

## Talking Points on Climate Change

1. Climate change is a defining issue of our time. No longer a far-off threat, the changes from the warming planet have already caused devastation. For example the number and force of tropical storms, hurricanes, and floods that we have seen in recent year.
2. The Greenhouse Gas effect is a naturally-occurring phenomenon. However excessive Greenhouse Gas emissions have caused a manmade rise in global temperatures and sea level.
3. Climate change disproportionately affects the world's poor and vulnerable people – often majority women. Projections by the UN indicate that climate change will cause less secure means of subsistence, more vulnerability to hunger and poverty, environmental degradation, and exacerbation of social inequalities.
4. Canada is sending a delegation to the 2015 Climate Change Conference in Paris from November 30<sup>th</sup>-December 11<sup>th</sup>. There, participating countries hope to set legally-binding targets for carbon emissions and temperature rises.
5. In his Platform Justin Trudeau pledged to meet with the Premiers within 90 days of returning from Paris, to set out a pan-Canada plan to reduce GHG emissions and set targets.
6. We urge the Government to set strong short-term targets for reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, with the goal of achieving a 30 percent reduction below 2005 levels by 2020 and a reduction of 80% below 2005 levels by 2050.
7. We urge the Government to utilize every power defined in the Canadian Constitution, including policy and program development, legislation and regulations, taxation mechanisms, legal enforcement, market incentives and inter-governmental agreements to support the achievement of this goal, and provide ongoing support for research and education concerning all aspects of climate change.
8. Based on climate change policies adopted by CFUW since 1975, we urge the Government to implement carbon taxes, create a national climate change action plan,

Founded in 1919, the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) is a self-funded, non-partisan, non-profit, voluntary organization. Close to 9,000 women from across Canada, promote women's equality, human rights, justice and peace. CFUW is one of 60 national affiliates of the Graduate Women International (GWI), an international, non-governmental organization.

CFUW is active in public affairs, working to raise the social, economic and legal status of women and girls and to improve education, the environment, peace, justice and human rights. CFUW has special consultative status at the United Nations (ECOSOC) and serves on the Education Committee of the Canadian Sub-Commission to UNESCO.



THE POWER OF WOMEN WORKING TOGETHER  
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pursue alternative energy sources, and to integrate gender concerns and perspectives into policy development for climate change.

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