

Canadian Coalition
for Nuclear
Responsibility



Regroupement pour
la surveillance
du nucléaire

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Hundreds of groups for climate action reject nuclear power at Brussels Summit

(Montreal) Today, more than 600 civil society groups across the globe working on climate action, including [130 from Canada](#) launched a [declaration](#) in Brussels, Belgium, stating that nuclear power expansion is not a solution to the climate crisis.

The groups declare: "We are living in a climate emergency. Time is precious, and too many governments are wasting it with nuclear energy fairy tales. What we demand is a just transition towards a safe, renewable and affordable energy system that secures jobs and protects life on our planet."

The groups made their declaration public today at the [pro-nuclear Summit](#) in Brussels where countries are meeting to bolster the industry's claim that investing in new nuclear plants must be a priority to save the climate. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), whose principle [mandate](#) is to promote nuclear expansion, is co-hosting the event, along with Belgium, which ironically passed [a law](#) in 2003 –still on the books – to phase out nuclear power completely.

The declaration was drafted by [Climate Action Network Europe](#). It is endorsed by [Climate Action Network Canada](#), an umbrella organization representing more than 150 groups in this country. Additional Canadian signatories comprise a wide spectrum of coalitions and individual groups in rural and urban regions across Canada including:

David Suzuki Foundation (Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal)
Society of High Prairie Regional Environmental Action Committee (Slave Lake, Alberta)
Coalition for a Clean Green Saskatchewan (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan)
Concerned Citizens Committee (Manitoba)
Biigtigong Nishnaabeg First Nation (Heron Bay, Ontario)
Northwatch (North Bay, Ontario)
Ontario Clean Air Alliance (Toronto, Ontario)
Concerned Citizens of Renfrew County and Area (Ottawa, Ontario)
Kebaowek First Nation (Kebaowek, Québec)
Regroupement des organismes environnementaux en énergie (Montréal, Québec)
Association québécoise de lutte contre la pollution atmosphérique (Québec)
Passamaquoddy Recognition Group (Qonaskamkuk, NB)
Conservation Council of New Brunswick (Fredericton, NB)
Council of Canadians Prince Edward Island (Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island)
Nova Scotia Voice of Women for Peace (Halifax, Nova Scotia)
Grand Riverkeeper Labrador, Inc. (Goose Bay, Labrador)
Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment ([CAPE](#), Canada)

Groups for climate action reject nuclear power

The declaration states that nuclear power is too slow, too costly, and too dangerous to be an effective strategy for climate action. Nuclear plants cost three times more than renewables to build and are at least four times slower to deploy. Energy efficiency measures are cheaper and faster than any supply option. Rather than nuclear power, a sensible climate strategy would prioritize approaches that are cheaper, faster, safer and sustainable, while creating far more jobs.

The global nuclear power industry has been in steep decline for the last quarter century. Cost overruns and lengthy delays have plagued the industry, whose contribution to global electricity supply [has fallen](#) from 17.5 percent in 1997 to only 9.2 percent today. Consequently, the nuclear industry has organized itself to grab as much money as it can from funds earmarked by governments to fight climate change.

At last year's Climate Conference, COP-28, the official resolution to triple renewable energy and double energy efficiency worldwide by 2030 was enthusiastically [adopted](#) by all parties, while a prepared statement sponsored mainly by nuclear vendors, to [triple nuclear power](#) by 2050 was supported by only a small minority.

In 2020, a broad network of Canadian civil society, public interest, Indigenous and religious groups declared that small nuclear reactors are “a [Dirty Dangerous Distraction](#) from real climate action”. Now that prophetic observation is being endorsed by groups globally.

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“Nuclear power is a few decades of electricity followed by a 10 million year headache. No thanks!”

Susan O'Donnell, Coalition for Responsible Energy Development - New Brunswick
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“Dirty and non-renewable energy sources including nuclear and fossil fuels are not required in future because renewable energy with storage is ready now.”

Jean-Pierre Finet, Regroupement des organismes environnementaux en énergie
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“Nuclear energy is an unnecessary burden considering so many cleaner, cheaper, faster and safer alternatives. We got rid of it in Quebec In 2012 and we intend to keep it that way.”

Angela Bischoff, Ontario Clean Air Alliance
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“Renewables are do-able. Nuclear is a dirty dangerous distraction from real climate action.”
