



End of Session Briefing

June 2026

Contents

Lobbying Opportunities This Summer	
House of Commons Watch	2
What We've Been Up To	2
What You Need To Know	3
Infrastructure	3
Adaptation and High-Hazard Lands	3
Electricity	4
Nature	6
Budget 2026	7
Excess Profits Tax	7

Lobbying Opportunities This Summer

We're planning extensive outreach to Members of Parliament and Ministers ahead of the federal budget this fall, and have already submitted [Climate Caucus' budget recommendations](#) to the government and met with various department representatives. But we want to do even more to ensure our key asks around infrastructure, adaptation, data centres and excess profits tax are heard.

We need your support! We know that MPs are much more likely to listen to local elected leaders in their riding. **You can support by:**

- Writing to your local MP(s) with our budget priorities.
- Meeting with your local MP(s) over the summer.
- Letting us know if you would like to attend virtual or in-person meetings with Ministers and other MPs in summer and into September.

[Get in touch](#) if you can be part of these efforts!

House of Commons Watch

- Prime Minister Carney has a very strong advantage over all other parties; around 10-12% higher than his closest competition (CPC). This is important because there will be 6 byelections – so far – sometime this fall. 3 in QC, 1 in ON, 1 in SK and 1 in BC.
- [Abacus Data released an interesting poll on climate concern](#) among Canadians.
 - 80% of Canadians say they are either very concerned, concerned, or moderately concerned about climate change and its potential impact on the future. That is up from 77% in July 2025 and substantially higher than the 62% recorded in 2024. Concern levels have now returned to, and slightly exceeded, the highs recorded in 2023.
 - Concern is strongest among Liberal (89%) and NDP (89%) supporters, but even among Conservative voters nearly two-thirds (63%) express at least some level of concern.
 - But despite climate not being *the* top priority for many voters, it is still a latent issue that spikes at times.
 - Canadians refuse to choose between energy and climate. A majority, 71% in Abacus' polling, want to balance the two, not pick a side. You do not win this as “the environment” but you may be able to win as lower bills, good jobs, and control over an unstable future.
 - What this means for local electeds is that if you can make a compelling case for all of the quality of life pieces that climate action contributes to, you can likely win the support of voters or community members who aren't willing to engage with a purely “climate for the sake of climate” message.
- Most federal MPs have just left Ottawa for their home ridings after a pretty turbulent couple of months in the spring sitting session. What that means for municipal elected officials is that your MPs are now closer to home — **and now is a key time to ask for meetings around Budget 2026 (more on this below)**.
- Unfortunately, and this won't come as a surprise, the federal government is not very focused on the needs of local communities. The main priorities, as demonstrated by the Spring Economic Update released at the end of April, are defense, major projects and attracting foreign investment to Canada. Economic imperatives have trumped all climate concerns – for now. **We are actively trying to make the case that community resilience and well-being is an essential component of Canadians' security and economic success. More on this to come!**

What We've Been Up To

We've used this session to deepen Climate Caucus' reputation and relationships on the Hill. Our team is now working on a daily basis to bring municipal climate needs to federal decision-makers. Our work on behalf of you, our members, includes:

- Speaking to dozens of MPs, decision-makers, staffers, plus 22 formal lobby meetings including Finance, Environment Canada, Housing, Infrastructure and Communities; Liberal MPs, including Ministers and parliamentary secretaries; and opposition MPs from every party.

End of Session Briefing — June 2026

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Question, comments? zoe@climatecaucus.ca and alex@climatecaucus.ca 2

- Hosting a Lobby Week, in tandem with the Electricity Lobby Days with Climate Caucus members to meet with key decision makers, including an event in the Speaker of the House's office co-hosted by MPs from all political parties.
- Hosting a major strategy launch event where we welcomed the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, multiple Senators and MPs to underscore why local elected leaders' voices are crucial to federal progress.
- Building relationships so that Ministers' offices reach out to us to inform us or consult us on key parts of the policy agenda — ensuring *your* perspective can be prioritised.
- Building relationships within the community of people working for stronger climate policies, including joining the Green Budget Coalition and ensuring regular conversations with FCM, The Cooperators, adaptation policy experts and an electricity working group.

What You Need To Know

Infrastructure

- The [Build Communities Strong Fund](#) is now open with three streams available: **Direct Delivery, Local Impacts, and a Provincial and Territorial Stream**. Our briefing note on this from a conversation with the Minister of Housing and Infrastructure's office is [here](#).
- The submission timing of this Fund is *very* tight; the first deadline is July 15.
- Members, and our team, have raised this with the department. They have confirmed the intention to prioritise shovel-ready projects *now* to get started on this essential work by the end of 2026, but that more applications will be accepted across the ten-year lifespan of the fund.
- Summer is also an ideal time to revisit the Canadian Climate Institute's [Prepare or Repair Report](#). Maintaining already aging assets in good repair will cost an average of \$112 billion each year. That's a third more than the entire Canadian Armed Forces Budget. Climate change has added close to \$9 billion each year to these costs, expected to rise to \$14.3 billion each year by mid-century. Don't have time to read the report? Check out Zoe's [op-ed in the National Observer](#) on this topic.

