

To: The Executive Director and Board Members of (the environmental organization)

Thank you for (the work they are doing),

Would it surprise you to learn that, despite decades of individual actions and our collective conservation projects, the trends of increasing CO₂ concentrations and decreasing biodiversity show our efforts have had **zero** effect? (See attached graphs).

Our efforts are not working because we are not addressing the root cause of these escalating, threatening crises: the Canadian government's continued pursuit of **economic growth** - an economic model that isn't grounded in physical or biological reality. Framing these crises as "environmental problems" misidentifies the root cause.

The IPCC and Scientists' Warnings to humanity are clear—economic and population growth are driving these crises (see attached references). Again, framing these crises as "environmental problems" misidentifies their root cause—our growth-based economy.

Yet government policies continue to prioritize GDP growth, with economists targeting a 3% annual rise. At that rate, the size of the economy doubles every 23.45 years, which means resource extraction, habitat loss, energy use and waste production doubles every 23.45 years.

No amount of stewardship and conservation work can overtake the losses resulting from exponential economic expansion. Efforts to save local pockets of nature need to continue, but unless we address the root cause, studies have shown that even those protected areas will experience significant biodiversity loss.

It is urgent that all environmental organizations come together with one unified voice demanding governments address the root causes of climate change and biodiversity loss. We need to transition from a growth-based to a steady state economy with as little mayhem and human suffering as possible.

A steady-state economy is an economic model that respects physical and ecological limits. Only then will all of our conservation and stewardship efforts have a chance of making a difference.

We urge you to:

- Explore the barriers your organization faces to address the root cause by filling out this anonymous survey at <https://forms.gle/C1HwecErBgM19ze76>

- Check out the supporting scientific data for our request in the attached references and at <https://qualicuminstitute.ca/>
- See our response to government's continued reliance on neo-classical economics instead of science at <https://steadystate.org/we-asked-for-science-we-got-sustain-a-babble/>
- Unite with other environmental organizations (see attached list) to deliver this urgent message!

We look forward to your thoughts on this.

Sincerely,

Luisa Richardson on behalf of:

The Qualicum Institute is a group of concerned professionals from the science and education fields. Find us at: <https://qualicuminstitute.ca/>