

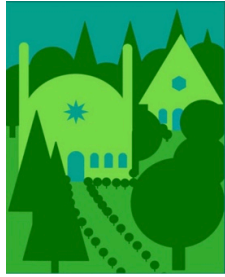
# Faith That Does Climate Justice

*Lucy Cummings,  
ED, Faith & the Common Good*

*Ontario Climate Consortium Symposium 2017  
“Just Transformations: The Next 150 Years”  
May 12, 2017, York University*



**Faith & the  
Common Good**

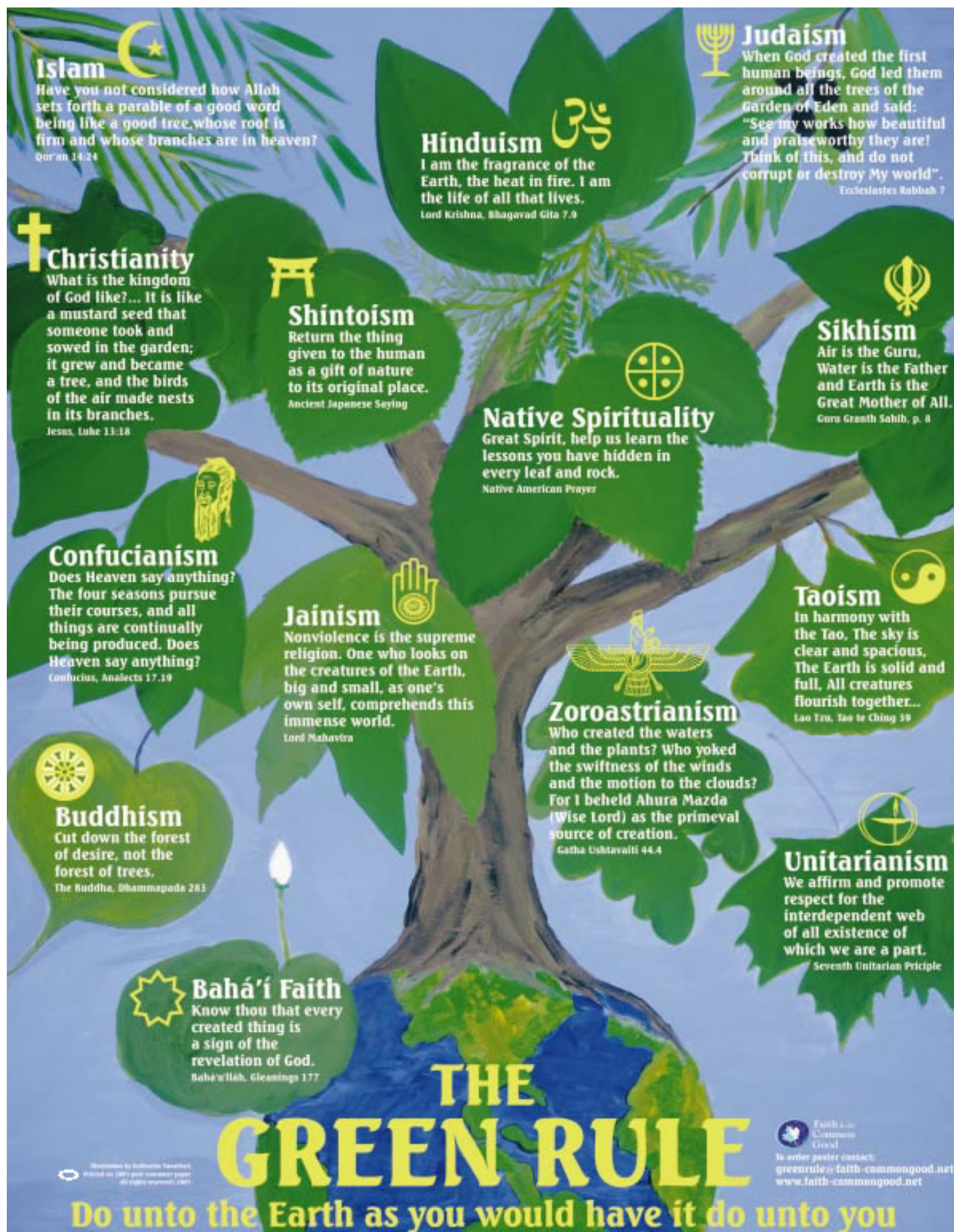


# Faith & the Common Good | La foi et le bien commun

- Canada's only national, interfaith sustainability network.
- Network members share sacred calling to protect creation, serve our neighbors.
- Regional **Greening Sacred Spaces** chapters connect faith groups with local non-profit, municipal and commercial organizations dedicated to a sustainable future.







