

Dear team leaders,

It was truly energizing to meet with those of you at the June 11 national advisory council meeting! And it was super helpful to hear your feedback on how we're doing, as the national support team, in providing support for you and your teams.

For those of you not able to make the meeting, we missed you AND there is still the opportunity to share your feedback and questions. Please read on.

Four things in this message:

1. **Follow up from the June 11 meeting**
2. **Survey re: training opportunities**
3. **Quick updates on lots of things**
4. **A summer reflection**

Mid-year meeting and follow-up

This **mid-year feedback survey** is for everyone, whether you attended the June 11 meeting or not. If you weren't able to be there, it's your chance to weigh in on what was discussed. If you were there, this is a chance to capture any further thoughts we may not have addressed at the time.

We appreciate feedback from as many teams and team members as possible, so we'll leave it up to you to determine how to share with your individual teams: you can have each member of the team fill it out, or fill it out collectively, or you might fill it out on behalf of your team. Whatever works for you.

Please have your responses in by July 15th. If that's not going to be possible, just let me know. More resources that might be helpful: here are the notes from the NAC meeting, the slide presentation from the meeting, and a more detailed mid-year report.

Survey re: Training Opportunities

We'd also like to know a little more about what training opportunities would most benefit you and your team. Please share your thoughts in **this online survey by July 15th** (again, if the timing is an issue, let me know).

Quick Updates

FOK has been granted Intervenor status in the **Mathur v. Ontario** lawsuit! This is the case launched by a group of young people charging that the Ontario government is endangering their rights by setting weak targets for carbon emissions reduction. Read more about the case here and find out why this is so significant.

FOK Ottawa/Gatineau has taken a leading role in advocating for Ottawa to endorse the **Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty**; they delegated to the Environment committee this week and received unanimous support! Next step: City Council. Find out more here about the FFNPT and how this initiative is growing around the world.

As a network, we have signed on to the **campaign to stop fossil fuel advertising** which is being led by CAPE and supported by a coalition of health-care and environmental groups. FOK teams are welcome to sign on to the campaign individually as well, at the link above. We'll have an action page set up shortly to provide parents with more info and resources about the campaign.

It's a significant initiative, and we know that a number of FOK teams are already involved in related projects like getting education resources produced by fossil fuel companies out of classrooms, pushing for new home and building regulations to require electric heat rather than gas, and raising awareness about the dangers of gas cooking stoves. By being part of the national collaboration, we'll be able to amplify those actions and better support them - we'll keep you up to date on this, and look for the action page to be up shortly.

Still interested in supporting any team or team member who would like to provide input to the **National Adaptation Strategy**. Deadline is July 15. [Here's the start of a worksheet](#) that might help.

More info and links are in the worksheet: I'll repeat that the website and discussion paper are incredibly wordy and not particularly user-friendly, but it's also a really important opportunity because some of the questions ask for your specific experiences with the impacts of climate change. And the online forums are already getting populated with ideas and responses.

Please feel free to add your thoughts and comments to the worksheet. I'd also like to hear whether you think this is an action that team members/other parents would have any capacity to take on? How could we support and encourage that?

Do you have an in-person event coming up for your team or community? Remember you can use this **template for a postcard-sized promo**, customize it with your contact info, and hand it out to potential members. And don't forget FOK's **small grants program**, which can cover the cost of printing the postcards or any other incidental costs.

Question from the Parents 4 Climate Victoria team: has anyone hosted a community **Climate Solutions Café**? If so, they'd like to hear about your experiences! You can reach Kate at p4c@forourkids.ca

In case you missed these, check out the latest **blog posts** from FOK members. And remember to check out **local team newsletters** [here](#) for the latest on what's happening with your colleagues across the country.

If you have any suggestions for actions, you can let any member of the support team know, or fill out this **handy online form**.

Please Save the Date(s)

Sun. August 21 @10am PST/1pm EST is the next Team Leaders' meeting - we would love to see a rep from each team there if possible (understanding summer schedules)

Sat. Sept. 17 @10am PST/1pm EST Kerry from Moms Against Racism will reprise the How to Raise an Anti-Racist Child workshop from last fall, for anyone who missed it. This event will be open to the public, so feel free to share it with your wider networks. Will share the event posting later in the summer.

And a last note about the summer: we will slow our pace a bit over July and August but we are always here for you. We appreciated the feedback from those who attended the impromptu Zoom drop-ins a couple of weeks ago to share thoughts about how this season brings a lot of joy and opportunities for relaxation, and at the same time threats from extreme heat, weather events and forest fires are never far from our minds. We're ready to host these kinds of calls anytime they're needed, so please reach out to us if there is any support we can provide over the next few months.

A summer reflection

Finally, something I hope will lift your spirits. This came from an unexpected source - I read it the other day and it struck a chord somewhere so wanted to share it here with you. It's a translation of one of the *Duino Elegies* by poet Rainer Maria Rilke, written near the end of his life in the 1920s. The photo is from my wild garden.



Earth, isn't this
what you want?
To arise in us, invisible?
Is it not your dream,
to enter us so wholly
there's nothing left
outside us to see?
What, if not transformation,
is your deepest purpose?
Earth, my love,
I want it too. Believe me,
no more of your
springtimes are needed
to win me over – even one flower
Is more than enough.

Remember, you can always [access these updates online here](#). Feel free to share with your team members too.

As always, take care out there. Thank you for the incredibly important and meaningful work you do.