



PRESS RELEASE

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REACHING THE KYOTO OBJECTIVES WILL REQUIRE A TERRITORIAL APPROACH, CLEAR REDUCTION TARGETS AND TRADABLE PERMITS

Ottawa, Monday, October 2, 2006 – “Instead of saying that there is no such thing as climate change in order to please the gas companies and the Bush Administration, Stephen Harper must give serious consideration to the conclusions reached by the Commissioner of the Environment. Johanne Gélinas’s audit revealed inadequate leadership, planning, and performance on an issue that does indeed exist,” said the Leader of the Bloc Québécois, **Gilles Duceppe**, accompanied by Bloc Québécois environment critic and MP for Rosemont—La Petite-Patrie, **Bernard Bigras**, at noon today.

The Commissioner of the Environment also said, “*no matter how you look at it, the stakes for Canada are high,*” and sooner or later Canada will be affected by environmental catastrophes resulting from global warming such as episodes of intense heat, torrential rains, drought and disease.

“The Conservatives’ denial of the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is not a solution. To reach the Kyoto objectives, Stephen Harper must do what the Bloc Québécois has suggested: establish an effective and equitable territorial approach, that will make it possible to reduce GHG emissions by 6% over 1990 levels, and set up a tradable permit system,” said **Gilles Duceppe**.

An equitable territorial approach

The Bloc Québécois’s territorial approach involves dividing the Canadian target among Quebec and the other provinces, who will have to reduce their GHG emissions by 6% over 1990 levels between 2008 and 2012.

“Because it sets clear reduction targets, this approach will enable Quebec and the other provinces to decide what initiatives they are going to take in order to comply with Canada’s Kyoto obligations,” said **Bernard Bigras**.

“As well as being in line with the commitments made by the Quebec government, the Bloc Québécois approach will prevent a province like Alberta from undermining the Quebec’s efforts by continuing to emit greenhouse gases with absolutely no consequences while benefiting from the windfall profits generated by the oil and gas industry,” said the Bloc Québécois environment critic.

Tradable permits for all

Bernard Bigras pointed out that setting up a tradable permits system will allow Quebec and any other province that exceeds its territorial objectives to sell its surplus to another province that is struggling to reduce its emissions.

“Quebec and the provinces will be able to set their own targets for their own industries and give them permission to deal with industries elsewhere on buying or selling tradable permits,” **Bernard Bigras** explained.

A real reduction plan

In light of the criticisms by the Commissioner of the Environment and the all too numerous studies confirming the acceleration of global warming that the Harper government persists in denying, the Leader of the Bloc Québécois says that Stephen Harper has no choice but to comply with Kyoto.

“Instead of limiting itself to fighting smog – something that itself is exacerbated by climate change - Stephen Harper’s government must get to the root of the problem: GHG emissions. Quebecers want to see a real plan for reducing GHG emissions and the Harper government must come up with one. Especially since global warming is accelerating and causing the permafrost layer in the north to melt, releasing huge quantities of methane, a greenhouse gas that is ten times more harmful than CO₂,” **Gilles Duceppe**.

Finally, the Leader of the Bloc Québécois asked the federal government to do take steps in areas that it alone has jurisdiction over and that will make it possible to reduce GHG emissions.

“The purchase of gas-guzzling cars can be discouraged by introducing financial penalties and the purchase of energy efficient cars can be encouraged by a reduction in the federal tax. Ottawa must also get rid of the tax scheme that benefits gas companies, and put the money saved toward providing help to industries that are less harmful for the environment,” said **Gilles Duceppe**.

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