-- Just like in the struggle for Civil Rights in the U.S. or the fight to end Apartheid in South Africa, **the more we can make climate change a deeply moral issue, the more we will push society towards action.**

-- This is one of the most important roles that **Canadian faith communities can play.**

-- The wide **diversity** of cultures and faith-based justice traditions **is a strength** in this work.



# Faith that does climate justice: A sampler

1. On the political & economic frontlines
2. Helping climate vulnerable neighbors
3. Transformation starts from within



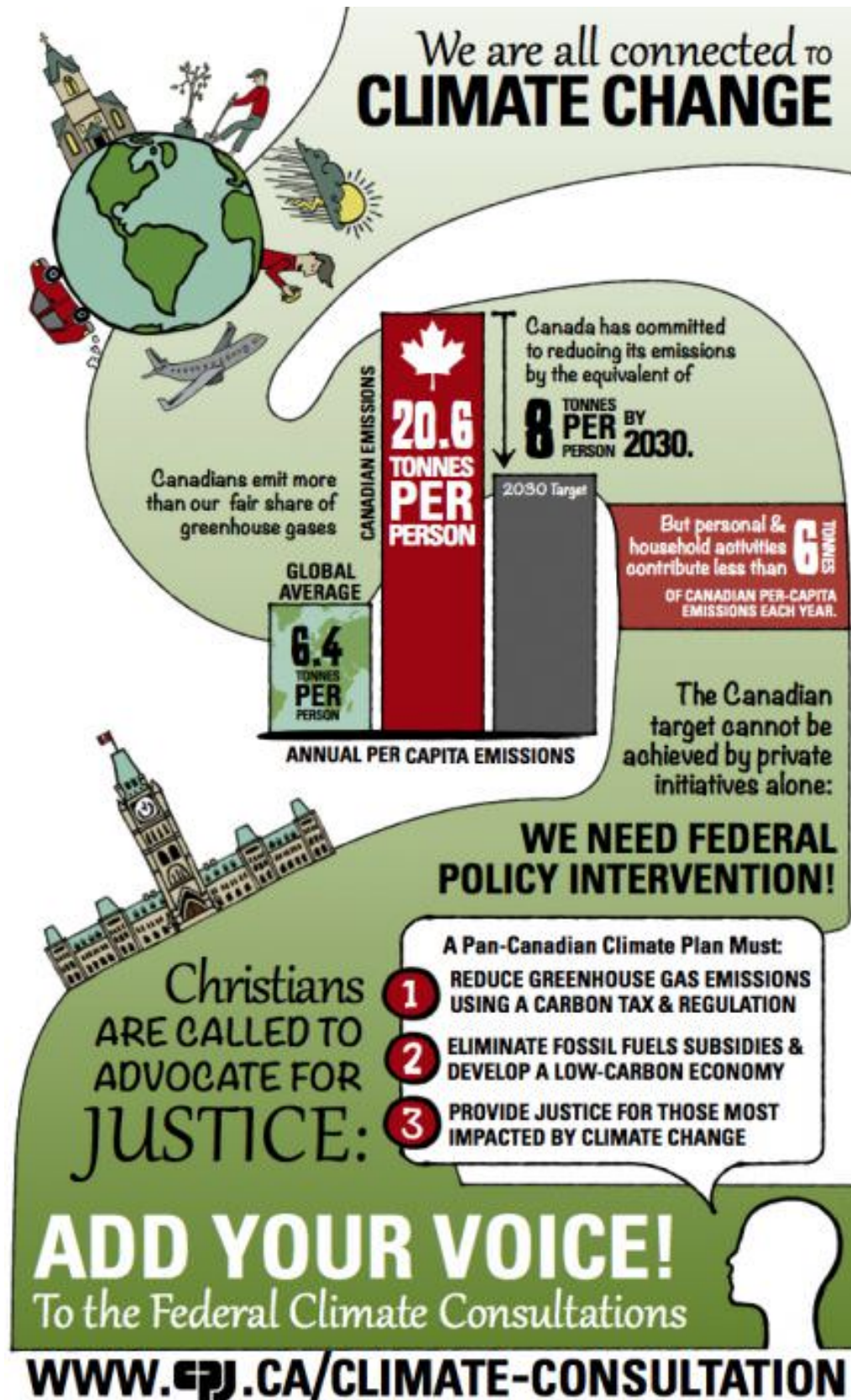
# 1. On the Political & Economic Frontlines



