

YOUTH *CLIMATE* CORPS

COMMUNITY ORGANIZING TOOLKIT



This toolkit is made for people who are looking to get started on organizing for a Youth Climate Corps. We hope you are able to start forming teams in your communities who will locally anchor the growing campaign for a Youth Climate Corps. 'Organizing' refers to the work of assembling everyday people and leaders to act together in demand of change; in our case, for the creation of a Youth Climate Corps.

This document will breathe and grow throughout the year as more people join the campaign and as we move onto next stages in our demands.

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Demands

We're ready to demand an ambitious and national [Youth Climate Corps](#). A YCC would be a bold new work program to involve young people directly in fighting climate change and strengthening their communities, all while offering training, thriving wages, and meaningful work. That said, the national government is not going to spend the money to create a YCC *unless* it feels significant pressure from youth and their community leaders. That's why we need to prove that a YCC will mobilize new constituencies of voters (youth) *and* that there is a desire from key provinces.

We see the 2025 Federal Budget as the next opportunity to announce the creation of a national YCC. With 2025 being an election year, federal parties will attempt to capture the attention of would-be voters. Our job is to make clear that unless they focus on big, attention-grabbing solutions like a Youth Climate Corps, then they will lose the tens of

thousands of youth who can vote in their first election or who have yet to see exciting solutions to their concerns.

National Demand:

- Commit at least \$1B in the 2025 budget to creating a YCC, which would then grow with demand.

A note on British Columbia. Thanks in part to the amazing work of our friends at [BC YCC](#) and [Wildsight](#), it looks like we'll see the creation of a provincial Youth Climate Corps on the election platforms for the BC NDP and the BC Greens. While BC YCC's strategy is primarily focused on gaining institutional support from unions and youth-led groups, we may share some of their local call to actions with our campaign organizers from BC.

Why This Will Work:

The CEU team has had very successful meetings with policy advisors to key Liberal ministers; we are seeing a very different reaction from many of our previous climate advocacy. As momentum grows for a YCC, key decision-makers within the will feel a sense of accountability to our growing constituency, who will be stronger and more persuasive than a small group of people in meetings. In addition, winning in BC could present the biggest boost of momentum to the movement going into 2025 and prove the viability and strength of a YCC. Where Saskatchewan introduced the promise of universal health care, and Quebec the vision of universal child care, the YCC could be British Columbia's contribution to transformative national policy.

Want to learn more about the story of the YCC and the greater vision? Find more info on [our website](#) or take a look through our [FAQ document](#).

Campaign Structure

Winning a Youth Climate Corps is within our reach! In the last year, we've engaged hundreds of people, spoken to nearly a dozen key policy advisors, and met with both federal and provincial ministers on a YCC. **We've also helped to emerge new young leaders like you!** While we're getting closer and closer to winning a YCC, we know there is still a lot of work to be done. We're so excited to work with you, helping you grow as leaders, and winning a YCC together.

Local Structure

The core units of the YCC campaign are you and the people in your community, be it your school, university, neighbourhood and/or city. Therefore, our goal within the first month is to establish small but growing core teams across the country who will be the base of all future organizing in your city.

We aim to pursue a distributed model of organizing on this campaign. That means that while we will be establishing a central strategy, we encourage you to adjust tactics and actions in a way that makes the most sense for your context.

As more people join your chapter and take on leadership, we encourage you to share this toolkit with them, as well as invites to upcoming meetings.

National Structure

In addition to your local meetings, we will plug you into a broader community of people organizing for a YCC across the country.

Biweekly Meetings:

Every second Wednesday starting January 24th, we will meet as a group to host small trainings, discuss developments in your campaign, and troubleshoot general issues. Since we can't expect people to join these every time, we encourage that at least one member from your local team joins calls, and it doesn't need to be the same person every time.

Trainings:

In addition to an upcoming training day/conference, we hope to pepper key trainings into biweekly meetings. Here are some of the trainings we will be offering.

- One-on-one conversations
- Public Narrative
- Media Training
- Art Build Training

- Meet with your MP
- Engaging local institutions (municipalities, First Nations, labour, faith, etc)
- Canvassing Training
- Facilitation Training

One-on-One Coaching and Leadership Development:

Organizing for a YCC is exciting not just because we know we can win, but also because we are seeing tons of new leaders emerging into the movement. To that end, we are eager to begin connecting with you for one-on-one coaching from our organizers (Juan, Bushra).

Working Groups

In our efforts to connect you with people and skills across the country, we're also creating small "committees" or working groups focused on different parts of the campaign. For chapters with several people, we encourage people to split across working groups.

- **Communications and Social Media:**

Led by Erin Blondeau (Cowichan)

You'll be working together to create content for digital campaigning: social media posts, videos, memes, and calls to action for people outside of our main organizing chapters.

- **Community Organizing and Direct Action:**

Co-led by Bushra Asghar (Toronto) and Juan Vargas (Edmonton)

You'll be working together to determine which tactics to use on the ground, helping to craft messaging for

- **Institutions and Lobbying:**

Co-led by Seth Klein (Vancouver) and Doug Hamilton-Evans (Vancouver)

You'll be working to get official support of a YCC from key sectoral leaders (unions, Indigenous nations, city councils, etc) and connect with elected officials.

