’s expected to designate half of the streets as either car-free or “pedestrian priority.” London also pioneered congestion charges to discourage downtown traffic in 2003.

- **Germany** is creating a “Green Net” of car-free corridors that will connect cyclists and pedestrians in 10 German cities (including **Hamburg**) as well as four universities. The “autobahn for bikes” is expected to get 50,000 cars off the road each day by 2022.

- In **Berlin**, construction crews are building 100 km of bike super-highways, four metres wide. A related initiative will ban cars from some roads. “It will alter the streetscape forever,” says one local cycling activist.

- In **Paris**, cars built before 1997 are not permitted in the city centre on weekdays. Since October, cars have been banned downtown on the first Sunday of each month. Paris now plans to double its bike lanes and limit certain streets to electric cars by 2020.

- The broad boulevards of **Buenos Aires** now include dedicated bus lanes – reducing bus traffic on side streets. This is helping the city create more and more pedestrian zones, where cars are either banned or restricted to a speed of 10 km an hour.

- In **Toronto**, city council voted in April to make permanent a pilot project that discourages cars from driving on a 2.5-km section of King Street through the city’s financial core. The King Street corridor prioritizes streetcar traffic. Clearly, this is a time of daring change (in some places). Though that progress shouldn’t be taken for granted in volatile political climates. Last November, **Madrid** rebranded 500 acres in its urban core as an “ultra-low emissions zone,” banning older diesel and gas-powered vehicles (unless the owner has previously registered a parking spot). One local newspaper estimated downtown traffic.