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September 3, 2024

Dear Honourable Minister Guilbeault and Minister Leboutillier,

Climate Action Newmarket Aurora recognizes the complexities you face in transitioning from fossil fuels amidst provincial resistance and legal challenges, such as the court ruling affecting the Vista thermal coal expansion in Alberta. Despite international commitments, Canadian coal exports surged by 7% in 2023, marking a 20% increase since our pledge to phase out coal and doubling exports compared to 2015. This is unacceptable.

Current policies are inadequate for meeting our 1.5°C climate goal and insufficient for effective climate financing. Bold action is necessary to address climate change, protect endangered species, safeguard Canada's water resources, and respect Indigenous Peoples' rights.

We urge you, as Climate and Fisheries Ministers, to:

1. **Enforce Legislation:** Maintain the commitment to reduce domestic coal production and exports by 2030, halt thermal coal projects, and ensure no public funds are used for such initiatives.
2. **Protect Aquatic Species:** Use the revised Impact Assessment Act to protect threatened Rainbow and Bull trout.
3. **Safeguard Water Resources:** Leverage the Canada Water Agency and relevant legislation to restore and protect critical water bodies like the West Athabaska watershed.
4. **Address Environmental Racism:** Implement Bill C-226, The Environmental Justice Strategy Act, to confront environmental racism affecting Indigenous communities, beyond the Ermineskin Cree Nation.
5. **Cap Fossil Fuel Emissions:** Follow through on promised legislation to cap emissions from the domestic fossil fuel industry.
6. Invest more in green steel production and make that the export, not coal.
7. **Enhance Public Communication:** Develop a transparent public communication strategy that regularly updates Canadians on provincial emissions, progress towards targets, and necessary actions, similar to COVID-related data.

Climate Action Newmarket Aurora stands with the Keepers of the Water, the West Athabaska Watershed Bioregional Society, Ecojustice, and StandEarth in urging these critical actions.

Sincerely,

Melanie Duckett-Wilson

On behalf of

Climate Action Newmarket Aurora



Sources

[Vista Coal Underground Mine Project and Vista Mine Phase II Expansion Project](#)

[Statistical Review Country Transition Tracker](#)

[Canada's coal exports up again in 2023 as government's promised ban elusive | Globalnews.ca](#)

[Canada | Climate Action Tracker](#)

[Ending Canada's Support for Fossil Fuels: Tracking Progress and Charting Next Steps.](#)

[Canada: GHG emissions by province | Statista](#)

[Canada Water Agency](#)

[Stop Vista thermal coal mine expansion - Ecojustice](#)

[Which technologies will enable a cleaner steel industry? | World Economic Forum](#)

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