

## **CANet Kyoto Ratification Campaign**

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### **Countdown to the JMM**

On May 21 and 22, 2002, in Charlottetown, PEI, the Joint Ministers Meeting (JMM) of Environment and Energy will meet to discuss Canada's action plan on the Kyoto Protocol.

The Globe and Mail (April 23, 2002 – Page A6) reported that Prime Minister Jean Chrétien has promised to deliver within weeks concrete federal proposals for cutting Canada's greenhouse gas emissions to levels in line with the Kyoto protocol. The proposals, which would include estimates of the cost to government and industry, will form the basis for consultations with the provinces and territories.

The Province of Alberta has stated its opposition to Canada ratifying the Kyoto Protocol, preferring the United States response to global warming that would merely limit the rate of increase in Greenhouse Gas emissions in the future. Alberta is expected to try to derail the federal proposal to adhere to the Kyoto Protocol at the JMM.

Concerned about the backlash to Canada ratifying the Kyoto Protocol, CANet has launched a petition campaign to encourage Prime Minister Jean Chrétien to recognize the threat of climate change and ratify the Kyoto Protocol.

### **Petition Campaign**

The CANet petition campaign launched in March has already resulted in more than 80 groups and 2000 individuals sending in signed petitions. CANet would like to especially thank Richard Renshaw, Assistant Secretary General of the Canadian Religious Conference, Lorraine Théberge of the Conférence religieuse canadienne, région du Québec and the members of religious orders who have provided the greatest number of signatories to the CANet petition for their support.

**Just a reminder that CANet is asking people to return signed petitions for May 15<sup>th</sup> so we will have them on hand at the Joint Ministers Meeting in Charlottetown on May 21<sup>st</sup>. You will find a copy of the petition attached to this bulletin.**

### **Municipalities Lead the Way**

In a press conference held on Tuesday, April 23, the mayor of Québec City, Jean-Paul L'allier, announced that he is introducing a resolution for the municipal council in support of Canada ratifying the Kyoto Protocol. The environmental group Équiterre participated in the press conference. The previous day, the City of Montréal adopted a similar resolution.

In a letter published on April 23, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) stated "To date, 125 individual municipal governments representing more than 6.5 million Canadians have supported FCM's model resolution calling for ratification of the Kyoto protocol. Twenty-five municipal governments representing about 72,000 have opposed the resolution." Toronto supports the call for Canada to ratify the Kyoto Protocol. A motion for the City of Ottawa to support the ratification of Kyoto will be introduced by Councillor Elizabeth Arnold on Monday, May 6.

## **Canadian Reports Support Kyoto**

Recently published reports support Canada's ratification of Kyoto:

Commissioned by David Suzuki Foundation and World Wildlife Fund, the Boston-based Tellus Institute forecasts the following benefits from selected emission reduction policies, over and above business as usual projections:

A cumulative net economic savings of \$4 billion across the economy reaching \$1.6 billion per year, or \$47 per capita, in 2012;

The net addition of 52,000 jobs in the economy due to the redirection of consumer spending away from fuel and electricity and toward other goods, services, activities and investments;

A \$135 average annual gain in household wages and salaries; and a \$2 billion increase in the national GDP.

A policy brief and full study is available at:

[http://www.davidsuzuki.org/Climate\\_Change/Economics/](http://www.davidsuzuki.org/Climate_Change/Economics/)

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) has released a new study laying to rest the myth that tens of thousands of jobs will hit the scrap heap if the federal government endorses the Kyoto Protocol.

Making Kyoto Work: A Transition Strategy for Canadian Energy Workers finds that there are tremendous economic opportunities in becoming more energy efficient and developing new technologies --in alternative fuels, fuel-efficient vehicles, and in wind, geothermal, and tidal power. The study develops a transition strategy that allows Canada to meet its Kyoto Protocol commitments and at the same time provide transition support and employment for energy workers who lose their jobs.

Dale Marshall, a resource policy analyst with the BC office of the CCPA and author of the study, estimates that 12,800 Canadian energy workers will lose their jobs over the next 10 years if Canada acts upon its Kyoto commitments, but over the same period, 16,000 new energy jobs will be created.

Marshall says that "new jobs won't necessarily require the same skills or be in the same region, which is why we need a strategy to help workers with transition."The 150,000-member the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers (CEP) union has endorsed the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol and the union's energy policy includes such a strategy.

"The study supports our view that in the short term, though workers could lose their jobs as we go through this transition, this will be offset to some degree by the creation of jobs in the renewable energy industries that are growing across Canada," says CEP President Brian Payne.

A full copy of the report is available from the Centre's website at [www.policyalternatives.ca](http://www.policyalternatives.ca).

**The Climate Action Network will soon release two reports reviewing whether the implementation environmental regulations really do harm Canada's competitiveness as some claim and a "Soft Energy path for Canada" report by Ralph Torrie.**