

Student Climate Action Initiative Manifesto



We believe that climate change cannot be addressed by the individual. It is only through unifying and rallying all people that we can steer our growth as a province towards sustainability. Climate change does not care who we are, where we attend post-secondary education, or even whether or not we are students. And yet, as students, and as individuals of the global community, what we are experiencing shows clearly that we cannot continue down this path. We do not have the luxury of a slow, crawling move towards sustainable practices. Old growth forests are being demolished, forests are burning to the ground, towns are being evacuated, and the province is flooding.

The province, Canada, and the world have entered a climate crisis, or a “code red for humanity.” The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) submitted a report in August of 2021, stating the implications of climate change and causes of global warming, the possible consequences for the human race within the next few decades, and possible forms of limiting future climate change. The impact of humankind on climate change is unprecedented and, in many instances, irreversible. The report explains that, “human induced climate change is already affecting many weather and climate extremes in every region across the globe.”. These climate extremes can include increased rainy periods, droughts, monsoons, increased periods of wildfires, and much more. To prevent this climate emergency reaching catastrophic levels, aggressive stances on “limiting cumulative CO₂ emissions, reaching at least net zero CO₂ emissions, along with strong reductions in other greenhouse gas emissions.” Continued discussions surrounding the topic of climate change are ongoing, yet change is slow. The need for change on the provincial, national, and international policy level is needed now more than ever. The evidence for this is being seen throughout our province and the world.

We, as post secondary students of British Columbia, demand change. These demands include:

- That the provincial government, within one year, require that all public post-secondary institutions fully divest from fossil fuels by 2025.
- We demand that each public post-secondary institution:
 - Stop providing training and education specific to the construction and maintenance of fossil fuel infrastructure, and develop new training and education to support the province's transition to greener energy;
 - Provide support to workers transitioning out of the expiring fossil fuel sector, including financial support for re-training and relocation;
 - Reject all sponsorship, grant, and scholarship funding from fossil fuel companies; and
 - Modernize the curriculum across all program areas to embed opportunities to advance the mitigation of climate change.
- Each public post-secondary institution publicly state that they will not, now or in the future, be a party to investment in pipelines and fossil fuel infrastructure.
- We demand that:
 - British Columbia stop all extractive resource projects, such as old growth logging, that have not received the free, prior, and informed consent of the host nations;
 - That the province privilege the agency of the host nations in decisions around resource projects on their lands
 - That the province and the RCMP immediately stop the violent arrest of land and water defenders.
- That the *University Act* be amended to ensure that each public post-secondary institution has, on its board of governors, reserved seats for the host nations on whose land the post-secondary institution operates.

The Student Climate Action Initiative Summit represents the voice of BC students and is a response to the increasing concern surrounding climate change and its devastating effects on students, and the world, in the present and future. We demand, as the young people of Canada and the world, that enough is enough, and that change must happen. Our demands point to the starting points for change within British Columbia and Canada, but this is not the end. Climate change is a threat to all on earth, especially the young peoples who will have to face these changes. Thus, climate action is a must. It is not a question of if or when, it must start now!

