



# At Risk

## Canada Jays and Climate Change

By Larry Powell



A woman feeds jays in Manning Park, B.C.

PHOTO: RONALD MAAS



A Canada jay - aka - "Gray jay" or "Whiskey-Jack." Manning Park, B.C.

PHOTO: STEVE PHILLIPS

**EVEN OUR NATIONAL BIRD** - the Canada jay - is not immune from the ravages of anthropogenic climate change. Decades of Canadian research, just released, finds "strong evidence" that increasing "freeze-thaw" cycles are destroying food the birds store away in the fall. This, in turn, is damaging their ability to reproduce and likely playing a role in a severe population decline in at least one region.

It's been known for some time that our changing climate is leading to reductions, even entire removal of many species from certain areas (a process called "extirpation"). This new research by the University of Guelph, sheds more light on just how that happens.

Using 40 years of breeding data, scientists studied Canada jays (scientific name *perisoreus*

“ They've become an iconic and well-loved symbol in our country.

canadensis) at the southern edge of their range in Algonquin Park, Ontario. (The birds can be found in all Canadian provinces and territories.)

Like many species, they hide or "cache" significant amounts of food away which they'll need later on when it is more scarce - mainly

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the breeding season late in the following winter. In past years, when winters were more consistently cold, this would allow them to retrieve it, intact. But with "freeze-thaw" cycles becoming more frequent, that food is either rotting or greatly degrading in nutrient value. As a result, the jays are having fewer young and those young are less healthy than before.

To quote the study, "Our results suggest that freeze-thaw events have a significant detrimental impact on the quality and/or quantity of cached food available to Canada jays. Future increases in such events, caused by climate change, could pose a serious threat to Canada jays and other food-caching species that store perishable foods for long periods of time."

Anyone who has visited or camped in our boreal forests has likely seen them. They don't shy away from begging food from people or stealing it from your picnic table when you're not watching!

They've become an iconic and well-loved symbol in our country.

The findings were published recently in the proceedings of The Royal Society in the UK. 🌱



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# Message from the Executive Director

By Glen Koroluk

**IT SEEMS THAT EVERY STORY** about the environment these days starts with a reference to a new and alarming study and is released by a consortium of scientists. It is good that the global research community is vocal and are sharing their important work to the general public. Many governments, Manitoba and Winnipeg included, are embracing evidence-based decision making, so the information that the science community is providing will guide us in making the transition to a sustainable society.

Two reports came across my desk recently and work in tandem. The first, issued by a collaboration of international agencies, measures the state of food security and nutrition in the world. Their most recent analysis reveals that after decades of decline, 2015 marked a reversal of that trend, whereby those who suffer from hunger is now slowly increasing. In 2018, more than 820 million people in the world are still hungry today. Two billion people in the world experience moderate or severe food insecurity.<sup>1</sup>

This is alarming considering our global blueprint for a sustainable society, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)<sup>2</sup>, lists zero hunger as the number two priority to be reached by 2030.

The second study, the Global Report on Food Crises, reveals that in 2018, 113 million people experienced acute hunger requiring urgent food, nutrition and livelihoods assistance. An additional 143 million people were found to be living in stressed conditions on the cusp of acute hunger. The primary drivers of food insecurity were identified as conflict, climate shocks and economic turbulence.<sup>3</sup>

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, stress that for our agricultural and food systems to advance, we need to move away from the business as usual model.

*“Major transformations in agricultural systems, rural economies and natural resource management will be needed if we are to realize the full potential of food and agriculture to ensure a secure and healthy future for all people and the entire planet.”<sup>4</sup>*

And that,

*“In the spirit of solidarity enshrined in the SDGs, countries and social groups that can reasonably shoulder the costs involved in the necessary transformations have to provide support to those already affected by the negative effects of unsustainable development, and help them prepare a better future for the next generations.”*

In essence, the FAO is calling for agrarian reform.

As a blueprint for action, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) offers good advice in their recent report on Climate Change and Land<sup>5</sup> with a focus on food security, land degradation and sustainable land management.

