

# RESOLUTION: CLIMATE CHANGE STATEMENT

- as regards CMC & the co-operative sector in Canada

**SUBMITTED BY:** Canadian Worker Co-operative Federation (CWCF)

**CONTACT:** Yuill Herbert

[yuill@ssg.coop](mailto:yuill@ssg.coop)

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1. WHEREAS weather and climate events are becoming more severe and extreme the world over, resulting in heatwaves, wildfires, heavy precipitation, flooding, droughts, rising sea levels, and tropical cyclones that have been both deadly and costly;
2. WHEREAS these rising temperatures are linked to increasingly unpredictable, intense, and extreme weather events, which in 2021 included catastrophic fire as well as flooding in Lytton, BC with widespread flooding in BC, longer and hotter wildfire seasons, heatwaves, and hailstorms;
3. WHEREAS there were \$2.1 billion in insurable losses in Canada in 2021 due to climate change-related natural disasters and extreme weather, including the flooding, hail, and wildfires<sup>1</sup>;
4. WHEREAS Principle 7 of the Co-operative Principles states that “Co-operatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies approved by their members,” and all of the Co-operative Principles speak to putting human beings at the heart of decision-making;
5. WHEREAS many co-operatives and their communities across Canada are being negatively impacted by the impact of climate change;
6. WHEREAS many cooperatives in Canada are actively engaged in or leading efforts to address climate change in their respective communities;

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ibc.ca/on/resources/media-centre/media-releases/severe-weather-in-2021-caused-2-1-billion-in-insured-damage>

7. WHEREAS climate change threatens not only sustainable development, but the survival of millions of people around the world through undermining food security, extreme weather events, sea level rise, ocean acidification and other impacts;
8. WHEREAS limiting the global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius, the current best-case scenario, requires ambitious and immediate action toward reducing emissions<sup>2</sup>;
9. WHEREAS The Race to Zero is the United Nations-led initiative that is working with businesses, cities, regions, investors, and financial and educational institutions to commit to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050 at the latest; and
10. WHEREAS leading organizations are engaged in this effort including 67 regions, 1,049 cities, 5,227 companies, 1,039 educational institutions, 441 financial institutions, and over 52 healthcare institutions.

BE IT RESOLVED:

1. THAT CMC demonstrate leadership on climate change by signing on to Race to Zero.
2. That CMC develop cooperatives-specific initiatives to encourage and support members to participate in the Race to Zero initiative.
3. THAT as part of its government relations strategy, that CMC undertake federal advocacy efforts in keeping with these commitments and strategy.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.wri.org/insights/ipcc-climate-report>