

# Climate Action News *this week*

Published by Climate Action Network – Réseau action climat Canada  
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April 3, 2008 Edition

## National News

### **KYOTO*plus* Campaign Pushes Leadership, Public Action**

Environmental groups were out in force this week to launch KYOTO*plus*, a national petition campaign that offers individuals and groups, businesses, governments – all Canadians everywhere – the chance to organize for strong leadership here and internationally. Stéphane Dion, Gilles Duceppe and Jack Layton participated in the signing ceremony at a press conference April 2<sup>nd</sup> on Parliament Hill.

News coverage:

[www.canada.com/topics/news/national/story.html?id=a18decb6-a686-4d19-9ae2-da17d872b63b&k=39533](http://www.canada.com/topics/news/national/story.html?id=a18decb6-a686-4d19-9ae2-da17d872b63b&k=39533)

Visit the website to learn more and to sign the petition:

[www.kyotoplus.ca](http://www.kyotoplus.ca)

Press Releases:

[kyotoplus.ca/en/newsroom.html](http://kyotoplus.ca/en/newsroom.html)

[www.climateactionnetwork.ca/e/news/2008](http://www.climateactionnetwork.ca/e/news/2008)

[www.nupge.ca/news\\_2008/n02ap08c.htm](http://www.nupge.ca/news_2008/n02ap08c.htm)



### **Government Warned by Environment Canada Last Year to Heed 2° C Limit**

A memo obtained under the Access to Information Act has revealed that the Harper government was told over a year ago that moving beyond 2° C average global warming above pre-industrial levels would have serious consequences for Canada and the world. The memo from Environment Canada's head of science and technology branch warned the government to expect severe impacts such as extreme drought and flooding, and "irreversible" global effects like the "extinction of significant numbers of species" and "a sea level rise in excess of 7m from the irreversible melting of the Greenland Ice Sheet."

Read the story:

[www.canada.com/ottawacitizen/story.html?id=0543d906-fdfc-4456-952d-7eb4fcb132ba&k=76539](http://www.canada.com/ottawacitizen/story.html?id=0543d906-fdfc-4456-952d-7eb4fcb132ba&k=76539)

Read the ATIP memo:

[www.climateforchange.ca/files/climateforchange.ca/Public\\_Files53/2degrees.pdf](http://www.climateforchange.ca/files/climateforchange.ca/Public_Files53/2degrees.pdf)

Background on the implications of 2 degrees warming for Canada:

[www.climateforchange.ca/files/climateforchange.ca/Public\\_Files53/SAGE-002.pdf](http://www.climateforchange.ca/files/climateforchange.ca/Public_Files53/SAGE-002.pdf)

## **Groups charge Government with deceiving Canadians, World, about Plans for Capturing Oil Sands Emissions**

Environmental groups were stepping up their criticism of the federal government's communications strategy on climate change last week, saying a new Pembina Institute analysis provides the details to prove just how far from "tough" the government's proposed regulations for large industry are.

For example, in the last couple of weeks the government has claimed in the House of Commons and in a formal submission to the United Nations that it is "requiring" the oil sands to capture and store its carbon pollution. Pembina says the government's approach is full of loopholes and weaknesses, such as the fact that there is no actual "requirement" for the oil sands at all, only a target that comes into effect in 2018 based on an assumption of carbon storage.

How companies actually meet the target is unspecified, leaving open current and future options that might not produce real GHG reductions (e.g. paying into a technology fund).

News coverage:

[www.canada.com/vancouversun/news/story.html?id=f6d9ed61-44ba-411d-bac8-f64655283d61&k=84923](http://www.canada.com/vancouversun/news/story.html?id=f6d9ed61-44ba-411d-bac8-f64655283d61&k=84923)

CAN press release:

[www.climateactionnetwork.ca/e/news/2008/oil-loopholes-2008-03-27.html](http://www.climateactionnetwork.ca/e/news/2008/oil-loopholes-2008-03-27.html)

Pembina analysis:

[www.climateactionnetwork.ca/e/resources/publications/member/reg-framework-update-03-2008.pdf](http://www.climateactionnetwork.ca/e/resources/publications/member/reg-framework-update-03-2008.pdf)

## **Canadians Looking for Signs of Extreme Climate Change Should Look Outside - British Meteorological Office**

New research published in the Journal of Geophysical Research points to Canada and Russia as the places to find the world's most extreme temperature changes. UK Met Office scientists examined changes in daily minimum and maximum extreme temperatures across the world, and found that the coldest winter days in Canada and Russia are now up to 4°Celsius milder than they were in the 1950s.

Read the story:

[www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSL26748132](http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSL26748132)

Met Office, Hadley Centre Press Release:

[www.metoffice.gov.uk/corporate/pressoffice/2008/pr20080326.html](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/corporate/pressoffice/2008/pr20080326.html)

Abstract from the Journal of Geophysical Research:

[www.agu.org/pubs/crossref/2008/2006JD008091.shtml](http://www.agu.org/pubs/crossref/2008/2006JD008091.shtml)

## Across Canada

### Ontario to Stay the Course with Do-Nothing Budget

The Government of Ontario's 2008 budget offered crumbs to those searching for strong measures to slow global warming. As Keith Stewart of WWF-Canada said while referring to a new tax exemption on bicycles: "It's not the type of scale up that we need to see if we're going to be seriously taking on the fight against climate change and I think the people of Ontario are expecting better."

