

RESPONSE TO PETITION RÉPONSE À LA PÉTITION



PREPARE IN ENGLISH AND FRENCH MARKING "ORIGINAL TEXT" OR "TRANSLATION"
PRÉPARER EN ANGLAIS ET EN FRANÇAIS EN INDIQUANT "TEXTE ORIGINAL" OU "TRADUCTION"

8545-412-50-01

PETITION NO./N° DE LA PÉTITION 411-4271	BY / DE Mr. Hsu (Kingston and the Islands)	DATE June 18, 2013
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REPLY BY THE MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT, MINISTER OF THE
CANADIAN NORTHERN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY AND
MINISTER FOR THE ARCTIC COUNCIL
RÉPONSE DE LA MINISTRE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT, MINISTRE DE
L'AGENCE CANADIENNE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT ÉCONOMIQUE DU NORD
ET MINISTRE DU CONSEIL DE L'ARCTIQUE

The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY
INSCRIRE LE NOM DU SIGNATAIRE

SIGNATURE
MINISTER OR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY
MINISTRE OU SECRÉTAIRE PARLEMENTAIRE

SUBJECT / OBJET

Climate Change

RESPONSE / RÉPONSE

ORIGINAL TEXT
TEXTE ORIGINAL

TRANSLATION
TRADUCTION

The Government is actively pursuing a comprehensive climate change agenda domestically and internationally.

We committed to a 17% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 2005 levels by the year 2020. Canada pledged this target internationally in the context of the Copenhagen Accord, and reaffirmed it through the Cancun Agreements.

The Government target matches the United States target. The North American economy is integrated to the point where alignment of certain climate change policies is necessary in order to maintain competitiveness for Canadian industries.

To reach the 2020 target, we have developed a sector-by-sector regulatory approach to address major sources of emissions. The Government plan is mindful of the need to align with the U.S. where appropriate. Performance standards are being developed to drive investments in new clean energy technologies and industries, while at the same time generating reductions in emissions.

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CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES

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Canada's 2012 Emissions Trends Report indicates that as a result of collective action to date by governments, consumers and industry, Canada is estimated to have reduced its projected 2020 GHG emissions by 130 Mt relative to where emissions had originally been projected to be in 2020 without action. This is the equivalent of shutting down 37 coal-fired electricity generation plants. Moreover, per capita emissions are at an historic low of 20.4 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per person, their lowest level since tracking began in 1990.

The Government commitment to addressing climate change is demonstrated by the fact that we have already taken action on two of Canada's largest sources of emissions – transportation and electricity.

In October 2010, new light duty vehicle regulations for model years 2010-2016, the first ever national GHG regulations in Canada, came into force. These regulations are aligned with those in the U.S., establishing a common North American standard. Building on these regulations, we issued proposed regulations in November 2012 that will put in place progressively more stringent standards for the 2017 and later model years of passenger automobile and light trucks. With these regulations, it is projected that 2025 vehicles will consume up to 50% less fuel and produce 50% less GHG emissions than 2008 vehicles.

In February 2013, the Government announced final regulations, which are also aligned with U.S. national standards, to improve fuel efficiency and reduce GHG emissions from 2014 to 2018 model-year heavy-duty vehicles such as full-size pick-ups, semi-trucks, garbage trucks and buses. The regulations will establish progressively more stringent standards and remain in full effect for all subsequent model years. By 2018, heavy-duty vehicles will produce 23% less GHG emissions than 2010 models.

On September 5, 2012, the Government released the final regulations to limit emissions from coal-fired electricity generation. These regulations, which will come into effect in 2015, will impose stringent GHG performance standards on new coal-fired electricity generation units and on units that have reached the end of their economic life, accelerating a transition towards lower- or non-emitting types of generation.

The Government is continuing to implement its sector-by-sector regulatory plan to achieve additional reductions towards Canada's 2020 target. Government officials are engaging with provinces, territories and industry on the development of regulations for the oil and gas sector, including the oil sands.

The Government is focused on a pragmatic approach to GHG regulations that will reduce emissions while continuing to create jobs and encouraging the growth of the Canadian economy.

Addressing short lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) such as black carbon, methane and hydrofluorocarbons is a key element of a comprehensive approach on climate change. Due to their short life span, reducing SLCPs can achieve more immediate climate benefits, particularly in the North, as well as important health benefits. To this end, Canada is working with domestic and international partners to promote concrete actions to reduce SLCPs. For example, Canada is a founding member of, and active participant in, the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, a voluntary international framework for concrete action to accelerate efforts to reduce SLCPs.

Canada is also a member of the Arctic Council, an intergovernmental forum that promotes cooperation and coordination among the Arctic States, with the involvement of Arctic indigenous communities, on common Arctic issues, with a particular focus on sustainable development and environmental protection. The Arctic Council has carried out extensive work on SLCPs, including developing technical reports and recommendations for policy makers on mitigation opportunities related to black carbon and methane. Most recently, at the 2013 Arctic Council Ministerial meeting a new task force, co-chaired by Canada and Sweden, was established to develop actions to reduce black carbon and methane emissions in the Arctic. The Council is also exploring opportunities to strengthen adaptation collaboration between indigenous peoples and other residents, governments, and industry to enhance the capacity of decision makers to manage climate risks in the Arctic.

Finally, the Government is taking important steps at home to help Canadians adapt to a changing climate. The federal government is providing \$148.8 million over the next five years to support an improved understanding of climate impacts and promote adaptation by industry and communities. These programs were developed in the context of a new Federal Adaptation Policy Framework which establishes a clear federal role for advancing scientific information, decision-making tools, and knowledge sharing.

The Government will continue to advance sensible measures that support Canada's mitigation and adaptation objectives. The Government action on climate change will sustain economic prosperity and support innovation by promoting investments in clean energy technologies, and provide industry with regulatory certainty through clear environmental standards.