

Hello, my name is Teri Burgess. I hope you're all well. Thank you for allowing me to speak with you today.

I am a teacher in Northwestern Ontario, Canada. I teach 13 year olds in the little town of Marathon, half way between Winnipeg and Toronto. We live on the largest lake in the world, Lake Superior.

I actually own the airport.

Well me, and 331 000 other members of the Ontario Teachers Pension Plan.

The airport expansion is morally wrong:

- Local people don't want it
- Your neighbours on the continent face terrifying risks of flooding
- Me and my neighbours face excruciating risk of fire:
 - A few weeks ago, a town in Canada, called Lytton BC, experienced the hottest temperature ever recorded in Canada: 49.6 degrees Celsius. Three days later, the whole town burned to the ground
 - Thousands of people in Canada have been evacuated from their homes
 - Crops that feed people all over the world are withering in the fields
 - For me: there is a fire burning out of control about one hour away from where I am sitting
 - The number of fires in my province this year are almost double the ten year average

This panel needs to choose between economic benefits and convenience for one small group versus physical safety and mental health for another. This is not a theoretical choice. After this call, I need to pack an emergency bin in case my boys and I need to quickly try to get to a nearby island to escape the fires.

These are the moral reasons for preventing further expansion of fossil fuel intensive activities.

The airport expansion is also simply an unwise financial investment. As extreme heat, flooding, and fires worsen, governments will be forced to adopt new policies that curtail the use of fossil fuels. Luckily, there are plenty of other ways to make money, including investing in green energy and technologies like the platform I am using to speak with you today.

In January of this year, my pension fund announced a commitment to zero emissions by 2050. Despite our requests, there have been very few details shared about this plan. However, it is clear that an airport expansion is not consistent with this pledge.

A few years ago, my union of 83 000 members (Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario), one of the four main unions that make up our pension plan members, voted to divest from fossil fuels. The airport expansion is not consistent with that mandate.

So today, I would like the members of the North Somerset Council and the people of southwest England to know that they are not alone in asking the managers of my pension savings to abandon a project that would expand the use of fossil fuels.

It is morally egregious and financially risky.

Thank you for allowing me to speak with you today.

[Canada Lytton: Heatwave record village overwhelmingly burned in wildfire - BBC News](#)



Watch: Lytton, British Columbia residents flee wildfires

The village of Lytton this week recorded the country's highest ever temperature of 49.6C (121.3F).

www.bbc.com

[Relentless heat wave and lack of rain scorching Saskatchewan crops | CBC News](#)



Relentless heat wave and lack of rain scorching Saskatchewan crops | CBC News

Crops across much of Saskatchewan are scorched, stunted and thin as they wither under the unrelenting heat wave blanketing Saskatchewan, according to the province's latest crop report. The ...

www.cbc.ca

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/new-fires-nwo-1.6110774>



New forest fires in northwestern Ontario hit single-day high amid evacuations | CBC News

A single-day high for new forest fires in northwestern Ontario this year saw 81 confirmed, surpassing the 46 recorded earlier as evacuations from First Nations and other communities continue.

www.cbc.ca

<https://www.google.ca/amp/s/www.cbc.ca/amp/1.6110774>