



# FOR THE LOVE OF CREATION

It is fitting that Easter comes in the spring. After a seemingly endless, cold winter full of questions and concern, new life emerges. We can't help but feel inspired by the wonder of Creation.

Sure, some people spend time outdoors all year, but everyone is drawn to nature in the spring. It is when gardens are finally planted after months of anticipation, hiking trails and neighbourhood sidewalks invite young and old alike to enjoy some fresh air, and the promise of longer, warmer days ahead lifts the spirit.

Earth Day too takes place in the spring, sometimes just days away from the celebration of Easter. I don't think this is an accident.

The abundance of new growth miraculously bursting from the earth draws us. We cherish the sunlight and warm breeze. Many of us relish getting our hands in warm, damp soil. We are connected. We are hopeful. We are grateful.

When I facilitate workshops about climate change, I invite people to think about a place where they feel deeply connected to Creation and to the Creator. I ask that they begin with a place they love.

Everyone has that place. Some folks need to reach back to their childhood to find it, but it is there.

I invite you now to do the same: begin with a place you love.

Now expand that place in your mind. Bring in all of the special places in the world, the land and people that grow our food, municipal parks and green spaces, the forests that clean the air, and all the wild spaces that are habitats for the world's biodiversity, the rivers, the lakes, and the oceans.

Why have I asked you to do this? Because we protect the things that we love.

Part of protecting Creation is being mindful of the impacts of our personal decisions, what we eat, how we

move around, how we spend our money, where and how we live. Another part is paying attention to the impacts of political decisions: what values are upheld; what policies, programs, and people are being privileged; and where tax dollars are being allocated. The agency we hold in our homes and communities is more obvious and immediate, but the power each of us hold in the political sphere is also real and must not be overlooked.

CPJ is thrilled to be a part of initiating the **For the Love of Creation faith-in-action campaign** this year. The roots of this campaign go back to 2017. Asha Kerr-Wilson had just succeeded Miriam Mahaffy as one of our public justice interns. When we decided to develop a Lenten climate campaign, I began designing materials around Miriam's original artwork and Asha dove into research about aligning personal and political action. From 2017 to 2020, CPJ ran *Give it up for the Earth!* Across Canada, people "gave up" something that contributed to their household carbon emissions and called on our government to take action too. At the campaign's conclusion that first year, Asha made an eloquent presentation to Catherine McKenna, then-Minister of the Environment and Climate Change.

This is just one of many examples of how CPJ's interns have enriched and strengthened our work. ***I am so excited that we are bringing this program back in the fall of 2021!***

Thanks to your support, this campaign is expanding. For the past year, we have been helping to lead For the Love of Creation, a coalition of 35 national churches and faith-based organizations in Canada collaborating on climate justice. Together, we can strengthen our efforts and our impacts.

CPJ offered our campaign structure and staff time to For the Love of Creation and led in the development of this new faith-in-action campaign, mobilizing people across Canada to reduce household emissions and demonstrate their support for increased federal climate action.

This is one of the ways that CPJ is working to strengthen collaborations with partner organizations this year. *Expanding this campaign takes time and resources, but thanks to the support and engagement of CPJ members, we can have an even greater impact in 2021.*

The new campaign operates much like *Give it up for the Earth!*, but is taking place mostly online. By working together, we will reach a wider audience.

### Calls to Action

The world is not on track to hold global temperatures to 1.5°C over pre-Industrial levels, as committed to in the Paris Agreement. And failing to do so will bring irreparable damage to the planet.

Canada's commitment to achieving net-zero GHG emissions by the year 2050, the extension of carbon pricing, and preliminary steps towards climate accountability are all positive steps. But the plans proposed in the new cli-

mate plan released in December 2020 fall far short of what is required to limit warming to safe levels. Canada's fair share contribution to global efforts to address the climate crisis would require that **Canadian GHG emissions be reduced by 60 percent below 2005 levels by 2030.**

We also need **investment in a just transition to a fair, inclusive, green economy that creates good secure jobs, and promotes the well-being of everyone in Canada.** It is also becoming clear that a basic income could be a central pillar in such a transition. In the latest edition of *the Catalyst*, Natalie provides an update on CPJ's approach to basic income.

Through letters and articles, and in discussion with Justice Minister David Lametti, CPJ has expressed our support for Bill C-15, "The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act." We urge the federal government to follow through on their commitment to honour the rights of Indigenous peoples by **implementing the UN Declaration, including, but not limited to, the right of free, prior and informed consent.**

As an affluent, industrialized, resource-rich country, with historically significant greenhouse gas emissions, Canada has the responsibility and the resources to help those around the world adapt and deal with the impacts of climate change. Alongside our partners in the international development sphere, we are calling on the Government of Canada to commit to providing **equal support for climate change adaptation and mitigation measures in the Global South** through international climate financing mechanisms, with additional funding for loss and damage, scaling up to our **fair share contribution of at least \$4 billion USD per year.**

We have all committed to do our part to reduce our household emissions. Now, we ask our federal government to do the same.

Together, as citizens, residents, neighbourhoods, faith communities, schools, businesses, and governments, **For the Love of Creation.**

For the Love of Creation's faith-in-action campaign runs until October 4, 2021. Join us at [cpj.ca/flc-action](https://cpj.ca/flc-action).

## PUBLIC JUSTICE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



CPJ's Public Justice Internship Program provides a university graduate with the opportunity to explore the meaning of public justice and join us in Ottawa. During this one-year, paid internship, a young person works alongside CPJ's staff in Ottawa, assisting us in our work on climate justice, refugee rights or poverty in Canada, or some combination of the three.

*This year, thanks to the financial support of so many committed CPJ members, we are very excited to be able to offer a one-year, paid Public Justice Internship once again!*

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, CPJ was unable to offer this internship in 2020-2021. Now that we are in a position to support this internship program, we look forward to the new ideas and perspectives that public justice interns bring to our work. *With your support, we'll be able to continue to offer this program for years to come.*



—Karri Munn-Venn,  
Senior Policy Analyst