

The Honourable Mr. Jonathan Wilkinson
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
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Dear Mr. Wilkinson,

Monday 17 May 2021

As the world rallies around the need for a global treaty on plastic pollution, Canada remains conspicuously silent. The Government of Canada urgently needs to support such a treaty to protect our planet from irreversible damage.

Canadians discard three million tonnes of plastic waste annually, only 9% of which is recycled, meaning the vast majority of plastics end up in landfill or incinerated, and about 29,000 tonnes finds its way into our natural environment.

Plastic pollution impacts our environment, our climate and our health; affecting every ecosystem on Earth.

If current trends continue, roughly 12,000 million metric tons of plastic will reside in landfills and the environment by 2050, and significantly more plastic fragments and chemicals in our bodies than there currently are.

The economic impacts are also significant, with marine plastic pollution alone costing the global economy up to \$2.5 trillion per year and threatening food security.

But it's not too late. The Canadian government is critically positioned to help turn the tide.

While we recognise the efforts by Canada to date, including the Ocean Plastics Charter and its zero-plastic-waste by 2030 pledge, it is overwhelmingly clear that voluntary commitments and a patchwork of national policies cannot address the crisis at hand.

We support the call from the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) to urge the government to join the 138 countries calling for a global agreement on plastic pollution to be established at the UN Environment Assembly in February 2022.

The health and integrity of our planet cannot be left to chance.

Yours Sincerely,



Mary Rice
Executive Director
Environmental Investigation Agency

SIGNATORIES

First Name	Last Name	Affiliation	Area of Research Expertise
Katherine	Crocker	Albert Einstein College of Medicine	Environmental Endocrinology
Sabaa	Khan	David Suzuki Foundation	Plastic Waste Trade
Audrey	Moores	McGill University	Biodegradable Plastics
Max	Liboiron	Memorial University	Plastic Pollution in the Arctic, Food Sovereignty
Kaitlyn	Hawkins	Memorial University	Plastic Pollution
Josh	Lepawsky	Memorial University	Electronic Waste
Edward	Allen	Memorial University	Indigenous Environmental Health
Hillary	Bradshaw	Memorial University	Benthic Monitoring and International Policy
Alexander	Flynn	Memorial University	Marine Plastic Pollution
Charles	Mather	Memorial University	Marine Debris
Willa	Neilsen	Memorial University	Marine Biology
Alex	Zahara	Memorial University	Marine Plastic Pollution
Dean	Bavington	Memorial University	Fisheries and Aquaculture
Alexander	Bond	Natural History Museum, London	Seabirds and Marine Systems
Anna	Posacka	Ocean Wise	Sources, fate and effects of microplastics
Myra	Hird	Queen's University	Waste Studies
Kathleen	Ruff	RightOnCanada.ca	Environmental Advocacy
Rebecca	Altman	Science and Environmental Health Network	Environmental Sociology and Plastics History
Michelle	Nilson	Simon Fraser University	Educational Leadership
Tammara	Soma	Simon Fraser University	Bioplastics
Anne	Pasek	Trent University	Climate Change
Finis	Dunaway	Trent University	Environmental History
Anne	McIntosh	University of Alberta	Biology
Nicholas	Randell	University of Calgary	Engineering
James	Roszel	University of Guelph	Policy, Ethnographic
Amanda	Hooykaas	University of Guelph	Human Geography
Christopher	Kelly-Bisson	University of Ottawa	Political Agroecology
Chelsea	Rochman	University of Toronto	Sources, fate and effects of plastic debris and microplastics
Margaret	Schlichting	University of Toronto	Cognitive Neuroscience
Michael	Mack	University of Toronto	Cognitive Neuroscience
Stephanie	Borrelle	University of Toronto	Plastic Pollution
Hannah	De Frond	University of Toronto	Microplastics
Lisa	Erdle	University of Toronto	Microplastics
Rui	Liu	University of Toronto	Marine Plastic Pollution
Narda	Nelson	Western University	Environmental Education
Denielle	Elliott	York University	Cultural Studies
Sarah	Blacker	York University	Environmental Justice
Peter	Vandergeet	York University	Maritime Studies, Environment, Fisheries
Shubhra	Gururani	York University	Environmental Politics and Climate Change
Paul	McCarney	York University	Arctic Wildlife and Environments
Sheila	Colla	York University	Conservation Science
Leesa	Fawcett	York University	Marine Biology

ENDORSEMENTS

Name	Title	Organisation
Mary Rice	Executive Director, Environmental Investigation Agency	 environmental investigation agency
Carroll Muffett	President and CEO, Center for International Environmental Law	 CIEL CENTER for INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW
Beatrice Olivastri	CEO, Friends of the Earth Canada	 Friends of the Earth
Olga Speranskaya, PhD	Co-Director HEJSupport IPEN Senior Advisor	 hej!support health . environment . justice
Tim Gray	Executive Director Environmental Defence Canada	 environmental defence INSPIRING CHANGE