

A Message From:
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Clean Air Act: Too little, too late

The Clean Air Act as tabled by Harper's government, met Canadians and the international community with a resounding thud.

This minority Conservative government has campaigned against ratifying the Kyoto Accord with the promise of offering Canadians a more comprehensive plan to better suit Canadian industry.

The Clean Air Act is more of a Green Scam than a Green plan.

Canada has been an international leader in the fight against global warming but since Harper's election in January, Canada's environmental policies are an international disgrace. Stephen Harper has done everything possible to renege on Canada's Kyoto commitments.

In a recent report, the C.D. Howe Institute confirmed that the previous Liberal government's 2005 Climate Change Plan would have significantly reduced greenhouse gas emissions two years prior to Kyoto's deadline: **80% of what is required to meet Kyoto within the first five years of a seven year timeline.**

The Clean Air Act will not even meet its targets until the year 2050. It will take at least **14 years** under the



proposed agenda to meet only first set of targets. Furthermore, these targets are intensity based, meaning that they are dependent on production levels- when production increases, so will greenhouse gases.

We are already seeing the alarming effects of global warming. The Ontario Medical Association estimates that smog causing substances were responsible for over 60,000 emergency room visits in 2005.

We need definite targets to combat global warming despite production levels. Polar ice is melting and we have all seen the effects of extreme weather. We need to respect the ratification of the Kyoto Accord and take immediate action against pollution. Canada has to reclaim its role as a leader in fighting global change.

As Minister of the Environment under the previous Liberal government, Stéphane Dion proved that he was committed in seeing Canada to a greener future by taking real measures to combat climate change.

I am proud to say that as Leader of the Liberal Party, Stéphane Dion continues this commitment with even greater fervor.

Green Party leader Elizabeth May has said she can work with Stéphane Dion to challenge Harper's backward Conservative policies. **"If they try to say he was anything other than a strong environment minister, they're making it up."** May also sang Dion's praises when she said that his platform puts him **"light-years"** ahead of the Conservative government. A spokesperson from the David Suzuki foundation said Dion's platform was **"as good as it gets in the real world of politics."**

I am proud to be part of a team whose leader remains committed to Canada's green future and the international fight against global warming.

Maria Minna