Options identified as responses to climate change adaptation and mitigation include, sustainable food production, improved and sustainable forest management, soil organic carbon management, ecosystem conservation and land restoration, reduced deforestation and degradation, and reduced food loss and waste. Other measures involve the conservation of high-carbon ecosystems, such as peatlands, wetlands, rangelands and forests and ecosystem services and functions can be improved through afforestation and reforestation.

*continued to page 4 >>*

<sup>1</sup>The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, Safeguarding against economic slowdowns and downturns. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome 2019

<sup>2</sup><https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/>

<sup>3</sup>2019 Global Report on Food Crises, Joint Analysis for Better Decisions. Food Security Information Network

<sup>4</sup>The future of food and agriculture – Alternative pathways to 2050. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome 2018

<sup>5</sup>[https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2019/08/4.-SPM\\_Approved\\_Microsite\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2019/08/4.-SPM_Approved_Microsite_FINAL.pdf)

# Strategic Planning

By Manitoba Eco-Network –Board of Directors



Glen Koroluk being interviewed by the CBC at Forum for our Future, Sept 2019

**SINCE 1984**, the Manitoba Eco-Network (MbEN), formerly known as the Manitoba Environmental Network, has worked towards educating Manitobans, raising public awareness about environmental issues, and supporting the work of local environmental organizations. During the past 35 years, MbEN has evolved to become an organization providing a range of environmental programs and services. MbEN currently manages the Manitoba Eco Centre, publishes the Manitoba Eco Journal, provides referral and support

services to its membership, and acts as a central hub for environmental work in Manitoba.

In February 2019, MbEN hired Glen Koroluk as Executive Director. He brings with him considerable skill and experience in the environmental and not-for-profit communities. In addition to previously acting as a MbEN board member and Water Caucus Coordinator, Glen has experience as a community organizer, housing coordinator and program manager. The Board of Directors is excited to be working with Glen and is confident

that he will strengthen MbEN and its services over years to come.

Since 2002, MbEN's operation included Climate Change Connection and the Water Caucus. As of April 1, 2019, these components of our organization now operate independently as part of Tides Canada. MbEN continues to support their work and wishes them ongoing success. Consequently, MbEN is in the process of developing a new strategic plan that will guide us in our ongoing evolution. As part of that process, we will engage a professional consultant to assist with strategic planning and consultation with our members, funders/donors, and other supporters.

The next few years will present both challenges and opportunities for MbEN, but this is an exciting time for our organization! Interest in environmental issues is growing. More than ever, Manitoba needs a strong collective voice advocating for progressive action on environmental issues and promoting sustainable living with governments, business, and the general public.

We are asking supporters to join us in planning for the next phase of MbEN by renewing your membership and/or making a donation. For information on how to do so, visit the MbEN web site ([mbeconetwork.org](http://mbeconetwork.org)), contact us by e-mail ([info@mbeconetwork.org](mailto:info@mbeconetwork.org)), or give us a call (204 -947-6511). We look forward to hearing from you and working together toward a greener future here in Manitoba!



**Are you a member of the Manitoba civil service or the federal civil service and want to support environmental initiatives in our province?** If so, it's very easy for you to make regular donations to the Manitoba Eco-Network through your government charitable campaigns. The All Charities Campaign <http://allcharitiescampaign.ca/index.html> for current and retired provincial civil servants allows the donor to decide which charities they want their donations to go to. The Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign <https://www.canada.ca/en/campaign/charitable.html> allows the same thing. So if you're concerned about environment issues and want to do something, supporting the work of the Manitoba Eco-Network can be as easy as designating some of your charitable dollars through your workplace campaign!





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## ED Message cont'd...

Management options in agriculture can mean growing green manure crops and cover crops, crop residue retention, reduced/zero tillage and maintenance of ground cover through improved grazing management. Farming systems such as agroforestry, perennial pasture and use of perennial grains can substantially reduce erosion and nutrient leaching and build soil carbon.

The IPCC stress that poverty and hunger can also be alleviated by dietary choices and

reducing food waste, which does not increase competition for land.

IPCC estimates that during 2010 to 2016, global food loss and waste contributed 8 to 10 % of total anthropogenic GHG emissions and that up to 30% of total food produced is lost or wasted. By diversifying the food system through the implementation of integrated production systems, balanced diets featuring plant based foods and animal sourced food produced in resilient, sustainable and low-GHG emis-

sion systems present major opportunities for adaptation and mitigation.