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# Citizens for Public Justice & KAIROS



## KAIROS Policy Briefing Paper

KAIROS Policy Briefing Papers are written to help inform public debate on key domestic and foreign policy issues

No. 49 April 2017

### Fossil Fuel Projects at Odds with Actions on Climate and Indigenous Rights

By John Dillon Ecological Economy Program Coordinator

With Arctic ice melting, seas rising, storms intensifying, forests drying to tinder and droughts exacerbating hunger, there can be no doubt that climate change is causing enormous devastation in all parts of the globe. According to the World Meteorological Organization, global temperatures rose to 1.2°C above pre-industrial levels from January to September 2016. Within a decade, they are on track to surpass the goal of limiting warming to close to 1.5°C which was established by the December 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change.

Canada has made progress on measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change (PCF). However, the recently approved tar sands pipeline and liquefied natural gas (LNG) export projects threaten to reverse what might be achieved by this federal-provincial-territorial framework. Many Indigenous peoples who have not had an opportunity to exercise free, prior and informed consent are resolutely opposed to them.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau defends his decision to approve tar sands export pipelines on the grounds that it was necessary to win Alberta Premier Rachel Notley's agreement to participate in the PCF. Similarly his approval of the Pacific Northwest LNG project helped him win British Columbia's support. However, his claim that pipeline and LNG approvals are an integral part of his government's strategy for fighting climate change is contradictory and unconvincing.<sup>1</sup>

The federal government's embrace of an extractivist economic model based on continued

exploitation of non-renewable energy resources runs deeper than a pragmatic decision to strike a deal with two provinces for their support of the PCF. A commitment to fossil fuel export projects is taking precedence over the government's promises to respect the rights of Indigenous peoples and to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement.



Banner carried by Queens University students during an October 2016 march to Parliament Hill.

This Briefing Paper will first evaluate the progress being made in Canada to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in light of the goals set by the Paris climate conference. It will then examine how recently approved fossil fuel infrastructure projects are undermining mitigation efforts. Third, it will explore how Indigenous peoples and allied social movements are responding by mounting strong resistance to new fossil fuel extraction projects while striving to build low-carbon alternatives with particular reference to the expansion of the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain pipeline.



# Spiritually Rooted Direct Climate Action



APRIL 30  
2-5 PM

## SPIRITUALLY ROOTED DIRECT ACTION TRAINING

This spring, the global climate movement will be rallying at critical climate justice sites, in massive peaceful resistance designed to slow extraction of fossil fuels. In Western Canada, it's the Kinder Morgan Pipeline.

Join with people of faith, and others who see action for justice as a spiritual pursuit, to learn skills for effective, creative, non-violent action. Prepare to be part of a global wave of climate actions during the month of May.

**REGISTER:** [SALALANDCEDAR@VANCOUVER.ANGLICAN.CA](mailto:SALALANDCEDAR@VANCOUVER.ANGLICAN.CA)

Hosted by Salal & Cedar  
and Fossil Free Faith



**FossilFreeFaith**



**GREENPEACE**



Canadian Memorial Church  
& Centre for Peace

At Canadian Memorial United Church and Centre for Peace: West 15th & Burrard, Vancouver  
Training provided by 350.org and Greenpeace. Photo Credit: Mark Klotz, Creative Commons



“Multi-faith Climate Iftar”  
celebration proceeds  
the 2015 Pan American  
Climate Summit



RACKING  
NAY!

