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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hockey Moms, Commuters, Doctors and Kids Defend Pricing Pollution In Court

Generation Squeeze is leading a coalition of groups who seek intervener status in the Saskatchewan and Ontario Courts of Appeal to defend the constitutionality of pricing pollution. Saskatchewan and Ontario provincial governments have challenged Ottawa's authority to impose a carbon price on provinces who fail to establish their own.

The coalition's application to intervene in the Saskatchewan reference was filed today.

"Not only is pricing pollution a national concern, it's necessary to prevent discrimination against younger Canadians, because climate change threatens our health and the wellbeing of future generations," explains Dr. Paul Kershaw, Founder of Generation Squeeze, and a professor in the UBC School of Population Health.

That is the position we hope to bring to the Courts as they review the constitutionality of Ottawa's Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act.

Generation Squeeze is a voice for younger generations in politics and the market, backed by cutting-edge research. Our coalition includes the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE), the Saskatchewan Public Health Association, the Public Health Association of BC, the Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children, and the Youth Climate Lab.

"We've joined Gen Squeeze in defending the constitutionality of pricing pollution," explains Kim Perrotta, Executive Director of CAPE, "because fighting climate change may be the greatest opportunity to promote population health in the 21st century, especially if we can limit global temperature increases to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial times."

"Our participation is important," reports Dominique Souris of the Youth Climate Lab, "because hardships imposed by climate change to our health, economy, and biosphere fall disproportionately to younger generations, along with those who walk in our footsteps."

Dr. Paul Kershaw, Founder

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Delaying serious action on climate change undermines our reasonable aspiration to thrive in 2030 and beyond.”

“The science is clear. The longer we delay actions on reductions to carbon emissions in our country, the greater the burden of illness on Canadians,” explains Wanda Martin, Past President of the Saskatchewan Public Health Association.” These burdens will be greatest on young Canadians and future generations.

“That’s because health doesn’t start with health care,” adds Shannon Turner, Executive Director of the Public Health Association of BC. “Health begins where we are born, grow, live, work and age, and those conditions are already being made less healthy by climate change.”

“Children have a right to a healthy environment,” emphasizes Kathy Vandergrift, Chair of the Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children. “The Convention on the Rights of the Child requires governments to give priority to the best interests of children in climate change policy.”

If Canada is to meet sustainability targets set in the Paris Climate Accord, younger Canadians must reduce our ecological footprints over the next years at a rate that is 3x faster than did Canadians over the last four decades.

“We’ll take on this added burden,” explains Kershaw. “But we need governments to join in by using every available tool in the toolbox to reduce carbon emissions. Research shows pricing pollution is a key tool, because people pollute more when pollution isn’t priced.”

Accordingly, Generation Squeeze has launched our [Pollution Can’t Be Free petition](#) in conjunction with our legal action. Some political leaders imply that Canadians don’t want to price carbon. We plan to demonstrate otherwise. In partnership with others, we plan to mobilize the strong public support required by politicians of all party-stripes to make bold, evidence-based decisions to price pollution. The alternative discriminates against younger and future Canadians, because not pricing pollution threatens our health.

Generation Squeeze has over 33,000 Canadians in our network, including 2,600 in Saskatchewan and over 14,000 in Ontario. We are hockey moms and commuters on the road, renters squeezed by high housing costs, parents squeezed by high child care costs and students squeezed by large student debts. “We are caught in a vice grip of time,

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money, service and environmental pressures. Yet, we can't solve our wallet problems by neglecting the climate problems that threaten our way of life," Kershaw emphasizes.

That's why Generation Squeeze encourages pricing pollution as part of a broader #TaxShift calling for less tax on what we do want (like better earnings for typical people), while taxing more what we don't want (like pollution and crazy home prices), in order to pay for investments in younger and older Canadians alike."

Generation Squeeze will continue working to bring down family costs (like our \$10aday child care victory in B.C.), slow down out of control housing costs (as we've begun by dialing down harmful demand and dialing up suitable supply in cities across Canada) so we are better positioned to deal financially with costs that come from fending off the worst that climate change has in store. That's how we'll ensure our cities, provinces, country and planet work for all generations – now and well into the future.

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