



# Citizens' Climate Lobby Canada Lobby Climatique des Citoyens

## CCL Monthly International Conference Call

Saturday, March 11, 2017: 10 am PT/ 11 am MT/ 12 pm CT/ 1 pm ET/ 2 pm AT

### March 11 Guest Speaker: Devashree Saha, Brookings Institution



Devashree Saha will discuss the decoupling of decarbonization and the economy, and how carbon emissions are declining despite a growing economy. She is a senior policy associate and associate fellow at the Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Program. Her research primarily focuses on the intersection of clean energy and economic development policy, including the transition to a clean energy economy. Prior to joining Brookings, Saha worked at the National Governors Association, where her work spanned clean energy, transportation, and land use planning issues. She holds a Ph.D. in public policy from the University of Texas at Austin and a master's in political science from Purdue University.

## March 2017 NATIONAL ACTIONS

1. Develop a plan to connect with your local Rotary group by the end of the year. A huge teachable moment for climate change in Canada has arrived in one of the most important service groups on the planet. The incoming International President of Rotary is [Ian Riseley from Australia](#) and he is quite concerned about climate change. Additionally, the July 2018 Rotary International Conference will be in Toronto and there is another action of significance also anticipated for Canada in 2018. Let's make sure Canadian Rotarians are armed with our solution: carbon fee and dividend. You can either ask a member to join your local Rotary and/or give a 15-minute presentation on the urgency of the climate crisis and our solution carbon fee and dividend. Learn more about the Rotary International environmental initiatives here: <https://esraq.org/>
2. Prepare for your Earth Day (April 22) outreach using our resources. Two events of note are:  
**Saturday, April 22, 2017** – [March for Science](#) global day of action  
**Saturday, April 29th, 2017** – [The People's Climate](#), global day of action. Please note CCL is not a partner because it is too partisan. Your local CCL group is free to join and promote our organization and solution at the event.

## March 2017 ONTARIO ACTIONS:

1. Monday, March 27 and Tuesday, March 28: lobby with us in Toronto. The last date to register and get everything to us is March 22. Please note how to format your lobbying appointments and that all information goes to [canada@citizensclimatelobby.org](mailto:canada@citizensclimatelobby.org). If you do not plan to come to Toronto to lobby with us in late March, please do not lobby your MPPs until May. All details are online <https://canada.citizensclimatelobby.org/upward-and-onward-carbon-pricing-conference-and-lobby-day-citizens-climate-lobby-ontario/>

# LASER TALK: Revenue-Neutral Carbon Pricing Alone Will Spur Low-Carbon Investments

In 2018, Canada will establish a floor price on carbon pollution of \$10/tonne, rising to \$50/tonne by 2022. The federal government will provide a carbon pricing system for provinces and territories that do not adopt their own systems.

For the carbon price to reduce emissions significantly, it must continue to rise past 2022 and reach at least \$150/tonne by 2030 [1]. A simple projection by CCL Canada members shows this could increase the cost of living throughout most of the 2030's to approximately \$2,000 per person per year [2].

There are already rumblings of a populist revolt over the cost of cap and trade in Ontario, estimated to be about \$140 per person per year [3]. Imagine the outcry at \$2,000. The clear lesson is that high carbon prices will impose unacceptable costs on consumers. CCL has always proposed offsetting these carbon pricing costs with dividends to households, i.e. being revenue neutral.

However, others have opposed revenue neutrality [4]. They want the government to invest the revenue in various ways to help the transformation to a low-carbon economy [5]. They ask, "Where else will the investment money come from?" **The simple answer** is that higher fossil fuel costs will spur the investment needed for this transformation much more efficiently than would government spending.

A high carbon tax will stimulate the revenue stream for low carbon options because their competition (fossil fuels) becomes costlier. This creates attractive private and public investment opportunities resulting in loans being approved and capital being redirected (e.g. from new fossil infrastructure). This will also mobilize currently under-utilized resources – labour and capital – thereby creating wealth and distributing it more widely. The massive transformation infrastructure needed will require the participation of more than just the government.

Carbon pricing will also redirect public investment. Public sector projects are often evaluated on a "triple bottom line" (economics, social, environment), but economics is still a driver. For example, higher fossil fuel prices brought about by carbon pricing will make weatherizing buildings more attractive for public housing.

The dividends to households will provide significant new income for the poor and disadvantaged. This will serve social justice and stimulate the economy. For example, cash-poor homeowners could better afford to weatherize.

