Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the issues raised in relation to RAN’s 2020 Banking on Climate Change Report.

BMO recognizes that climate change is a critical and complex global issue and we are committed to being part of the solution, consistent with our Purpose to Boldly Grow the Good in Business and in Life. We believe that we can have the greatest positive impact by working closely with our clients, communities, and business partners to collaboratively navigate a just transition to a lower carbon economy – an effort that involves balancing economic, social and environmental imperatives.

BMO has demonstrated industry leadership in our strategy, our risk management approach, and in our disclosures on the topic of climate change. For example, we were among the first banks to publicly support the Financial Stability Board’s Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) in 2017, and have made great progress in implementing the TCFD’s recommendations on understanding and disclosing climate-related risks and opportunities.

Key aspects of BMO’s approach to climate risk include:

·         Establishing a robust governance approach and applying international good practice in climate-related risk management. In particular, we are playing a leadership role in the development of methodologies to analyze climate risk alongside our peers, including within the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP-FI).

o    As part of this effort, we established a TCFD-aligned scenario analysis program that we began to roll out in 2019, and which we continue to expand. We have also developed and delivered board training on climate risk and the TCFD framework.

·         In 2019, BMO pledged to **mobilize $400 billion in sustainable finance**, including $150 billion in financing for clients seeking to improve environmental and social outcomes.

o    Leveraging our role as a trusted advisor, BMO is developing new ways of working with clients to identify and implement sustainable, low-carbon solutions.

·         Minimizing our own environmental footprint and running our operations sustainably. For example, operationally, we have been **carbon neutral since 2010**. We are also planning to achieve 100% renewable energy purchases by 2020.

·         Providing strong, climate-related disclosure aligned with international expectations such as the TCFD and CDP.

o    In 2019, we published a Climate Report to provide investors and other stakeholders with pertinent information on the climate-related risks and opportunities that we face, and our approach to measuring and managing climate-related impacts.

o    We were recognized by CDP for the strength of our actions and transparency in the areas of climate change governance, risk management and emissions reduction. BMO’s “A-“ score makes us global leaders in the financial services sector.

We continue to advance in all of these areas, and are confident that our approach to climate risk and sustainable finance both advances global goals and enhances our resilience as an organization while supporting our clients and communities during the global transition.

For more information, I encourage you to review [BMO’s 2019 Climate Report](https://corporate-responsibility.bmo.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/BMO-2019-Climate-Report.pdf), which provides a comprehensive overview of our industry-leading climate program.

For information on our broader sustainability approach please see [BMO’s 2019 Sustainability Report](https://corporate-responsibility.bmo.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/BMO-2019-Sustainability-Report-and-PAS_3.pdf).