Furthermore, with a realization that increased food productivity will be required for a growing global population, competition for land will be stressed and therefore the IPCC cautions the use of certain biomass for bioenergy production.

A lot of these ideas can be applied in Manitoba, and some of them are, however we must accelerate our transition to a sustainable food and agricultural system. 🌱

**Manitoba  
eco-network**

We serve as an umbrella organization for over 50 environmental organizations across Manitoba.

Please consider becoming an **individual member** for \$30 annually, or supporting our work by making a donation through CanadaHelps on our website.

Subscribe to our newsletter!  
The **Eco Bulletin** is a newsletter email featuring environmental news, action opportunities, jobs, and other resources from our members and other groups.

Thanks to support from both individuals and member groups, we have recently been able to accomplish the following:

- Collaboratively organize a Provincial Leader's Debate on Climate Change and the Environment (Forum for our Future) with several other groups
  - Host a Summer Open House & Awards Ceremony
  - Put on a Bill C69 Workshop
  - Host Winnipeg GREEN Drinks monthly networking events
- Continuously manage the Eco-Centre, a hub for environmental activities in Winnipeg
  - Embark on a Winnipeg Urban Ecology + Environment Conference in 2020
- Collaborate with Public Interest Law Centre on a new project - Access to Environment Justice: A Manitoba Toolkit for Improving Public Participation
  - Engage with City of Winnipeg Planning department on providing comments to draft OurWinnipeg Plan
- Connect and engage with 3500+ members of the environmental community, organizations, and companies through social media pages and monthly newsletters

Visit [www.mbeconetwork.org/members](http://www.mbeconetwork.org/members) for more details

# Let's Talk About Electric Vehicles

By Nicole Roach, Green Action Centre

**THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF TALK** about electric vehicles (EVs), with the idea that replacing all combustion engine vehicles with electric vehicles would solve the climate crisis and provide a sustainable transportation system.

We want to be a part of the conversation to weigh in on the good and bad of electric vehicles in Manitoba.

## Electric Vehicles in Manitoba

Across the province, there are more than 700,000 motorized vehicles, travelling an average of approximately 43 kilometres per day. This contributes to about 1.5 billion litres of gasoline and one billion litres of diesel fuel being used annually. As well, transportation accounts for the largest portion of Manitoba's GHG emissions, at nearly 40% according to Climate Change Connection. If the 10 billion-plus kilometres travelled by gasoline-powered vehicles were replaced with EVs, it would reduce GHG emissions by 3 to 4 million tonnes (Government of Manitoba). **Driving an EV in Manitoba would reduce emissions by approximately 85%.**

A recent report from 2 Degrees Institute found that Manitoba and Quebec were two of the top provinces across North America to reduce GHGs with EV. This is a result of the power grids being almost 100% hydro electricity, which only emit 3 grams of CO2 emissions for each kWh of energy produced.

Manitoba is well equipped for an EV charging network, with more than half a million plug-in points in homes, garages, businesses, and parking lots typically used for preheating vehicles. These can easily be used for recharging EVs. The Manitoba Electric Vehicle Association is hoping to see even more fuelling infrastructure across the province to help encourage more Manitobans to make the switch.

Electric vehicles can be a 'greener' solution for persons in Manitoba who depend on their vehicles to access necessities in rural or remote communities, particularly when paired with carpooling (we recommend using GoManitoba to find carpool partners). Yet, EVs are not the solution for people who have access to more sustainable options. If you're able, rely on walking, cycling, or taking transit for frequent, short trips.

Despite the unique opportunities for EVs in Manitoba, EVs, in general, will not begin to address the significant issues, such as; traffic con-



“Our cities need fewer cars, not just cleaner cars.”  
– Frank Kelly, Professor of Environmental Health

gestion, accidents, roadway costs, parking facility costs, vehicle purchase costs, social equity, public health, urban sprawl, and resource extraction.

Let's dig into some of those issues.

