

Sample Motion of support for the YOUTH CLIMATE CORPS

A RESOLUTION [or MOTION] AFFIRMING [name of city, municipality, union's] ONGOING COMMITMENT TO CLIMATE ACTION AND THE NEED FOR A YOUTH CLIMATE CORPS

WHEREAS Canada's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are slowly starting to trend downward, but the reduction trajectory remains incongruent with what science and justice demands;

WHEREAS The climate mobilization in Canada has yet to feel like a grand societal undertaking, and among the bold initiatives that would send such a signal would be the establishment of a [Youth Climate Corps](#) (YCC);

WHEREAS Thousands of young people across Canada understand that we face a climate emergency and are eager to serve as we seek to drive down GHG emissions and prepare for climate disruption (a [national Abacus survey](#) found that 15% of people in Canada between the ages of 18 and 35 would "definitely consider" enrolling in a two-year Youth Climate Corps);

WHEREAS A YCC would train youth for careers in the well-paying green jobs of the future, and help ensure Canada has a skilled workforce for the new climate economy;

WHEREAS An audacious YCC — an invitation to the country's youth to mobilize to confront today's gravest threat — could be a transformative public program, signalling to young people and society at large that we are genuinely in climate emergency mode, and additionally would also help [insert community name] address many of our other gravest challenges, including inequality, shortages of skilled labour and lack of opportunities for young people;

WHEREAS A YCC would offer two years of training and employment to every person under 35 years of age who wants to be part of the solution to this generational challenge, and put thousands of young people to work rapidly curbing emissions, preparing our infrastructure for its coming impacts, and responding to the emergencies we're locking in;

WHEREAS Members and graduates of a YCC could be put to work on many critical tasks needed in our community, such as:

1. Deep retrofits to older housing;
2. Construction of new affordable, net-zero buildings;
3. Repairing and expanding transit infrastructure;
4. Renewable energy and storage;
5. Caring for parks, street trees and other green spaces;
6. Building up community resilience to and responding to climate-induced extreme and emergency weather events (floods, fires, heat domes, etc);
7. Conservation and reclamation efforts, such as wetland restoration and tree-planting.

WHEREAS A YCC would be an excellent investment of public funds, providing benefits to program participants, employers, and Canadian society that greatly outweigh the cost of the program;

WHEREAS A YCC would increase the earnings of Canadian youth, and consequently boost tax returns to public treasuries (the average annual wage of Canadians with an apprenticeship or trades certificate is \$59,285^[1], or \$15,850 more per year compared to someone with a high school diploma^[2]), and YCC training would give disadvantaged youth a “way in” to a stable, well-paying employment.

WHEREAS Enlisting with the YCC could be just the antidote to the mental anxiety and helplessness that young people experience as climate disasters escalate.

WHEREAS The US government has already announced its own version of a YCC – [The American Climate Corps](#), and now it's time for Canada to do the same;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

the [name of city, municipality, or other body] formally endorses the call for a new [Youth Climate Corps](#); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, [name of city, municipality, or other body] urges the federal government to establish a Youth Climate Corps, starting with a major financial commitment of \$1 billion per year in the next federal budget; and will write to the federal ministers concerned expressing this support (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Chrystia Freeland, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth Marci Ien, and Minister for Environment and Climate Change Steven Guilbeault).

[1] Data from 2021 Census (Statistics Canada. [Table 98-10-0412-01 Employment income statistics by occupation, major field of study and highest level of education: Canada](#)) adjusted for inflation using the Bank of Canada calculator (<https://www.bankofcanada.ca/rates/related/inflation-calculator/>, accessed October 26, 2023).

[2] Ibid.