



**extinction
rebellion**

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PRESS RELEASE
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Sept 18, 2019—FREDERICTON and MONCTON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GLOBAL WEEK OF CLIMATE ACTION

Learn About the Climate Crisis and Help Make a Difference

New Brunswick members of the international climate action group, Extinction Rebellion (XR), are joining forces with other NB organizations for the Global Week of Climate Action this September 20-27. XR will offer events to citizens in Fredericton and Moncton.

The Global Week of Action was declared by Greta Thunberg, the 16-year-old Swedish climate activist who recently completed a remarkable carbon-neutral sail across the Atlantic to bring an urgent message to North America. “Since our leaders are behaving like children,” says Thunberg, “we have to take the responsibility they should have taken long ago.” Her group, FridaysForFuture.org, is calling on students and workers alike to strike for the planet.

“We can avoid climate and ecological catastrophe,” says Thunberg, but “we must start today. We have no more excuses.”

In solidarity with FridaysForFuture, Extinction Rebellion -- NB is organizing two marches to bookend the week’s multiple climate action events put on by others: in Fredericton September 20th and Moncton on the 27th.

“We appeal to everyone to come out, because this issue affects everyone,” said an XR organizer. “Whatever issues concern you—industrial forestry, extreme weather, poverty, flooding—the climate crisis will make them much, much worse. But if we work together, we can mitigate some of the damage and set New Brunswick and the world on a different, more climate-respectful course that leaves no one behind.”

In **Fredericton**, the main event is on **Friday, September 20 at 2pm** at the University of New Brunswick Campus (in front of the Harriet Irving library, 5 Macauley Lane). The XR march starts after two sessions that begin at 12 noon: Poetry for the Climate Crisis, followed by the Global Climate Strike Rally and fossil fuel divestment announcement. The XR procession will make its way to a fossil fuel target in downtown Fredericton. Event details are found on Facebook [here](#). The full schedule of events on the Fredericton campus of UNB and STU is listed [here](#).

In **Moncton**, the March for the Climate on Friday, September 27 will be led by the student group Symbiose from the University of Moncton and Extinction Rebellion – New Brunswick’s Moncton area supporters. See details [here](#). Moncton's climate strikes earlier this year have been the largest in NB so far.

Both marches will be peaceful and arrests are not planned. Information handouts will include a set of XR-NB demands matching those of affiliated groups worldwide (see goals, next page).

Read on for info about the climate crisis and Extinction Rebellion Canada’s revolutionary plans.



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PRESS RELEASE
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Sept 18, 2019—CANADA

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Members of Extinction Rebellion in Canada have issued a statement to media and policymakers announcing their intentions to perform nonviolent direct actions until Canada is on a swift and resolute course towards carbon-neutrality.

Extinction Rebellion is an international movement that uses civil disobedience in order to halt mass extinction and minimize the risk of social collapse. The movement was founded in the UK in October 2018, and has since spread to every continent except Antarctica. Its approach is modeled on historical civil disobedience movements that used peaceful protest for social change. It is nonpartisan, decentralized, and nonviolent.

The United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has issued numerous reports, written and approved by hundreds of environmental scientists, stating that the world's nations must reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50% by 2030 or face extinction-level threats, including famine, water shortages, extreme weather, and social collapse[1]. Indeed, a sixth extinction is already underway[2]. These combined effects will impact human health and security [1,3,4], causing immense increases in human migration [5,6], and worldwide conflict [7,8].

The goals of Extinction Rebellion are consistent around the world:

- 1) **TELL THE TRUTH:** Governments must declare a climate and ecological emergency, working with other institutions to communicate the urgency for change.
- 2) **ACT NOW:** Governments must act now to halt biodiversity loss and reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero by 2025.
- 3) **BEYOND POLITICS:** Governments must create and be led by the decisions of a Citizens' Assembly on climate action and ecological justice.

Indigenous peoples have been at the forefront of environmental activism in Canada since colonisation. Their continued defense of land, water, and resources in the face of racism and oppression has allowed settlers organising on their traditional territories to fight for climate justice and rebel against the government today. As settlers and activists, Extinction Rebellion Canada is grateful for the privilege and opportunity to come together and act in solidarity with land and water defenders across Turtle Island.

Members of Extinction Rebellion have declined to discuss specific actions and tactics, stating only that they intend to disrupt economic activities in communities throughout Canada. They have invited all Canadians to join them, as they are able, until the climate crisis is averted.

For more information about Extinction Rebellion and the climate crisis:

- UK Extinction Rebellion website: <https://rebellion.earth/>
- Extinction Rebellion co-founder Dr. Gail Bradbrook on extinction: <http://bit.do/e8uRF>
- UN IPCC Reports: <https://www.ipcc.ch/>



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DECLARATION
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On June 17, Canada declared a climate emergency.
Three months have passed.
The emergency has not.

Climate collapse is undeniable. An overwhelming scientific consensus confirms that greenhouse gas emissions are driving up the planet's temperature. If we do not reduce our emissions by at least 50% before 2030, we risk losing everything.

Climate collapse is an ecological nightmare. A hotter Earth means less farmable land and less drinkable water. The oceans become acidic, destroying coral reefs and fish populations. Animal and plant extinction rates skyrocket. All this is already happening.