## Production/Resource Extraction

“The global warming potential from electric vehicle production is about twice that of conventional vehicles.”, according to BBC. Battery production for electric motors requires the extraction of toxic materials, such as; nickel, copper, and aluminium. These batteries also have a heavy reliance on rare-earth elements that include; neodymium, lanthanum, terbium, and dysprosium, along with lithium and cobalt. However, as battery recycling improves, less raw resource extraction will be necessary for the production of EVs.

## Energy Grid

The 'cleanness' of electric vehicles are largely dependent on the power sources they use to charge. In regions where electricity largely relies on natural gas, hydroelectric, and/or renewable sources to power its generators, electric vehicles are a great option to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. On the other hand, where

electricity is generated by burning coal, as an example, electric cars do not come out ahead of the latest models of gasoline-powered vehicles, according to NY Times.

## Air Pollution

Electric vehicles are commonly recognized as a 'zero-emissions' option, however, they emit a significant amount of 'particulate matter' (PM) emissions. While electric vehicles emit no exhaust fumes, these particulate matter emissions produce large amounts of tiny particles that come from brake, tire, and road dust. In some cases, electric vehicles may create more PM, as the heavy batteries mean the vehicle's tires are subjected to more wear. A recent study coming from the European commission research paper indicated that about half of all particulate matter comes from these outlined sources. These particles are highly polluting and have been linked to cardiopulmonary toxicity.

## Land Use

For many years, the demand for driving convenience has been met with increased road

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# Working to Improve and Educate on the Environment

By Kim Grant, Technician, Alonsa Conservation District

**OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS**, Alonsa Conservation District has embarked on a mission to not only fulfill our mandate, but also to explore new avenues of conservation. In the process, the District has completed many long-standing and new projects: a natural stream restoration using groundbreaking new technology, a large-scale walleye habitat rehabilitation project, and a community park and gardens for seniors.

## Bluff Creek Stream Restoration

In a project completed in summer 2018, our district used a UAV (drone) equipped with real-time kinematics to analyze 13 km of Bluff Creek in the Northeast section of the Rural Municipality of Alonsa. The creek was degraded due to agriculture activity. In places, the stream bed had faded into the landscape entirely. We set out to restore its original function to improve annual overland flooding for local landowners.

This is the first time work of this type has been done using drones to collect the highly accurate and detailed data required. The approval process for a project of this size normally takes years. Because the data collected was accurate and detailed, Bluff Creek achieved licensing in a few months. Our district considers it a big success.

Most of the reconstruction was completed on regular funding and in record time. Because of the precision and scope of the data collected,

the project capitalized on the original geology. Local knowledge confirms the creek restoration follows the path of the original channel.

The project was a collaboration between Alonsa Conservation District, landowners, the Rural Municipality of Alonsa, Crown Lands, Manitoba Infrastructure, and the Forestry and Peatlands Branch within Manitoba Sustainable Development.

## Garrioch Creek Walleye Spawning Project

With significant funding from the Fisheries Enhancement Fund supported by Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Manitoba Sustainable Development, Alonsa Conservation District has just completed a large project along the northern portion of Garrioch Creek. The goal: improve water quality and encourage spawning of Lake Manitoba's recreational fish species.

Garrioch Creek is one of the largest and oldest infrastructure drains in our district and has historically been used by walleye and other local fish species as a spawning location. With help from our funding partners, we were able to clean sediment build up out the drain, remove obstacles for improved fish passage, install spawning shoals at 12 sites chosen by an aquatic biologist, fence off the engineered portion of the drain for 14 miles, and plant riparian vegetation at the shoal sites.





“ Garrioch Creek is one of the largest and oldest infrastructure drains in our district and has historically been used by walleye and other local fish species as a spawning location.

The project has excluded an estimated 600 cattle from the drain, producing increased water quality, less maintenance and improved habitat. The spawning shoals will improve walleye populations in Lake Manitoba, while the riparian vegetation will provide shade to the shoal sites, bank stability, and reduction of suspended solids.

### Community Park and Gardens

Funded by the federal government’s New Horizons for Seniors and Manitoba’s Healthy Together Now grants, our district constructed a community gardens and park project with accessibility for seniors.

