



PRESS RELEASE

(Contact: ANDREA LOKEN, 613 532 0409,
cbcchiefnegotiator@gmail.com)

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Climate activist educators put fossil fuel divestment on union meeting's agenda

TORONTO – Activist high school teachers are pushing fossil fuel divestment and climate change onto the agenda of this weekend's annual meeting of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (AMPA 2015).

A group of activist high school teachers that started out in Kingston, Ontario has grown into an '[Educators Climate Alliance](#)' that is promoting fossil fuel divestment across public sector education unions. First stop: the OSSTF.

"We are morally compelled to support this," says Andrea Loken, co-founder of the ECA, a physics teacher and delegate from Kingston, "just look at our motto – 'Let us not take thought for our separate interests, but let us help one another'. We're talking about taking action now to protect the lives of future generations."

The group has already started an audible buzz, even though AMPA only officially kicks off this Friday, March 13 at the Sheraton Centre Hotel in Toronto.

"We are seeing pockets of resistance to this idea," Loken acknowledges, "but also overwhelming support when we explain what we're doing. We're confident that if our resolutions make it to the floor that they can get the support of the membership."

Broadly in line with the call for fossil fuel divestment from climate group 350.org, the ECA calls on pensions and endowments investment bodies to stop any new investment in the world's top 200 fossil fuel companies (<http://fossilfreeindexes.com/research/the-carbon-underground/>), and to phase out existing investments over five years ([see the resolutions here](#)). The idea embraces both shaming the fossil fuel industry as a source of intransigence to substantive climate action, and the potential for investment in renewable technologies and egalitarian community-building projects across the world.

"Let's move to a model that supports a livable planet," Loken adds. "The OTPP just invested \$2 billion in renewables – *that* is the direction we need to support."