It's in the institutions and lobbying working group where we see lots of work for people above 35 – our 'young at hearts'. We have a sample motion/resolution of support for the YCC that can be used for municipal council, local locals or others, which we welcome you to use (email seth@climateemergencyunit.ca to get a copy).

If you have a good idea of what interests you most, [we encourage you to fill out this form](#).

Timeline: March To May

Over January and March, we began to build stronger bases of organizers in key cities that will then go on to mobilize their communities in favour of a YCC.

Between March and May, we will solidify our local chapters, meet with our MPs for the first time, and begin preparing to go out into our communities in June. We are taking a shorter time-frame here because we know this is the time when a lot of our organizers will be in finals season and want people to take actions that echo their capacity.

(1) MPs sign MP Collin's Letter

In December 2023, MP Laurel Collins brought a motion for a Youth Climate Corps to the House of Commons. Now we're collecting signatures from Members of Parliament for the motion to continue building momentum. This letter will be sent to PM Trudeau on May 22, 2024. Help us get signatures from MPs across the country!

You can now find the toolkit to meet with your MP here: [YCC Meet your MP toolkit](#)

(2) Motions of Support for a YCC

As we focus on bringing more people from our communities into the call for a YCC, we will also look to gain the support of key institutions. Focusing on faith institutions, labour locals, municipal councils, Indigenous governments, and school boards, the focus is not only to target the individuals who want an YCC, but also the groups that represent hundreds of those individuals. [Here is the folder](#) we will use to coordinate and gather motions of support.

At the same time, we will continue power-mapping and growing the list of elected leaders who support a Youth Climate Corps in preparation for our YCC multi-party town hall.

(3) Communities For A Climate Corps

Coming out of the March 18th's Town Hall, our strategic arc is to organize our communities and leaders to join the call for a Youth Climate Corps. We'll start by helping newly formed chapters create a more cohesive presence, through social media accounts and recurring meetings.

As the Spring and Summer progress, we'll get to work talking to our neighbours by door-knocking, canvassing, hosting community barbecues, and building the imagination for a Youth Climate Corps.

Our aim through Communities for a Climate Corps is to build a real constituency to whom our elected leaders will feel a sense of accountability. As the Summer ends, we will send our leaders back to Ottawa (or into the BC election) with a clear mandate to fight for a YCC. If they fail to meet our deadline (TBD), we will escalate our tactics and continue building community demands until we win.

We aim to update you further plans as the year progresses, and are excited to hear your ideas!

When	Milestone
January 24-End of May	House Meetings
January 24 - ongoing	Letters/Motions of Support
March 18	Youth Climate Corps Town Hall and Watch Parties
March 19th Onwards	Launching "Communities for a Climate Corps"
March 19-May 22	Meetings with MPs to Sign Letter to Trudeau
Stay tuned as we update this timeline with upcoming actions!	

Thank you for making it to the end of this toolkit! We are embarking on a really big year that will involve a lot of fun, a lot of learning, and a lot of hard work. Volunteer time is so key to winning this kind of campaign and we are really appreciative of your work.

Now let's win a Youth Climate Corps!

Previous Tactics/Events

House Meetings

Since the beginning of this campaign, we have heard the stories of people who resonate deeply with the YCC demand. Whether they are facing a job market where they must sacrifice their values to find work or can hardly imagine a future with good work under worsening climate conditions, people are called to the YCC!

House meetings are a tactic used to build strong relational bonds, bring new people into leadership, and emerge the powerful stories that strengthen our movement. For the next few months, we will encourage you to use house meetings in order to bring co-workers, friends, and family into the campaign in order to build a core group.

To start, connect with the other people living in your riding/city, begin to familiarize yourself with the House Meeting Toolkit (coming soon), set a date for your first meeting, and start recruiting!

YCC Town Hall, Watch Party, And Barnstorm!

On Monday, March 18th, we will be hosting a [national multi-party town hall](#) with MP Laurel Collins. The town hall, talking through the promise of a Youth Climate Corps, will invite MPs from across party lines to attend and say a few words. This also presents an opportunity for you to engage with your MPs/MLAs/MPPs to invite them to attend.

Once announced, we will work with you, our comms teams, and our allies to encourage newcomers to join a local watch party. The aim of the watch party isn't to passively watch, but rather to engage your growing base directly in seeing the fruits of their work: federal leaders discussing youth issues on *our* terms. Then, each location will finish off with a 'barnstorm', an energizing call to action to bring in more volunteers and bridge them to the next step and to build Communities for a Climate Corps.

Why March 18th:

MPs are in Parliament that week, making for a higher likelihood of attendance from your MP. That week is also the possible delivery date for this year's federal budget. Budgets are never announced on Mondays, meaning we can ensure MPs are thinking about the impact of policies like a YCC as they are briefed on another year of budgetary measures that fail to meet the climate crisis.

Prepared by Climate Emergency Unit

For more, visit: www.GoodGreenJobsforAll.ca and www.ClimateEmergencyUnit.ca