The park consists of an accessible footpath that winds through 150 planted fruit and shade trees in honour of Canada’s 150th birthday. It boasts two picnic tables alongside a fire pit provided for community use. The official grand opening of Sam and Anne Zdan Memorial Park was held in August 2018. It was named after two influential residents of Alonsa to honour their contributions to the town.

Beside the park are the community gardens. The gardens consist of 14 hügelkultur (a sustainable horticulture technique) senior-friendly raised garden beds and a free to use greenhouse. With a goal to educate youth about sustainable agriculture and the environment, Alonsa Conservation District hopes that the park and gardens will offer a space where seniors and young people can engage with each other and nature. 🌱





# Community Power

By Amanda Nicholls, Prairie Region Coordinator for the Canadian Union of Postal Workers

**WE HAVE DECADES OF RESEARCH**, a chorus of experts and daily proof of the severity of the environmental crisis we are drowning in. Yet still we are faced with empty political promises and short-sighted governments that prefer the token band aid approach that will make their time in office look good rather than meaningful solution-focused collaboration to target root causes. The clock is ticking and there is only one thing that can save us: community power.

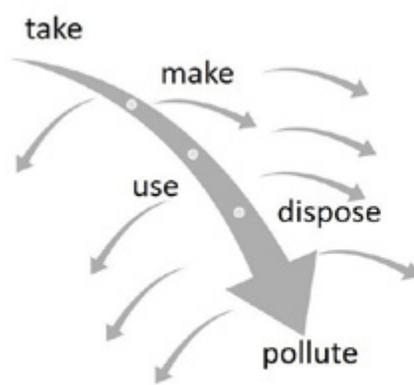
Postal workers in Canada have a long history of fighting for causes that support better living and working conditions for the general population. So, it should not come as a shock that the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) has been working tirelessly to push for meaningful, actionable environmental change at the federal government level. To this end, CUPW has put together a data-driven proposal reimagining the 21st century post office as a centre for community activity and green economic growth. The *Delivering Community Power* proposal combines people-focused services for our most vulnerable citizens, filling gaps left by the private sector and responding to the climate crisis. What is interesting about this proposal is that it is a practical proposal, ready for immediate government action to be implemented within the government itself.

Government agencies at the provincial and federal levels, including crown corporations and arms-length agencies make up nearly 10%<sup>1</sup> of Canada's revenue, and contribute to a stable economy by providing services, jobs, and necessary infrastructure. Focusing initial green infrastructure investments within this government-run sector (as opposed to the private sector) means the Canadian tax dollar is directly invested back into services for Canadians. If we change our way of thinking from a linear economy to a more circular one, we have a greater chance at working lasting change into the fabric of our nation's economy.

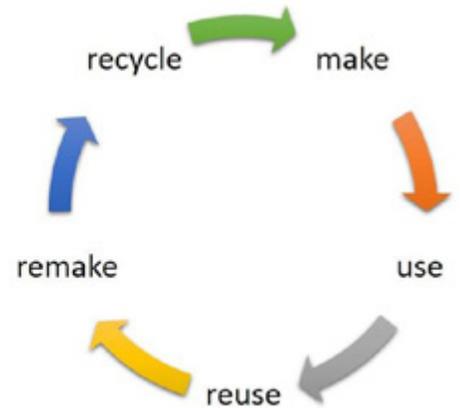
Circular economy creates jobs and can make compounded impact on the environment by the nature of its holistic approach. By implementing financially sound, job-building, earth-saving policy change like this from within the governmental structure, we can meet the Paris Agreement<sup>2</sup> while gaining green-sector jobs. That

agreement clearly outlines the work ahead of us and the mandate to respect and consider local and Indigenous communities, factor in a just transition for workers and overall to consider ways to implement and a reduced reliance on carbon for our economic fuel. *Delivering Community Power* matches these objectives.

These are our prairies, rivers, forests, our arctic and unique ecosystems. We as Canadians collectively own the government. We are earth stewards with a responsibility to ensure the government that we pay for, and support with our election votes, meet our demands. *Delivering Community Power* can be the practical next step to bring words into actions. Imagine if a holistic model such as this could be applied to all of the crown corporations and governmental agencies across Canada. Imagine if that



CC 3.0 Catherine Weetman 2016



10% of our national revenue was governed by forward thinking mandates to green from within. It's a realistic place to start, one that the government has total control over and one that will benefit the economic health of our country as well as the daily lives of Canadians.

