

BC Sustainable Energy Association • Canadian Co-operative Association • Canadian Council for International Co-operation • Canadian Foodgrains Bank • Canadian Union of Public Employees • Care Canada • Climate Action Network Canada - Réseau action climat Canada • David Suzuki Foundation • Ecology Action Centre • Edmonton Friends of the North Environmental Society • Farm Radio International • Greenspiration • Greenpeace Canada • KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Alternatives • Nature Canada • Nova Scotia Environmental Network • Oxfam Canada • The Pembina Institute • RESULTS Canada • Saskatchewan Environmental Society • Sierra Club of Canada - Atlantic Chapter • TakingITGlobal • USC Canada • World Federalist Movement – Canada

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A3
June 16, 2008

Re: Call for Canada to adopt stringent greenhouse gas targets at G8 Summit

Dear Prime Minister,

We, the undersigned Canadian international development and environment organizations, are writing to strongly urge you to play a leadership role at the upcoming G8 Leaders Summit in Japan. Specifically, Canada, along with other G8 leaders, must use the summit to build meaningfully on the momentum of the critical Bali Roadmap negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), due to be concluded next year at COP-15 in Copenhagen. We outline further below what we believe this requires.

We urge you to commit to targets to reduce Canada's net greenhouse gas emissions to at least 25% below the 1990 level in 2020 and 80% below the 1990 level in 2050. In addition, Canada must commit to the rapid publication and implementation of a credible plan to reach these targets. As you know, these target levels received support from a majority of Members of Parliament at the recent third reading vote on Bill C-377, the *Climate Change Accountability Act*. They are based on the UNFCCC principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities," which Canada must respect in all international negotiations and meetings. Analysis shows these levels are the minimum commitment required from industrialized nations if the world is to have a chance of avoiding dangerous climate change, defined as a global average temperature rise of 2°C above the pre-industrial level.

In addition, we urge you to pledge financial support to developing countries in their efforts to adopt clean technology and adapt to climate change. Such support should be in line with Canada's responsibility for emissions and capability to provide assistance, and must respect negotiating processes that are fully inclusive of developing country governments and civil society actors. Clean technology financing should be directed at projects that maximize environmental and climate benefit while focusing on poverty reduction, equitable access to low impact sustainable energy, increased livelihood opportunities, and sustainable development. Adaptation financing should be in addition to our longstanding commitment to provide 0.7% of Gross National Income to Official Development Assistance, channelled to equitable North-South mechanisms, and should be delivered as grants and not loans.

Finally, we urge you to commit to ensuring Canada's international development initiatives work to mitigate the impacts of climate change, and reduce the vulnerability and increase the adaptive capacities of communities. In particular, development initiatives should focus on the groups hardest hit by climate change, including women and marginalized communities, and should incorporate analysis and results relating to women's rights and gender equality.

The G8 Summit is a crucial opportunity for Canada to demonstrate leadership on climate change on the road to Copenhagen. We look forward to an opportunity to discuss these recommendations as an appropriate starting point for Canadian leadership.

Signed by the following:

BC Sustainable Energy Association, Guy Dauncey, President
Canadian Co-operative Association, John Anderson, Director – Government Affairs & Public Policy
Canadian Council for International Co-operation, Gerry Barr, President-CEO
Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Jim Cornelius, Executive Director
Canadian Union of Public Employees, Claude Généreux, National Secretary-Treasurer
Canadian Union of Public Employees, Paul Moist, National President
Care Canada, Kevin McCort, President and CEO
Climate Action Network Canada - Réseau action climat Canada, Graham Saul, Executive Director
David Suzuki Foundation, Dale Marshall, Climate Change Policy Analyst
Ecology Action Centre, Cheryl Ratchford, Energy Coordinator
Edmonton Friends of the North Environmental Society, David J. Parker, Treasurer
Farm Radio International, Kevin Perkins, Executive Director
Greenspiration, Angela Bischoff, Director
Greenpeace Canada, Arthur Sandborn, Climate Change and Energy
KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives, Mary Corkery, Executive Director
Nature Canada, Mara Kerry, Director of Conservation
Nova Scotia Environmental Network, Tamara Lorincz, Executive Director
Oxfam Canada, Robert Fox, Executive Director
The Pembina Institute, Matthew Bramley, Director Climate Change
RESULTS Canada, Blaise Salmon, President
Saskatchewan Environmental Society, Ann Coxworth, Program Coordinator
Sierra Club of Canada - Atlantic Chapter, Nick Burnaby, Energy Coordinator
TakingITGlobal, Jennifer Corriero, Executive Director
USC Canada, Susan Walsh, Executive Director
World Federalist Movement – Canada, Hon Warren Allmand, National President