Climate collapse is an economic catastrophe. Property and infrastructure damage, health care costs, and disaster relief costs all surge as wildfires and "100 year floods" become the norm. The federal government estimates climate change already costs Canadians \$5 billion per year, rising to anywhere from \$21 billion to \$43 billion per year by 2050.

Climate collapse is a threat to civilization. As we lose access to food, water, and economic stability, we gain social unrest, xenophobia, and violence. We can't take our future for granted.

This is not just an environmental issue. This issue contains *all* issues. If you care about the homeless, stand up—thousands more will lose their homes to wildfires and flooding.

If refugees concern you, stand up—millions more will become climate refugees as drought, desertification, and war sends them to our borders.

Indigenous rights; LGBT+ rights; workers' rights: all our democratic achievements are vulnerable to the populism, nationalism, and fascism that infect unstable nations.

No one is coming to save us. We must stand up—and save ourselves.

Change to avert the worst effects of climate collapse is still possible. But our policymakers are not acting in accordance with what science and history tells us. When governments criminally endanger their own citizens, we have a moral duty to rebel.

Canadians can expect Extinction Rebellion actions to disrupt normal economic activity until our demands are met. We regret the inconvenience. But the alternative is much, much worse.

Extinction Rebellion is not about politics. We endorse no political party, and we do not seek financial or political gain. Instead, we demand that politicians unite across party lines to ensure the survival of our home, our civilization, and our species.



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FACT SHEET
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EXTINCTION REBELLION FACTS

WHAT: A non-hierarchical international collection of activist groups committed to non-violent direct action to persuade governments to act on the climate and ecological crisis.

WHEN: Extinction Rebellion UK was formed on Oct 31, 2018 in response to a United Nations IPCC report stating humans have 12 years to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50% or face catastrophic global warming. Canada's Extinction Rebellion groups began to organize in late 2018.

WHO: Extinction Rebellion UK was co-founded by Dr. Gail Bradbrook, Roger Hallam, and members of the activist group Rising Up! Canada's Extinction Rebellion network has over a dozen affinity groups across the country, with over 1,000 active members.

DEMANDS

- 1) **TELL THE TRUTH:** Governments must declare a climate and ecological emergency, working with other institutions to communicate the urgency for change.
- 2) **ACT NOW:** Governments must act now to halt biodiversity loss and reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero by 2025.
- 3) **BEYOND POLITICS:** Governments must create and be led by the decisions of a Citizens' Assembly on climate action and ecological justice.

PRINCIPLES

1. We share a vision of change, and a commitment to creating a world that is fit for generations to come.
2. We seek to mobilize at least 3.5% of the population to achieve systemic change.
3. We work towards a regenerative culture that is healthy, resilient, and adaptable.
4. We openly challenge ourselves and our toxic system.
5. We follow a cycle of action, reflection, learning, and planning. We strive to learn from our own experiences, and those of others.
6. We welcome everyone and every part of everyone, and work actively to create safer and more accessible spaces.
7. We seek to break down traditional hierarchies of power for more equitable and democratic participation.
8. We avoid blaming/shaming; we live in a toxic system, but no one individual is to blame.
9. We use non-violent strategies and tactics to bring about positive change.
10. We collectively create the structures needed to challenge power. Anyone who follows these core principles and values can take action in the name of Extinction Rebellion.



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CLIMATE CRISIS QUOTES
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VOICES FOR CLIMATE ACTION

“We are only given one planet and we are destroying it.”

—Autumn Peltier, Chief Water Commissioner for Anishinabek First Nation

“I want you to feel the fear I feel every day. And then I want you to act. I want you to act as you would in a crisis. I want you to act as if our house is on fire.”

—Greta Thunberg, 16-year-old student, climate activist

“A just transition needs to happen not only in communities that can afford renewable technology but it must happen and begin in communities facing the brunt of the environmental, social, and health implications from the extractive industry and climate change.”

—Melina Laboucan-Massimo, David Suzuki Foundation Fellow

“Our big problems are going to be energy supplies and food supplies. This is not a left-right issue. It’s a people issue, and it cuts across all our categories.”

— Margaret Atwood, author

“The people who came before us didn’t know about climate change, and the ones who come after will be powerless to stop it. It’s our generation or bust. Our collective action or inaction in the coming months and years will decide the very future of life on Earth. Which makes us the very opposite of powerless people.”

— Fanny Armstrong, documentarian, founder of 10:10

“We think of survivalism as being all about stock-piling canned goods and guns ... True survivalism has to be about building community ... creating strategies which if necessary can bypass the hierarchies of power.”

— Bruce Cockburn, OC, singer/songwriter, social activist

“All that is required is for us to recognize that we live in a circular system, not a linear one. This truth must percolate through all our realities, from economics to eating to energy production.”

— Deborah Hartford, Adaptation to Climate Change, Simon Fraser University

“Very few people on earth ever get to say: “I am doing, right now, the most important thing I could possibly be doing.” If you’ll join this fight that’s what you’ll get to say.”

— Bill McKibben, author, founder of 350.org

“All I have left is hope—hope that is based on the fact that we don’t know enough even to say it is to late to turn things around. But it is very, very late.”

— David Suzuki, environmentalist



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CITATIONS

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