

MAC 431-15

Action on Greenhouse Gas Emissions

MAC 431-15:

BIRT AMPA direct the Communications and Political Action Committee (CPAC) and the Environmental Advisory Work Group (EAWG) to develop recommendations to the PE on a comprehensive strategy to achieve a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Recommendations for the strategy will focus on how to educate members about the issue and how to mobilize members toward political action to achieve legislation and regulatory changes that will reduce emissions. The Provincial Executive will submit an interim report to January 2016 Provincial Council and a final report to AMPA 2016 on how to best educate and mobilize our members.

The Provincial Executive is submitting this report to AMPA 2016 in compliance with the requirements of MAC 431 and based on the input from the EAWG and representatives from the CPAC and after receiving input at January Provincial Council.¹ On-time Motions that were submitted to AMPA 2016 are listed at the end of this report.

Related Motions passed at AMPA 2015

MAC 431 was passed at AMPA 2015 along with the following two motions that also address the critical issues of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change.

1. MAC 432-15 - BIRT AMPA direct the Communications and Political Action Committee and the Environmental Advisory Work Group to develop recommendations to the Provincial Executive for a submission to the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) 2015 Climate Change Discussion Consultation Process.
2. BUDG 201 Amendment #4 - BIRT Account 4147 (Coalition Memberships) be increased by \$5,000 to fund membership in the Climate Action Network Canada.

Submission to the MOECC

Work on MAC 432-15 commenced immediately after AMPA 2015 with the leadership of the Environmental Advisory Work Group in conjunction with representatives from the Communications and Political Action Committee. The official deadline for submissions to the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) was March 29, 2015. However, Paul Kossta, OSSTF/FEESO Legislative Observer, contacted Ministry officials to arrange for an extension to mid-April. EAWG member Glen Hodgson and CPAC Chair Karen Littlewood met with MPP Peter Tabuns (NDP critic for the MOECC) to discuss possible proposals and to get advice on a potential submission. The EAWG members researched the topic and exchanged information by email and developed a recommended submission, which was approved by the Provincial Executive on April 13, 2015 and submitted to the MOECC on April 16, 2015.

The MAC 432-15 submission developed by the EAWG with input from the CPAC is attached as Appendix A. The MOECC submission includes the following specific proposals for action on emissions with detailed explanation and analysis:

¹ The MAC 431 work group included: Domenic Bellissimo (Director CPA), Earl Burt (Treasurer, Liaison to EAWG), Jo Dean (Executive Officer, Liaison to CPAC), Cindy Dubue (Vice President, Liaison to CPAC), Dan Earle (Vice Chair of CPAC), Brian Grandy (EAWG), Julie Hendren (EAWG), Glen Hodgson (EAWG), Paul Kossta (Legislative Observer), Jean Trant (EAWG), Stephen Wilson (Chair of CPAC).

1. Make all schools and school board properties carbon neutral with appropriate standards for new buildings and retrofitting for existing plants.
2. Reduce bussing and enhance walking opportunities for school board employees and for students.
3. Mandate climate change as a cross-curricular approach at all levels and grades of schooling.
4. Encourage less meat consumption to reduce methane gas emissions.²
5. Stimulate increased investments in alternative renewable energy sources by eliminating fossil fuel subsidies and shifting to incentives and programs to support non-carbon energy sources.
6. Introduce a carbon fee and dividends policy that reduces carbon pollution by internalizing the costs and by stimulating investment in clean alternatives.
7. Introduce more robust waste reduction programs with enhanced regulations and expanded product stewardship and deposit return systems.
8. Provide tax disincentives for carbon based transportation, and rebates for electric vehicles, while substantially increasing investments in public transportation.

