

Harrington Investments Statement for Bank of Montreal 2020 Annual Shareholders' Meeting

As stated in Banking on Climate Change: Fossil Fuel Finance Report Card 2020¹, "...by increasing financing of fossil fuels, banks are responsible for an extremely high risk of massive harm to the planet and its people — that is, banks and the financial industry at large have enormous climate impact. Financiers need to cut their climate impact with the same urgency as they may act to reduce the risks of their exposure to areas impacted by repeated floods and fires."

According to the Fossil Fuel Finance Report Card 2020:

- BMO ranks 5th in the world in bank financing for 30 top tar sands production companies and key tar sands pipeline companies, totaling over \$8.5 billion from 2016-2019.
- From 2016-2019, BMO has financed a total of \$589 million to top coal mining companies.
- In 2019 alone, BMO financed \$132 million to the top coal power companies.
- In bank financing for over 2,100 companies active across the fossil fuel life cycle, BMO has contributed \$82.115 billion from 2016-2019.

In many instances, Bank of Montreal's financing for the fossil fuel industry has increased during this timeframe.

Ultimately, there's nothing in BMO governance documents ensuring a commitment to end, phase out, or even reduce fossil fuel financing – *We believe that it's an obligation of the Board of Directors, as fiduciaries, to consider the impact on global warming and climate change, in all forms of applicable financing.*

Until BMO commits to phase out bank support of fossil fuel, and make proper amendments to its governing documents, recent experience suggests our bank will continue to sign agreements, make loans for pipeline projects & support the fossil fuel industry – doing business as usual – without regard or accountability for the increasing damage inflicted. We urge shareholders to vote in favor of shareholder proposal #3 to bring our bank's policies into better alignment with its public statements on sustainability and climate change.

¹ https://www.ran.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Banking_on_Climate_Change_2020_vF.pdf