

**MEDIA BACKGROUNDER: KEY CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK EVENTS DURING THE
"COUNTDOWN TO COPENHAGEN"
AUGUST - DECEMBER 2009**

102 days remain before countries gather for crucial UN climate talks in Copenhagen this December. The Copenhagen climate talks are the culmination of a two-year negotiation process to reach a strong and effective post-2012 global climate agreement.

The 100 days that remain before Copenhagen give Canada's government a narrow window of opportunity to turn around years of obstructive behaviour and begin showing leadership on the world stage.

The Climate Action Network will be hosting and participating in various activities in order to raise the profile of this critical conference and Canada's role within it. This backgrounder describes some of the key events during the "Countdown to Copenhagen".

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1. 100 days until Copenhagen

When: August 28th, 2009

Where: <http://tcktcktck.org/>

Description: Major launch of the 'tcktcktck' global climate campaign, including a call to supporters to bring the tcktcktck petition to 1 million signatures by September 21.

2. Pedal for the Planet Convergence in Ottawa

When: September 15, 2009

Where: Parliament Hill / <http://kyotoplus.ca/pedal/>

Description: Pedal for the Planet is a chance for individuals, organizations and communities to join together to ensure that Canada does its fair share to tackle the climate crisis. Starting on July 3, people across the country have joined rides and walks leaving from the Atlantic, Arctic and Pacific coasts. On September 15th, bikers will converge in Ottawa.

3. Bilateral meetings between Prime Minister Harper and President Obama

When: September 16, 2009

Where: Washington D.C., USA

Description: Prime Minister Harper and President Obama will meet for bilateral discussions that are expected to include climate change on the agenda.

4. Bill C-311 – Climate Change Accountability Act

When: Ongoing from mid-September

Where: Ottawa

Description: The parliamentary committee on Environment and Sustainable Development has committed to focusing on Bill C-311, the Climate Change Accountability Act, for the first 5 sessions after reconvening on the 15th of September.

5. Editorial Board Tour

Suresh Prabhu – Ex. Minister of the Environment, India

When: September 21, 22, and 23

Where: Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal

Description: Mr. Prabhu, a former Minister of the Environment who led India's delegation at previous climate negotiations, will tour the editorial boards of several of Canada's largest newspapers to discuss the role of equity in climate change negotiations and India's positions. The goal of this tour is to make it clear that if developed countries do not commit to adequate financing to aid in the transition to a clean energy economy in developing countries such as India, a global deal may not be reached in Copenhagen.

6. National Premiere of 'The Age of Stupid'

When: 7:00pm September 21, 2009

Where: the Royal Theatre, Toronto / <http://www.ageofstupid.net/>

Description: On September 21st Fanny Armstrong's new film starring Oscar nominee Pete Postlethwaite will have a special sneak preview at the Royal Theatre in Toronto. This exclusive preview will be used to draw attention to the United National General Assembly Special Session on Climate Change as they meet in New York on September 22nd for the last time prior to the historic Copenhagen meetings in December. The film follows an archivist in 2055 who is searching through footage from 2007 to see where and how we went so terribly wrong in our efforts (or lack thereof) to avoid catastrophic climate change.

7. 'TckTckTck''s Global Wake Up Call, the final Countdown to Copenhagen

When: September 21, 2009

Where: Global / <http://tcktcktck.org/>

Description: A day of coordinated actions worldwide to send a wake-up call to leaders and citizens alike on the critical importance of a fair, ambitious, and binding treaty in Copenhagen. Further details to be confirmed.

8. United Nations Secretary-General's high-level event on climate change (UN

General Assembly Special Session on Climate Change)

When: September 22, 2009

Where: New York, USA

Description: The Secretary General of the United Nations will host the largest ever meeting of heads of state focused exclusively on climate change.

9. G20 Leaders Summit

When: September 24-25, 2009

Where: Pittsburgh, USA

Description: Financing for climate action in developing countries is an agenda item as the G20 leaders meet in Pittsburgh.

10. UN Climate Change talks

When: September 28 – October 9, 2009

Where: Bangkok, Thailand

Description: UN Climate Change Talks (Penultimate before Copenhagen)

11. Climate Justice Speaking Tours

When: October 8-18, 2009

Exact dates and locations to be confirmed

Rahul Bose

Bollywood celebrity, Oxfam Ambassador and climate activist Rahul Bose will be touring Southern and Central Ontario and the Greater Vancouver Area to demand a just agreement in Copenhagen for developing countries. South Asia will be severely affected by climate change, particularly with regard to water shortages. Countries in this region are in need of adaptation assistance from countries like Canada. South Asian Canadians represent the bridge between these two worlds and so have a crucial role to play in moving our Government to action.

Rahul will be accompanied by two other climate witnesses, including one from a small island developing state and one from the Canadian North.

Baba Sewah Singh

Renowned Sikh Leader Baba Sewah Singh will be touring Gurdwaras (Sikh temples) to engage with Canada's extensive Sikh community. Baba Sewah Singh will make the links between the Sikh religion and the need for environmental conservation, fighting climate change, and protecting the world's most vulnerable populations.

12. Powershift Canada

When: October 23-26th, 2009

Where: Ottawa, Canada / <http://powershiftcanada.org/>

Description: This 4 day conference will bring together youth from all over the country to mobilize around climate change. Participants will join in trainings, hear keynote speakers and bands, discuss climate change policies by region and sector, hear presentations, participate in a green job fair, and join in the International Day of Action – C-Day: Fill the Hill.

13. International Day of Action – C-Day: Fill the Hill

When: October 24th, 2009

Where: National / Parliament Hill, Ottawa / www.climateday.ca

Description: C-Day: Fill the Hill will be the focal point of the largest climate action to ever take place on Canadian soil. Climate Day is about Canadians Coming together to demand Change. It is a Culmination, a Critical mass, a Call for action, a Cultural tipping point. C-Day is about active Citizenship. On October 24 supporters will converge on Parliament Hill to demand government Commitment to a Cooler earth and Climate justice. Actions will also be taking place across Canada and across the world.

14. The Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment annual meetings

When: October 28 – 29, 2009

Where: Kingston, Canada

Description: The Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment will hold their annual meeting. The Climate Action Network Canada together with its member organizations will insist that climate change is a focus on the agenda with only weeks left until the Copenhagen meetings.

15. UN Climate Change talks (final negotiations before Copenhagen)

When: November 2 – 6, 2009

Where: Barcelona, Spain

Description: The final round of negotiations prior to Copenhagen will take place in Barcelona.

16. KyotoPlus

When: Ongoing

Where: <http://www.kyotoplus.ca/>

Description: This petition, supported by many Canadian organizations is a Canadian public engagement campaign to support an urgent solution to the global warming crisis. The petition has garnered over 50,000 signatures to date and will continue to be circulated in the Countdown to Copenhagen.

17. Final UN Climate Change talks

When: December 7 – 18, 2009

Where: Copenhagen, Denmark

Description: Concluding UN climate talks following a two-year international negotiation on the next global climate deal.

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