

**From:** [Tania Gill](#)  
**To:** [Infrastructure and Environment](#)  
**Cc:** [Lyn Adamson](#)  
**Subject:** deputation for Dec 2, 2021 on Item IE26.16, TransformTO - Critical Steps for Net Zero by 2040  
**Date:** December 2, 2021 9:01:47 PM  
**Attachments:** [Dec 2 Toronto Deputation from Tania Gill of Music Declares Emergency Canada.pdf](#)

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Dear Infrastructure and Environment Committee,

I was registered to depute today but had technical difficulty connecting. I am very sorry that I missed this opportunity.

I was to speak on behalf of Music Declares Emergency Canada. I have attached the text of my deputation.

Sincerely,

Tania Gill

[Redacted signature block]

Deputation from Tania Gill on behalf of Music Declares Emergency Canada to **Infrastructure and Environment Committee** during its meeting on **December 2, 2021** on Item **IE26.16, TransformTO - Critical Steps for Net Zero by 2040**

I was registered but was not able to sign in. Here is the text of the deputation that I would have read:

Thank you. I am a musician. I am speaking today in my volunteer role as a founding member of Music Declares Emergency Canada.

My aim is to encourage you to have ambition and take leadership in mapping out the steps necessary to make good on the targets in the report [TransformTO - Critical Steps for Net Zero by 2040](#) . This is urgent work.

Musicians and cultural institutions are asking for this, and please know that you also have our support and willingness to do our part in our sectors.

Right now there is a massive cultural shift happening.

Right now in Canada and in Toronto, musicians and cultural institutions are organizing to fight climate change, fight for climate justice, biodiversity and the health of the planet.

Music Declares Emergency has a declaration that thousands of musicians have signed. We are actively in meetings with major arts organizations across the country. We are asking governments to reach net zero by 2030. As an organization our work falls in 4 categories:

1- Political (advocacy) work: leveraging artists to mobilize audiences

2- Reimagining the music industry: individual practices and especially organizational-level work by making festivals net zero, changing norms around how people travel to concerts, encouraging circular and local economies for merchandise and food, getting rid of plastic cups, encouraging venues to retrofit, changing granting structures to encourage low-carbon touring, looking at the carbon footprint of sponsors and more

3- Creative work: inspiring the creation of music and art that discusses the climate emergency, and helps build the imaginative horizon for a post fossil fuel world. We know that cultural leaders are climate leaders and we need as many storytellers as scientists working on the climate emergency. Music speaks to people's hearts.

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We aim to centre racialized and Indigenous voices, in recognition of the ecological wisdom held by First Nations and the outsize impact that climate change has on marginalized communities.

Earlier this week Music Declares Emergency published an oped in the National Observer and is still pitching it to other papers. The oped is titled ["Musicians to Trudeau: Prioritize the Climate Emergency by Delivering a Green and Just Recovery"](#). And yes it's directed to the new 44<sup>th</sup> parliament of Canada, but the underlying sentiment is absolutely that we want all levels of government to prioritize the climate crisis. Toronto is critical in this.

people who signed range from:

Raffi (he was actively involved in editing), teen musicians Brigid Fry (a lead author) and Scott Helman (signed to Warner) to Shad, to indie icons: The Weather Station, members of Broken Social Scene; to Polaris Prize winner Lido Pimienta, Canadian icons Sylvia Tyson and Murray McLachlan, to Canadian Gospel royalty Jackie Richardson, to jazz great Phil Dwyer, to indigenous singer-songwriter Leela Gilday.

Others who have signed:

Sarah Harmer

Tania Gill  
Caroline Marie Brooks (Good Lovelies)  
Amy Millan (Stars, Broken Social Scene)  
Joel Plaskett  
Ken Whiteley  
Bob Ezrin (producer)  
Fred Penner  
Bram Morrison (Sharon, Lois and Bram)  
Jenn Grant  
Melissa McClelland (Whitehorse)  
Charles Spearin (Broken Social Scene)  
Dan Mangan  
Joel Gibb (The Hidden Cameras)  
Tyler Bancroft (Said The Whale)  
Andrew Craig (jazz genius and CBC host)  
Jill Barber  
Lisa MacIsaac (Madison Violet)  
Rich Underhill (Shuffle Demons)  
Ariel Engle (La Force)  
Brandon Valdivia (Mas Aya)  
Eve Egoyan  
Guillermo Subauste (The Honeyrunners, producer)  
Abigail Lapell  
Chris Whitely  
Jenny Whitely  
Diana Braithwaite  
Cassie Norton  
Liv Cazzola (The Lifers, Tragedy Ann)  
Braden Lam  
Ben Caplan  
David Buchbinder  
And many more...

In it we write: Music comes from a place of deep love, and we extend that love to the planet and our fellow humans. As musicians, we want to use the power of music to address the climate emergency, and ask Canadians to hear what the planet and younger generations are telling us. We all stand to benefit from a new, green, and just economy.

This is urgent and cannot wait. We have a very short window to limit warming to 1.5 degrees. We are absolutely in an emergency and action must be to scale. On the ground, we need municipal policies enabling us to do our part.

Please make sure we reach the important targets in Transform TO -Critical Steps for Net Zero by 2040. Thank you.

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