Adaptation and High-Hazard Lands

National Adaptation Strategy

- The federal government is currently undergoing a review of the measures found within the [National Adaptation Strategy](#) (NAS). This is being led by Environment Canada, with input from various departments named in the strategy. From all accounts, it sounds like the NAS is increasingly at risk. Unless there is a positive funding announcement or other related announcement ahead of the budget, the NAS may disappear.
- Why does this matter? The National Adaptation Strategy, while imperfect, still establishes a blueprint for federal leadership in the adaptation space. Provinces and

End of Session Briefing — June 2026

Climate Caucus

Question, comments? zoe@climatecaucus.ca and alex@climatecaucus.ca 3

territories have wildly variable approaches to climate adaptation, which leaves some parts of the country more vulnerable to increasing climate events.

- The NAS should be adequately resourced and funded. While some of the components, namely the science, tracking, modeling, are ongoing, there is a risk that the implementation of the essential measures needed to keep people and communities safe may never materialize.

High-Hazard Lands

- Concern about high hazard lands among municipal governments have not yet percolated entirely across the federal government, for whom these issues are generally relegated to the broader “public security” conversation.
- Thanks to the High-Hazard Lands Working Group for their input on this topic, over the next months we will be bringing concrete examples of ways in which high hazard lands are a threat to the well-being and prosperity of communities – and economic growth, which is what the federal government cares about.
- We’re calling for:
 - Better protection of high-hazard lands and consideration of local climate modeling in federal funding programs.
 - Prevention of the worst effects from extreme weather events via stable and predictable funding mechanism for municipal governments
 - Adapting critical infrastructure and supply chains to a changing climate.
 - Leverage capital investments in adaptation/emergency preparedness initiatives for economic growth in local communities (ie. tourism, recreation, fisheries, local energy generation, etc)
 - Ensure municipal governments have access to accurate information with regards to high hazard lands, and are equipped to deal with built infrastructure in hazardous areas.
 - Ensure that flood and fire maps are disseminated and made accessible to municipalities.
 - Ensure the federal government is determining federal funding and priorities with regards to housing and infrastructure on flood and fire maps.
 - Federal funding to protect existing infrastructure and build community resilience.
 - The inclusion of just transition principles in our advocacy efforts.

Electricity

- The Federal electricity strategy ([Powering Canada Strong](#)) was released in May.
- The government appears to be of two minds with regards to where they go next on the grid. On one hand, we are hearing from certain departments that they have figured out the funding of interprovincial transmission, and will now be turning their attention to intraprovincial (which would have a relatively important impact on municipalities given the local implications). Other departments have informed us that the government has not yet determined how they will be investing in interprovincial transmission.

- Either way, Climate Caucus continues to remain aware of conversations around electricity generation and transmission in Canada. We support federal funding being used to not only increase interconnection between provincial grids, but also to help lower the costs while increasing electrical availability for local governments, businesses, and community members.
- The electricity strategy is an important step forward, although it continues to allow the use of too much fossil gas, which is not a climate solution. Simply put, no new gas should be allowed on the grid, as it locks consumers – including municipal governments – and utilities into costly, unhealthy forms of energy generation.
- The federal government announced their intention to consult on a few essential policies, including a possible retrofit program for up to one million homes. This is good news if done properly.
- If your municipality has thoughts and recommendations about the electricity strategy, you can send them to electricity-electricite@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca by **July 3rd**. We have heard that there are not enough climate recommendations being put forward for this strategy.
- Here is what CC is recommending (and which you can recommend too, if you are interested!):
 - That the government dedicate \$4.5 billion in low-cost repayable capital for Canadian home energy upgrades. Municipal governments often remain the most effective purveyors of retrofit financing through Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs. These types of programs should be leveraged to achieve the government's objective of retrofitting up to one million homes.
 - No new gas should be allowed on the grid, as it locks consumers – including municipal governments – and utilities – into costly, unhealthy forms of energy generation.
 - The federal government should increase the scope of fuel-switching programs to include switching away from natural gas, and ensure that Canadian households currently using gas to heat their homes and water can also access federal heat pump financing programs.
 - There should be technologies and efficiencies that reduce demand side electrical efficiencies, not just emissions intensity of natural gas.
 - Energy efficiency measures often are not funded by the federal government's infrastructure programs, as they do not count as net new projects. However, efficiency could mean both operational costs savings and more available electricity for communities. Funding should be made available to local governments for increased efficiency measures in new builds and retrofits.
 - Battery Storage Systems provide low-cost electricity storage which can contribute to a resilient electricity system. However, municipalities must be considered in discussions about mechanisms to support investments in generation, transmission, distribution and storage. Municipal governments are willing partners for the local regulatory frameworks required to implement many of these solutions. If municipal administrations are taken by surprise or only included at the last stages of a project, battery storage systems, as well as other generation and distribution projects, can be unnecessarily delayed or even cancelled.

