

#13. 29th September...“How Dare You?”...The Power of Young Canadians...Indigenous Clean Energy...Bank of Canada begins study...Parties reveal their initial Climate Change platforms

UNITED NATIONS...“How Dare You?” were the words that Greta Thunberg, the 16 year old addressed to the United Nations global leaders. “This is all wrong...I should not be up here, I should be in school!” Greta and 15 other young people filed a legal complaint with the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

This came at the same time as the Secretary General that “Only those with new, specific and bold plans can command the podium the special Action Summit at **the** United Nations.”

The Power of Young Canadians...

How are young Canadians (and the rest of the World!) responding to the Climate Change Crisis? In 2015 the Millennials were a significant block of voters courted by all parties. Now in 2019 the next generation is letting us all know that they are not happy with what has been done and the world that “we” are handing to them. Some of these are active even though they will not be able to vote. There are Protest Events all over the world strongly led by young people. They are showing that they still have a voice and can influence other generations and Candidates for election.

At U.N. Climate Summit, Few Commitments and U.S. Silence

"UNITED NATIONS — The [United Nations](#) Climate Action Summit on Monday was meant to highlight concrete promises by presidents, prime ministers and corporate executives to wean the global economy from fossil fuels to avoid the worst effects of global warming.

But despite the protests in the streets, China on Monday made no new promises to take stronger climate action. The United States, having vowed to pull out of the Paris Agreement, the pact among nations to jointly fight climate change, said nothing at all. A host of countries made only incremental promises."

Global Climate Strike Week takes place from Sept. 20-27,..

..,but there is no doubt these action events will continue out into the future.

Federal Parties weigh-in on Climate Change...

Liberals...

Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau made his climate pitch in Burnaby, B.C., (a riding where concerns over the environmental impact of energy projects are never far from the agenda) pledging that a re-elected Liberal government would halve the corporate tax

rate for companies that develop or manufacture products with zero emissions — part of the party's plan to move to net-zero emissions by 2050.

The Liberal plan goes as far as promising to not only meet, but exceed Canada's 2030 emissions goal.

But the Liberal announcement was light on details about how that would be achieved — and when pressed by reporters for more, Trudeau said the choice this election is between the Liberals and the Conservatives, who “have never done anything” to combat climate change. He also said more announcements will roll out throughout the week.

Conservatives...

The Conservatives unveiled their climate plan, which focuses on "green technology, not taxes," back in June. The plan includes setting strict emissions standards for major greenhouse gas emitters that, if exceeded, would force those companies to pay into a fund that would, in turn, be invested in government-certified clean tech companies.

Scheer has said he would eliminate the carbon tax, which he has called a “Liberal tax grab.”

NDP...

NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh addressed his party's climate plan in Winnipeg, saying a federal NDP government would create 300,000 green jobs, end subsidies for the fossil fuel industry and create a publicly funded \$15-billion "climate bank" to bolster emission-reductions measures.

Singh said Trudeau was full of "empty promises" and characterized Conservative Leader Andrew Scheer as someone who "barely believes that there is a climate crisis.”

Green...

Green Leader Elizabeth May has — perhaps unsurprisingly — argued her party's plan is the only one that takes the issue of climate change seriously enough.

The Green plan includes legislating a 60 per cent cut in emissions below 2005 levels by 2030 and doubling the government's current 30 per cent target. It would also end all fossil fuel subsidies and move Canada to a zero-carbon economy by 2050.

May responded to the Liberal climate announcement on Tuesday, arguing that the Liberals can't credibly set a goal of carbon neutrality by 2050 given the details of their plans. She said that while the Liberal plan is “preferable” to Scheer's, it's still “not anywhere near what is required.”

From Neighbours for the Planet (<https://www.neighboursfortheplanet.ca>)

Oct 1, 9-11am: Political Conversations in Richmond Hill

Connecting the Community has invited the official candidates from the **Richmond Hill riding** to come and speak at it's weekly Tuesday morning meeting. Connecting the Community has invited the official candidates from the **Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill riding** to come and speak at it's weekly Tuesday morning meeting. There will also be time for questions from the audience.

Come out and have your voices heard! This is a great opportunity to get answers about what is important to you!

Neighbours for the Planet and other climate groups will be there to ask questions specific to the climate crisis!

Tues Oct 1, 9 - 11 am
Richmond Hill United Church

For more information please contact Marj Andre at marj@marjandre.com

Oct 3, 2019 - 100 Debates on the Environment

"We're holding 100 non-partisan all-candidate debates on the environment all across Canada, all before the next election.

Let's create a Canada-wide conversation between candidates and constituents about the environment.

The more people who attend, the more powerful our message will be."

[Enter your postal code to find a debate near you and register.](#)

Oct 5, 1-3pm: Targeting Climate Change meeting in Richmond Hill

"The Targeting Climate Change event is a place for our community to come together whether you know a little or a lot about climate change. You can learn more with our Climate 101 discussion or come to find expertise and advice. Either way you will leave knowing that you are not alone in your concern for this issue." [More details and registration here.](#)

Oct 16, 7-8:30pm: Federal Election - All Candidates Debate in Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill riding

Oak Ridges Community Centre
12895 Bayview Ave, Richmond Hill, ON L4E 3G2

Here is our chance to ask Climate Change questions to our federal candidates in the Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill riding!