News coverage:

[www.thestar.com/News/OntarioBudget/article/350865](http://www.thestar.com/News/OntarioBudget/article/350865)

<http://lfpres.ca/newsstand/News/Local/2008/03/26/5104356-sun.html>

## On the Hill

### Conservative MPs Continue Filibuster of the Climate Change Accountability Act (Bill 377)

After a two week break, Conservative MPs resumed their filibuster of Bill C377 on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. Only a few hours are needed to complete a clause-by-clause review before it can be handed back to Parliament for further debate and passage. Committee rules allow the filibuster to continue indefinitely.

News story:

[www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20080401.FILLIBUSTER01/TPStory/National](http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20080401.FILLIBUSTER01/TPStory/National)

## World News

### Canada Upholding Reputation as Climate Laggard at Bangkok Climate Negotiations

UN negotiators are back at the table in Bangkok this week for the first session under the "Bali Action Plan" agreed to last December in Bali, Indonesia. Unfortunately, Canada has

already been singled out as the world laggard: "There is at least one country where emissions are way off track and the Canadian government has concluded that it is not going to meet its Kyoto commitments," acknowledged UNFCCC Exec Secretary Yvo de Boer.

News coverage:

[www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/195636,complex-climate-change-talks-convene-in-bangkok--summary.html](http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/195636,complex-climate-change-talks-convene-in-bangkok--summary.html)

Follow Dale Marshall's (David Suzuki Foundation) blog from negotiations:

[www.davidsuzuki.org/blog/](http://www.davidsuzuki.org/blog/)

Get daily Climate Action Network coverage in ECO:

[www.climatenetwork.org/eco/bangkok-awgkp-awglca/200803%20eco%20awg-lca-1.pdf/view](http://www.climatenetwork.org/eco/bangkok-awgkp-awglca/200803%20eco%20awg-lca-1.pdf/view)

Go straight to the source at UNFCCC:

[http://unfccc.int/meetings/intersessional/awg-lca\\_1\\_and\\_awg-kp\\_5/items/4288.php](http://unfccc.int/meetings/intersessional/awg-lca_1_and_awg-kp_5/items/4288.php)

## **Gore's Group to Spend \$300 M on Marketing for Climate Protection**

Al Gore plans to spend all of the profits from *An Inconvenient Truth* as well as his Nobel Peace Prize money on a three-year, \$300 million dollar advertising campaign to stir public action to fight climate change.

Watch an ad:

<http://earth2tech.com/2008/03/31/can-gore-and-300m-in-ads-move-the-needle-on-climate-change/>

Read the story:

[http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/nationworld/2004316880\\_gore31.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/nationworld/2004316880_gore31.html)

Gore's Press Release:

[www.wecansolveit.org/page/-/We%20Campaign%20Press%20Release%203312008.pdf](http://www.wecansolveit.org/page/-/We%20Campaign%20Press%20Release%203312008.pdf)

## **Justice Matters**

### **ICUN Report Calls for Greater Focus on Low-Tech Solutions for Poorer Nations**

A new report by the IUCN is arguing for more effort to be placed on finding and sharing less expensive, low-tech solutions for less developed nations. At present, the emphasis is on large-scale, expensive technology projects, leaving the world's poor to fend for themselves in dealing with the real impacts of climate change in their local communities.

Read the story:

[www.iht.com/articles/2008/03/18/business/greencol19.php](http://www.iht.com/articles/2008/03/18/business/greencol19.php)

Get the IUCN's Issue paper on Climate Change and indigenous peoples:

[http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/indigenous\\_peoples\\_climate\\_change.pdf](http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/indigenous_peoples_climate_change.pdf)

## Get Involved

**Get on board the KYOTO*plus* train!** Visit [www.kyotoplus.ca](http://www.kyotoplus.ca).

**Green Cars** – Do you want cars that are truly fuel-efficient? Tell it to the federal government today at [www.cleancarscanada.ca](http://www.cleancarscanada.ca).

**Toronto is Reclaiming Earth Day!** On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, join the parade in Toronto. For details visit [www.torontoclimatecampaign.org/reclaimearthday2008](http://www.torontoclimatecampaign.org/reclaimearthday2008)

## Looking Ahead

April 5-6	G8 meeting on Development, Tokyo, Japan <a href="http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/economy/summit/2008/info/map.html">www.mofa.go.jp/policy/economy/summit/2008/info/map.html</a>
April 8-15	Registration window for side events at UNFCCC Sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies, 2-13 June 2008, Bonn, Germany
April 17-18	Major Emitters Meeting, Paris, France
April 22	EARTH DAY!

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