End of Session Briefing — June 2026

Climate Caucus

Question, comments? zoe@climatecaucus.ca and alex@climatecaucus.ca 5

- Any amendments to the Clean Electricity Regulations must strengthen the CER, not weaken it by allowing for more natural gas. Natural gas has known adverse health impacts on local communities where it is fracked and burned, which leads to an increase in asthma and other respiratory diseases.

Nature

- In May, Prime Minister Carney released a discussion paper on potential changes to the federal Impact Assessment Act which would significantly weaken existing environmental protections, as well as provide a get-out-of-jail-free card to pipeline projects. The [deadline for responding to the government's consultation](#) on the discussion paper has been delayed to **July 22** thanks to lots of pushback from environmental advocates – though the government still intends to go ahead with the legislation in the fall, and the questions the government wants answered do not address our major underlying concerns.
- Communities rely on clean air, water and lands. Municipal governments do not have jurisdiction over major projects nor over environmental assessments, but they are often the first to respond when there are environmental consequences of projects. This is why the impact assessment process is so essential for municipalities: if the federal and provincial governments do not properly evaluate the risks of projects before granting them permission to operate, the risks do not disappear. They are simply unmitigated – leading to sometimes dramatic and costly consequences for municipalities to deal with.
- The Impact Assessment Act is by no means perfect but allowing projects such as pipelines to completely bypass the existing assessment process and be approved by the Canada Energy Regulator puts communities at risk.
- In addition, the regulatory changes proposed by the federal government would significantly weaken protections to critically endangered or at risk species around the country. At a time when biodiversity loss is only accelerating, Climate Caucus rejects the federal government's desire to weaken existing protections for nature.
- If the federal government weakens environmental protection, it means that for communities which are seeing increasing pressure from major projects such as mines, pipelines, ports, roads, etc. there could be less tracking of impacts, less understanding of the environmental degradation, more pollutants in your community. For example, LNG Canada in Kitimat example ([Tyee article about Kitimat](#)): the onus is on the company currently to prove that it should bypass regulations. This could be at risk going forward if this proposed legislation passes. Without regulations, it means that if you think something is not right, you have to pass municipal regulations to protect your community, all without additional support or tools.

Budget 2026

We've been sharing Budget 2026 recommendations with various Ministries and departments – both with Ministers and staff – based on your requests and recommendations. We have heard from multiple government representations that the Budget 2026 process is **already underway**.

Summer is a key time to reach out to MPs to underscore why these recommendations are so important – and to encourage them to circulate them to the PMO. Please [email us](#) if you can help!

- Climate Caucus' [budget recommendations](#) call for four distinct measures, including that the government:
 - Fund preventative adaptation infrastructure, regardless of that infrastructure's ability to enable more housing.
 - Introduce an act to regulate and plan for datacentres in accordance with municipal priorities and concerns.
 - Permanently fund climate-aligned municipal infrastructure.
 - Collects an excess profits tax on oil and gas and invests the funds to shield communities from price shocks.
- The *Elbows Up for Climate* campaign has also tabled key budget recommendations, including that the federal government:
 - Invests directly in a clean electricity grid, maintaining a public equity stake in interregional transmission projects.
 - Ensures investments in housing build high performing, affordable, energy efficient homes.
 - Increases funding and resourcing to a national resilience, response and recovery strategy.
- Climate Caucus is also a member of the **Green Budget Coalition**—a group of leading climate-forward organisations lobbying on a diverse suite of recommendations, especially [four key policies](#):
 - Modern, Resilient East-West Electricity Grid Based on Renewables
 - Climate-Resilient Housing
 - Strengthened Industrial Carbon Pricing
 - Combatting Plastic Pollution

If you would like to discuss any of these recommendations further, or are interested in supporting our four budget asks, we would be delighted to support you in that work. *One initiative that would be extremely helpful is if you could ask your local MP(s) to include one or all of these measures in your pre-budget letter to the Minister of Finance.*

Excess Profits Tax

- Climate Caucus, and the *Elbows Up for Climate* campaign, is lobbying for a 75 percent excess profits tax on profits 120 percent above pre-crisis profit levels, which would

End of Session Briefing — June 2026

Climate Caucus

Question, comments? zoe@climatecaucus.ca and alex@climatecaucus.ca 7

raise around \$40 billion this year, while still leaving billions of dollars of profits in the hands of oil and gas executives.

- The funds could be used to help fund a more robust national resilience, response and recovery strategy, or direct funding to support municipal infrastructure needs.
- Fossil fuel companies are making an astonishing **\$10 million excess every hour**, with excess profits are expected to reach \$90 billion in 2026. In comparison, a recent [report published by the Centre for Future Work](#) estimates Canadian households could collectively see their everyday expenses go up by over \$100 billion over the next 12 months as a result of the oil price shock.
- [New Polling](#) shows that two in three Canadians support a tax on oil and gas companies' excess profits—set to reach a record high.
- We have heard from various members of government that an excess profits tax is *not* off the table — continuing to lobby on this is beneficial.