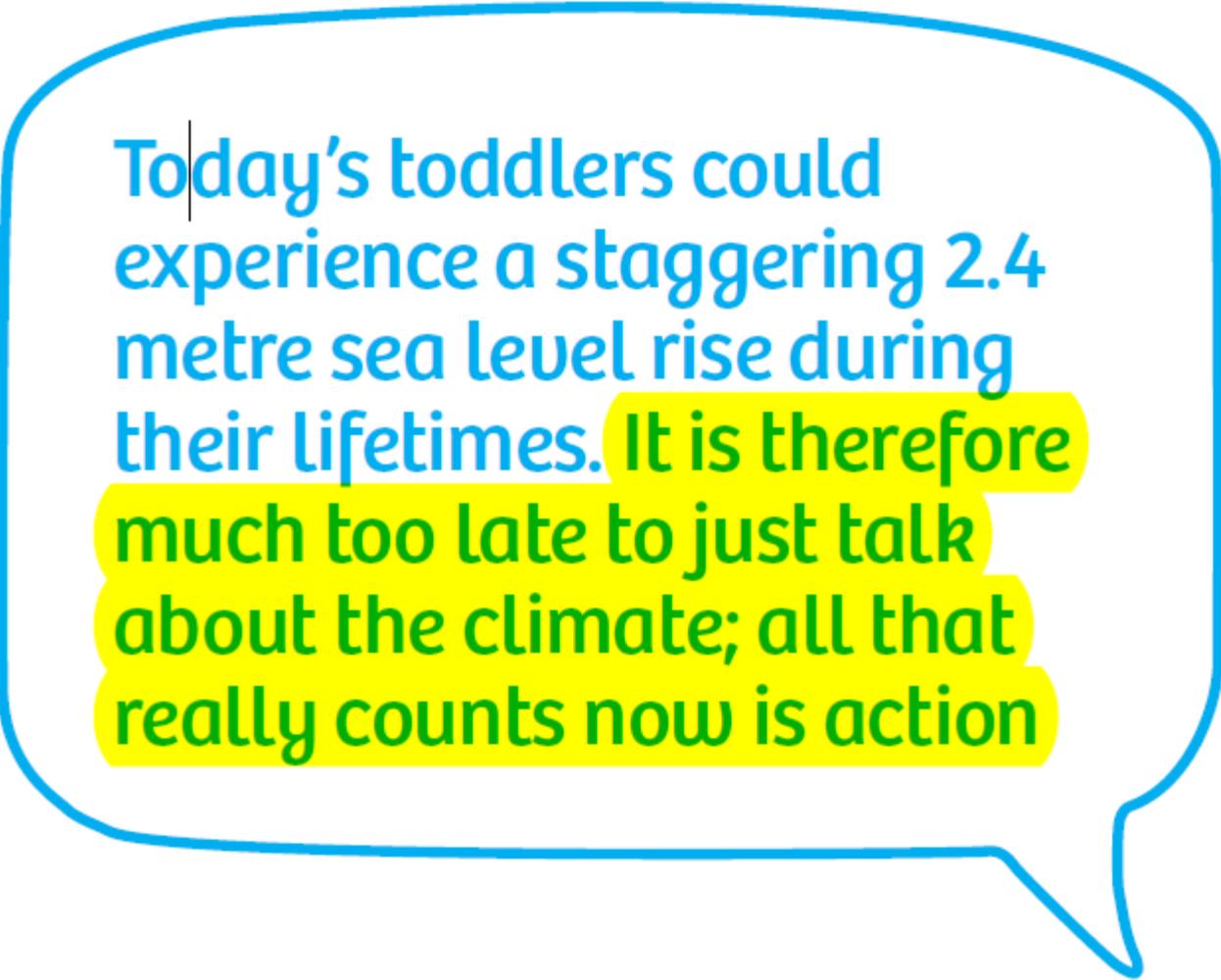


Board of Health

February 22, 2018

Don McLean
Hamilton 350 Committee



Today's toddlers could experience a staggering 2.4 metre sea level rise during their lifetimes. It is therefore much too late to just talk about the climate; all that really counts now is action

-- *Environmental Commissioner of Ontario*
“Ontario’s Climate Plan from Plan to Progress” January 2018

Commissioner's introduction

- Current research forecasts we are on track for an average of 1.5 metres of sea level rise this century, i.e., within the lifetime of today's toddlers.
- Without protective measures, this amount of sea level rise would submerge land currently home to 153 million people. And it is now plausible that today's toddlers could experience a staggering 2.4 metre sea level rise during their lifetimes.
- This, plus the storm surges that already put millions of people at risk of catastrophic floods, would inundate coastal cities, ports and nuclear plants around the globe.

