

Office of the Minister of Environment and Climate Change
The Honourable Steven Guilbeault
220 Blvd Sacre-Coeur
Gatineau, QC J8X 4C6

Office of the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources
The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson
580 Booth Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0E4

Dear Ministers Guilbeault and Wilkinson,

As you are aware, the Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act (CNZEEA) requires the Government of Canada to establish climate targets for 2035 before December 2024. The CNZEEA talks about the need for the government to continually establish more ambitious targets that take into account the best available science and technology, and the government has acknowledged the necessity of carbon removal technologies to achieve its net-zero target by 2050 in other work. **As such, we ask that the Government of Canada publicly commit to a consultation, occurring in early 2025, on setting a permanent carbon removal target for 2035.**

The 2035 climate targets will set the stage for the next decade of climate action, and are meant to guide Canada towards net-zero by 2050. Given that the IPCC has stated that the deployment of carbon removal technology is unavoidable if we wish to achieve net-zero, we must work today to align government policies and urgently develop our domestic capacity. This undertaking comes amidst the government's work on carbon removal in a number of streams, including the Carbon Management Strategy, the Greening Government Strategy, its lead role in the Carbon Dioxide Removal Mission through Mission Innovation, and the inclusion of direct air capture in its signature clean economy tax credit. National carbon removal targets would provide companies and investors with added predictability for long-term planning and investment, while enhancing Canada's competitiveness.

Carbon Removal Canada, [through third-party research](#), has estimated that Canadian carbon removal in 2050 could provide 89,000 jobs, add \$143B to GDP, and create \$27B in demand for sectors like green steel and cement. This is also an opportunity to put innovative Canadian intellectual property to work in a new industry.

Through a consultation, Canada would be following close behind many in the international community who are having similar conversations. For example, the UK's Net-Zero Strategy established a target of 5 megatonnes of carbon removal capacity by 2030, 23 megatonnes by 2035, and more than 75 megatonnes by 2050. Similarly, the EU Commission has recently published a strategy, for discussion, that would set a target of 400 megatonnes of carbon removal per year by 2040.

Creating a forum for discussion on a permanent carbon removal target will also help engage individuals across emerging carbon removal companies, the nonprofit sector, Indigenous Nations, and provincial and territorial governments, while raising the country's awareness of permanent carbon removal.

While the sector is still emerging, recent public opinion polling has shown that, when it is explained, the public views the technology favourably. For example, [76% of Quebecers](#) and [69% of Albertans](#) from all parties support investments in carbon removal technology. Furthermore, 70% of Quebecers want Canada to use carbon removal to fight climate change, while 70% of Albertans are interested in learning more about carbon removal.

We urge the Government of Canada to commit to a public consultation on developing a permanent carbon removal target when the 2035 climate targets are announced. As this government looks to create generational fairness, now is the time to raise Canada's environmental ambition — to help today's Canadians facing the impacts of climate change, and to set our children up for success.

Sincerely,

