

June 11, 2021

So many things to update this week, as always. I hope you're all doing well.

### Progress on Bill C-12

The Standing Committee made its way through all proposed amendments by Wednesday night, rejecting many and approving some that have slightly strengthened the bill. Among organizations who have been lobbying hard to improve the bill, the going reaction is that it's an "okay" first step. Not necessarily something to celebrate, but also solid progress as the first-ever legislation to set Canada on a path to net-zero emissions by 2050. **What we can celebrate** is the impact your teams have had on this milestone in Canada's climate action plan – so let's take the time to do that:



- ✓ teams in the FOK network submitted 12 out of the 70 briefs received by the committee
- ✓ Dr. Kelly Martin from PNE/FOK Montreal and MAF testified at committee
- ✓ two expert witnesses contacted and supported by FOK also testified at committee
- ✓ teams met multiple times with almost every member of the standing committee (and they heard you) and with MPs, a few of whom shared what they had heard from you in the House
- ✓ your posts inspired 140 people to sign an open letter to federal leaders calling on them to work together to strengthen the bill and get it passed

### What next?

The bill needs to make it on the agenda in the House for third reading and debate. There seems to be a sense of urgency now on the part of most parties to get the bill passed before the summer break which starts on June 23, so this could happen quickly (or not). After third reading, the bill goes to the Senate for review – the good news is that the Senate has already started its review and hearing testimony from witnesses, including Kelly Martin, who again represented strongly and passionately about the impact climate change is already having on our kids, and why government needs to take urgent, strong action. We can still keep the pressure on MPs to move the bill through third reading quickly, and to act together rather than along party lines. You can also encourage your networks to [send the template letter on our website](#) to their own MPs.

**Please follow the discussions on Slack for lots more on this.**

## West Coast news

Teams in BC have been standing up for old growth forests and those who are on the front lines defending them. Collaboration and networking have helped in navigating the complexities of this issue and fostered really important discussions about supporting Indigenous sovereignty and a just transition for those in the logging industry. Actions are ongoing and the situation seems to be constantly evolving, but you can check out [this blog post](#) for an overview.

## Meanwhile, in Ontario

Teams have been collaborating on challenging the provincial government over a series of destructive decisions, mostly made behind closed doors. The latest is a plan to ramp up gas-powered electricity rather than choose available hydro from Quebec or invest in solar and wind power. [More about this action here](#)

## Opening the door for Dads

“Where are the Dads?” is a familiar refrain among the over-extended Moms in this network. This month, FOK is pushing (encouraging) Dads to join the conversation, opening the door with a [super-engaging session on June 28](#) featuring Environment Minister Jonathan Wilkinson, active Dad John Paul Kleiner from FOK Toronto, and Qwustenuxun, Elders Kitchen Manager for Cowichan Tribes, all talking about fathering in a time of climate crisis. Please share the link to the event as widely as you can and send personal invitations to those you’d really like to draw into the network.

## Coming up

- Time for one more reminder about the [National Advisory Council meeting](#) tomorrow (Saturday, June 12) If you haven’t yet registered one member from your team, please try! Agenda and meeting link will be sent to each registrant.
- Do you have room for a team leaders’ social event before the end of June? Sunday, June 27 or Wednesday, June 30? I’ll put a poll on the Team Leaders’ page and in Slack. No pressure; just thinking we could use a chance to visit.
- A number of teams have been talking about how FOK could involve parents through their kids’ schools. I’d like to host a discussion about this, likely the second week of July. Look for a poll about this too, and if you have something specific you’d like to present as part of that discussion, please let me know.
- July 23 – A national greenwashing action is planned with the collaborative group behind the Jan. 29 divestment day of action. Lots more to come on this, but the idea is to pick a bank, corporation, or other target (municipal council?) that is hiding their climate inaction behind rhetoric and promises to act more sustainably. This will be an in-person, visible action, subject to where we find ourselves re: covid restrictions.

- In case you haven't checked out FOK's [calendar](#) yet, you can catch up on all the events teams have been posting there. It's been drawing a lot of attention (clicks) from our email blasts, and it's easy to link to from FOK's home page. The best part is, when you set up an event for your team, it automatically gets added to the calendar, so no extra work for you!

Looking forward to seeing those of you who will be at the session tomorrow, and as always, please reach out if there's anything I can do to support all that you do.

Take care,  
Lella

P.S. Smile

