

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Alberta of November 27, 2025, reversed that section of the budget. The MOU promised increased ITC for Enhanced Oil Recovery. This was formalized with a specific reversal in the Spring Economic Statement.

This reversal led to the resignation of the Hon Steven Guilbeault, the Minister of Nature and Canadian Heritage, former Minister of the Environment and Climate Change.

WILL IT WORK?

Looking at the huge price tag Canadians will be paying for the Pathways Project, it is fair to ask if we will get good value for money?

The promised benefit of the Pathways Project is that it can capture enough CO2 and keep it out of the atmosphere, that Canada can produce more oil and still meet our climate commitments.

According to impartial experts, that is not possible.

Dave Sawyer, of the Canadian Climate Institute, says, even if the Pathways project performs better than any other CCS facility anywhere in the world, it would remove from the atmosphere only a portion of the emissions a new West Coast pipeline would enable.

The institute has estimated an average of 20 million tons a year in new emissions from the oil sands sector with new planned pipeline

capacity. Cost estimates for building the CCS Pathways Project are approximately \$30 billion. Building the pipeline will cost taxpayers another \$30 billion. The goal of the Pathways project is to sequester six million tons.

As well, the technology is not perfect. Leaks do happen. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has determined that storage is not guaranteed to be permanent:

“CO2 storage is not necessarily permanent. Physical leakage from storage reservoirs is possible via (1) gradual and long-term release or (2) sudden release of CO2 caused by disruption of the reservoir.”
https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/03/srccs_wholereport-1.pdf

Not every location works for CCS. The local geological formation is a key factor. But even in ideal conditions, the projects often fail.

The most feasible CCS systems involve a single point source of carbon, like from a coal fired power plant. And ideally that coal-fired power plant is near an already existing, geologically stable, deep underground cavernous area; one that can be tightly sealed. Diffuse emissions such as from fracking or from oil sands mining are much harder to concentrate and capture.

Of all the available ways to reduce GHG in the atmosphere, CCS is the most expensive existing technology.

Work does continue to develop technologies to suck carbon directly out of the atmosphere, unconnected from fossil fuel operations.

The global experience with CCS is that it often does not work. Canada has been developing CCS for some time.

None of the projects have hit targets, and all have been

THIS SUMMER’S FIRES

As wildfires burned across Canada and Europe, one of Canada’s finest writers was interviewed - not just here at home but around the world. John Vaillant, author of best-sellers The Golden Spruce, The Tiger and 2023’s Fireweather: On the frontlines of a burning world, has been on BBC, CBC and in the US, on Democracy Now. He explained, over and over again, that more severe fires have been a predictable part of burning more fossil fuels.

Interviewers asked if there was hope in new technologies, ones promising to remove carbon from the atmosphere. Just as I have expressed in this newsletter, he responded that the so-called “solution” of CCS was no solution at all. In brief, he explained, it is very expensive and does not work. We need to demand that politicians who promote magic silver bullets do their homework. What does it cost? Will it work? These vital questions must be answered, before we squander tens of billions of dollars of public money



Sidney Canada Day Parade with the Constituency office team and friends, July 1st, 2026

on CCUS, and on so-called Small Modular Reactors and other super expensive imaginary solutions.

Solar panels work and are dirt cheap. It is so encouraging to see countries around the world investing in solar, wind, tidal, geothermal and low flow hydroelectricity. It is maddening that the Governments of British Columbia and Canada choose more expensive and dirtier options. Although I am mostly known as an environmentalist the

strongest arguments start with James Carville’s old line: “It is the Economy, Stupid.”

The choices that make electricity cheaper, and ensure we do not waste it, put people to work in every part of the country and keep the money in Canada.

Thank you for the honour of being your voice in Parliament! I look forward to hearing your voice in the September community meetings. ■

MEET WITH ELIZABETH MAY M.P.

Please join an upcoming MP hosted community meeting. Share your views with Elizabeth May and your community members. Learn more from Elizabeth about her work in Ottawa and in the beautiful riding of Saanich-Gulf Islands. Ask Elizabeth anything.

Connect at a Community Meeting!