"For faith communities to be a home for my generation, we need to see the **power of moral leadership** on climate change."

- Maggie Knight, Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), Coast Salish Territories (Vancouver)

Have #FaithInMyFuture. Divest from Fossil Fuels

FossilFreeFaith.ca/Youth

"I have faith in our religious institutions to **invest in our future** and actively advocate for social & environmental justice."

- Maisaloon Al-Ashkar, Muslim Unceded Coast Salish Territories, Vancouver BC

Have #FaithInMyFuture. Divest from Fossil Fuels

FossilFreeFaith.ca/Youth

"When I see rising inequality and environmental destruction, I pray for the courage to be a radical social activist like Jesus."

- Leo Yu, St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church Vancouver, BC

Have #FaithInMyFuture. Divest from Fossil Fuels.

Fossil Fuel Divestment



# Canadian Muslim Lawyers Association & Ktunaxa Nation: First-ever Indigenous Freedom of Religion Case Heads to Canada's Supreme Court

SCC File No.: 36664

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF CANADA**  
(ON APPEAL FROM THE COURT OF APPEAL FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA)

BETWEEN:

**KTUNAXA NATION COUNCIL and KATHRYN TENEESE, ON THEIR OWN BEHALF  
AND ON BEHALF OF ALL CITIZENS OF THE KTUNAXA NATION**

**Appellants**

- AND -

**MINISTER OF FORESTS, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS and  
GLACIER RESORTS LTD.**

**Respondents**

- AND -

**ATTORNEY GENERAL OF CANADA, ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR  
SASKATCHEWAN, CANADIAN MUSLIM LAWYERS ASSOCIATION, SOUTH ASIAN  
LEGAL CLINIC OF ONTARIO, KOOTENAY PRESBYTERY (UNITED CHURCH OF  
CANADA), EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP OF CANADA, CHRISTIAN LEGAL  
FELLOWSHIP, ALBERTA MUSLIM PUBLIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL, AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL CANADA, TE'MEXW TREATY ASSOCIATION, CENTRAL  
COAST INDIGENOUS RESOURCE ALLIANCE, SHIBOGAMA FIRST NATIONS  
COUNCIL, CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, BRITISH COLUMBIA CIVIL  
LIBERTIES ASSOCIATION, COUNCIL OF THE PASSAMAQUODDY NATION AT  
SCHOODIC, KATZIE FIRST NATION, AND WEST MOBERLY FIRST NATIONS AND  
PROPHET RIVER FIRST NATION**

**Interveners**

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**FACTUM OF THE INTERVENERS,  
CANADIAN MUSLIM LAWYERS ASSOCIATION, SOUTH ASIAN LEGAL CLINIC  
OF ONTARIO, and KOOTENAY PRESBYTERY (THE UNITED CHURCH OF  
CANADA)**

(Pursuant to Rules 47, 55 and 56 of the *Rules of the Supreme Court of Canada*)

