

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF MEMBER RESOLUTION

Dear colleagues,

We encourage you to give this resolution your serious consideration and support.

Climate change has had devastating effects locally, nationally, and internationally. Timely action is crucial to keeping global warming down to science-based targets and ensuring that the Earth and the life upon it can continue to thrive in the present and the future. Last year's heat wave, wildfires, and floods underscored to us how climate change is impacting us across the province, with the most vulnerable members of our communities being hit the hardest.

We were inspired to put forward this resolution by "The Legal Community's Role in Addressing the Climate Crisis," a webinar held on April 28, 2022. The event was hosted by the Federation of Asian Canadian Lawyers (British Columbia) Society ("FACL BC") and the panel members were Chief Patrick Michell, Kanaka Bar Indian Band; Dr. Carol Liao, Canada Climate Law Initiative (<https://ccli.ubc.ca>) and UBC Allard School of Law; and Andhra Azevedo, Ecojustice. They impressed upon us the opportunities for lawyers to take action on climate change and our potential influence as leaders in the fight against climate change.

With thanks, we acknowledge that this resolution is based on the work of the Lawyers for Climate Justice (<https://www.lawyersforclimatejustice.ca>) who in 2021 brought forward a climate leadership resolution to the Canadian Bar Association AGM.

We also gratefully acknowledge the contributions made to the drafting of this resolution by Terri-Lynn Williams-Davidson, Dr. Carol Liao and other members of the Canada Climate Law Initiative, as well as Andhra Azevedo, Mark Iyengar, Afifa Hashimi, Jacqueline Louie, and Kaymi Yoon-Maxwell.

This resolution follows in the footsteps of the Law Society of England and Wales, which published a climate change resolution in 2021: (<https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/topics/climate-change/creating-a-climate-conscious-approach-to-legal-practice#download-the-resolution>) and the American Bar Association, which adopted a resolution on climate change in 2019 (<https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/directories/policy/annual-2019/111-annual-2019.pdf>). Other professional organizations in Canada, such as the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada, have developed resources for their profession on climate change mitigation and adaptation and best practices for advising clients on greenhouse gas emissions and climate change disclosure.

We note that through the Law Foundation, the legal profession already supports initiatives to mitigate the inequities of climate effects by funding the provision of legal services for those most impacted by climate change. By passing this resolution, BC lawyers will lead the way in Canada in encouraging each other to take action on climate change in their professional capacity.

We wholeheartedly urge you to support this resolution so that as a profession we can ensure that the legal system is not a barrier to addressing the climate crisis, and instead can be used as a tool for providing effective and equitable solutions.

Yours truly,

Yuki Matsuno and Hasan Alam