



CANADIAN  
UNITARIAN  
COUNCIL

CONSEIL  
UNITARIEN  
DU CANADA

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## CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024

**Name of resolution:** CUC Goal and Strategic Priorities 2024 - 2026

Approved at the CUC Annual General Meeting, May 25, 2024

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#### BACKGROUND

- A. As Unitarians, we are dedicated to spiritual growth, social justice, and reverence for nature and all life. We embody these values through worship, ethical action, artistic expression, and religious education for all ages that aim to connect hearts, heads, and hands
- B. Our Seventh Principle calls on us to “respect the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part”
- C. Climate Change threatens billions of humans, wildlife, and ecosystems during this century with food and water shortages, war, displacement, and unbearable heat<sup>1</sup>, as well as the collapse of civilization<sup>2</sup>
- D. Indigenous people in Arctic regions<sup>3</sup>, and Indigenous, Black, and People of Colour in the Earth’s tropic zones, are disproportionately impacted by Climate Change<sup>4</sup>; and
- E. The production and marketing of fossil fuels by fossil fuel corporations, and their consumption, largely by people in the temperate zones, is the major cause of Climate Change in the present<sup>5</sup>;

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<sup>1</sup> [Climate change the greatest threat the world has ever faced – United Nations](#)  
[Future temperatures will test humans’ ability to survive - CBC](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Climate change and the threat to Civilization | PNAS](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Climate change in the Arctic - Wikipedia](#)

<sup>4</sup> [The people who’ll be most hurt by climate swings did the least to cause them, study says - The Washington Post](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Burning of fossil fuels – University of California – Berkeley](#)



- F. Canadian banks are among the largest financiers of fossil fuel corporations operating in the Canadian Tar Sands<sup>6</sup> and elsewhere
- G. Canada is, and has been, among the worst Climate Change contributing nations on a per capita basis<sup>7</sup>
- H. The CUC in May 2015 [adopted a resolution](#) limited to cease investing in only the top 200 fossil fuel companies (oil, natural gas and coal) based on their carbon reserves and did not include companies invested in fossil fuel transportation (e.g. Trans Mountain Corporation) or Liquid Natural Gas (e.g. LNG Canada).

RESOLVED that the CUC and member congregations:

1. Be encouraged to be in solidarity with those Indigenous Peoples who oppose fossil fuel extraction and infrastructure on their traditional territories; and
2. Be encouraged to oppose individual and bank investment in fossil fuel extraction, refining, transportation, and marketing leading to fossil fuel consumption and Global Heating; and
3. Be encouraged to consider moving their financial business from the big five Canadian banks; and
4. Be encouraged to move their investments of mutual funds and other investment vehicles with significant investments in 1) fossil fuel corporations, or 2) in the five major Canadian banks which fund them, to financial instruments with lower or no

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[Causes and effects of climate change – United Nations Climate Action](#)

“Fossil fuels – coal, oil and gas – are by far the largest contributor to global climate change...”

<sup>6</sup> [Banking on climate chaos](#) – p4, Executive Summary: “Tar sands oil: The top tar sands companies received \$21 billion in financing in 2022, led by the biggest Canadian banks, who provided 89% of those funds. TD, RBC, and Bank of Montreal top the list.” (click on “Download the Report”)

<sup>7</sup> [Global greenhouse gas emissions – Government of Canada](#) See “Per capita” tab: “...In 2020, Canada was the second largest GHG emitting country per capita among the top 11 emitting countries with 17.8 tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent per person...”



investments in 1) fossil fuel corporations, and 2) the five major Canadian banks;  
and

5. Be encouraged to request boards of trustees to communicate this resolution to elected officials, Indigenous Peoples, and journalists, as well as financial, environmental, IBPOC, social justice, and faith groups in their geographic location(s).

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**Reading:**

- [Royal Bank of Canada and Fossil Fuels, STAND.earth](#)
- [How are banks financing the climate crisis? bankingonabetterfuture.org](#)