The actions identified in the MOECC submission provide a basis for an agenda that OSSTF/FEESO will advance in conjunction with other organizations and coalitions that are striving for real solutions to reduce emissions. All of these policies and actions require significant public investment and legislation and/or regulations for implementation. To make real change in these areas OSSTF/FEESO will have to work in the political sphere to pressure governments and to educate, motivate and mobilize our members and the public to support such policies. As noted by prominent Canadian environmental activist Tzeporah Berman:

“... until there are regulations that require industry to change it will not. ... Right now our economic systems treat environment as ... an ‘externality,’ something that is not valued and often not even considered in the decision-making processes – as if we don’t need to breathe clean air and drink clean water. ... The only way to ‘internalize’ externalities is through government action. The government has the power to ban certain activities, limit others and make the true cost to the environment part of doing business.”³

The MAC 432-15 MOECC submission is also the basis for a number of the policy motions that will be submitted to AMPA 2016 for inclusion in the OSSTF/FEESO “Policies and Procedures” manual (see list of proposed policy motions at the end of this report).

Climate Action Network Canada

Regarding BUDG 201 Amendment #4, OSSTF/FEESO was able to join the Climate Action Network Canada with a membership fee of \$2,500. While the budget motion at AMPA allocated \$5,000, it was determined later that this objective could be achieved with \$2,500. According to well-known author and activist Naomi Klein, the Climate Action Network Canada (CANC) is “the broadest [Canadian] coalition devoted to emissions reduction.”⁴ The CANC is a coalition of more than 100 organizations from across the country that cares about how a changing climate affects people, plants and wildlife. The coalition includes the CLC, CUPE and USW and the Chair is Andrea Peart, a staff member responsible for Health, Safety and Environment for the CLC.⁵

The CANC’s focus is: “Government action to regulate emissions, the setting of legislated targets, and the setting of carbon pollution pricing so that industry and consumers respond to market signals and

² “Cattle-rearing generates more global warming greenhouse gases, as measured in CO2 equivalent, than transportation ...” and methane is 23 times as warming as CO2 – source: “Rearing cattle produces more greenhouse gases than driving cars” United Nations News Centre, www.un.org. Jeremy Rifkin in *The Third Industrial Revolution* (2011) also states: “Cattle and livestock are the second leading contributor to climate change after buildings, generating 18 percent of greenhouse gas emissions. This is more than what is produced by worldwide transport.” (p.202). Also see: “Halving meat consumption offers ‘significant’ climate benefits” 25/04/2014. www.climatechangenews.com.

³ Tzeporah Berman, *This Crazy Time: Living Our Environmental Challenge* (Knopf Canada 2011), pp. 224-225.

⁴ Naomi Klein, *This Changes Everything: Capitalism versus the Climate* (Knopf Canada 2014) p. 149.

⁵ <http://climateactionnetwork.ca/who-we-are/board/board-members/>

shift their energy consuming behaviours.” The following two statements on the CANC website provided compelling rationale for OSSTF/FEESO to link up with the coalition’s work:

1. The CANC’s mission is to combat climate change, particularly by building social consensus for the implementation of comprehensive climate change action plans by all levels of government, based on the best available science, with specific policies, targets, timetables and reporting, and to work with Canada’s governments, First Nations, Inuit and Metis, private sector, labour, and civil society for the effective implementation of these plans.
2. The CANC is the only network in the country that brings labour, development, faith-based and aboriginal groups together with the key national and provincial environmental organizations working on climate change. The network plays a critical role in helping Canadian organizations understand and respond to climate change impacts and policies in Canada and around the world and to coordinate their collective work on this issue to maximize their collective impact.

By joining the CANC, OSSTF/FEESO has demonstrated a strong and clearly visible commitment to action on emissions reductions. The CANC will be a source of information and will provide access to other allies which are pressing for government action to transition to a low carbon economy. The CANC advocates for many of the same policies identified in the OSSTF/FEESO submission to the MOECC summarized above.

