

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2007

WHO TO WRITE AND WHAT TO ASK FOR:

Please write to Premier Gordon Campbell and to Carole Taylor, Minister of Finance. Tell Premier Campbell you are hoping for a strong and positive announcement about the provincial government's first phase of its Climate Action policy in Sept. at the Union of B.C. Municipalities convention in Vancouver, Sept. 24 – 28th. Tell him you hope it includes: 1. reducing subsidies to the oil and gas industry 2. a statement against off shore oil and gas exploration 3. a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emission by at least one-third by 2020 as pledged in the Throne Speech (ask him to tell us how and where these emissions are to be cut), 4. encouragement for alternative energy sources 5. set fuel efficiency standards for vehicles and a requirement for all new vehicles to be installed with average fuel consumption gauges, and 6. provide incentives to encourage municipalities and businesses to develop their own greenhouse gas reduction plan.. to name a few. Please feel free to add others.

Tell Carole Taylor that you hope the provincial budget, which is being prepared right now, will have a world-class budget commitment to fight Climate Change.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

It was six months ago, on Feb. 13 that the Campbell government embraced the fight against global warming in his Throne Speech. After six months of behind-the-scenes discussion on climate change, the provincial government appears ready to announce the first phase of its plans next month. The government has held a series of meetings on global warming with environmentalists in recent weeks and some of these groups have come away impressed and hopeful. "There's a huge amount of stuff happening inside government," says Guy Dauncey, president of the B.C. Sustainable Energy Association. Dauncey expects the announcement to have a "strong municipal thrust".

Since February and the Throne Speech, Campbell has held a well-publicized meeting with California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, and the province has joined the Western Regional Climate Action Initiative, an organization of western U.S. states that hopes to set up market-based ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The government has been closed-mouthed about its plans. Behind the scenes, though, politicians and bureaucrats have produced "a lot of detailed stuff," Dauncey said. Dauncey has no doubt that Campbell's newfound enthusiasm is genuine. Kathryn Molloy from the Sierra Club was also impressed and encouraged. It appears that Campbell may be committed to fighting climate change. He has read the book HEAT and talks passionately about the issue, but not everyone in his cabinet feels the same and he needs our support. The contradictions within the government policies reflect the contradictions within the government itself. You have people who are committed to climate change goals because they are important and necessary and you have people who are still convinced that subsidies and royalty credits to oil and gas is good for BC. Tell Campbell you will support tough action to fight Climate Change.

Please look for his announcement in September at the Union of BC Municipalities Convention. Septembers Action Letter most likely will be a response to this announcement. We hope it will be a big THANK YOU LETTER to Gordon Campbell.

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