



## **The Climate Change Accountability Act Action Kit**

Less than two months remain before the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP15) in Copenhagen. Canada is running out of time to commit to a credible climate change strategy. A strong international agreement could mean the difference between a sustainable future and dire climatic consequences. Despite this, the Conservative government has steadfastly refused to show leadership either domestically or at the international table in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

New Democrats are therefore calling on Parliament to commit immediately to the science-based reduction targets and to take action *before* Canadian delegates arrive in Copenhagen. To achieve these goals, we need your support to get the *Climate Change Accountability Act* (Bill C-311) back to the House of Commons for a final vote.

This kit gives you information and tools to help you join the millions of Canadians who are calling for climate action *now*.

### **Why do we need the *Climate Change Accountability Act* passed?**

The *Climate Change Accountability Act* will prescribe national, legally binding, science-based, greenhouse emissions reduction targets. In June 2008 an identical New Democrat Bill C-377 was passed in the House of Commons with support of all three all opposition parties. Regrettably, Bill C-377 died in the Senate when the Harper government called the early fall 2008 election.

New Democrat MP Bruce Hyer re-introduced the *Climate Change Accountability Act* this Parliament as C-311, and with the help of people like you it passed a first vote and was sent to the Environment Committee for study with support from the New Democrats, Liberals, and Bloc Québécois.

However, despite the fact that the previous Committee heard many expert witnesses and thoroughly studied the exact same bill in 2008, this Environment Committee has proposed an extension of study that means the *Climate Change Accountability Act* could remain stalled until past December, leaving Canada without a commitment to binding emissions targets in time for Copenhagen.

The extension is scheduled to be voted on by the entire House of Commons the week of October 19<sup>th</sup>. Defeating the extension is our best chance to bring the Bill back to the House of Commons immediately, giving us an opportunity to ensure that Canada makes a binding climate action commitment in time for Copenhagen.

### **What can you do?**

This week we are asking you to contact MPs and party leaders to urge them to vote against the requested extension and to bring the *Climate Change Accountability Act* back to the House for a vote.

Contact as many people as you can to voice your support for passage of the *Climate Change Accountability Act's* science-based greenhouse gas reduction targets. Inform your friends and family of the importance of passing this crucial piece of legislation before Copenhagen and encourage them to speak to their MPs.

Write a letter to your local paper, or call a radio talk show to seek support for this concrete action on climate change.

Together, we can make our government contribute to both national and global solutions *now*.

Forward this Action Kit to anyone interested in fighting climate change.

Thanks for doing your part.

### **Suggested Letter to the Editor**

*Here is the type of letter you can write to your local newspaper. Add your own unique ideas to spur action.*

Dear Editor,

With only two months left before the Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change, I am discouraged to see that Canada still has not come up with binding targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. A strong commitment by Canada could make all the difference in securing global action against climate change.

The support of all MPs for the swift passage of Bill C-311, the Climate Change Accountability Act, will ensure that Canada commits to the science-based targets necessary to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and avert disaster. The evidence is in: the time for political action is now, and millions of Canadians are counting on Parliament to make the right choice for our planet.

Sincerely,

[Your name]

### **Tips for Talking about the *Climate Change Accountability Act***

- Climate change is an emergency. The UN Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen is coming up very quickly and Canada still has no federal, legally-binding greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.
- The *Climate Change Accountability Act* is good first step in fighting climate change. In 2008 when it was passed by *all* Opposition parties in the House of Commons, the bill was praised by climate change activists and environmental leaders as a “world first” in effective action to stop climate catastrophe.

- Canada used to be a world leader on climate change - we need to take that role again in Copenhagen. Passage of the *Climate Change Accountability Act* will again put Canada among the nations who have shown leadership by committing to hard targets, including Japan and Europe.
- The evidence is in. The time for talk is over: the time for political action is now. The *Climate Change Accountability Act* was studied in depth in 2008. New science that has emerged since the study indicates that action to reduce emissions is now even more pressing.
- No more “Fossil of the Day” awards – passage of the *Climate Change Accountability Act* will provide concrete evidence at Copenhagen of Canada’s confidence in the science-based targets and our commitment to join climate leaders in taking immediate action.
- Canadians from all walks of life are concerned about climate change. Our federal government has the power to lead: we need all our elected representatives to come together to support the *Climate Change Accountability Act* and ensure a viable future for our planet.

### Contact Information

Contact information for all MPs can be found online at: [www.parl.gc.ca](http://www.parl.gc.ca)

Or call toll-free from anywhere in Canada: 1 (866) 599-4999

### Contact Information for Party Leaders

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