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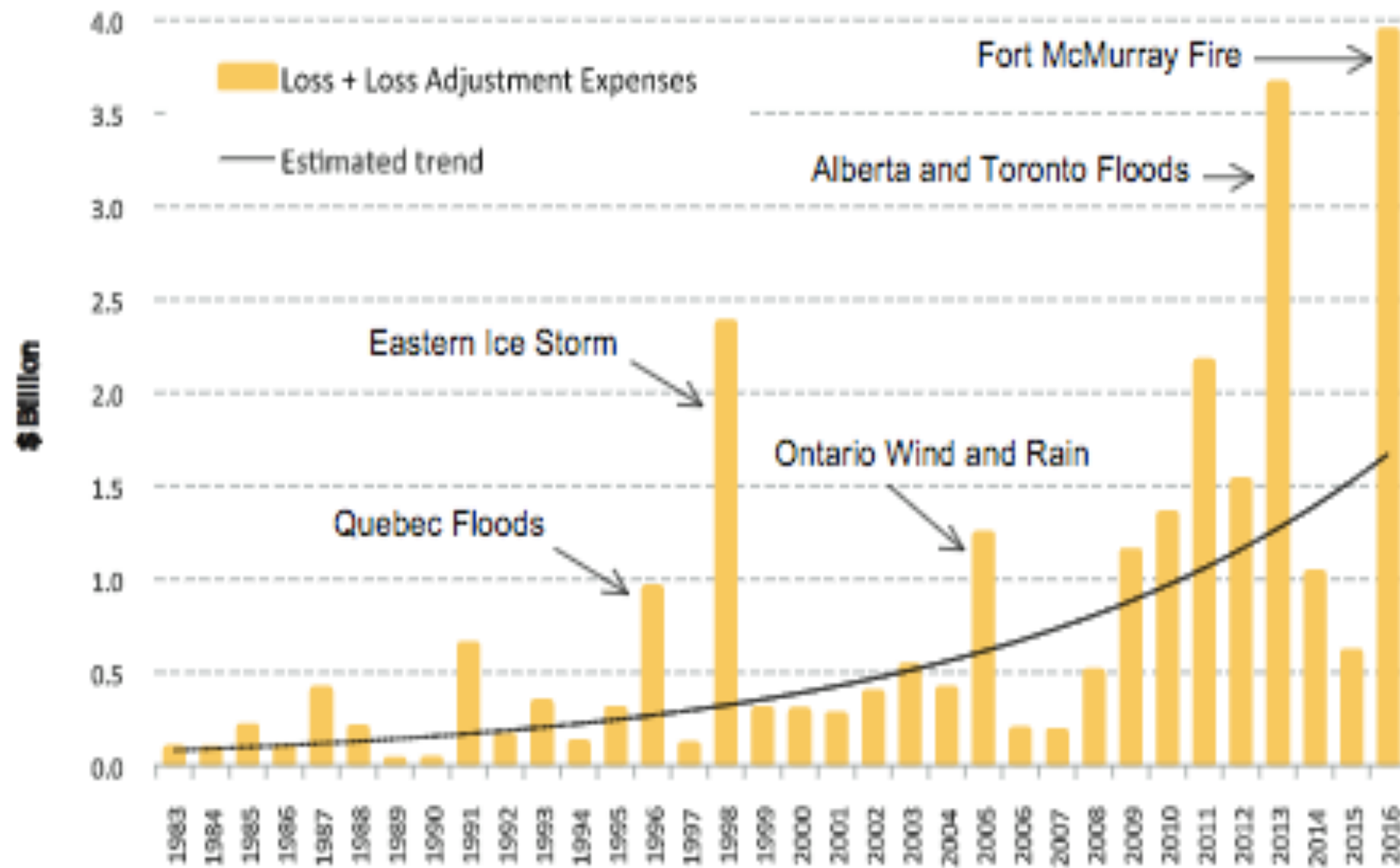


## 2. Helping our most vulnerable neighbors



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**Figure 22: Catastrophic losses in Canada (in billion dollars) 1983-2016.** Values in 2015\$ CAN, except for 2016.

Governments can't do it all.

Urgent need for more capacity to serve our most vulnerable.



# Faith Communities = Local Response Hub Anchors



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## Faith Community Resilience Hub Initial Capacity Assessment

*The purpose of this assessment exercise is for us to learn more about your faith community to determine the best way for us to collaborate with you on better responding to climate induced extreme weather events. It will also give you a chance to learn more about the project and our ideas about faith-based neighborhood resilience hubs.*

*There is no right or wrong path. This is a "proof of concept" project where we are meant to learn from each other – openly sharing the hopes, opportunities, challenges and obstacles – in order to devise a practical road map for engaging our faith communities in helping neighborhoods, especially its most vulnerable members, become more resilient to climate impacts. Thank you for your willingness to take part!*

### Faith Community Details

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Key Contact:</b>
<b>Address:</b>	<b>Cell:</b>
	<b>E-mail:</b>

