



## FACT SHEET: YEARS 1 AND 2 TO DATE

# Launching the Climate Justice Organizing HUB

December, 2021.

In September of 2019, youth-led grassroots organizing brought 500 000 people onto the streets of Montreal and around 200 000 across the rest of Canada to raise the alarm around the climate crisis. We even drew a special visit from Greta Thunberg on the big day.

How can we rebuild and even exceed this momentum across the country, as the crisis progresses, and the pandemic hampers established approaches? How can the movements around climate justice merge with those for social justice and Indigenous rights going forward? The Climate Justice Organizing HUB is working with organizers in all parts of Canada to face up to these challenges.



*At a time when we need the climate justice movement to grow quickly and scale up its power, the HUB provides vital coaching, capacity-building and convening services to movement leaders and their groups across the country.*

## Climate Justice Organizing HUB topline

- **Date of launch:** May 1st, 2020
- **Focus:** Capacity building around organizing and mobilizing activities
- **Core communities served:** Organizers with grassroots climate justice groups, citizen-led climate action networks and allied organizers within grassroots social justice and Indigenous groups
- **Geographical focus:** Mostly Quebec in year 1, now fully cross-Canada
- **Status:** Project of the Small Change Fund, Charitable #: 80335 5692 RR 0001
- **Principal Funder to Small Change Fund for this project:** Trottier Family Foundation

## State of play within the Canadian climate justice movement

- Youth-led grassroots organizing was largely responsible for the climate change "movement moment" in September 2019, which brought 700 000 climate strikers onto the streets across Canada
- At 700 000, organizers had raised only 54% of the total number of citizens we need to see show up regularly in order to achieve big change, according to political science analysts<sup>1</sup>
- Months later, the stresses of relentless organizing, internal group struggles and COVID distancing had seriously disrupted these powerful networks
- Unlike the U.S., where an established and funded network of movement-supportive training institutions already exists, Canada had no prior support structures
- The Climate Justice Organizing HUB launched in May 2020, engaging with grassroots organizers facing the difficult conditions described above, while operating in a pandemic setting where the rules of normal convening and relationship-building were greatly altered

## Emergent program design

- Needs assessment conversations with grassroots organizers were launched to gather inputs, which then informed programming
- To date, **90 separate intake conversations were held with different organizers, representing over 50 groups across Canada**, building a detailed portrait of group needs.
- Top needs emerging from these assessments centered around **helping repair grassroots group culture, structure, strategic capacity, and connectedness**
- Specifically, help building intersectionality and allyship into climate organizing culture
- Help with structure, decision making and remote group management
- Help with conflict resolution within groups and protocols for maintaining safe spaces

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<sup>1</sup> See Chenoweth, Erica: "[The '3.5% rule': How a small minority can change the world](#)" and "[The Success of Nonviolent Civil Resistance](#)."

## HUB support activities to date

- Ad hoc workshops were deployed by the HUB to address urgent needs, more structured workshops were developed with specialists to address deeper issues ex. conflict resolution policies
- A total of **250 interventions have now been convened by the HUB for grassroots organizers** in response to their requests
- The HUB developed mass trainings on movement-building and anti-oppression. To date, **90 workshops have been delivered, training 400+ organizers** so far
- The HUB virtually convened **over a dozen allyship 'meet and greets'** that brought climate organizers into dialogue with social justice and Indigenous organizers, which generated several ongoing mutual support initiatives

## Next steps

- In years 3 and 4, the HUB aims to convene and **equip thousands of young leaders with the cultural, strategic, and tactical know-how they will need to mobilize over a million Canadian climate justice activists** to demand systemic change
- To this end, our mass training and coaching system will ramp up its programming and delivery volume considerably, while constantly training new trainers to reach their peers.
- We will also increase the rate and size of our convenings to broaden its existing Community of Practice, where organizers can learn from each other's experiences, get coaching and mentorship from experienced mobilization experts, and coordinate far-reaching strategies
- And because the HUB team believes that movements will need to unite to build the numbers we need for systems change, we are continuing to build bridges between organizers in the mainstream climate justice movement and those in Indigenous, racialized or otherwise marginalized communities.

## Your support matters!

- Organizing social movements take time and continuous support
- Heading into year 3 as of next spring, the HUB needs to diversify its base of funding to ensure it can continue to serve the needs of organizers through to their next big moment

Tax-deductible individual donations with receipts accepted online at:

<https://smallchangefund.ca/project/support-youth-climate-justice-activists-across-canada/>

*"You can't learn how to do this stuff at school. The HUB is very valuable as a sounding board where we can come together and discuss cross-movement what is working and what isn't. In my opinion, it's some of the most useful capacity-building work being done in the climate movement in Canada" - Niklas A. Organizer with Climate Justice Toronto.*