

## Declaration on Climate Justice and the Montréal Climate Change Summit

*All around the world, human communities and ecosystems are already suffering from the impacts of climate change caused by greenhouse gases (GHGs) from human activities. The scientific consensus indicates that these impacts will become catastrophic in the absence of deep GHG cuts. The threat of dangerous climate change therefore demands urgent action by Canadians and the international community.*

*Over the next year, Canada will play a pivotal role in determining the future direction of global action to prevent dangerous climate change, as we play host to the nations of the world meeting in Montréal this December to discuss - for the first time - what happens after the first GHG reduction commitments under the Kyoto Protocol end in 2012. Canada will continue to serve as President of the UN climate change negotiations for the following twelve months, which will give us unprecedented influence over developments internationally.*

*The decisions to be made in Montréal are too important to leave to politicians and bureaucrats alone. Canadians must get directly involved, as they did so successfully during the struggle to ratify the Kyoto Protocol.*

*With the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol in February 2005, a milestone in international cooperation to curb climate change has been reached. Canadians should take great pride in their role in achieving this victory, which was won in spite of formidable opposition from those who benefit from the status quo.*

*Yet the 1<sup>st</sup> commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol was only a small, first step towards a just and sustainable global regime to fight climate change. Urgent and drastic action is needed in light of the impacts of climate change that are already being felt by many vulnerable peoples and in view of the long-term impacts due to time lags in the planet's response to climate change*

*If the Kyoto Protocol is not soon followed by other, much more significant steps to reduce GHG emissions, we will not be able to avoid the probable - and terrible - impacts of continued warming such as threats to water supplies and food production, increases in droughts and floods, the massive loss of species and vulnerable ecosystems, and sea level rises. These will put tens of millions of additional people at risk from coastal flooding and hunger, hundreds of millions from malaria, and billions from water shortage by the 2080s if the global average*

*temperature approaches 2°C above the pre-industrial level. The current average temperature is already 0.6°C above pre-industrial levels.*

*To prevent dangerous climate change, the increase in warming needs to be limited to as far below 2°C as possible over pre-industrial levels. This long-term objective will require that global GHG emissions peak with the next 10 - 15 years and go down quickly from there.*

*Such a future is not only necessary, but can provide a compelling alternative vision if it is based on the principles of equity and solidarity, wherein we meet the basic needs of all without destroying the ecological and cultural systems that sustain current and future generations...*

To this end, the Canadian Climate Action Network calls on Canadians to challenge their elected representatives to achieve the following:

### **Canada must transform itself into a leader in implementing our Kyoto commitments.**

For too long, Canada has relied on voluntary measures to deal with climate change with the result that our GHG emissions rose by 24 % between 1990 and 2003, whereas our Kyoto Protocol commitments require us to reduce emissions to 6% below the 1990 level in the 2008 - 2012 period. Canada must now seek to lead the way in greening our economy and society, lest our commitment to the Kyoto Protocol and the necessary longer-term action on climate change be jeopardized.

This will require making better use of regulations such as vehicle fuel efficiency rules and enhanced building codes, eliminating billions of dollars in annual subsidies to the fossil fuel industry; investing funds in renewable, non-nuclear sources of energy, energy efficiency, and energy conservation; and ensuring that large industrial polluters do their fair share. We must also implement all the elements of the federal government's April 2005 Climate Change Plan in a timely manner. For example, prior to the Montréal meeting, the federal government should announce final agreements with the provinces resulting in at least the first half of the 55 - 85 megatonnes of reductions called for in the Plan through the Partnership Fund. These agreements should focus on technologies such as energy efficiency and renewable energy that can deliver emissions reductions before 2012. The federal government should also accelerate the implementation of the Climate Fund and increase the funds available through it from \$1 billion to at least \$5 billion if it is to achieve the anticipated reductions of 75 - 115 megatonnes.

Canada must also strive at the Montréal meeting to ensure that the tidying up of the details of implementing Kyoto internationally respects the spirit of the accord and does not create new loopholes. For example, the refinement of the Clean Development Mechanism must not result in the weakening of 'additionality' requirements.