Increased carbon costs will hurt the poor most (since they spend a large fraction of their income on bare necessities), while dividends will benefit the poor most because they consume fewer carbon-intensive goods and services.

In conclusion, a revenue-neutral carbon pricing scheme will spur investment needed for the transition to a low carbon economy through price signals, which redirect investments in the public and private sectors, and by providing consumers with funds to invest in their own energy improvement upgrades.

What is required from the government is the long-term commitment to rising carbon fees. That is why CCL advocates for a national and revenue neutral carbon fee, rising predictably to \$150/tonne by 2030.

**See other Laser Talks:** "[Why we want 100% revenue neutrality](#)", "[Balancing the Budget, Social Concerns and the Environment](#)" and "[A Clear Market Signal Will Spur Investment](#)".

## REFERENCES

[1] Economic modeling by Navius Research shows that a price of \$100/tonne by 2030 is not enough to meet the current target of 524 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2030. Fig. in: <http://ecofiscal.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Ecofiscal-Commission-Choose-Wisely-Carbon-Pricing-Revenue-Recycling-Report-April-2016.pdf>

[2] CCL member Michael Wiggin, P.Eng. created a simple Excel spreadsheet (available on request from John Stephenson) with these key assumptions: 100% pass through of tax to consumers, tax applied to all emissions (732 Mt) at the rate of \$30/tonne in 2018 rising at \$10/tonne/year to \$200/tonne, following a curve resulting in 30% emission reduction by 2030 and 80% reduction by 2050 (Canada's goal), population 36 million, population growth 0.8%. As an order of magnitude sanity check, consider Canadian's per capita annual consumption of 20 tonnes, reduced by 30% by 2030 = 14 tonnes multiplied by 150 \$/tonne = \$2,100).

[3] Toronto Sun, February 9, 2017 [Cost of cap-and-trade just doubled](#): "The Wynne government expects to make \$1.9 billion in 2017 from the cap and trade market ... this means the average cost of cap and trade per household this year will be \$339.98 (\$1.9 billion divided by 5,598,391 households)". This is equivalent to \$140 per person (\$1.9 billion divided by 13.6 million population of Ontario)

[4] <http://www.commondreams.org/news/2016/11/03/environmentalists-argue-we-can-do-better-washington-carbon-tax>

[5] Canada's Ecofiscal Commission, April 2016, [Revenue Recycling](#): Six Position Papers

## **ACTION #1: Develop a plan to connect with your local Rotary group(s))**

A huge teachable moment for climate change in Canada has arrived in one of the most important service groups on the planet. The incoming International President of Rotary is [Ian Riseley from Australia](#) and he is quite concerned about climate change. Learn more about the Rotary International environmental initiatives here: <https://esrag.org/>.

Additionally, the July 2018 Rotary International Conference will be in Toronto and there is another action of significance also anticipated for Canada in early 2018. Let's make sure Canadian Rotarians are armed with our solution: carbon fee and dividend by the end of 2017.

You can ask a member to join your local Rotary. More preferred is someone gives a fifteen minute presentation on the urgency of the climate crisis and our solution carbon fee and dividend. You are only given 15 minutes to present at Rotary events, thus you have to be focused. Thus, presenting one solution in detail is key. Note it can take three or four months to get on the presentation roster, so start now. Consider including the recently announced [Climate Leadership Council's Conservative Case for Carbon Dividends](#) in your presentation.

Frame the climate crisis and our solution in the **Rotary's "Four Way Test"**: Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Creating a one-talk-fits-all Rotary presentation for all of Canada is impossible. What is important in one area of Canada may sometimes not resonate in other areas. Need help designing your talk? Cathy Orlando has given countless climate change and carbon pricing talks and has a general formula that works. Give her a head's up when you need help as soon as you book a presentation: [cathy@citizensclimatelobby.org](mailto:cathy@citizensclimatelobby.org) or 705-929-4043.

Rotary is a global network of 1.2 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who come together to make positive, lasting change in communities at home and abroad. For more than 110 years, Rotary members have used their passion, energy, and intelligence to take action on sustainable projects. From literacy and peace to water and health, we are always working to better our world, and we stay committed to the end.