MAC 431-15 – Meetings, Discussions and Analysis

Unfortunately due to the extended amount of time required for bargaining this fall, it has been a challenge for the EAWG to find meeting dates to work on MAC 431, but meetings were held on November 4, 2015 and December 9, 2015. At the November meeting, the Chair of the Communications and Political Action Committee (Stephen Wilson) joined the meeting by telephone, while at the December meeting CPAC Vice Chair Dan Earle attended in person. CPAC will also be engaged for input through a verbal report at the January meeting of the Committee (and a written copy of this interim report and recommendations will also be presented for feedback).

At the November meeting, members benefited from a presentation by Fred Wilson, the Strategic Planning Director for Unifor,⁶ who provided the group with an overview of how dramatically the public focus on climate change has changed in recent years and why it is important for unions to be engaged in this critical issue. It is interesting to note that as one of Canada’s largest private sector unions which represents thousands of workers in the fossil fuel extraction industry and in other high use fossil fuel sectors like manufacturing and transportation, Unifor believes it is very important to take a leadership role in the fight to reduce emissions.

However, Wilson noted that we obviously cannot forget that Canada is a huge country in a northern climate where transportation is critical to a largely resource based economy and where energy for heating is critical. Consequently, there are much greater challenges for Canada than in many European countries that are further ahead in transitioning to alternative energy sources. In Canada, there is the need for a massive industrial transformation, which will not happen overnight and which requires a just transition for workers who will be impacted by changes. For example, an overnight end to the Alberta bitumen sands would leave a 100,000 workers unemployed. Unions must protect

⁶ Unifor is Canada’s newest union, created in September 2013 after a two year process between the Canadian Auto Workers Union (CAW) and the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union (CEP). Unifor has over 300,000 members representing all sectors of the economy and is the largest private sector union in Canada. In his role as Director of Strategic Planning, Fred works with the elected officers and senior staff of the union to coordinate major projects and focus attention on Unifor’s foundational goals and political priorities. Prior to Unifor, Fred was Assistant to the President of the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada (CEP) where he coordinated the union’s policy, campaigns and national services.

workers in the transition to a low carbon economy. During a presentation at the Climate Summit of the Americas in Toronto on July 9, 2015, Unifor President Jerry Dias emphasized that unions must “pressure governments for actions to reduce GHG emissions” because “there will be no jobs on a dead planet.”⁷ He also argued that workers and unions must be treated as serious stakeholders while transitioning to a low carbon economy and that they must at the same time fight to protect workers affected by the required changes.

At the November meeting, it was noted that OSSTF/FEESO is already beginning to be much more active on the climate change front. The following actions have been undertaken since AMPA 2015:

- a D/BU was issued to encourage members to participate in the July 5, 2015 “March for Climate Justice” rally and EAWG member Glen Hodgson attended with the OSSTF/FEESO flag to ensure OSSTF/FEESO visibility.
- Provincial Executive member Earl Burt attended the July 2015 Climate Summit of the Americas, hosted by the Ontario government.
- one of the keynote speakers at the August Summer Leadership meeting was Tzeporah Berman – a well-known Canadian environmental activist, who has recently focused her energies on climate change. Berman’s address was very well received and helped highlight to all local leaders that OSSTF/FEESO is committed to addressing the issue of climate change. Berman spoke about her recently published book, *This Crazy Time: Living Our Environmental Challenge*. Copies of the book were purchased for members of the EAWG. Berman also presented a workshop for leaders interested in being more active on climate change.
- also at Summer Leadership the EAWG featured a table of eco-friendly ideas for district and bargaining units which was very well received by local leaders.
- in September, the Provincial Executive passed a motion to endorse the Leap Manifesto - leapmanifesto.org. The Leap Manifesto website was launched during the Toronto International Film Festival to coincide with the release of the film based on Naomi Klein’s book, *This Changes Everything*. The manifesto calls for a transition to an economy based on renewable energy sources and outlines specific policies that can make the transition affordable: an end to fossil fuel subsidies, financial transaction taxes, higher taxes on corporations and wealthy individuals, a progressive carbon tax, reduced military spending, and polluter must pay regimes, public investment in transportation and building retrofits, respect for indigenous communities, training and support programs for workers displaced by the transition to low carbon ...
- OSSTF/FEESO submitted a motion on climate change to the Ontario Federation of Labour Biennial meeting in November.
- a D/BU was issued to encourage members to support the “100% Possible Rally: Marching for Climate Solutions and Justice” taking place in Ottawa on November 29th in the lead up to the Paris COP 21 climate talks.
- Glen Hodgson and Earl Burt attended the Ontario Clean Economy Alliance (OCEA) Workshop on Ontario Cap-and-Trade Design Options to learn more about the OCEA and Ontario’s proposed cap-and-trade system.
- the EAWG has suggested that the Provincial Executive investigate the feasibility of making climate change the focus of the next Common Threads project.

