

Canada sabotaging climate change talks

By Maria Minna

Canada is becoming a laughing stock as other countries accuse the Stephen Harper Conservative government of sabotaging the United Nations climate change discussions in Bali, Indonesia. That's because the Conservative government fails to act on climate change here at home and refuses to allow opposition MPs and environmentalists to be part of the Canadian delegation.

The Conservatives are reintroducing Liberal climate change action plans as their own to deflect international condemnation of their opposition to Kyoto. It is a perfect announcement for an environmental summit – they are recycling!

Do you know who Environment Minister John Baird invited to join the Canadian delegation? It was not the people's voices through their MPs nor environmentalists. It was big business and the oil companies.

Several business executives along with representatives of EnCana Corp. of Calgary, a major oil and gas producer, are part of the Canadian delegation.

The Liberal Party remains committed to fighting climate change. Liberal Leader, Stéphane Dion went to Bali despite the Conservative government's decision not to allow other MPs to attend as part of the delegation.

I protested the Conservative government's position on Kyoto at a huge rally of concerned Canadians in downtown Toronto on December 8, 2007. We must stand up for our country and for our planet.