

Ottawa

Room 518, Confederation Building
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
Tel.: 613-996-1119
Fax.: 613-996-0850



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Ottawa

Pièce 518, Édifice de la Confédération
Ottawa (Ontario) K1A 0A6
Tél. : 613-996-1119
Télééc. : 613-996-0850

Constituency

1 - 9711 Fourth Street
Sidney, British Columbia V8L 2Y8
Tel.: 250-657-2000
Fax.: 250-657-2004

Elizabeth May

Member of Parliament / Députée
Saanich—Gulf Islands / Saanich—Gulf Islands

Circonscription

1 - 9711, rue Fourth
Sidney (Colombie-Britannique) V8L 2Y8
Tél. : 250-657-2000
Télééc. : 250-657-2004

The Hon. Geoff Regan, P.C., M.P.
Speaker of the House of Commons
Centre Block - 111 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

October 12, 2018

Dear Mr. Speaker,

I am writing pursuant to standing Order 52 to request leave to make a motion for an emergency debate. I will rise to request Emergency Debate following the end of Routine Proceedings on Monday, October 15, 2018. This is my earliest opportunity since the October 8, 2018 release of the Special Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on the route to hold global average temperatures to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius above those before the Industrial Revolution.

This goal is one endorsed by Canada. Indeed, Canada was the first industrialized nation to support this goal in the course of the negotiations at the 21st Conference of the Parties that led to the Paris Agreement.

The IPCC has now confirmed that the current level of nation-state commitments, collectively, will utterly fail to hold to 1.5 degrees or even to 2 degrees. Our current track heads to close to a 4 degree C world.

Time is not on our side. And our political system is poorly equipped to deal with an existential threat to the human species. We are clearly in an emergency, but it may be difficult to make that case in the rubric of our rules.

Please consider. The IPCC says we have as little as ten years to ensure that greenhouse gas emissions globally are reduced to 45% of 2010 emissions no later than by 2030. To



achieve such an ambitious target, massive societal and economic decisions must be made in the very near term.

The ongoing global negotiation about our response to the IPCC will resume at the 24th Conference of the Parties in December 2018. Canada's Parliament must respond to this crisis and review the scientific report in a non-partisan spirit. We must genuinely seek to educate each other.

This is an emergency. The risks are not to something external called "the environment." The risk is the collapse of human civilization. The risk is to the survival of millions of people and of millions of species. The risks are beyond anything faced by humanity with the exception of full-scale nuclear war.

We must seize the one chance we have as a species to adopt the road-map to 1.5 degrees C. Failure to treat this moment in our history as a critical moment – challenging us all to be our most courageous and most responsible selves -- will lead to catastrophic outcomes.

Under our standing rules, this is clearly a genuine emergency calling for immediate and urgent consideration.

I will seek leave to make a motion "That this House do now adjourn" to consider this matter on Monday October 15, 2018 in consideration of our ordinary daily routine under Standing Order 30 is concluded.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Elizabeth May". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Elizabeth May, O.C.
Member of Parliament
Saanich-Gulf Islands
Leader of the Green Party of Canada

