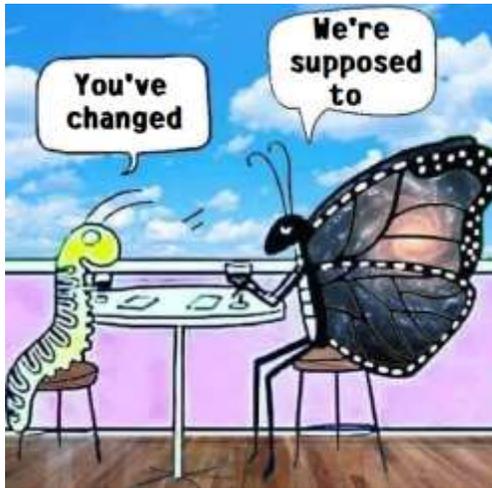


May 17, 2021



Spring is the time when change is most visible, and that holds true for this network of amazing activists. A year ago, we were struggling with how to keep the climate action momentum going through pandemic restrictions. This month, the momentum is so strong it's being felt from old growth forest in BC to the House of Commons in Ottawa, across Quebec and to the East Coast, where there's interest in starting a FOK/MAF team in Halifax.

More about that below!

First, about the growth and change:

➤ **More teams, more team leaders, and more team members!**

We've been trying out additional communication methods (besides email) and that's resulted in great discussion on Slack and the team leaders' group page on FB – and sometimes, duplicate messages or questions about who received what emails.

I think a logical next step would be for each team to identify one person from their team who will be the key contact with the FOK network. The key contact would:

- receive bi-weekly emails like this one, and share them with their team (there will be a link in each email for team members to access the updates online), and
- have their name, email address and possibly phone number included in a contact list that will be shared with all teams, so that if teams want to contact each other, it's easy to do so.

That's it! Everything else would stay the same. Any team member/leader can contact FOK anytime, be on Slack and the team leaders' FB group, and the key contact won't have to be involved in every conversation. The team leaders' meetings would also continue to be open to any active member of the team. A key contact will just make it easier to communicate general information and for teams to contact each other.

I'd like to hear your thoughts on this, and any concerns or suggestions. If it sounds like a good idea, **please identify a key contact for your team**. I'll connect with them directly to confirm contact information.

➤ **Setting direction from the ground up**

FOK is led by teams in the network. As the network grows and teams develop, we want to provide ways to have conversations about how the network is doing at supporting local groups and the direction in which it should grow. One way is to invite a member from each team in the network to a National Advisory Council meeting twice/year. The very first meeting will be on Saturday, June 12, beginning at 10 am PST / 11 am MST / noon CST / 1 pm EST / 2 pm AST. **Please make sure to register one member from your team: [the link to register is here](#).**

Okay, on to updates:

Bill C-12, if you haven't yet heard, is being reviewed by committee this week and next. [Here is the link to the Committee's website](#) – you can read all the written briefs that have been submitted and you can watch the committee meetings live. **Dr. Kelly Martin, a member of Pour Nos Enfants/For Our Kids Montréal and Mères au Front, will be presenting live on behalf of both FOK and MAF on Wed. May 19!** This is an excellent opportunity to carry forward the key messages about the bill needing to have stronger and more urgent targets and binding accountability for meeting targets.

Teams across BC are calling for a halt to logging of old growth forest. [Here's a link to their Mother's Day action](#), but it doesn't stop there. Meetings with MLAs and MPs are planned. If you're part of a BC team and want to join this collective action, let Marian know (mhakze@gmail.com) and/or join the Slack channel: bc-old-growth-forest.

Meanwhile, **teams across Ontario** are collaborating with local climate action groups across the province in [Stand for the Land](#), a campaign to raise awareness of and advocate against the provincial government's pattern of environmental destruction. Engagement has been good, with more than 100 signatures on a joint submission to the government opposing its bill revoking support for renewable energy. And the new FOK – MOBH team is working with Clean Air Alliance on its campaign to phase out gas plants.

Have you checked out the [Events Calendar](#) yet? It's now part of the FOK website menu, right under the logo. All team events will automatically display on the calendar*, giving them plenty of visibility – and you might be interested to know that the calendar link is the “most-clicked” link on our bi-monthly eblasts! So, when you're setting up your next event, remember to select an image that will draw people in – if you need help with any of the steps in setting up an event, please reach out to either Galen or myself.

* there is also a way to keep your event from displaying on the calendar, if you want it to be private.

And finally, [here's where you can find this update online](#).

Thanks for all the seeds you've planted over the past, really rough, year – which are now coming into full bloom. So honored to be supporting this work!

Take care,
Lella