Make sure your voice is heard and that we let our candidates know that the Climate Crisis is the #1 issue for voters in the upcoming election!

Court of appeal tells B.C. to reconsider Trans Mountain environmental conditions

"Squamish Nation and City of Vancouver welcome partial win on court challenge.

The B.C. Court of Appeal has instructed the province to reconsider its environmental assessment certificate and conditions issued for the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion project.

In their challenges, the Squamish Nation and the City of Vancouver argued the certificate should be quashed because it was based on a flawed report and approval from the National Energy Board that was later quashed by the Federal Court of Appeal."

Shift to electric vehicles in Alberta is 'inevitable,' conference-goers told

"Alberta's oil-based economy needs to prepare itself for a looming consumer shift to electric vehicles, a Calgary crowd heard Tuesday.

Disruptive change in the automotive sector is already here and is likely to reach a crucial tipping point within the next five or six years, said Michael Liebreich, founder and guest contributor of Bloomberg New Energy Finance.

"It will happen at different speeds in different places . . . but there are going to be millions of Canadians and hundreds of thousands of Albertans and Calgarians who are going to be buying these things," Liebreich said in an interview. "The inevitability is that we will end up with very high penetrations of electric vehicles in the mix, because they're better vehicles."

Liebreich, who is also CEO of Liebreich Associates where he provides advisory services on topics such as clean energy and transportation and sustainable development, was one of the speakers at the second annual Energy Disruptors conference taking place at Stampede Park."

From Corporate Knights...

How drones are heat mapping high-rise energy guzzlers

BY [JOHN LORINC](#)

August 13, 2019

Drafty high-rises are the gas guzzlers of the building world and infrared drones are swooping in to spot costly energy leaks.

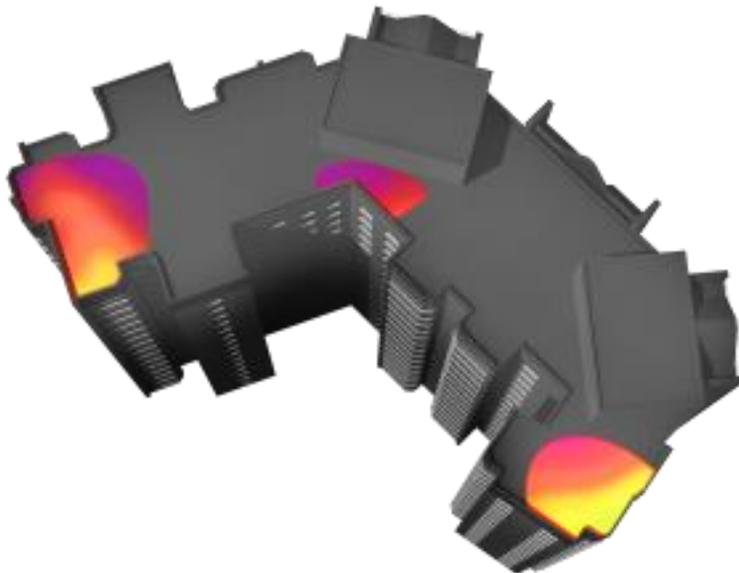
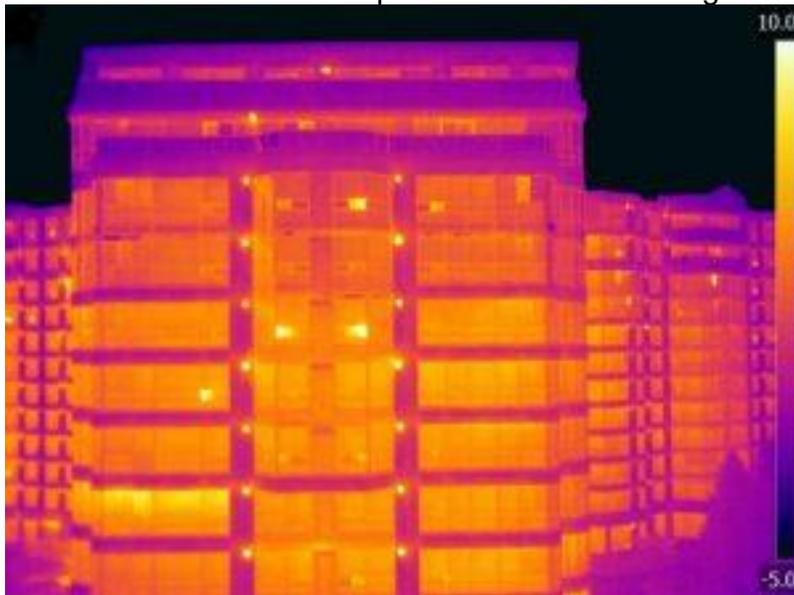
It's a fact of high-rise life that's become all too familiar to legions of urban condo dwellers: many apartment buildings leak like sieves, with heating or cooling seeping out through poorly sealed windows, cracks and concrete balcony slabs.