Rotary members believe that they have a shared responsibility to take action on our world's most persistent issues. **Their motto is:** Service Above Self. Their 35,000+ clubs work together to:

- Promote peace
- Fight disease
- Provide clean water, sanitation, and hygiene
- Save mothers and children
- Support education
- Grow local economies

Note Marshall Saunders (our founder) and Cathy Orlando (Canadian director) were both Rotarians.

## **ACTION #2: Prepare for your Earth Day (April 22) outreach using our resources**

**Two events of note are:**

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**Saturday, April 29th, 2017** – [The People's Climate](#), global day of action. Please note CCL is not a partner because it is too partisan. Your local CCL group is free to join and promote our organization and solution at the event.

An outreach [checklist](#), parliamentary petitions, postcards, posters, cartoons, and many other great resources developed for Canada can be found here: <http://canada.citizensclimatelobby.org/volunteer-resources/> . If you do print a CCL banner, please do not forget to send the [2015 logo guide](#) to the printers.

As you plan your actions please consider a recent article from David Frum (Canadian Conservative, son of Barbara Frum and former speech writer for George W. Bush) of what an effective protest could look like: [https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2017/02/how-to-beat-trump/515736/?utm\\_source=twb](https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2017/02/how-to-beat-trump/515736/?utm_source=twb)

## All CCL International Calls are on Zoom

<b>Audio if you have unlimited US calls</b>	Toll number: <a href="tel:+14086380968">+1 408.638.0968</a> (US Toll), meeting code: <a href="https://citizensclimate.zoom.us/j/2017201717">2017201717</a>
<b>Toll free audio</b>	Toll Free number: <a href="tel:+18773690926">+1 877.369.0926</a> (US Toll Free and you can call from Canada but we are not sure yet if you will be billed), meeting code: <a href="https://citizensclimate.zoom.us/j/2017201717">2017201717</a>
<b>Computer Access</b>	<a href="https://citizensclimate.zoom.us/j/2017201717">Click here: https://citizensclimate.zoom.us/j/2017201717</a> Please use this option if you can because it is free for you and CCL
<b>iPhone or iPad Access</b>	Download the Zoom app from the Appstore and meeting ID: <a href="https://citizensclimate.zoom.us/j/2017201717">2017201717</a>
<b>Android phone or tablet app</b>	Download "Zoom Meeting" in Google Play and meeting ID: <a href="https://citizensclimate.zoom.us/j/2017201717">2017201717</a>

- 1) It is a good idea to sign in 15 minutes early.
- 2) It is best to use your phone until you are comfortable with Zoom.
- 3) If you have unlimited long-distance calling to the USA, please dial the first number above. If you have a limited calling plan, then use the toll-free number. We are not sure if all telephone plans in Canada will cover the call. Thus, do your best to get on the computer line if you are uncertain that your telephone plan will cover the toll free call.

**Need help?** [Watch this 3:00 minute video tutorial](#) (when the tutorial refers to a meeting URL, use the URL for CCL Zoom meetings: <https://citizensclimate.zoom.us/j/2017201717>  
[How to adjust your audio and video settings](#)

**NEED SUPPORT:** This is why CCL wanted Zoom: Zoom offers tech support 24 hours a day seven days a week. Zoom's tech support line is [888.799.9666](tel:8887999666) first. CCL's Meeting ID is [2017201717](https://citizensclimate.zoom.us/j/2017201717)  
 If Zoom cannot resolve your issue, then contact [it@citizensclimate.org](mailto:it@citizensclimate.org)

## Canadian CCL calls are on our Uberconference Line

1-888-570-6238 - no pin required or log in online and call for free:  
<https://www.uberconference.com/citizensclimatelobbycanada>

### CCL CANADA Monthly Calls- Pick one

Thursday, March 9, 2017: 6 pm PT/ 7 pm MT/ 8 pm CT/ 9 pm ET/ 10 pm AT ... note time zones  
 Friday, March 10, 2017: 8 am PT/ 9 am MT/ 10 am CT/ 11 am ET/ 12 pm AT ... note time zones  
 NO MONDAY CALL! March 13, 2017: Cancelled. It is March Break folks

### Other scheduled calls for CCL Canada

**Tuesday, March 21, 2017: 7 pm, ET:** CCL CANADA Ed Call – preparation for Ontario lobbying.  
 Refining the “leave behind” will be the main item on the agenda.

**Thursday, March 30, 2017: 8pm ET:** CCL CANADA post-lobbying debrief call. All of Canada is invited to listen and share because some of you have lobbied or will provincially as well.