## **Canada must act to protect the most vulnerable.**

Climate change exposes and aggravates unjust relationships. The 20% of the world's population that consumes 80% of the world's resources and contributed 80% to historic GHG emissions also owns 80% of the wealth. But the poor and the marginalized - who contribute the least to emissions - are the most likely to suffer the severest consequences of climate change related disasters.

Canada must act in solidarity with those who will be hardest hit by the impacts of climate change. Internationally, this will mean ensuring that the developed countries commit in Montréal to providing adequate resources to Adaptation Funds to help developing countries deal with climate change impacts. It will also mean providing the assistance necessary for developing nations to meet their expanding social needs with maximum efficiency and non-nuclear, renewable sources of energy.

At home, this will mean providing assistance to arctic communities that are already being hard hit by climate change. It will mean the development of comprehensive energy conservation programs for low-income and First Nations households to permanently reduce pollution and bills, dramatically increased support for public transit, and the provision of targeted energy assistance for low-income households who might otherwise have to choose between eating and heating or paying the rent.

## **Canada must ensure that the Montréal meeting launches the negotiation, to be finalized by 2008, of an effective and equitable global climate policy regime that will limit warming to as far below 2 °c as possible.**

The Montréal meeting must initiate a process for negotiating a post-2012 agreement, and commit to completing these negotiations by 2008 in order to allow for timely ratification and provide the certainty needed to ensure continued investments in emission reductions. Canada must ensure that this future climate regime includes deeper mandatory absolute GHG reductions for industrialised countries, new kinds of commitments from some larger developing countries that ensure they can meet development goals while limiting the growth of GHG emissions, support for necessary adaptation measures for the least developed countries in particular, and protections for tropical forests, as proposed in the international Climate Action Network's multi-stage approach.

Such a regime should be primarily based on the Kyoto Protocol, to be amended to fit the needs of the next set of commitments. Discussions of specific provisions under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, such as those on adaptation, can contribute to the regime negotiation process.

The international community must build on the commitment that Kyoto-signatory countries have demonstrated toward tackling global warming. These countries, including at that time the US,

decided together ten years ago that voluntary measures were not adequate and that absolute mandatory caps on emissions were needed.

In order to support future reduction commitments that are consistent with the goal of preventing dangerous interference with the climate system, Canada should commit itself to, and advocate for all industrialized countries, targets of a 25-30% reduction in GHG emissions relative to 1990 levels by 2020 and an 80% reduction by 2050, in line with what scientists, governments and civil society have agreed is necessary to prevent dangerous levels of climate change.

Building international support for an effective, equitable and justifiable global climate policy regime will require a principle-based approach to allocating global GHG emission reductions amongst nations. These basic principles include:

*The Precautionary Principle* - measures should be taken to anticipate, prevent or minimize the causes of climate change and mitigate its adverse effects. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing such measures.

#### *Equity*

- All have equal access to the atmospheric commons, so we must give increasing weight to the aim of allocating emissions rights on a per capita basis over the course of the 21st century.
- Intergenerational equity - delaying action on climate change now would transfer large costs to future generations.

#### *Common but Differentiated Responsibilities*

- Historical responsibility and polluter pays: those who have already contributed most to causing the climate change problem need to act first.
- The ability to pay and the capacity to act should be taken into consideration when deciding who should act, when and in what way.

*The Right to Sustainable Development* - equitable access to affordable energy services, livelihoods, food security, health, water and other basic human needs.

### **Canada must engage progressive US states and firms in action on climate change.**

While it is clear that the US must begin taking substantial action to reduce its emissions, it is equally clear that the best strategy to achieve this goal is not by watering down any future climate regime with the hope that the Bush Administration - which is out of step with most political and business leaders - will sign on right away.

The door should be left open, however, for the next Administration to engage. Canada, and others, should undertake serious efforts to engage the progressive actors in the US, and explore what types of common policies and measures could occur between nations taking action under Kyoto, and forward-thinking US states and companies.

While the Bush Administration continues to sit at the negotiating table, it must be engaged with in a way that does not stall the international negotiations on the post-2012 regime or erode principle to accommodate the current Administration. This would be devastating for the planet.