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Wildfires in Canada: A Wake-Up Call to Address Climate Change

As we enter the summer season, Canada is once again grappling with the devastating consequences of wildfires. In the past few years, the outbreak of wildfires across the country serves as a stark reminder of the urgent need to address climate change.

Canada is home to vast forests that play a crucial role in regulating our climate and supporting biodiversity. However, climate change has significantly altered the delicate balance of these ecosystems. Rising temperatures, prolonged droughts, and extreme weather events have created the perfect conditions for wildfires to flourish.

Recent studies have shown that the frequency and intensity of wildfires in Canada have increased over the past few decades. The 2018 wildfire season in British Columbia was one of the worst on record, with over 2,000 fires scorching more than 1.3 million hectares of land. The 2019 season in Alberta saw the largest wildfire in the province's history, forcing thousands of residents to evacuate their homes.

Climate change exacerbates the risk of wildfires in several ways. Higher temperatures result in drier vegetation, making it more susceptible to ignition. Additionally, warmer temperatures lead to increased evaporation,





drying out the soil and further enhancing the fire risk. Stronger wind patterns, another consequence of climate change, can spread wildfires more rapidly, making them harder to contain.

The impact of these wildfires is not limited to the immediate destruction of trees and wildlife. They release massive amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, exacerbating the greenhouse effect and contributing to further climate change. This vicious cycle perpetuates the problem and puts future generations at even greater risk.

To address this pressing issue, it is crucial that we tackle climate change at its root. Transitioning to renewable energy sources, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and implementing sustainable land management practices are just a few steps we can take to prevent future wildfires and protect our planet.

As individuals, there are actions we can take to make a difference. Reducing our carbon footprint by using public transportation, conserving energy, and supporting sustainable businesses are small yet meaningful steps towards combating climate change. Engaging in conversations about climate change and advocating for policy changes can also contribute to the collective effort.

In conclusion, the recent Canadian wildfires serve as a reminder of the interconnectedness between climate change and natural disasters. It is essential that we recognize the urgency of the situation and work together to create a more sustainable future. Let us stand united in our commitment to protect our planet, its ecosystems, and the well-being of future generations.