



Christian Reformed  
CENTRE FOR Public Dialogue



CLIMATE  
WITNESS  
PROJECT

13 January 2026

The Honourable Julie Dabrusin, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Nature  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Dabrusin,

We offer our congratulations on your new portfolio and thank you for the work you do on behalf of all Canadians in these important areas. We applaud the work you have done to revise the Canadian Environmental Protection Act and champion the inclusion of the “Right to a Healthy Environment.” We also applaud the release of the Implementation Framework this past summer. We hope this Right becomes an important tool to resist challenges to environmental protections.

The [Climate Witness Project](#) is a faith-based group that encourages churches to learn about climate change, be better stewards of our resources, and to speak to public officials about common sense climate policy that will benefit the earth, people around the world who are poor and vulnerable, and future generations. We partner with the Christian Reformed [Centre for Public Dialogue](#) and [World Renew](#) to resource Canadians to live sustainably and seek just climate practices that will have positive local and global impacts.

In the global communities where World Renew works, the impacts of climate change on everyday livelihoods are clear. Whether to address flooding in Bangladesh or drought in Kenya, we partner with conservation agriculture programs that strengthen the resilience of households, helping families to mitigate the effects of climate change on their everyday lives. In southern Honduras, communities facing extreme heat, drought, and food insecurity are making brave changes to adapt to a changing climate. Families are using innovative aquaponics systems that combine fish and vegetable production, allowing them to grow food year round even where soil is degraded and water is scarce. Through these community-led efforts, supported by World Renew and local partners, more than 100 families are now producing fresh vegetables and tilapia, strengthening food security and nutrition.

As global communities invest deeply in climate mitigation and adaptation, Canada also has a responsibility to cut back on harmful carbon emissions, and to do our fair share to make changes that will slow the advance of climate change and lessen the natural disasters that devastate at home and abroad. We join many Canadians advocating for the widespread development of clean energy sources to replace our dependence on oil and gas. Thank you for standing up in Parliament to speak for projects like this that will safeguard the environment in Canada and that of our global neighbours.

**We write today to ask the Government of Canada to prioritize a healthy global environment by significantly investing here at home in the east-west electricity grid that was a commitment in the**

**2025 federal election.** We can no longer delay making these important changes that are in the national interest of Canada, transitioning away from dependence on oil and gas and towards sustainable infrastructure powered by renewable energy projects that uphold the rights of Indigenous peoples to free, prior, and informed consent. The Christian Reformed Church has long supported the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.<sup>1</sup>

We make this call knowing that:

- An east-west grid will address interprovincial trade in power, and interprovincial grids will reduce the cost of electricity to consumers.<sup>2</sup>
- Canada's need for electricity is projected to double or even triple by 2050<sup>3</sup>
- 300,000 jobs could result from a project to build an east-west electricity grid<sup>4</sup>
- Energy security would be improved with less reliance on imported electricity
- Transitioning away from fossil fuel will benefit the health of people and the environment.<sup>5</sup>

In conclusion, we appreciate the commitment that the Government of Canada has already made to invest in an east-west electricity grid. ***We encourage you to make clear to us and to the public how the east-west grid will be financed, and on what timeline it can be expected.*** We know that a modernized electrical infrastructure will be a nation-building project that paves the way to a more reliable, affordable, and greener future for Canada, and will significantly mitigate our global climate impacts.

Sincerely,



Wayne Miedema  
Regional Organizer  
Climate Witness Project



Peter Timmerman  
Executive Director, Canada  
World Renew



Cindy Stover  
Justice Mobilization Program Manager  
Centre for Public Dialogue



Al Postma  
Executive Director, Canada  
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<sup>1</sup> [Ecumenical Letter](#).

<sup>2</sup> [Making Western grids work better](#).

<sup>3</sup> [Powering Canada: A blueprint for success](#).

<sup>4</sup> [Joint Letter: Building Canada with Renewable Electricity](#).

<sup>5</sup> [Call to build Canada's east-west electricity grid with renewable energy that upholds Indigenous rights](#).

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The Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue is a place of conversation, learning and action on God's call to justice, peace and reconciliation. We are a ministry of the Christian Reformed Churches in Canada, a denomination of 200+ churches and ministries and across the country. We collaborate deeply with ecumenical justice organizations in Canada.