Ministre de l'Environnement et
du Changement climatique

Minister of Environment
and Climate Change

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H3

SEP 0 2 2025

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Dear Dr. Phipps:

I am responding to your correspondence of May 12, 2025, forwarded by the Office of the Prime Minister, regarding the Government of Canada's actions on extreme heat and the protection of children in schools and childcare settings. I regret the delay in replying.

As you know, climate change is affecting the safety, health, and quality of life of people throughout Canada. The country is experiencing record-breaking climate events, including wildfires, extreme heat, and floods, as well as slow-onset impacts such as thawing permafrost, rising sea levels, and loss of biodiversity. The sooner the federal government takes action to address climate change, the more effectively it can reduce risk and protect the health and safety of Canadians, especially vulnerable populations such as children.

As climate impacts continue to intensify, the Government of Canada recognizes the need for a more ambitious, strategic, and collaborative approach to adapting to and building resilience against these impacts. That is why the Government developed its first National Adaptation Strategy (*www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/climate-plan/national-adaptation-strategy/full-strategy.html*), which outlines a vision for a more climate-resilient Canada. Developed in collaboration with provincial and territorial governments, Indigenous partners, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, adaptation experts, and youth, the Strategy aims to direct actions across five interconnected systems: disaster resilience, health and well-being, nature and biodiversity, infrastructure, and the economy and workers.

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The Government of Canada also recognizes that extreme heat is a growing risk to the health and well-being of Canadians, especially children. The National Adaptation Strategy identifies extreme heat as one of the most significant climate risks to Canadians and targets the elimination of deaths due to extreme heatwaves by 2040. In addition, the Strategy commits to supporting the development and adoption of robust guidance, codes, and standards for public infrastructure to address top climate risks, such as extreme heat. By 2030, guidance covering these risks will be available for adoption by all infrastructure decision-makers.

As you are aware, the Government of Canada Adaptation Action Plan (*www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/climate-plan/national-adaptation-strategy/action-plan.html*) delivers a comprehensive suite of initiatives to advance the goals and objectives set out in the National Adaptation Strategy. These federal actions are designed to address the climate risks that matter most to Canadians, such as extreme heat, and emphasize supporting vulnerable populations, including children. For example:

- The Government of Canada is investing $30 million over five years to expand Health Canada's Protecting the Health of Canadians from Extreme Heat program. This program provides Canadians with the best available guidance and resources for addressing extreme heat. It has supported the development of heat safety programs, such as Heat Alert and Response Systems (*www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/climate-change-health/heat-alert-reponse-systems*.html), across Canada.

- Through the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (*https://housing-infrastructure.canada.ca/dmaf-faac/index-eng.html*), the Government is providing funding to support community infrastructure in building resilience to natural hazards, including extreme heat.

- The Natural Infrastructure Fund (*https://housing-infrastructure.canada.ca/nif-fin/index-eng.html*) supports projects that use natural and hybrid approaches to mitigate the impacts of extreme heat, such as tree planting and urban greening.

Together, the National Adaptation Strategy and the Government of Canada Adaptation Action Plan represent a comprehensive approach to preparing for climate change, building safer and climate-resilient communities, and protecting the health of all Canadians.

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For more information on Canada's climate plan, its progress, and federal investments, please visit *www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange.html*.

The Government of Canada appreciates your recommendations about establishing a maximum indoor temperature standard, retrofitting educational facilities, and prioritizing under-resourced communities. Rest assured that the Government will continue to work tirelessly for the health and well-being of Canadians and for a cleaner, more resilient, and prosperous world for this and future generations.

Please accept my best regards.

Yours truly,

The Honourable Julie Dabrusin, P.C., M.P.