Mr./Ms. [name lastname][[1]](#footnote-1)[[2]](#footnote-2), M.P.

House of Commons

Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

[Month day], 2017

Dear Mr./Ms. [lastname]:

**Balancing the books on Canadian climate finance**

As a resident of your riding, I am writing to share my concerns about the ongoing imbalance in Canadian international climate finance.

Recent months have again confirmed that no one can escape the impacts of climate change. From wildfires in British Columbia and California, to flooding in Gatineau and Vietnam, and from hurricanes in Latin America and the United States to drought-induced hunger in Africa, extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and severe. Time and again, these events show that the poorest people – those who are least responsible for causing climate change – have the least amount of resources with which to confront its impacts.

Under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, advanced economies like Canada have accepted responsibility for helping developing countries bear the cost of confronting climate change. This entails balanced investments in adaptation and mitigation efforts – to help communities withstand the immediate effects of climate change, while also transitioning to greener social and economic development. The Paris Agreement also calls for international climate change investments to favour public and grant-based mechanisms in the most vulnerable countries.

Despite these commitments, Canada’s international climate change investments continue to favour mitigation initiatives. From a high of 39 per cent of total international climate change finance in 2013-15, Canadian investments in adaptation appear on course to make up just 20 per cent of the total in 2015-2020. Moreover, much of Canada’s international climate change finance continues to be delivered through loans, which are known to increase the debt burden of developing countries and decrease the actual value of Canada’s support for climate activities

As climate change becomes more severe, estimated adaptation finance needs for developing countries [are doubling or tripling](https://www.wri.org/blog/2015/04/costs-climate-adaptation-explained-4-infographics) every few years. A 2007 [UNFCCC](http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/publications/financial_flows.pdf) study projected adaptation finance needs for developing countries would start at $28 billion annually by 2030. [UNEP](http://new.unep.org/climatechange/adaptation/gapreport2014/portals/50270/pdf/AGR_FULL_REPORT.pdf) recently estimated a maximum need for developing countries of around $300 billion annually by 2050. Canada can do more to help meet these needs, while upholding its international obligations and policy commitments.

**Towards that end, I am requesting that you call upon the Government of Canada to publicly commit to ensuring that at least 50 percent of its international climate change finance investments are channelled towards adaptation measures, with a better balance between loan- and grant-based delivery mechanisms.**

I thank you for your attention to this issue, and look forward to your kind response.

Yours sincerely,

[insert your name and lastname]

[insert your address]

1. Unsure about who your MP is? Search them by postal code or constituency at http://www.ourcommons.ca/Parliamentarians/en/members [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Did you know that letters to Parliamentarians can be sent postage-free via Canada post? Simply pop your letter in the mail, without a stamp, and it will reach your Parlaimentarian. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)