The *Delivering Community Power* vision has garnered much public and growing political support because of its integrated approach. With founding partners including The Leap Manifesto, Acorn Canada, Friends of Public Services, CPAA along with many coalition members. Support from Naomi Klein, David Suzuki, many Canadians, and over 1,000 municipalities. With

this kind of support, there is hope for pushing this tangible plan of action ahead. But we can't affect the change we need, without wider public and partner support. Postal workers and our supporters believe Canada can run entirely on renewable electricity by 2035 and transition to a 100% clean economy by 2050 and we believe the post office can help drive that change.

Canada Post operates the largest delivery network, and has more retail postal outlets than there are Tim Hortons in Canada. With this kind of infrastructure in place, here's how it could work:

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fin.gc.ca/afir-rfa/2017/report-rapport-eng.asp>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/climate-change/paris-agreement.html>



- **Transition the Canada Post fleet to 100% renewable energy.** In 2011 Canada Post implemented their “Modern Post” operational plan which saw the introduction of the largest public vehicle fleet of combustion engines in the country. With this rollout we know they are capable of making big and sudden

operational shifts. Infrastructure funding and wise investment from Canada Post’s profits could add to the nation-wide electric vehicle charging network -- supporting a general shift to low-carbon vehicles and the potential for new manufacturing opportunities. Postal electric vehicles could use new charging stations at post offices that would serve the general public also.

- **Retrofit Canada Post buildings for energy efficiency.** This could create local jobs, support apprenticeships and help inspire communities to take further action on energy and resource conservation.
- Offer financial services through the post office again. **Postal Banking would diversify and stabilize Canada Post’s revenues the way it has done for numerous postal services worldwide.** And with some of that revenue, the postal bank could have a social service mandate: to offer a better alternative to predatory payday loans, support local businesses, ensure financial access for people currently underserved by banks. Postal Banking that provides inclusive financial services, especially to those underserved by the big banks, as in many rural and Indigenous communities. This is not an entirely new initiative. After lobbying in the ‘60s to cut funding to the existing postal banking service, big banks took over that share of the market. Now they are leaving these same communities without viable solutions.
- Expand door-to-door delivery services. **Door-to-door delivery of parcels and lettermail by a single mail carrier reduces emissions,** compared to every customer driving to pick up their mail. A consolidated last-mile delivery service could ease congestion in urban centres and reduce the environmental impact of our cities.
- **Expand services to support seniors, people with disabilities and others who need some extra support** to live independently in their homes. Mail carriers, already the eyes and ears of their neighbourhoods, could check in on seniors, and connect residents to other public health and social services. This model is profitably being done with post offices in France.
- **Turn post offices into community and digital access hubs.** Post offices could help bring affordable internet access and digital training and support to the 3.4 million Canadians who lack it. In some communities, the post office could be the place to use high-speed internet for those who don’t have access at home. Post offices as community hubs for digital access and social innovation, connecting communities and climate-friendly businesses to customers. Access to the internet is a necessity with more reliance than ever to access government services, get a job, and perform daily functions like shopping online. The United Nations in 2016 declared the importance of “applying a comprehensive human rights-based approach when providing and expanding access to the internet and for the internet to be open, accessible and nurtured.”<sup>3</sup>

We want a 100% renewable economy that addresses inequality, empowers us to make change and improves our lives. The United Kingdom, France, New Zealand, Brazil, Italy, Russia, China, India, Japan, Switzerland, Germany and Australia all successfully utilize various portions of the services mentioned above as part of their 21st century reimagining of public postal services.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.businessinsider.com/un-says-internet-access-is-a-human-right-2016-7>

