



MAY 23 2018

Office of the Mayor

Don Iveson
Mayor

City of Edmonton
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1 Sir Winston Churchill Square
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
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Mayor Lisa Helps
1 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC V8W 1P6

Dear Mayor Helps,

As leaders of cities, we cannot tackle the complexity of climate change individually; instead, we must work collectively towards solutions. This past March, we came together with global city networks and the science community in Edmonton for the Change for Climate Global Mayors Summit to begin to discuss these unique needs. I would like to take this opportunity to follow up with you to share its outcome.

The Edmonton Declaration

This summit was the first-ever opportunity for these three groups to meet and address the impacts of climate change, and the outcome was the commitment to advance the Edmonton Declaration for signature by global mayors. In brief, the Edmonton Declaration:

- Engages all levels of government to recognize the immediate and urgent need for action that will limit global warming to 1.5 degrees celsius,
- Recognizes that cities face some of the most significant impacts of rising GHG emissions and bear much of the costs for adaptation and mitigation,
- Reinforces the importance and role of cities in achieving the targets in the Paris Agreement,
- Calls on the scientific community and other levels of government to provide better data and tools for science-based decision-making,
- Asks cities to look beyond their borders at the impact of consumption on GHG emissions.

By signing the Edmonton Declaration, we are committing to taking the mantle of leadership on climate change, and amplifying the message that rising greenhouse gas emissions severely impact cities.

Using input provided at the summit in Edmonton, and further feedback gathered from United Cities and Local Governments, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, we have made several changes to the original draft. The intent of these changes was to remove barriers and ensure inclusivity across geographic and socio-economic differences. Attached you will find the final version of the Edmonton Declaration along with a brief description.

Global Cities Research and Innovation Agenda

The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy has taken the lead on developing a research and innovation agenda, which will address critical knowledge, data and innovation gaps that cities experience.

As they proceed with stakeholder engagement at city network and international gatherings, they will be using the Edmonton Declaration as a touchpoint to continue to gather global support to highlight the need for research and innovation that is specific to cities. Together, the research agenda and the Edmonton Declaration will be powerful tools to help cities create policy, form partnerships and build financial resources.

The Goal

Ultimately, the Edmonton Declaration and the research agenda will enable cities to take targeted, accelerated and ambitious climate action. Cities and city networks will be able to bring these documents to private industry, and national and subnational governments, in order to catalyze new research, build new data, provoke innovation and stimulate new funding sources for cities to combat climate change.

Next steps for the Declaration

Over the next four weeks, the Global Covenant of Mayors and I will be attending meetings of mayors around the world to help advance the Declaration with the aim of gathering support for the Declaration at the ICLEI World Congress in Montreal on June 19-22, 2018.

I will be formally presenting the Edmonton Declaration for consideration at the following events:

- Federation of Canadian Municipalities Big City Mayors Caucus – May 31 (Halifax, Canada)
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities Annual Conference – June 1-3 (Halifax, Canada)
- Boston Climate Summit – June 7 (Boston, USA)
- US Conference of Mayors Boston 86th Annual General Meeting – June 8-11 (Boston, USA)
- ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability World Congress – June 19-22 (Montreal, Canada)

I invite you to show your support and sign the Declaration. You can do so by contacting the Global Covenant of Mayors: ed_dec@globalcovenantofmayors.org. Ultimately, the two documents will be carried forward to the September Global Climate Action Summit in San Francisco, California Global Climate Action Summit on September 12-14, 2018.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions. I hope to see you soon.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don Iveson', with a stylized, flowing script.

Don Iveson
Mayor

Enclosure

CHANGE FOR CLIMATE – EDMONTON DECLARATION

Together, the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy and Edmonton Mayor Don Iveson are asking global mayors to sign the Edmonton Declaration and amplify the message that cities urgently need the tools and data to address climate change.

Origins of the Edmonton Declaration

This past March, for the first-time ever, global city networks, mayors and the science community came together in Edmonton for the *Change for Climate Global Mayors Summit* to discuss the needs of cities. This summit was an unprecedented opportunity for these three groups to meet and the outcome was two-fold:

1. A commitment to advance the Edmonton Declaration – a call for and commitment to action on climate change – for signature by global mayors.
2. The development of a *Global Cities Research and Innovation Agenda* that will address critical knowledge, data and innovation gaps that cities experience, and that prevent cities from making science-based decisions.

Overview

In brief, the Edmonton Declaration:

- Engages all levels of government to recognize the immediate and urgent need for action that will limit global warming to 1.5 degrees celsius,
- Recognizes that cities face some of the most significant impacts of rising GHG emissions and bear much of the costs for adaptation and mitigation,
- Reinforces the importance and role of cities in achieving the targets in the Paris Agreement,
- Calls on the science community and other levels of government to provide better data and tools for science-based decision-making,
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The Goal

Ultimately, the Edmonton Declaration and research agenda will enable cities to take targeted, accelerated and ambitious climate action. Cities and city networks will be able to bring these documents to private industry and national and subnational governments in order to catalyze new research, build new data, provoke innovation and stimulate new funding sources for cities to combat climate change.

How to sign

To sign the Declaration, please contact the Global Covenant of Mayors:
ed_dec@globalcovenantofmayors.org

Technical and general inquiries

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