



Canadian Association of University Teachers
Association canadienne des professeures et professeurs d'université

Memorandum 20:42

Date: August 25, 2020

To: Presidents and Administrative Officers
Local, Federated and Provincial Associations

From: David Robinson, Executive Director

Re: **Request to circulate climate action petition to members**

The Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) is asking for your support to circulate a petition to members before the end of September. The petition calls on university presidents across the country to endorse the United Nations (UN) [climate emergency letter](#). This letter calls on endorsing institutions to declare a climate emergency and commit to:

- Mobilize more resources for action-oriented climate change research and skills creation;
- Go carbon neutral by 2030 or 2050 at the very latest;
- Increase the delivery of environmental and sustainability education across curriculum, campus and community outreach programmes.

The UN letter currently has the support of 60 national associations that work to advance sustainability goals in higher education, along with endorsements by 259 post-secondary education institutions from about 46 countries, including 14 Canadian institutions.

The petition is an initiative of the Climate Action Coalition at the University of Alberta. Their plan is to send the petition to Universities Canada and presidents of post-secondary institutions across the country, urging them to sign the UN climate emergency letter.

Please help to spread the word to demonstrate strong support from academic staff for greater leadership at post-secondary institutions to tackle climate change.