SATURNA ISLAND Tuesday, September 8 5:30pm–7pm Saturna Community Hall	CORDOVA BAY Sunday, September 13 4pm–5:30pm Cordova Bay 55 Plus Association, Big Room	SIDNEY Wednesday, September 16 4pm–5:30pm Mary Winspear Centre, Bodine Hall
GORDON HEAD Wednesday, September 9 6:30pm–8pm University of Victoria David Turpin Building, A110	PENDER ISLANDS Monday, September 14 5:30pm–7pm Pender Islands Community Hall, Main Hall	SALT SPRING ISLAND Friday, September 18 5pm – 6:30pm Fulford Community Hall
BRENTWOOD BAY Thursday, September 10 5:30pm–7pm Central Saanich Cultural Centre, Room A	MAYNE ISLAND Tuesday, September 15 5:30pm–7pm Mayne Island Agricultural Hall	GALIANO ISLAND Sunday, September 27 5:30pm–7pm Galiano Community Hall

If you have any questions, please call 250-657-2000 or email Elizabeth.May.C1@parl.gc.ca



ELIZABETH MAY
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Saanich-Gulf Islands

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Fall 2026

INTRODUCTION

I am happy to share details for the Fall 2026 round of community meetings. Please go to page six, cut and put on your family calendar or under a fridge magnet.

Hope you can make it! If you have not attended an MP local community meeting, allow me to assure you it is not a partisan occasion. All residents regardless of political persuasion are welcome. And if you are too young to vote, you are especially welcome. It is my way of reporting to my employer. And my “employer,” collectively, is the over 100.000 residents of Saanich-Gulf Islands.

Come one! Come all!
The format is pretty straightforward. I will take the floor for the first 20 minutes and then over to you. I will do my best to answer every question, and stay to answer all of them!

THIS FALL NEWSLETTER FOCUSES ON A COMPLEX TECHNOLOGY CALLED “CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE”

Every announcement of Alberta and Canada committing to expanding bitumen production and new fossil fuel infrastructure, includes a reference to “The Pathways Project.” It is presented as a way to

reduce the global warming impact of increased fossil fuel production.

The project is for something called “Carbon Capture and Storage” (CCS) sometimes referred to as Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage (CCUS). So many constituents have asked about it, that my staff suggested it would be a good choice for the longer explanations that this quarterly newsletter allows.

THE CLIMATE BARGAIN – MORE FOSSIL FUELS BUT ONLY IF EMISSIONS ARE SEQUESTERED

The federal government negotiations with the Province of Alberta present Carbon Capture and Storage as part of a grand bargain. The sales pitch is that the fossil fuel industry will agree to using Carbon Capture technology in order to get federal buy-in for more bitumen, fracking and oil development. The federal government is now proposing to spend public money, at least \$30 billion, to build another pipeline to move Alberta diluted bitumen to the BC Coast.

This will significantly increase Canada’s greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

To keep climate change to a level that allows Canada’s economy to adapt, Canada has committed

to significant reductions of GHG emissions. New fossil fuel infrastructure, like pipelines, drive **UP** GHG when we have committed to bring them **DOWN**.

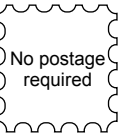
Into this contradiction, CCS is an attractive proposition. It is the “have your cake and eat it too” solution – if it works. The Pathways Project is the specific project that buttresses the Canada-Alberta Memorandum of Understanding.

The Pathways Project was initially supported by Alberta’s oil and gas industry by a group of companies calling itself the “Pathways Alliance.” Pathways Alliance members include Canada’s six biggest oil and gas corporations: Suncor Energy, Canadian Natural Resources Limited (CNRL), Imperial Oil, Cenovus Energy, ConocoPhillips Canada, and MEG Energy.

WHAT IS CCS? AND WHAT IS CCUS?

The basic idea of Carbon Capture and Storage is essentially to mimic nature.

Our atmosphere contains carbon dioxide as a trace element. Over the last million years, carbon dioxide never exceeded about 280 parts per million (ppm). Due to the burning of fossil fuels and the loss of forest



ELIZABETH MAY
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
ROOM 349
CONFEDERATION BUILDING
OTTAWA ON K1A 0A6

FOLD

TAPE

cover, human activity has changed the chemistry of the atmosphere. Carbon dioxide is now approximately 430 ppm. Human beings alive today are breathing in more CO2 than any humans in our entire existence as a species.

