

OUR COMMON FUTURE

By Pierre Jasmin, translated with Nancy Brown. Both are members of the Quebec Movement for Peace. See the original article on <http://lautjournal.info/20180914/notre-avenir-tous>



Greenpeace's orchestrated die-in in front of the CBC office Photo Jacques Nadeau, Le Devoir

I- LEADERS' DEBATES & THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

13th of September – This photograph shows only a small part of the group of figures who, after an energetic performance by rapper *Dramatik*, spread out in front of our stage, at the invitation of Isabelle and Patrick from *Greenpeace* who called for a die-in, while we kept holding on stage our banner of the **Climate Emergency Declaration**. A passionate speech by **André Bélisle** from *l'Association québécoise de lutte contre la pollution atmosphérique* (36 years of activism for AQLPA) rallied the hundreds of demonstrators who also signed our declaration (DUC or **déclaration citoyenne universelle d'urgence climatique**): among them, the leaders Jean-François Lisée (Parti Québécois), Vincent Marissal, Normand Beaudet and Manon Massé (Québec solidaire) along with Alex Tyrrell (Green party) who was excluded from the debates. Liberal and CAQ leaders did not show up at our demonstration... Please show them that you care about our environment by signing now our declaration of the highest importance¹.

¹ <https://www.groupmobilisation.com/j-endosse-la-duc>

Among the demonstrators who signed the declaration, I was moved to tears by the participation of hundred participants including Alterados from Maisons de jeunes (RMJQ),



Photo par Ryan Remiorz from La Presse Canadienne

by Unions (SCFP and CSQ) and by many community projects' participants : handicapped and poor people, immigrants, women victims of violence, among whom First Nations' women and young girls; no wonder that *Assembly of First Nations Regional Chief Québec/Labrador*, Ghislain Picard, wrote the rich foreword to Manon Massé's book at *Écosociété : parler vrai* (my 18 years-old son, voter to be, thought that she won the French-language debate). The Climate Emergency is too important not to gather every informed person, on federal, municipal and provincial political levels.

Statistics show that young people's first preoccupations are education and the environment, and that they will vote accordingly. We are proud as Quebecers that the French debate on September 13th somewhat reflected those preoccupations, quite lacking in Ontario (with Doug Ford getting elected) and the New Brunswick debates.

In Quebec, are François Legault & his party, la Coalition Avenir Québec, really defending an AVENIR (future), when they are ignoring this crucial problem? Please consider instead that two PQ candidates, former ministers Sylvain Gaudreault and electrifying Daniel Breton were instrumental in us getting rid of the Gentilly 2 nuclear station six years ago!

II- RISE FOR CLIMATE



This overwhelming work titled *Politicians discussing global warming* is a creation by a Spanish sculptor, also a *death metal* musician, Issac Cordal, born in 1974.

Les Artistes pour la Paix last week endorsed the ecological alarm of distress from **200 world personalities**, led by actress Juliette Binoche and singer Diane Dufresne², along with Aurélien Barrau³, an astrophysicist, who expressed our common dismay in scientific terms. On the culture side, Laure Adler, Emmanuel Carrière, Wajdi Mouawad, Michael Ondaatje, writers; Laurie Anderson, artist; Charles Aznavour, Jane Birkin, Manu Dibango, Marianne Faithfull, Angélique Kidjo, Bernard Lavilliers, Nana Mouskouri, Charlotte Rampling & Rufus Wainwright, singers; Carole Bouquet, Willem Dafoe, Alain Delon, Catherine Deneuve, Romain Duris, Ralph Fiennes, Ethan Hawke, Isabelle Huppert, Mathieu Kassovitz, Jude Law, Clive Owen, Tim Robbins, Muriel Robin, Isabella Rossellini, Kristin Scott Thomas, Jean-Louis Trintignant, John Turturro, Karin Viard, Lambert Wilson, Elsa Zylberstein, actors; Alexandre Desplat and Alexandre Tharaud, musicians; Pedro Almodovar, John Boorman, Jane Campion, David Cronenberg, Alfonso Cuarón, Abderrahmane Sissako, Régis Wargnier, Wim Wenders and Jia Zhang-ke, film makers, all joined their voices in indignation.