It should also be noted that a motion passed at Provincial Council in November 2014 to lobby members of provincial parliament to include unions as entities eligible for the government of Ontario microFIT Program. The microFIT Program was launched in 2009 as part of the Ontario government’s efforts to increase renewable energy in the province. The program provides homeowners and other eligible participants with the opportunity to develop a small or “micro” renewable electricity generation project (10 kilowatts (kW) or less in size) on their property.⁸ OSSTF’s Legislative Observer reports that he has raised the issue of expanding the eligible participants to include unions with the staff responsible for the program at the Minister’s Office for the Ministry of Energy and with a number of other of MPPs both

⁷ Notes taken by Earl Burt, at the Climate Summit of the Americas, Toronto, July 2015.

⁸ <http://microfit.powerauthority.on.ca/about-microfit>

within the government and in opposition. Our efforts to expand the list of eligible participants are ongoing.

Ontario Clean Economy Alliance

At the November 4th meeting, Fred Wilson of Unifor suggested that OSSTF/FEESO reach out to the Ontario Clean Economy Alliance (OCEA), a group of over 80 organizations representing a broad cross section of Ontarians that have united to urge the Ontario government to show leadership in addressing the crucial issue of climate change through a multi-pronged strategy that includes putting a price on carbon. The OCEA was launched in April 2015 and Unifor and the United Steel Workers are two big unions that have joined the alliance. Based on Fred's suggestion, Patrick DeRochie, Campaign Coordinator, Ontario Climate Change and Clean Economy and his colleague Keith Brooks, the Director of Environmental Defence, Clean Economy Program were invited to provide a presentation on the background to OCEA and what it has been working on since it was launched in April 2015.

Patrick and Keith also distributed and reviewed the following two documents developed by the OCEA:

1. "Getting it Right: Design Recommendations for Ontario's Cap-and-Trade System."

This report outlines recommendations developed by the OCEA, a multi-stakeholder alliance with more than 80 members (see <http://cleaneconomyalliance.ca/members/>).

2. "Ontario Climate Change Lab: Solutions for Ontario's Climate Challenge."

To meet Ontario's carbon reduction targets, Ontario will need both cap-and-trade and a suite of complementary policies and programs. This report focuses on what those complementary climate action policies and programs might look like.

One of the questions discussed with Patrick and Keith was what role could an education union like OSSTF/FEESO play within OCEA? They noted that like other groups, the role can be very much determined by the level of involvement that suits the organization and the resources that it wishes to deploy. For example, it can range from just having the organization's name on the website to engaging much more actively by attending meetings and working on submissions and attending OCEA organized lobby days.