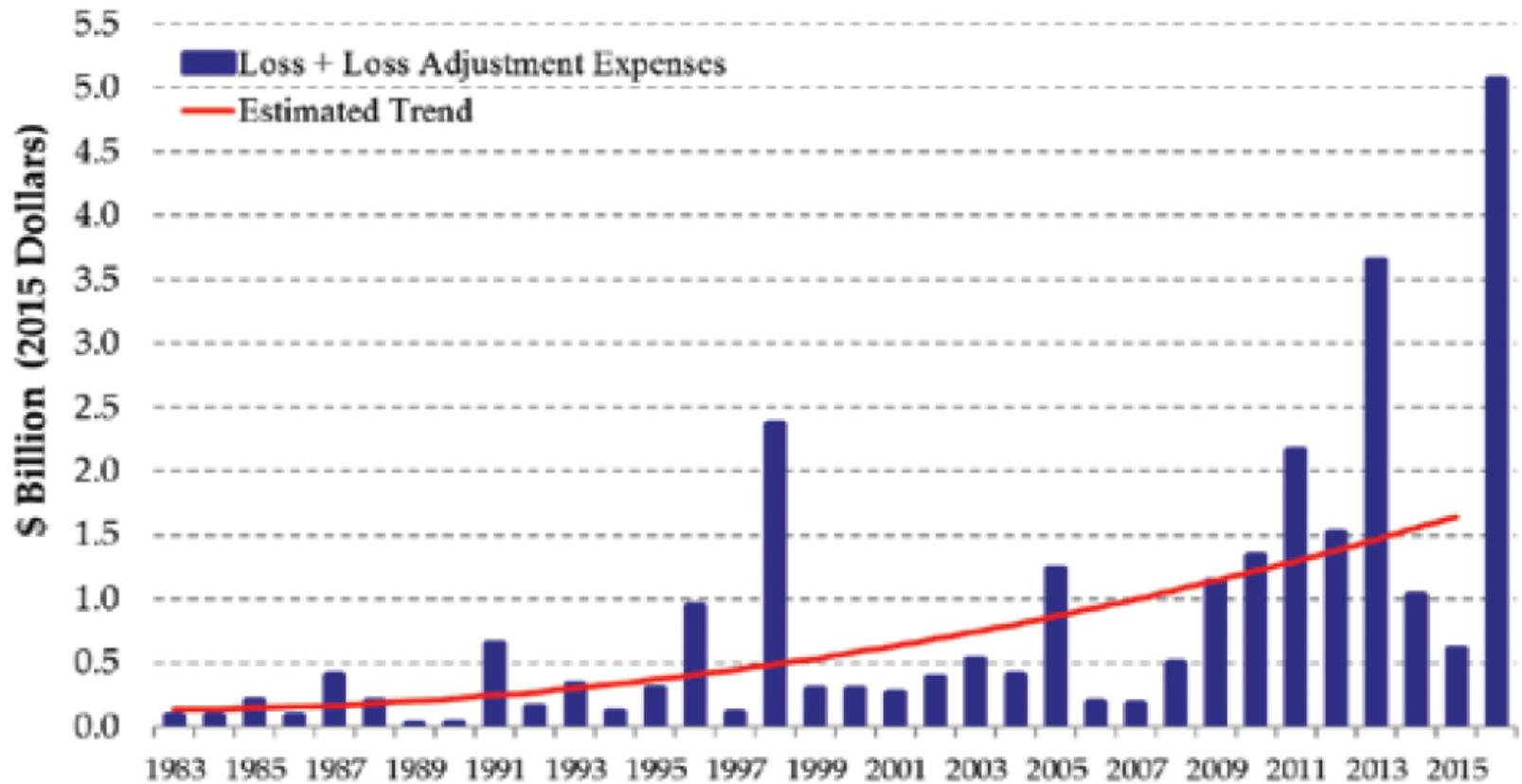


Figure 10.8. Catastrophic insured losses in Canada.

Source: Insurance Bureau of Canada, Lapo Calamai (2016).

Some obvious steps

- “Since the government released its *Climate Change Action Plan* in June 2016, it has introduced dozens of additional policies and programs to reduce emissions from buildings, waste, transportation, land use, etc.” – *Environmental Commissioner*
- Start by reviewing all these policies and evaluating how they could apply here

More obvious steps

- Ensure that every staff report includes a section on climate change implications
- Insist on knowing the GHG footprint of everything the city buys and give that significant weight in procurement decisions
- Join the province in prioritizing transit
- Join the province in stopping more sprawl

More Commissioner Advice

- Ontario has given municipalities “the power to adopt by-laws dealing with climate change”
- Cities “manage most of Ontario’s infrastructure including roads, transit, water, wastewater and waste.”
- Climate change must be “a central part of all government decision-making, spending and regulating.”