Does that matter? It does not impact our health, but it does impact our climate.

“The Greenhouse Effect” is what keeps planet earth warm enough to sustain life. Without the natural Greenhouse Effect, this planet would be too cold for most life. That greenhouse effect, naturally holds heat at the Earth’s surface; heat that would otherwise bounce back into the cold darkness of space. Like panes of glass in a greenhouse, the natural greenhouse effect is from a mixture of heat-trapping gases plus water vapour. The strongest greenhouse gases are carbon dioxide and methane. Water vapour is a big factor. So how does nature capture carbon?

The essence of understanding global warming is to go back to what we all learned in school – maybe in Grade 6?

Using chlorophyll, plant life transforms carbon dioxide and water into glucose (food) and oxygen, which fuels growth and sustains most life on Earth.

Photosynthesis is the process through which green leafy things like trees, and even green things underwater, like eel grass and kelp, take the carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and with sunlight, release oxygen through photosynthesis. The absorbed carbon stays in the trees, and in the soil. Carbon sequestration is natural. Forests are carbon sinks. Forests and forest soils hold carbon out of the atmosphere.

That is why protecting forests, and re-establishing forest cover, is a “nature-based” climate solution.

The technology of Carbon Capture and Storage is not natural. It is a man-made new technology to try to keep unsafe levels of carbon

out of the atmosphere where it contributes to global heating.

While we breathe CO2, in and out, in nature we would never encounter pure CO2. Pure CO2 is very dangerous.

Carbon dioxide is an asphyxiant gas, meaning that high concentrations interfere with the body’s ability to maintain necessary oxygen levels and regulate blood chemistry. It is acutely toxic. Breathing air with more than 4% carbon dioxide is very dangerous. As a gas, carbon dioxide is odourless and colourless and heavier than regular atmosphere.

Years ago, in talking to one of the scientists trying to develop CCS, he said “my nightmare is of a boy scout troop, making camp in a valley, and then a CCS system leaks.” Well, that is a nightmare scenario.

Deep burial of carbon dioxide must be leak proof. The leaked CO2 would be a powerful warming gas in the atmosphere. It could also kill people. Remember where we started. The natural Greenhouse Effect is life-giving. A very, very minute amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere makes life on Planet Earth possible.

As noted above, for over one million years, that minute concentration was never more than 280 part per million (ppm). We know that because of incredibly sophisticated science. Cores taken of Antarctic ice always contains some air pockets. The ice never freezes completely

solid. These air bubbles hold atmosphere from thousands and even hundreds of thousands of years ago. Modern instrumentation can analyze the chemistry of those time capsules of our atmosphere. That is why we know humanity has made rapid changes to the chemistry of Earth’s atmosphere.

Modern CCS technology has a mixed record of success. It has proven to be very expensive, and not very reliable. Canada’s pilot projects, such as the one in Weyburn Saskatchewan started the global push for CCS.

And to the second term – CCUS- **What is Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage? Why add the word ‘Utilization?’**

In the process of forcing carbon dioxide gas down into the geological sub-surface, in areas where oil had been produced, the impact of forced gas is, in some formations, to loosen and release oil deposits that were unreachable through conventional drilling. That means that a technology allegedly about reducing GHG (Greenhouse Gases) can be used to produce more oil and add more GHG to the atmosphere.

This Utilization side effect is also called “enhanced oil recovery.”

The November 4, 2025 budget specifically excluded enhanced oil recovery from lucrative subsidies, known as Investment Tax Credits (ITCs). Ten days after the budget vote on November 17, 2025, the



Official public unveiling of Japanese Canadian Memorial Story Project at the Heiwa Garden, Salt Spring Island, May 31, 2026

significantly more expensive than initial estimates. Some have been cancelled or abandoned.

Genesee CCS Project (Alberta): Capital Power cancelled its C\$2.4-billion CCS project 3at the Genesee generating station in May 2024. Despite receiving initial provincial funding, the company ultimately deemed the carbon capture technology economically unfeasible for a natural gas-fired facility.

Boundary Dam Unit 3 (Saskatchewan): Operated by SaskPower, this \$1-billion coal-fired CCS retrofit has drawn heavy criticism for under-performing. Originally promised to capture 90% of its emissions, independent analysts have reported a long-term capture rate of only 57% after nearly a decade of operation.