After the presenters left, there was discussion of the pros and cons of working with the OCEA. OSSTF/FEESO's official policy is against "cap-and-trade" (see policy 9.10.4) and the submission to the MOECC advanced a "carbon fee and dividends" approach. Nevertheless, it was noted that even the NDP has a position that is a variation of "cap-and-trade" and that it is impossible to work with or support some groups working on climate change without making some compromises from preferred and ideal positions. In fact, many of the organizations in the OCEA do not support cap-and-trade as the preferred policy to reduce emissions, but given that the government has already firmly committed to that system they are active in the alliance to press for an effectively designed system that will have a real impact. In *This Crazy Time*, Berman states: "... tackling carbon emissions should be the priority, and we need to be for solutions ... It is possible to have healthy debates about targets, demand sets and strategies without resorting to personal attacks and mean-spirited innuendos suggesting collusion. There is no one strategy to survive this challenge."⁹

On balance, therefore, the EAWG concluded that it should recommend to the Provincial Executive that OSSTF/FEESO support and work with the OCEA to exploit opportunities to pressure the government to take strong action on emissions reductions. It is important to embrace the possibility of being involved in future OCEA lobby days, where OSSTF/FEESO's positions in its submission to the MOECC could be advanced with others who support similar policies.

OTPP Approach to Climate Change

At the December 9th meeting, Joy Williams, from the OTPP Responsible Investing Team did a presentation and answered questions about the OTPP's approach to climate change. Williams indicated that she had just returned from the Responsible Investors Americas 2015 conference in New

⁹ Tzeporah Berman, *This Crazy Time: Living Our Environmental Challenge* (Knopf Canada 2011), p. 261.

York, which brought together over 250 large institutional asset managers to discuss the economic risk and return drivers of environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues for long-term investors. Some of the points that Williams noted are:

- that one of the panels focused on risks of climate change and that it was clear that many institutional investors are beginning to recognize more clearly the long term risks of fossil fuel holdings, particularly in light of the possible emergence of a global commitment of world leaders at Paris COP 21 to real targets in reducing emissions. Also that the risks being discussed are much broader than just stranded fossil fuel assets, but rather a more complete set of physical and regulatory impacts.
- that in some public commentary about stranded assets there often seems to be an assumption that there will be a sudden and unforeseen transition to a low carbon economy.
- that the OTPP is aware of the risks and trends and the transition timelines and is delving deeper and assessing the risks from three vantage points: 1) the big picture of fossil fuel use and renewable energy trends over time; 2) industry wide impacts and changes that will generate winners and losers, as some adapt more effectively; and 3) segmented analysis of the drivers of various energy sources, e.g., oil vs gas vs coal, and the possible political, legislative and regulatory initiatives that will affect future usage.

According to Williams the following three documents outline the OTPP's four pillar approach to climate change and analyze what climate change means to the fund:

"Ontario Teachers' Approach to Climate Change"

<http://www.otpp.com/investments/responsible-investing/perspectives/climate-change>

"Climate Change: Paris and the long-term view"

<http://www.otpp.com/news/article/-/article/748713>

"Separating the Real Risks for the Investor from the Noise"

<http://www.otpp.com/documents/10179/20936/-/7726319b-b1cf-4bbc-8775-7e3c6f28a858/Separating+the+Real+Risks+for+Investors+from+the+Noise.pdf>

Williams also specifically addressed two reports published in the fall of 2015 that argued that the pension funds could benefit by divesting from fossil fuels - a Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives report entitled "Pension Funds and Fossil Fuels: The Economic Case for Divestment" and a Corporate Knights report. These two reports had diametrically opposed assessments of OTPP's exposure to fossil fuels in its portfolio. The CCPA report asserted that the OTPP lost \$1.8 billion by holding fossil fuel assets, while the Corporate Knights report stated that the OTPP "hasn't suffered because it has already quietly decarbonized its portfolio."¹⁰

According to the OTPP, neither of these reports provides a complete analysis of the fund and, in fact, the CCPA report does not have a clear description of the methodology used. The CCPA report examines fossil fuel holdings in isolation from the total portfolio while the Corporate Knights takes a snapshot of a part of the portfolio at one point in time and does not consider any changes. Neither report considers any other influencing factors such as politics and market movements. The Plan has a long-term investment horizon or portfolio strategy. The CCPA report estimates performance for a single industry sector over a six-month period and Corporate Knights over 3 years – both very short time frames. The market value of investments naturally rises and falls and gains or losses are only realized when an investment is sold and a key aspect of the investment strategy is broad diversification so that Teachers' is not vulnerable to any one risk. A diversified portfolio includes energy assets, because they are a hedge against unexpected inflation, which can really hurt the Plan's funding ratio.