### Building Capacity Scorecard

Description	Yes/No/Unsure	Notes
Accessibility – Wheelchair access	Y / N / U	
Room that can sleep 30-50 people	Y / N / U	
Washrooms on same floor as room	Y / N / U	
Kitchen with food basics in fridge	Y / N / U	
Stove(s); can feed 30-50 people	Y / N / U	
Lighting upgraded in 3 - 5 yrs	Y / N / U	
Heating upgraded in 3 - 5 yrs	Y / N / U	
A/C upgraded in 3 - 5 yrs	Y / N / U	
First aid & candles near room	Y / N / U	
Generator	Y / N / U	
Storage capacity for emergency supplies	Y / N / U	
Room for temporary waste disposal	Y / N / U	
<b>TOTAL # "Yes"</b>		

### Member Capacity Scorecard

Description	Yes/No/Unsure	Notes
Faith community already engaged in Food Banks /Out of Cold programs	Y / N / U	
Faith leader & board of directors support	Y / N / U	
4-6 physically strong volunteers who do above programs twice mthly	Y / N / U	
Desire & willingness to come immediately; when in an emergency	Y / N / U	
Live within 10-15 minutes of faith building	Y / N / U	

## Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue Resilience Hub Summary



### Community partners and their role:

Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT)

- 147 Elder Street Alzheimer's Residence
- W.L. Mackenzie Collegiate Institute
- Ward 10 Emergency Response Team (meet at BEBY)
- Reena Group Homes
- Uptown Chabad
- Eva's Place (out of map area)

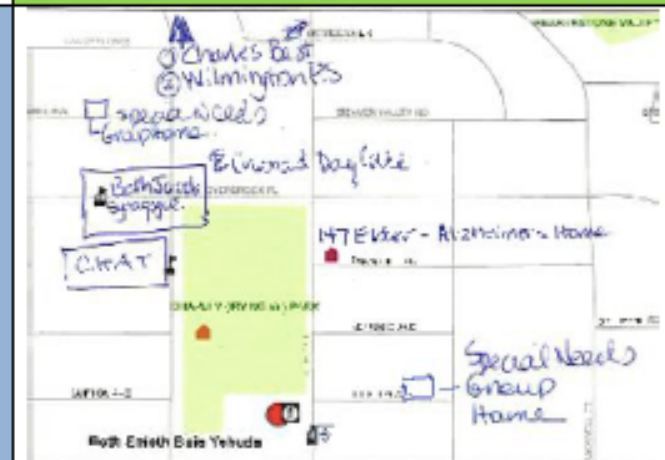
### Outreach Mission:

For 15 years, we have fed 100 guests weekly, as part of "Out of Cold" Program. Other programs include a safe haven for schools, and Kadima Centre (special needs adults). We have a generator.

### Vulnerable Population:

Seniors facilities including Alzheimer's and Nursing home, Seniors in own homes, 2 Group homes including Reena (special needs); Women's shelter

**Role of faith community:** We wish to be a warming and feeding reception centre. We are open to being a sleepover destination, if we could work with an emergency disaster partner; Red Cross or Salvation Army; thus limiting our liability.



Map of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda;  
done by Youth Leader



Pictured from left to right: Dale Gold, Hilda Swirsky, Pearl Grundland

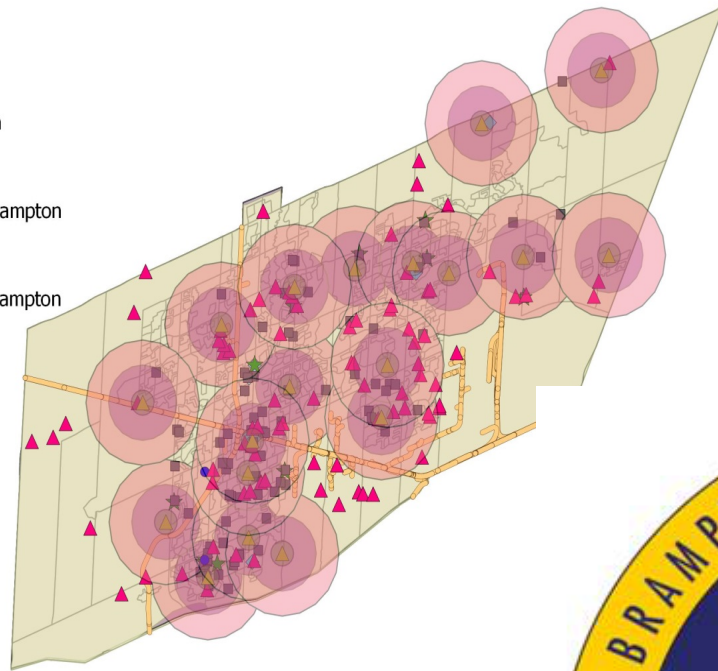
### Action Plan & Next Steps:

1. We need to better understand liability, security and financial implications of being a hub (generator operating cost is \$1600/12 hours).
2. Community partners that will participate; Eva's place (staff), CHAT, Centennial Library and Circle of Care; Outreach for seniors and special needs (could supply vans (10)).
3. We would like to continue Ward 10 Emergency Roundtable meetings, and invite more community partners to participate.

## Brampton Vulnerability Map: Places of Worship and Vulnerable Populations

### Legend

- Places of worship buffer 2
- places of worship buffer 1
- places of worship buffer
- Places of Worship Brampton
- Elderly Community Centres
- Low Income Housing
- Long Term Care Facilities Brampton
- COMHSL Brampton
- Rail Brampton
- Dissemination Area 2011 Brampton
- DMTI 2010 Street Muni
- Brampton Muni



Produced by: Arminda Aliu  
Produced for: City of Brampton  
Emergency Management Office  
April 27, 2015

Sources:  
Peel Region Open Data,  
Scholars Geoportal - Yo



- **FBOs provide:**
  - Pre-screened volunteers
  - Place of refuge, cooling station, warming station
  - Call centre, information centre
  - Wellness checks on members, neighbourhood
  - Emotional counselling
  - Donation management
- **City provides**
  - Training
  - Identification cards and signage
  - Promotion material
  - Some equipment
  - Support for community grants
  - Liability and WSIB Insurance coverage during emergencies

“Light House Project,”  
City of Brampton,  
Emergency  
Management



# 3. Transformation starts from within



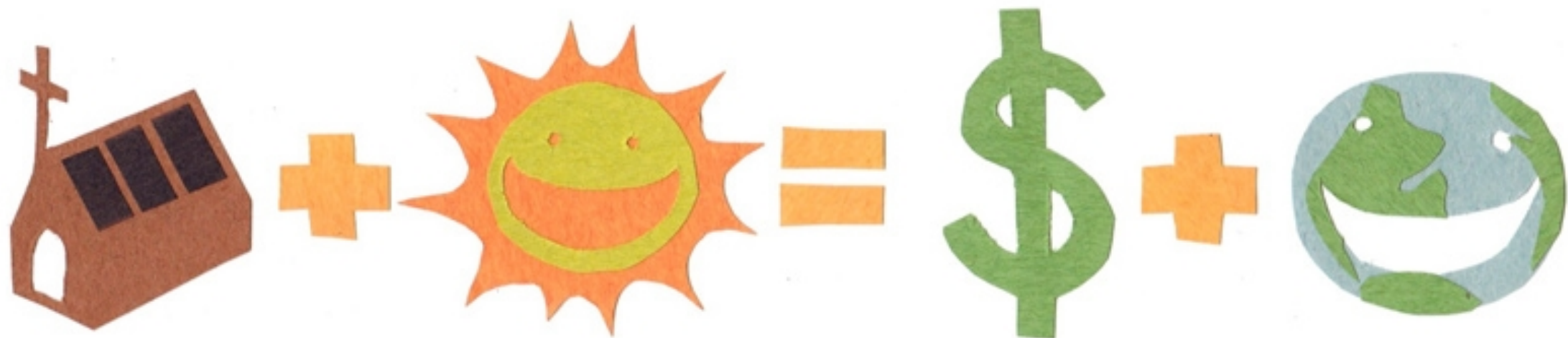
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# “Zero-Food-Waste” @ Fo Guang Shan