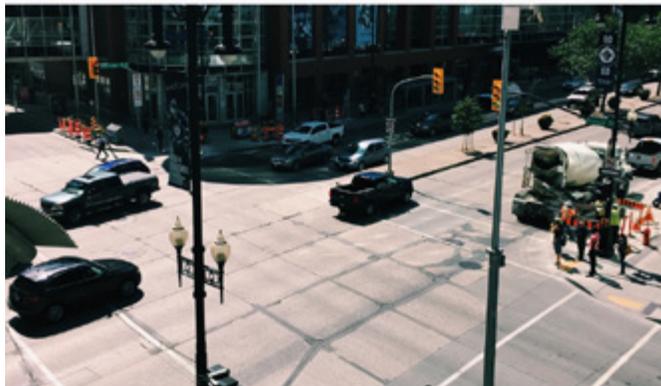
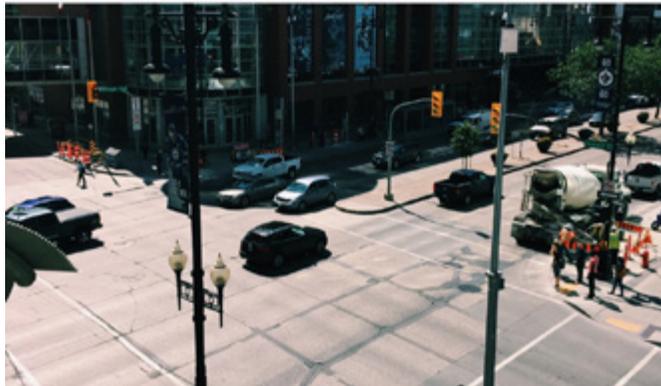
<sup>4</sup> <http://nationtalk.ca/story/61-of-canadians-want-government-to-take-action-on-climate-change-even-if-economy-suffers-poll-ipolitics>



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## Electric Vehicles cont'd...

and parking spaces. This has shaped the way our cities and landscapes are designed, making them vehicle-centric rather than people-centric. The transition from combustion engine vehicles to electric vehicles would not begin to address urban sprawl, surface parking lots, road safety concerns, and many other problems that are caused by this reliance and prioritization of vehicles. It is only when we shift away from personal vehicles altogether, that we begin to transform our cities for people and truly prioritize sustainable modes of transportation, such as; walking, cycling, and taking public transit.



### Conclusion

With all this being said, Manitobans are largely dependent on personal vehicles to meet their transportation needs and EVs are a good first step to help reduce emissions. However, sustainable transportation in the future requires a holistic approach that encompasses facets of health, land-use, and accessibility to ensure that EVs are not implemented in isolation. Therefore, for the wide adoption of EVs to be successful, it must also be paired with significant behaviour change and serious investment in walkable communities, protected cycling networks, and reliable public transportation.

Manitoba must invest in the infrastructure and programs that allow more Manitobans to live without vehicles, rather than living with electric vehicles. 🌱

*Green Action Centre encourages walking, cycling, busing, and carpooling as more sustainable modes of transportation (compared to single-use combustion engine vehicles). But we recognize not everyone has access to those modes, because of lack of infrastructure, limited service, or vast distances. **If sustainable transportation isn't accessible for you, electric vehicles can be a viable option to help reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions.***

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## Community Power cont'd...



Postal workers across Canada support this shift. Over 1,000 Canadian municipalities support the principles in our *Delivering Community Power* proposal. New results from a July 30, 2019 iPolitics poll suggest six-in-ten Canadians want the government to take action to address climate change<sup>4</sup>, even if there is a large price tag attached, presumably because they see the long-term benefits.

If we want to make the necessary impact in this election cycle, we have to think big and work together to hold our politicians accountable. We have to build awareness in our communities, and, from the strength in these numbers, demand the political support that we as constituents are entitled to have. There is no room for political equivocation. Postal workers understand this and value the strength of the many to affect change. It is why you will be seeing a lot more of *Delivering Community Power* in your communities over the coming months.