² <http://www.artistespourlapaix.org/?p=15138>

³ <https://peertube.mastodon.host/videos/watch/4fa4def3-bddf-46c7-9553-8abd2923895c>

Many demonstrations shook the world from September 8th to September 15th, to counter the typhoons and hurricanes' violence and fury, but also, on the positive side, to support a concerted effort by U.N. in preparation of the Climate Summit held in Bangkok, **COP24**. From Melbourne to Manilla, the gatherings started in Asia and finished in San Francisco, where delegates to the *Global Climate Action Summit* started their constructive



action on the 12th of September. They were welcomed by the Governor of California. *Rise for Climate* gathered in Paris with thousands of demonstrators, shocked by the resignation of the popular Minister of Environment, Nicolas Hulot.

Two hundred people gathered in Montreal in front of the *Science Centre* on the same 8th of September (Pierre Jasmin and film maker Michel Jetté photographed, with the Montreal Raging Grannies singing their relevant lyrics, somewhere in the background).

The U.N. General Secretary **Antonio Guterres**⁴ informed us on the 11th of September that according to general scientific reports from UNESCO, our planet could be seriously endangered, **UNLESS WE ACT IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS**. Many hurricanes, typhoons, longer and worse heat waves, melting of Arctic and Antarctic ice caps, disappearance of inundated micro-countries in Pacific Ocean and part of Bangladesh, and the disappearance of glaciers providing drinking water to North-East Africa, India and Pakistan could lead to wars of great amplitude.

Part of the solution lies in Ottawa where the two leading parties are blind to radical solutions, in hot pursuit of exploiting the dirty oil from the tar sands, even after the Canadian Federal Appeals Court cautioned on August 28th, 2018, against the expansion of the Trans Mountain oil pipeline⁵.

III- AND YET, THIRTY YEARS AGO?

In 1987, United Nations had produced a major document, in a dramatic first alert that the whole planet was heading into a major crash, if humanity did not react. **THE BRUNDTLAND COMMISSION'S REPORT** entitled **OUR COMMON FUTURE** asked for a sustainable or viable development. This crucial document was put together by a major political personality from Norway, where she was Environment Minister and Prime Minister, Ms **Gro Brundtland**. Afterwards she became president of the World Health Organisation.

⁴ <https://pugwashgroup.ca/fr/le-nouveau-secretaire-general-de-l-onu/>

⁵ <http://lautjournal.info/20180831/kinder-morgan-m-trudeau-acceptez-le-verdict>



A school director of a green Brundtland school on the South Shore and Pierre Jasmin with Gro Brundtland , visiting Montreal Sept. 7, 2017 at the invitation of Genius 100 visions.

In 1990, *the Vancouver Declaration* was issued from an UNESCO colloquium « Science and culture for the XXIst century : a survival program» - quite a dramatic title already 28 years ago – with an important communication from **Pierre Dansereau**, our very first Canadian Ecologist (15 honorary doctorates) who sometimes referred to himself as an « Artist for Peace »⁶. His name adorns the Science building of l’Université du Québec à Montréal, just facing *la Place des Arts*.

OUR GOVERNMENTS DID NOT ACT, although the honorary president of les Artistes pour la Paix, **Richard Séguin**⁷, presented a spectacular show in 1991 in a packed Spectrum where Maryvonne Kendergian and Florent Vollant APLP1996 deplored the fate of war refugees and of the First Nations, in front of a thousand fans, among whom were the three main unions’ presidents, including Lorraine Pagé from the CEQ (nowadays the CSQ). Pierre Dansereau pronounced a major speech about the importance to act ecologically, convincing the CEQ to back **Monique Fitz-Back**, a teacher, a pioneer « syndicaliste » who co-founded les *Établissements verts Brundtland* (EVB), dozens of schools in Quebec endorsing the ecological ideals.

⁶ <https://www.coopugam.com/528162-L-espoir-malgre-tout-l-oeuvre-de-Pierre-Dansereau> sur google.

⁷ He just issued a recording based on Thoreau’s Walden document which gets a lot of positive press covering.

It is also in 1991 that former minister for le Parti Québécois, the late **Lise Payette**, created with the National Film Board and film maker J-F Mercier her famous documentary *les quatre cavaliers de l'apocalypse*⁸ on four major environmental problems.

What more could we have done to convince our governments to act for the environment?

And what more could we do nowadays??

The great caricaturist Garnotte from LE DEVOIR sums up the election debates in a pessimistic (and a bit unjust) way in the following cartoon titled *The non-question for the ballot box*.



⁸ <http://www.artistespourlapaix.org/?p=15220>