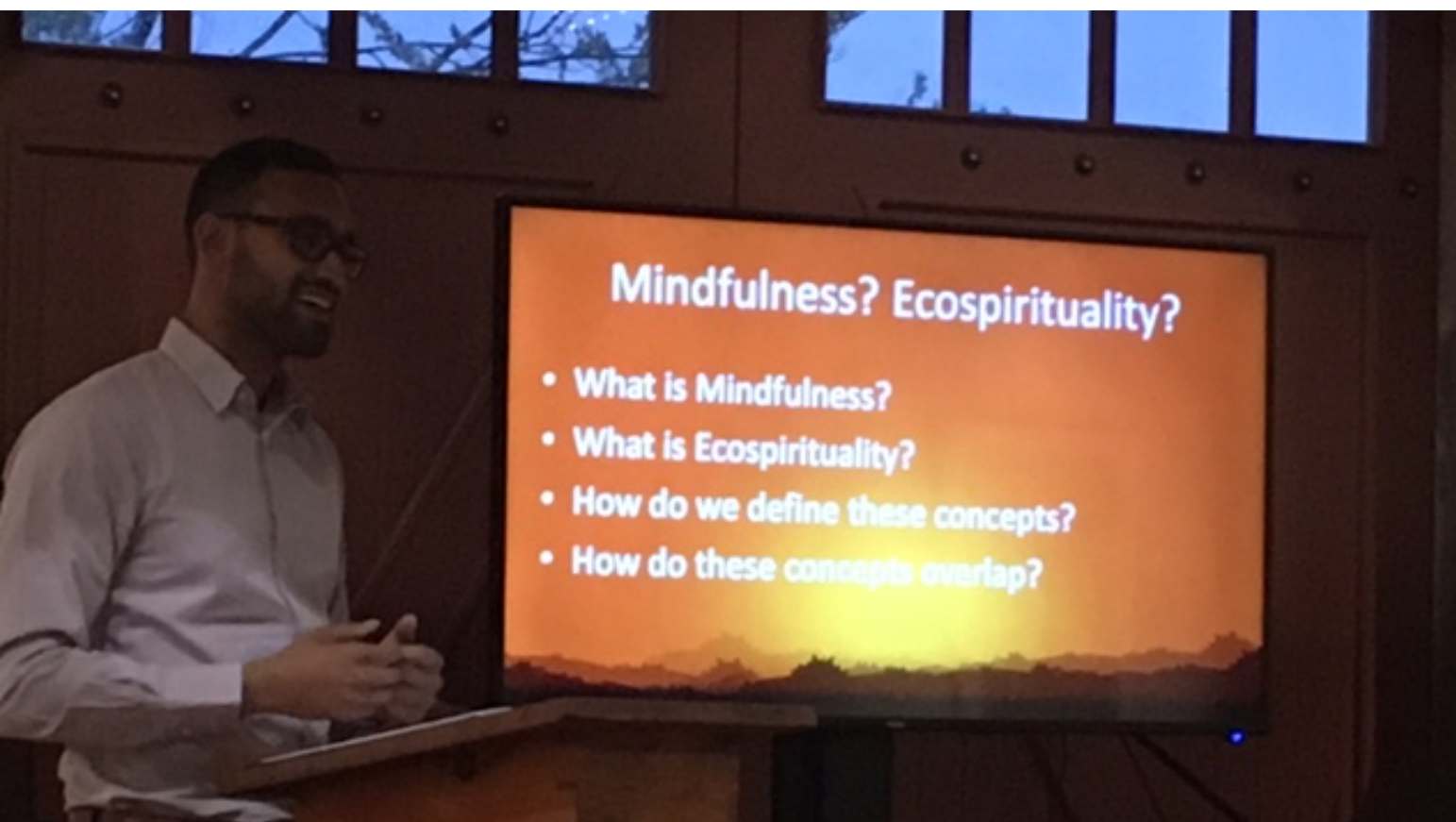


# Role-modeling renewable energy & energy efficiency



5/15/17





## Sustaining Justice



### Karmapa Public Talk: Mindfulness and Environmental Responsibility

The University of Toronto is delighted to welcome His Holiness, the 17th Gyalwang Karmapa, Ogyen Trinley Dorje, on the historic occasion of his first visit to Canada....



Need some help finding faith-based allies  
in your climate justice work?

Get in touch.

Lucy Cummings,  
Executive Director,  
Faith & the Common Good  
[director@faithcommongood.org](mailto:director@faithcommongood.org)



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