If you are moved to get involved, I ask that you contact the Federal candidates in your riding directly or if your organization would like to connect on this issue, contact Amanda Nicholls, Prairie Region Coordinator for the Canadian Union of Postal Workers at [anicholls@cupw-sttp.org](mailto:anicholls@cupw-sttp.org) or visit [deliveringcommunity-power.ca](http://deliveringcommunity-power.ca) for more ways to get involved. 🌱

# Manitoba Energy Justice Coalition Summer Wrap Up

By Allegra Friesen Epp, on behalf of the team at Manitoba Energy Justice Coalition



PHOTO: MANITOBA ENERGY JUSTICE COALITION

**HELLO FROM MANITOBA ENERGY JUSTICE COALITION (MEJC)! This past summer has been a busy one and we're excited to share about the many initiatives we've been a part of organizing and promoting! But first, here's a little bit about MEJC for those less familiar.**

MEJC is an organization that mobilizes community groups and individuals in advocacy efforts to defend Manitoba's lands, waters, and air. We are especially concerned about Manitoba's energy sector and the negative effects our energy systems have on the environment and frontline communities. Working in solidarity with those directly affected by pipelines, we call on our political leaders to transition away from a fossil fuel economy towards green energy sources. We also advocate for a responsible form of Hydroelectricity that guarantees the protection of ecosystems and respects the lands, properties, and livelihoods of people in Manitoba's north. We are committed to promoting a transformation of the energy sector that creates green jobs, leaves no one behind, respects and upholds Indigenous rights, and ensures an equitable distribution of resources.

This may seem like a tall order -- and yet a fellow activist once told me that we won't be able to combat climate change if our ideas are not big and exciting. We must believe in something visionary if we expect others to take action. And so I share these words as encouragement to keep dreaming and striving for the radical. Radical ideas have the power to create the change we need.



This past summer, MEJC members were out at a number of festivals and markets distributing leaflets and raising awareness about our organization. In addition to promoting our own events and campaigns, we also publicized other initiatives that resonated with our mission and mandate. For example, MECJ has been supporting the student climate strikes that take place every month at the Legislature buildings. This youth-led movement, inspired by 16-year-old Greta Thunberg from Sweden, demands that political leaders make rapid and revolutionary changes to climate policy at all levels of government. MEJC has been proud to support Manitoba Youth for Climate Action, the local body of youth who have taken up Greta's call in our province.

MEJC also held several community gatherings at Vimy Ridge Park. These evening events brought together new and long-standing volunteers

for good food and conversation. Over pizza, a BBQ, and potluck dishes, we discussed MEJC's current involvements and brainstormed further projects that the organization could take on. We listened to different speakers, made new friendships, enjoyed live music, and mobilized community members for change.

MEJC has continued to support the Spirit of the Buffalo Camp this summer as well. A prayer camp of peaceful resistance near Gretna, Spirit of the Buffalo is situated along the route of the Line 3 pipeline. The "replacement" pipeline that Enbridge intends to build through the area will be nearly double the capacity of the current pipeline. But Enbridge does not have free, prior, and informed consent from all Indigenous peoples along the route. Therefore, in addition to furthering the fossil fuel economy, the construction of the "replacement" pipeline would violate Indigenous human rights. In response to requests from lead organizer Geraldine McManus, MEJC has been coordinating rides out to the Spirit of the Buffalo camp. Volunteers have had the chance to learn about Geraldine's work, listen to her teachings, help build the teepee and wigwam, and spread the word about resisting the pipeline.

This summary provides just a few glimpses into MEJC's work this past summer. Many of our volunteers have also been involved in creating a proposal for implementing the Green New Deal in Manitoba. Others have joined Our Time Winnipeg in rallying the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) to hold a federal leaders' debate on climate change. MEJC is also a member of Manitoba's Climate Action Team, a coalition of organizations that advocates for a tangible, practical, and non-partisan plan to achieve climate resilience and a zero-emissions economy in Manitoba.

MEJC welcomes volunteers of all talents, skills, and interests. We want to hear from you and how you would like to get involved! Perhaps you love graphic design and would enjoy crafting promotional material. Maybe you're good at connecting with new people and can join us at canvassing events! Do you own a vehicle that you would be willing to drive to Spirit of the Buffalo with a car-load of volunteers? Do you like organizing fundraisers or planning events? Inputting data or developing policy? Whatever your passion, MEJC has a place for you. Join others who are committed to climate action and who are determined to make a difference.

Visit us at [www.mbenergyjustice.org](http://www.mbenergyjustice.org) or email us at [info@mbenergyjustice.org](mailto:info@mbenergyjustice.org).

You can also find us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter: @mbenergyjustice. 🌱



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