I saw whole mountainsides covered in dead trees from pine beetles, and I continue to see them at my ski hill.

I know that all of these things—disasters forcing me from my home, dirty air, changing landscapes—haven’t been caused solely by the climate crisis, but their severity and regularity have increased because of it. I’m worried they’ll happen even more often, with greater force. Lots of people think the climate crisis is something that will happen in the future, but they’re wrong; it’s affecting us now and has been for awhile. We—youth especially—are being deprived today of our right to life, liberty and personal security.

When I was in Jasper last summer, the climate crisis is affecting us today. We’re being deprived of our right to life, liberty and personal security.

The government needs to treat the changing climate like a crisis. They can’t see our forests and our parks and our natural, beautiful places as just sources of short-term profit; they are our sources of joy, and they should be for the long term. That’s why I’m taking action today: to ask our government to take even greater action on behalf of all Canadians.

Sadie Vipond is a youth climate activist. She lives in Calgary.