

Climate Action News this week

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A Week in Review...

Bad start to the week for Baird

On Monday Innovative Research Group released a poll by asking "Thinking of all of the Ministers in the Federal Cabinet, excluding the Prime Minister, which Minister do you think has done the worst job?" guess who placed last (or first).

More at: www.thehilltimes.com and www.innovativeresearch.ca/

On Tuesday environmental organizations in Nova Scotia told a news conference how they've been affected as they wait for money that normally arrives in April. They are bringing attention to funding delays from Ottawa, with one comparing the federal environment minister to a "slum landlord" for refusing to fix a problem that is reaching across Canada.

Read the full CTV article at:

www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20070724/green_funding_070724/20070724?hub=Politics

UN to hold special debate on Climate Change

On July 31st and August 1st, at UN Headquarters in New York, the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa, will convene an informal thematic debate "Climate Change as a Global Challenge".

On August 1st there will be a discussion open to all in which Member States will make statements about their national strategies and international commitments to address climate change.

To view the webcast live and for more details visit:

www.un.org/ga/president/61/follow-up/thematic-climate.shtml and
www.un.org/webcast/

US Matters.... (A new section)

We've launched a new section of Climate Action News this week with 'US Matters'. We'll bring you some highlights of what's happening (or not) from our US neighbors.

Fuel for Thought

James Surowiecki in the New Yorker this week gives an historic context for the auto industry's allergy to regulation. He says, "In the auto industry, there's one thing you can always count on: if a new environmental or safety rule is proposed, executives will prophesy disaster."

Read the full article at:

www.newyorker.com/talk/financial/2007/07/23/070723ta_tak_surowiecki

Senator Casey calls for mandatory action on global warming, sponsors cap-and-trade bills:

(courtesy USCAN) Senator Casey announced during a floor speech in the Senate last week that he would cosponsor three pieces of global warming legislation. Casey called for mandatory reductions in greenhouse gas emissions on the order of 80% by 2050 and gave his support to the Sanders-Boxer, Bingaman-Specter, and Carper climate bills. While noting that the three bills each have provisions that he supports, Sen. Casey sent a letter to Senators Lieberman and Warner emphasizing his support of the 80% emissions reductions found in the Sanders-Boxer bill.

Read the press release on his website:

<http://casey.senate.gov/record.cfm?id=279381>

Action Alert

Send a letter by August 11th to prevent the delay of Ontario's coal phaseout

The Ontario McGuinty government originally promised during the last provincial election to phase out all coal generation by 2007. That promise was subsequently betrayed by delaying the phaseout to 2009. This promise was in

turn abrogated with a delay until 2014, as part of the government's climate change announcement in June 2007.

Under Ontario's Environmental Bill of Rights, there are 30 days (until August 11, 2007) to comment on a draft regulation by the Ontario government to delay the phaseout of coal-fired electricity generation until December 31, 2014.

To view a sample letter and for more information:

www.greenpeace.org/canada/en/campaigns/climate-and-energy/take-action/coal-action-alert-ontario

Sign this petition and tell Harper to implement Kyoto now!

Public support for the Kyoto Protocol is higher than ever. So why is Prime Minister Harper defying the will of the public by refusing to meet Canada's Kyoto targets?

Sign the petition: www.sierraclubaction.ca/main.html

Inside Ottawa....

A Bear, Oh My!

Read More: www.canada.com/ottawacitizen/news/city/story.htm?id=997bb4bf-1d7f-44a8-a485-0d1b313d7e8a

Looking Ahead....

The following three events are organized by the Council of Canadians in response to the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP). Prime Minister Stephen Harper will be meeting in Montebello, Quebec with U.S. President George Bush and Mexican President Felipe Calderón August 20th and 21st. Also visit the Council of Canadians SPP summit website:

www.canadians.org/integratethis/summit/index.html

SUNDAY, AUGUST 19, 7:00 p.m. — PUBLIC FORUM

The Council of Canadians is working with other labour and social justice groups to organize a public forum near Montebello. This event will feature Canadian, U.S. and Mexican speakers, focusing on how the SPP affects energy security,

water, the environment, security policy, and other key issues. More details to come.

MONDAY, AUGUST 20 — NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION

The Council of Canadians will be organizing a National Day of Action Against the SPP on August 20. This will allow people across Canada to “plug in” to the resistance at the Montebello summit. Council of Canadians’ chapters will be organizing public forums and community picnics, lobbying of Members of Parliament, distributing handbills, and speaking to the media. We will be posting information about events across the country at IntegrateThis.ca, as details develop.

MONDAY, AUGUST 20 — PROTEST IN MONTEBELLO

The Council of Canadians will be joining with other groups from across Ontario and Quebec to protest at the summit site in Montebello. More details to come.

Other Events

AUGUST 1 TO AUGUST 3 — CONSERVATIVE NATIONAL CAUCUS MEETING in Charlottetown, P.E.I. For more information, call Conservative MP Rahim Jaffer, chair of the Conservative caucus, 613-995-7325.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8 Council of the Federation — Chair of the Council of the Federation, New Brunswick Premier Shawn Graham will host other premiers at this summer meeting. August 8-10. Hotel Beauséjour, Moncton, N.B. For more details please visit www.gnb.ca/cf.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25 — NDP MPs will gather in Montreal from Aug. 25 to 27 for their annual summer caucus retreat.

AUGUST 26 — US National Remembrance of Hurricane Katrina

TUESDAY, AUGUST 28 — Federal Liberal Caucus meeting—The Liberal Party holds its summer caucus meeting. Aug. 28-30. The Fairmont Hotel, St. John’s, Nfld. For more information, please call 613-783-8400.

August 27 to 31 — Intersessional: AWG 4 and the Dialogue 4, , Vienna, Austria
The fourth session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG 4) and the fourth workshop under the dialogue on long-term cooperative action to address climate change by enhancing implementation of the Convention will take place at the Austrian Center Vienna (ACV), Vienna, Austria on 27-31 August 2007.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10 — Ontario Provincial Election—
www.electionsontario.on.ca