

PRESS RELEASE
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LAUNCH OF EARTH WEEK

BECAUSE THERE IS NO FUTURE ON A DEAD PLANET

Maison du développement durable, Montreal, April 5th, 2019 – As the emergency surrounding climate change grows across the globe, *Earth Day* becomes *Earth Week*. It will begin April 22nd with a human chain around Quebec’s National Assembly and will culminate on April 27th with mass protests in Montreal, in Rouyn-Noranda and possibly in all of the province of Quebec. The message to governments is clear: “There is no future on a dead planet. Action is needed. Now.”

ACTIVITIES OF EARTH WEEK

For months, youth from all over the world have taken leadership in the struggle against climate change. They have been inspired, among others, by the young Swedish activist Greta Thunberg who has been on strike every Friday since last August to denounce the inaction of governments. In Quebec, the movements *Pour le futur* and *The Planet Goes to University* continue to grow. They brought together 150,000 students to strike for climate action on March 15th. *The Planet goes to Parliament*, the *Jour de la Terre*, the *Group Mobilisation* (Déclaration d’urgence climatique), the *Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec*, the *David Suzuki Foundation*, and *Greenpeace Canada* invite all citizens to add their voice to that of the youths by participating in Earth Week activities. A detailed list of actions follows:

- April 22nd: A human chain around the National Assembly of Quebec. Organized by a collective of 23 organizations including *Jour de la Terre*.
- April 22nd to 27th: Until April 19th, thousands of students in primary and secondary school are invited to write messages for the Earth which will be presented to governments during Earth Week. Organized by *The Planet Goes to Parliament* and participating schools.
- April 23rd: The Déclaration d’urgence climatique will be delivered to Québecor. Organized by *The Planet Goes to Parliament*, *Group Mobilisation* and *Mission 100 tonnes*.
- April 25th: A conversation with Ruba Ghazal and Sylvain Gaudreault, elected officials at the National Assembly of Quebec. Organized by the *Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec*.

THE PLANET GOES TO PARLIAMENT

Montréal

- April 26th: Student demonstration. Organized by *Pour le futur Montréal* and *The Planet Goes to University*.
- April 26th, evening: political cabaret *À qui la Terre?* Organized by the *Conseil régional FTQ Montréal métropolitain*.
- April 27th: Mass protest in Montreal, Rouyn-Noranda and possibly in the rest of the province. Organized by *The Planet Goes to Parliament*.

NO FUTURE ON A DEAD PLANET

Scientists have been sounding the alarm for over 50 years: long-term economic growth based on fossil fuels is hazardous for the planet. Last September, Antonio Guterres, United Nations Secretary General, reminded us all that, according to experts, we only have two years to take action on the causes of climate change or the consequences will be disastrous for humanity.

Monday, Environment Canada published a report showing that Canada was warming twice as fast as the rest of the world (and three times faster in Nordic areas). The following day the environment commissioner of Canada denounced the government inaction and showed that the Prime Minister's plan on climate change is empty of real measures. In Quebec, Premier Legault still refuses to align our targets to the IPCC's clear objectives. "To change the course of history, radical measures must be taken. Now. And yet, one after the other, governments have remained deaf to this reality. Today, they justify their inaction with economic priorities. But there is no economy on a dead planet. There is no future," declares François Geoffroy, coordinator of *The Planet Goes to Parliament*. This is why the organizations who have joined together on Earth Week plan on multiplying the pressure until governments devise a concrete action plan as dramatic as the crisis we face.

Created in the fall of 2018, *The Planet Goes to Parliament* is an independent citizens' group whose objective is to address the climate emergency through civil participation and direct democracy.

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Journalists and media can contact:

Diego Creimer, communications (The David Suzuki Foundation) in support of the Earth Week activities, at dcreimer@davidsuzuki.org or 514-999-6743

For more information (in French) : <https://laplanetesinvite.org/le-collectif/communiques/>