

Climate Action News **this week**

Published by Climate Action Network – Réseau action climat Canada
www.climateactionnetwork.ca

To receive Climate Action News, subscribe to the Climate Action list-serve at
<http://list.climateactionnetwork.ca/mailman/listinfo/climate-action>

December 11, 2008 Edition

Canada Leads Race to the Bottom at UN Climate Negotiations

Just as the world community was beginning to look again to North America for leadership, Canada is digging in its heels, obstructing progress at UN climate talks this week.

Minister of Environment Jim Prentice's two speeches today at the UN climate talks in Poznan seemed to signal a change in tone, but were disappointing in their lack of any commitment to strengthen Canada's action on global warming. Over the past week, Canada has taken a shameful role here. Our country has been singled out as a spoiler. And the Minister's speeches today did not contain any signal that Canada will do the right thing and commit to the science-based emission targets and scaled-up financing that the world needs to avert dangerous climate change.

The Minister acknowledged the Canadian youth that are in Poznan, but he ignored their call for real action. Minister Prentice is a new and influential cabinet Minister who has a clear opportunity to change Canada's position. With negotiations in their final hours, he is running out of time to signal unequivocally that Canada will strengthen its emission reduction targets and policies.

See the Climate Action Network Press Release at:
www.climateactionnetwork.ca/e/news/2008/cop14-race-to-bottom-2008-12-10.html

National Post: Canada takes flak at EU climate conference in Poland
<http://network.nationalpost.com/np/blogs/posted/archive/2008/12/10/canada-takes-flak-at-eu-climate-conference-in-poland.aspx>

Globe and Mail: Canada criticized for lax approach to environment
www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20081211.wclimate11/BNStory/International/home

Canadian Press: Canada accused of blocking progress at UN climate summit
www.torontosun.com/news/world/2008/12/10/7698116.html

La Presse: Ottawa rejette les accusations de blocage à Poznan
www.cyberpresse.ca/environnement/politique-verte/200812/09/01-808966-ottawa-rejette-les-accusations-de-blocage-a-poznan.php

Ottawa's stand at climate talks hurting native rights

Canada's position on the rights of indigenous people at the UN climate-change talks in Poland led Indian Affairs Minister Chuck Strahl to receive a public tongue-lashing yesterday as he appeared at a gathering of Assembly of First Nations chiefs in Ottawa

Read the Globe and Mail article:

www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20081212.wclimate12/BNSStory/National/home

The La Presse article:

www.cyberpresse.ca/environnement/200812/12/01-809764-le-canada-accuse-de-violer-les-droits-des-autochtones.php

Canada ranks second-to-last in Climate Change Performance Index

Germanwatch released its 2009 Climate Change Performance Index that ranked Canada among the worst countries for their performance on climate change action.

Read the Report:

www.germanwatch.org/klima/ccpi09.pdf

International News

Developed Nations Need to Lead in UN Climate Talks in Poznan

As the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, continues this week in Poznan, Poland, Canada needs to find a solution to the short-term financial crisis and the long-term climate crisis.

Read the Story: www.canada.com/montrealgazette/features/viewpoints/story.html?id=900b78cb-dbb4-4e1a-ba12-fdfe8ef55dcb

Gender and Climate Justice in Poland

The issue of gender justice in the UN climate talks is gaining support at the Poznan Conference.

Read the Story:

www.pacificmagazine.net/news/2008/12/05/gender-and-climate-change-at-poznans-world-summit-

UN Climate Negotiations Recognizes Labour Movement

The International Trade Union Confederation earns official "official constituency" status at the UN climate conference this week.

Read the Story:

www.ituc-csi.org/spip.php?article2610

National News

National Day of Action on Climate Change Draws Support

Demonstrations in over twenty cities and towns across Canada drew crowds who showed their support for action against climate change.

Read about the Events:

www.metronews.ca/Ottawa/local/article/151715

www.cbc.ca/canada/newfoundland-labrador/story/2008/12/08/food-climate-change.html

<http://thetyee.ca/Blogs/TheHook/Environment/2008/12/07/SwitchBanks/>

http://edmonton.ctv.ca/servlet/an/local/CTVNews/20081207/EDM_protest_081207/20081207/?hub=EdmontonHome

En Français:

www.cyberpresse.ca/environnement/climat/200812/08/01-808261-une-course-a-obstacles-pour-kyoto-organisee-a-montreal.php

www.radio-canada.ca/nouvelles/environnement/2008/12/07/001-kyoto-manif-pozna.shtml

Groups call on Prime Minister to support adaptation in impoverished countries

A coalition of environmental and international development organizations recently submitted a letter to Hon. Stephen Harper regarding the announcement of funding for adaptation to climate change in developing countries.

Read the Letter:

www.pembina.org/pub/1733

Aboriginal Leader Speaks on Effects of Climate Change in North

Chief Bill Erasmus of the Dene nation in northern Canada recently spoke in Poznan, Poland about the dangerous effects climate change is having on northern communities.

Read the Story:

www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20081207/caribou_herds_081207/20081207?hub=SciTech

New subscribers: Sign up to receive the Climate Action News at
<http://list.climateactionnetwork.ca/mailman/listinfo/climate-action/>

Questions or comments about anything you've read?
Let us know at info@climateactionnetwork.ca