The CCPA report does not explicitly argue that pension funds should divest from all fossil fuel assets immediately, rather that there can be legitimate economic reasons to divest particularly where a robust risk assessment process determines that there is negative exposure from holdings of fossil fuels. With

¹⁰ www.cbc.ca/news/business/corporate-knights-fossil-fuel-divestment-1.3321265

regard to pension fund trustees and concerned plan members, the report recommends that they ask questions about:

- the make-up of portfolios with respect to fossil fuels;
- the risks associated with the holdings;
- the plans of fossil fuel companies in light of possible future regulatory constraints on carbon;
- the plans for removal of high risk companies; and
- the plans for shifting toward green infrastructure investments.

Williams explained that the OTPP is already exercising due diligence in addressing the issues raised by such questions and noted that divestment may be the outcome of a due diligence process but that blanket divestment is not a strategy that protects members pensions.

The CCPA report asserts that some Canadian pension funds “are living a form of climate denial – a bet against action being taken by governments to seriously address climate change.”¹¹ Williams rejected that characterization for the OTPP and confirmed that the Plan established a climate change committee in 2009. The Plan has formulated a clear approach to the risks associated with climate change and the threat of stranded assets due to the need to transition to a low carbon economy. The OTPP is very much aware of the transition that is expected and the likely timeframe in which it will happen and is actively monitoring events like COP 21 and other developments which may affect the timeframe. The OTPP is also actively looking for more opportunities in green energy investments, but must choose investments that fit within the overall portfolio strategy.¹²

On the question of whether it would be useful to have legislation that requires Pension funds and large companies to disclose their carbon footprint, Williams stated that given that the Plan has thousands of holdings it would be fraught with technical difficulties and require a lot of resources to produce a report that would be dated and of limited value as soon as it was produced. In her judgement, requiring companies to disclose would make more sense, as it would be less complex for an individual company to calculate, be more relevant as footprints are likely key to any potential regulations, and would be useful information for investors to consider in engaging with companies and making investment decisions.

Strategic Action on Reducing GHG Emissions

In the lead up to the November and December meetings and in discussion at the meetings, a significant number of documents and resources were reviewed (see list at end). These resources helped to inform the strategic approach recommended in this report.

The most important component of a comprehensive strategy to achieve action on emissions reductions is coalition work with other unions, environmental organizations, and community groups. In his keynote address to the Ontario Federation of Labour Biennial convention in November 2015, Canadian Labour Congress President Hassan Yussuf emphasised that the labour movement cannot wait for governments, businesses and environmental organizations to fix the climate change problem. Yussuf stated, “the science is clear and leadership requires action.”¹³ He exhorted unions to join together to fight for a transition to a green economy, one that mitigates the impact on workers in the transition, one that creates good unionized jobs, not more low-wage precarious jobs. He stated that not every union will adopt the same approach or tactics and we need to respect the fact that there are different approaches to the problem.

The CLC “Statement to the 21st Conference of the Parties” elaborates Yussuf’s main point as follows:

¹¹ Marc Lee and Justin Ritchie, “Pension Funds and Fossil Fuels: The Economic Case for Divestment.” The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. www.policyalternatives.ca p. 11.

¹² “The fund has increased its holdings in wind, solar and hydro power to about \$3.5 billion over the past three years from about nil ...” www.bloomberg.com news December 3, 2015.

¹³ Notes taken by Earl Burt.

