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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Generation Squeeze supports pricing pollution

Yesterday, the Government of Canada revealed further details about its plan to price pollution, including dividend cheques that will be paid to residents of provinces that do not have their own pricing pollution strategy.

As a voice for younger Canadians in politics and the market, backed by cutting-edge research, we wholeheartedly support efforts to price pollution. It is part of our [#TaxShift strategy](#) that calls on governments to tax more things that we don't want — like unhealthy home prices and pollution — in order to tax less the things that we do want more of — like rising incomes for middle-earners, and those working hard to join them.

The science is clear: climate change is a critical threat to the health and well-being of Canadians now and into the future. The Lancet, one of the most prestigious health journals on the planet, identifies climate change as the greatest threat to human health, and recognizes that reducing climate change is the greatest opportunity to protect human health. That's why Generation Squeeze supports the Paris Agreement's goal of preventing global temperatures from rising beyond 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial times.

Sadly, the economic, health and environmental costs of climate change will fall most heavily on younger adults, the children they raise, and future generations. Generation Squeeze research, published in the Intergenerational Justice Review, shows that younger Canadians must now reduce our ecological footprint at a rate that is three times faster than did Canadians over the past four decades, if we are to meet our climate commitments in the Paris Agreement.

The longer we wait to take meaningful action, the more severe the health and economic hardships will be for younger generations. The National Academy of Science published new research this summer showcasing that we have just a small number of years to prevent climate change from escalating exponentially out of control with feedback loops that cannot be reversed.

GENERATION | **squeeze**

As a result, Canadians need all levels of government to be empowered to take all actions necessary to address this threat, including a national carbon price. Canadian organizations like the Ecofiscal Commission and the Sustainable Canada Dialogues identify carbon pricing as a top priority change, among many, that Canadians must implement to mitigate climate change, reduce its threats to health, and minimize its costs.

“Since the climate can’t warm more than 1.5 degrees if young people and future generations are to thrive, Generation Squeeze knows that pollution needs to be priced,” explains Dr. Paul Kershaw, a University of BC Professor in the School of Population & Public Health, and Founder of Generation Squeeze. “That’s why we’re committed to 1.5 to thrive, because pollution shouldn’t be free.”

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