



November 26, 2021

The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Guilbeault:

On behalf of the country's psychologists and psychological scientists who are members and affiliates of the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA), I am writing to congratulate you on your recent re-election and appointment as Minister of the Environment and Climate Change.

As we approach the opening of Canada's 44th Parliament, we commend your government for committing to several important public policy initiatives that focus on a cleaner, greener future. Climate change and emergencies take a significant toll on people's health and well-being. Successful response to the climate change crisis around the world depends on people behaving differently.

The CPA believes that good climate change policy needs to be informed by the science of behaviour change. As we think about climate change, and indeed any global crisis that impacts human health (like the pandemic), we need to be guided by an understanding of human behavior and decision-making, particularly because our successful management of global crises depends on people changing their behaviour and overcoming the psychosocial impacts crises present. The CPA has developed a position paper on the psychological science of climate change which we would be pleased to discuss further with you (enclosed).

The CPA understands that your national leadership will be crucial in moving the conversation forward with Canadians. To this end, we are committed to working with governments, health and science stakeholders and others to advocate for evidence-based policies that support resilience for Canada's people and prosperity for our societies.

We look forward to working with you and would be pleased to meet to discuss the important contributions that psychology can offer in addressing climate change and our mental health. I can be reached at executiveoffice@cpa.ca.

Best wishes for a successful session in Parliament.

Yours sincerely,

Karen R. Cohen, Ph.D., C.Psych.
Chief Executive Officer
Canadian Psychological Association