Policymakers will not undertake the changes needed without pressure from the labour movement and our allies. The labour movement has always urged elected leaders to play a greater role in directing and shaping Canada's industrial structure and economy – for the simple reason that workers and their communities have been most heavily affected by commodity booms and busts. A phased-in and fair transition away from the fossil-fuel economy carries the potential to give workers and their communities greater economic stability and sustainability. The CLC will strongly advocate for compensation, retraining, re-employment and relocation for affected workers, and demands Just Transition commitments to support those workers who risk being displaced by climate change or by climate change policies and mitigation measures.¹⁴

The following motion submitted by OSSTF/FEESO to the 2015 OFL Biennial Convention, uses different wording, but encapsulates the core concepts as identified by the CLC in the statement to COP 21:

Be it resolved that the OFL encourage all affiliates to endorse the Leap Manifesto program for fighting greenhouse gas emissions and transitioning to an economy based on green renewable sources of energy;
Be it further resolved that the OFL encourage all affiliates to develop a political action plan to engage their members in the fight for an economy based on green renewable sources of energy;
Be it further resolved that the OFL encourage all affiliates to join the Climate Action Network of Canada; and
Be it further resolved that the OFL endorse the Green Economy Network (greeneconomynet.ca) and encourage all affiliates to support its vision statement.

The programs of the Leap Manifesto and the Green Economy Network (a national network supported by the CLC) recognize the need to protect workers in a just transition to a low carbon economy. While the above OSSTF/FEESO motion was not debated at the OFL Biennial meeting, the following very similar motion was debated and passed.

Whereas current small investments to renewable energy have already resulted in more people being employed in the green energy sector as opposed to employment in work related to the tar sands;
Whereas a commitment to renewable energy would create not only sustainable jobs, but also a sustainable planet; and
Whereas working people in Canada depend on a healthy environment and climate change is an immediate threat to working people around the world and in Canada; therefore
Be it resolved that the OFL lobby government to call for a significant and continuing investment in publicly owned and operated renewable energy, such as solar, wind and thermal power; and
Be it further resolved that the OFL work with allies in environmental movements that seek the same outcome.

Both of these motions focus on the importance of working with allies to pressure governments for a transition to a clean economy and to provide public investment in renewable energy. A central part of the strategy proposed in this report is that OSSTF/FEESO work with other allies to leverage its efforts in the fight to reduce GHG emissions.

These motions are also sensitive to the fact that millions of workers worldwide depend on jobs that are linked to fossil fuel extraction directly or indirectly. Our whole way of life in western and northern

¹⁴ "Statement by the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) To the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP 21) To the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)." <http://canadianlabour.ca/news/news-archive/clc-adopts-statement-seeking-meaningful-commitments-ahead-un-climate-change-summit>

developed economies is fundamentally based on the fossil fuel industry. 55% of global greenhouse gas emissions are a result of lifestyle and consumption choices in developed countries – the heat in our homes, the electronic devices we use, the car trips we take daily, the vacations we take, AMPA and all our other meetings.... If there is to be real change, the demand for fossil fuels will have to be reduced through supply of cheaper alternatives and strategies that mitigate the impact on workers' jobs and their pensions must be contemplated in the process. The supply of alternatives will only come through governments legislating and regulating the industry and through incentives that governments create in the marketplace for development of green energy and through the disincentives it creates for continued exploitation of fossil fuel sources (ie. taxing and imposing polluter must pay clean up regimes). As outlined by Naomi Klein in *This Changes Everything*, the 1970s “golden age of environmental law” is what we must fight for – the era when United States and Canada introduced dozens of environmental laws.¹⁵ As noted earlier, companies and markets must respond to legislation and regulation and OSSTF/FEESO must work with other allies to ensure government action on emission.

Discussion at the November and December meetings included the following ideas as recommendations for actions that OSSTF/FEESO should undertake. The proposed AMPA motions listed below identify actions that are part of a comprehensive and multi-year strategy that engages members and focusses on political action to achieve a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by pressing for legislative and regulatory changes.

