



PRESS RELEASE

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Vote on the Bloc Québécois motion

PARLIAMENT CALLS ON THE HARPER GOVERNMENT TO RESPECT CANADA'S COMMITMENT TO KYOTO

Ottawa, Tuesday, May 16, 2006 – “In passing the motion introduced by the Bloc Québécois, the majority in the House has sent a clear message to the Harper government: The Kyoto protocol must be respected to the letter. Period!”, commented **Bernard Bigras**, the Bloc Québécois Environment Critic and MP for Rosemont–La Petite-Patrie, following the end-of-day adoption of the Bloc Québécois motion calling on the Harper government to respect Canada's Kyoto protocol commitment to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

“Stephen Harper must now be consistent with the remarks he made when he was Leader of the Opposition and he criticized the attitude of the Liberal government of the day because it did not respect the votes of the House of Commons. Stephen Harper must now respect the position of parliamentarians on the Kyoto protocol,” said **Bernard Bigras**.

“Fighting global warming is a priority and we cannot simply give up, as the Harper government and Environment Minister are suggesting. The adoption of the Bloc Québécois motion sends a clear message to the Conservative government that we will not stand idly by and do nothing. Action is urgently needed,” added **Bernard Bigras**.

The key elements of the motion adopted today by the House of Commons are:

- the Harper government must publish, by October 15, 2006, an effective and equitable plan for complying with the Kyoto protocol;
- the government must establish a plan that includes a system of emission objectives for large emitters along with an exchange of emission rights (given that these industries and, oil companies in particular, will account for almost 50% of total greenhouse gas emissions by 2010);
- the government must implement an equitable plan that would call on large emitters to make a contribution proportional to their emissions; and
- the government must establish a bilateral agreement with Quebec and the provinces that want it, which could be based on a territorial approach.

“What we predicted would happen in Bonn, did in fact happen. Rona Ambrose and the Harper government made themselves look like fools in the eyes of the entire world and have made Canada lose all its credibility on the international stage. When it comes to the environment, the Harper government is dangerously aligning itself with Washington and the oil lobby. The worst part of all this will be the legacy of environmental neglect that the Conservative government will have left for Canadians—especially future generations. They will be the real victims of this lack of conscience, said **Bernard Bigras**.

The House vote in favour of the Bloc's motion sends a clear message to the Harper government that Canada's environmental policy will not be dictated by Washington and that Canada will not stand idly by as climate changes threaten our planet. The current government must respect the will of the people, give due consideration to the well-being of our population and do what is

necessary to ensure that Quebecers and Canadians are not left with an environment that has been disrupted by climate changes. This is not only about ensuring Canada's independence vis-à-vis Washington; it is also about protecting the health and well-being of our people. Stephen Harper must respect this vote and act accordingly," concluded **Bernard Bigras**.

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Information: Catherine Bourgault, Media Secretary
Parliamentary Wing of the Bloc Québécois
Tel.: (613) 947-2495
Cell.: (613) 296-1041
www.blocquebecois.org