Yet those construction flaws, in the aggregate, add up to something much larger and more problematic. By most estimates, buildings today account for about 40% of all carbon emissions, and therefore play a huge role in the accelerating climate crisis. We should be thinking of all those drafty apartments as if they were gas-guzzlers spewing carbon and other harmful gases into the atmosphere.

In many ways, the solutions to building-related carbon emissions are way less high tech than the gear required to run an electric vehicle. We also know where to find

the sources. According to Omid Alaei, vice-president of [QEA Tech](#), a 25-employee Markham engineering firm, as much as 50% of a building's energy losses involve the so-called building envelope: windows, exterior walls, balconies, doors, and so on. In low-rise residential structures, these leaks aren't especially difficult to locate using conventional scanning techniques. Apartment buildings, by contrast, are far more difficult to accurately assess.

To remedy the problem, QEA Tech's engineers developed a thermal imaging software system that can be loaded onto a digital camera-equipped drone. It flies around the exterior of a building, taking pictures to create what a three-dimensional heat map. The algorithm detects areas where there seems to be excessive heat loss and compares these to the so-called R values of those portions of the building – i.e. the rated insulation value of a particular window or segment of exterior wall.



When the system notices a significant difference, QEA Tech’s technology not only pinpoints the places where the leaks are occurring but also estimates the return on investment associated with a retrofit. Alaei cites one building where the drones located a piece of wall that was missing insulation. The annual cost of the heat loss was about \$2,000 while the installation of the replacement insulation set the property owner back by just \$500 – a clear win. (The scans themselves range in price from about \$5,000 to \$30,000, depending on the size of the building). Such scans, he adds, have become increasingly popular among property managers working for insurance companies and other institutional investors purchasing multi-unit residential buildings. “We’re targeting high rises because there’s no [other] solution for that,” Alaei says

KNIGHT BITES

INDIGENOUS CLEAN ENERGY



Costing climate inaction: Bank of Canada joins ‘coalition of the willing’

BY [CK STAFF](#)

May 29, 2019

2019 BEST 50 ISSUE

While Canadian politicians waffle over climate change, Bank of Canada declares climate risks a threat to economy



While politicians in Canada and around the globe deny or waffle over climate change, the world’s central bankers are taking the climate crisis seriously.

“Climate change continues to pose risks to both the economy and the financial system,” said Bank of Canada Governor Stephen Poloz with the release of the [bank’s first-ever report on climate risks](#) earlier this month. The bank announced that it’s undertaking a multi-year research plan to better assess the climate risks facing Canada’s financial system, including looking at bank loans to carbon-intensive sectors.

In December 2017, more than 30 central bankers from France, the U.K., Germany, Japan, Singapore, Mexico, Australia and other countries formed a new organization, the Central Banks and Supervisors Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS), to ensure that someone takes action following the Paris climate agreement, which entered into force in 2016.

“Climate change continues to pose risks to both the economy and the financial system.”

– Bank of Canada Governor Stephen Poloz

Climate-related risks are a source of financial risk. The central bankers’ job is to ensure financial stability, and therefore the central bankers got involved. NGFS encourages best practices in climate-risk management for the financial sector and promotes green finance policies to help fund the low-carbon economy.

The United States and Canada were notably absent from the founding group. But this spring, just as NGFS was preparing its first full report, Canada signed on along with a dozen other countries including Norway, Ireland, Hungary, Thailand and Malaysia.

Poloz said his institution was proud to be accepted into NGFS. “Joining this network is part of the bank’s broader efforts to understand climate-related risks for the Canadian economy and financial system.”

In its [first report](#), issued in April, NGFS called itself “the coalition of the willing.” This also explains why the current U.S. administration is sitting out. The report acknowledges that climate change will have a “far-reaching impact” on households, businesses and governments. “While the exact outcomes, time horizon and future pathway are uncertain, there is a high degree of certainty that some combination of physical and transition risks will materialize in the future.”

The report offers six recommendations for central banks and policymakers:

- integrate climate risks into financial-stability monitoring; lead by example by practising sustainability in their own operations;
- share climate-risk data;
- improve their understanding of climate risks and share that knowledge with emerging economies;
- strive for globally consistent environment-related disclosure; encourage green capital by developing bodies of knowledge around those economic activities that create environmental risks and those that aid the transition to a sustainable economy.

With its long coastlines, extensive forests and water scarce farmland, Canada is especially vulnerable to climate change. According to a Bank of Canada spokesperson, as the bank intensified its own study of climate risks, “it saw value in joining the NGFS network to coordinate efforts with central banks and regulators in other countries.”

The bank expects to contribute to two key parts of the NGFS mandate: developing an analytical framework for assessing climate risks, and scaling up green finance. Green projects will need all the help they can get: NGSF estimates that shifting the world economy from brown to green in line with the Paris goals will require investments of more than US\$90 trillion.