Project Pioneer (Alberta): Backed by TransAlta and the federal/provincial governments, this proposed clean-coal CCS project was formally abandoned in 2012. The proponents were unable to secure bankable revenue streams to offset the high costs of the technology.

These are CCS projects that are functioning:

Quest (Shell): Operational since 2015, this facility is struggling to meet its targets. It was intended to capture and store CO2 from hydrogen production at the Scotford upgrader near Edmonton, Alberta.

Since 2015, it has stored nine million tonnes of CO2 at a lower-than-anticipated cost. But its capture rate of 77 per cent remains below the 90 per cent originally announced.

Alberta Carbon Trunk Line (ACTL): Operational since 2020, this large-scale pipeline network transports CO2 from a fertilizer plant and a refinery in the Edmonton area to mature oil fields in central Alberta for enhanced oil recovery and permanent storage.

Boundary Dam (SaskPower): Opened in 2014, this Estevan, Saskatchewan project was the world’s first attempt at CCS applied to a coal-fired power plant. A report from the International CCS Knowledge Centre in Regina concluded, the project “has not sustained the design

rate beyond a dedicated capacity demonstration completed in 2015.” Industry experts, now claim its value has been in lessons learned.

The report says capture is limited by both technical issues and the demand for carbon dioxide from the energy industry, which uses the gas to extract more oil from depleting reserves. (through enhanced oil recovery). “For a variety of technical and economic reasons ... the [Boundary Dam] facility has not been run at full capacity, which has impacted the overall volume of CO2 captured over the last 10 years.”

Weyburn-Midale (Whitecap Resources): Located in Saskatchewan, this facility has been operational for over two decades,



Thumbnail of Honest Government Ad | Carbon Capture & Storage, via YouTube, The Juice Media.

utilizing captured CO2 for enhanced oil recovery and permanent geological storage.

Glacier Phase 1v (Entropy Inc.): Operational since 2022 in Saddle Hills County, Alberta, this is a smaller-scale commercial natural-gas CCS project utilizing post-combustion capture technology.

The Pathways Project would be the largest Canadian project yet, aiming to hold six million tonnes of carbon annually by the mid-2030s.

As one Australian climate satirical Youtube noted, Carbon Capture and Storage is best at capturing government money.

The best solution??

DEMOCRATIZE ENERGY!

We can reduce GHG and produce oil and gas in Canada, for Canadians, by reducing our fossil fuel exports. We can build out our electricity grid – east-west, as well as north-south - and reduce the cost of electricity by moving to solar (now the cheapest way to generate electricity), as well as wind, geothermal and run of the river hydro. All renewable options are far cheaper than fossil fuel or nuclear generated electricity.

Our biggest barriers are structural and in provincial jurisdiction. Our electricity system dominated by monopolistic Crown corporations, like BC Hydro, Manitoba and Quebec Hydro. While some provinces, like Alberta, Nova Scotia and now partially privatized Ontario Hydro, have private or mixed sector utilities, the model is the same. Big utilities have a captive market of consumers who have nearly no other option but to get power through a regulated grid. The Provincial energy regulators set the price per kwh.

The utilities have enormous debt levels, but little to no transparency about their finances.



International Women’s Day Event for the Women in the House Program, March 11, 2026 (Credits: House of Commons Photography Services)

Years ago, the European Union passed a law that a utility could either generate electricity or sell and distribute electricity. It could not do both.

And the EU mandates that a distribution company buy the cheapest available electricity on the market. Canada should do the same. ■

ELIZABETH MAY WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

WHAT IS ON YOUR MIND?

INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

- ☐ war and peace
- ☐ climate disruption
- ☐ poverty and inequity

THREATS TO CANADA FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

- ☐ USA
- ☐ Russia
- ☐ China
- ☐ I am not at all worried about threats to Canada from other countries

NATIONAL ISSUES

- ☐ health care
- ☐ homelessness
- ☐ our economy
- ☐ the risk of separation movements (Alberta-Quebec)

PROVINCIAL/LOCAL ISSUES

- ☐ threats to our old growth forests
- ☐ wild salmon
- ☐ endangered whales
- ☐ health care
- ☐ homelessness
- ☐ our economy



Victoria Pride Parade, July 12, 202