Action Motions for AMPA 2016

1. BIRT Account 4147 – Coalition Memberships - annually allocate \$20,000 to support coalition work with other unions, environmental organizations and community groups that are advocating for legislative and regulatory changes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and for a just transition to a green low carbon economy. This would include an annual membership in the Climate Action Network of Canada, the Ontario Clean Economy Alliance, the Green Economy Network and other organizations, as reviewed and recommended by the Environmental Advisory Work Group.
2. BIRT OSSTF/FEESO initiate a meeting with ETFO, AEFO, and OECTA to investigate the creation of an educators environmental alliance to co-ordinate efforts to address the climate change impacts of education workers and to co-ordinate strategy to pressure governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
3. BIRT a 2000 series account be established with an amount of \$10,000 to support District and Bargaining Unit participation in local climate change groups and/or to organize climate change educational/political action events (such as: a panel of guest speakers, local rallies with allies, developing locally specific materials for lobbying at the municipal level).
4. BIRT future Lobby Days and/or local MPP lobby visits incorporate, where appropriate, an emphasis on promoting OSSTF/FEESO lobby materials related to the OSSTF/FEESO submission to the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change.
5. BIRT the Environmental Advisory Work Group and Communications and the Political Action Department develop resources for lobbying and for educating members on climate change – i.e. information sheets, pamphlets, lists of resources, motivational materials, and lobby materials.
6. BIRT the Environmental Advisory Work Group and Communications and the Political Action Department develop a workshop on climate change for union training sessions, like Summer Leadership and/or for local leaders to access. (cost estimate \$5,000)
7. BIRT AMPA directs the Provincial Executive to attempt to organize all OSSTF/FEESO functions with laid on meals such that appealing meat alternatives are available to encourage less meat consumption.

¹⁵ Naomi Klein, *This Changes Everything: Capitalism versus the Climate* (Knopf Canada 2014) p. 202.

Policy Motions for AMPA 2016

1. BIRT it is the policy of OSSTF that all new school buildings and board of education facilities should be carbon neutral and that existing schools should be provided funding by the Ministry of Education to retro fit buildings to ensure that they operate at optimal efficiency.
2. BIRT it is the policy of OSSTF that all schools should be accessible by walking, biking or public transportation and that this accessibility should be a factor in deciding the location of any new buildings.
3. BIRT it is the policy of OSSTF that the Ministry of Education should provide funding to school boards to install solar panels, wherever physically possible and appropriate, on all schools and board properties.
4. BIRT it is the policy of OSSTF that the Ministry of Education should phase out gasoline powered buses and replace the fleet with hybrid or electric buses.
5. BIRT it is the policy of OSSTF that all school board personnel be provided with proper training and infrastructure and support staff time to create, implement and support a zero waste recycling program for all publicly funded schools.
6. BIRT it is the policy of OSSTF that climate change curriculum be embedded and implemented in all secondary and elementary curriculums.
7. BIRT it is the policy of OSSTF that the Ministry of Education should develop education programs that outline the both the health and environmental benefits of reducing meat consumption.
8. BIRT it is the policy of OSSTF that Canadian governments should tax meat produced from factory farms with high methane gas emissions.
9. BIRT it is the policy of OSSTF that all levels of government develop retraining, re-employment, and relocation program supports for workers dislocated by the transition to a low carbon economy.
10. BIRT it is the policy of OSSTF that the federal government should develop a national transit strategy with provincial governments which would expand investment in public transit in all urban centres and develop inter-city high speed rail infrastructure and provide incentives for drivers to use electric vehicles.
11. BIRT it is the policy of OSSTF that all member pension plans should take into account climate change risks in the development of long term investment strategies.
12. BIRT it is the policy of OSSTF that the Canadian governments should require that all large companies disclose their carbon footprint profile.

Resources

- "2015 New Climate Economy Report." The Global Commission on the Economy and Climate.
<http://2015.newclimateeconomy.report/>
- "Acting on Climate Change: Solutions from Canadian Scholars."
http://biology.mcgill.ca/unesco/EN_Fullreport.pdf
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