



The Honourable L'honorable

Jim Prentice

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H3

MAR 09 2010

Ms. Sheila Malcolmson  
Chair  
Islands Trust Council  
1627 Fort Street, Suite 200  
Victoria BC V8R 1H8

Dear Ms. Malcolmson:

Thank you for your letter concerning climate change.

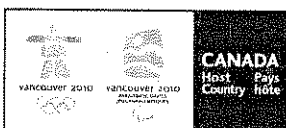
Canada was an active and constructive player in the international climate change negotiations that took place in Copenhagen during the 15<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change from December 7 to 19, 2009. The Conference convened leaders, ministers, ambassadors, and experts from 194 countries, and gained historical significance by bringing together leaders from over one hundred countries during its High-Level Segment to discuss global co-operation to address climate change.

The meeting culminated in the Copenhagen Accord, a framework agreement which represents a significant breakthrough in the global effort to address climate change. The Accord is an important basis for the elaboration of a new, ambitious and binding international climate change agreement.

Importantly, the Accord will more effectively engage the United States and other major economies, including China and India, in making efforts to reduce emissions, and will hold all participating countries to account for their actions. It also sets the foundation for significantly scaled-up international financing to support climate change mitigation, adaptation, capacity building and technology transfer in developing countries, with a priority focus on least-developed countries and those that are most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

Through these wide-ranging actions, the Copenhagen Accord represents a significant step in the global effort to reduce emissions and limit increases in global temperature to below 2 degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels.

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Canada



Canada has formally associated itself with the Accord. Canada will contribute its fair share of financial support under the Accord. In addition, on January 29, 2010, Canada submitted an economy-wide emissions reduction target for 2020 of 17 percent below 2005 levels. Canada's target is aligned with the target and base year of the United States under the Accord, and Canada will continue to align the implementation of its energy and climate policies with relevant policies in the United States.

Budget 2009: Canada's Economic Action Plan built on previous investments by committing almost \$4 billion in additional funding to support a cleaner and more sustainable environment and help meet Canada's climate change objectives. For example, Canada's Economic Action Plan includes \$1 billion over five years for a new Green Infrastructure Fund to support green infrastructure projects, including the generation of sustainable energy. Also, the Clean Energy Fund is investing nearly \$1 billion in technology development and demonstration. Total investments under the Clean Energy Fund for large and small demonstration projects are benefiting Canada's economy by leveraging nearly \$3.5 billion in further investments by industry and other levels of government.

Our efforts will be harmonized with those of the United States, consistent with the close integration of our economies and our geographic proximity. We have worked closely with the United States over the past year, including through the U.S.–Canada Clean Energy Dialogue launched in February 2009, to enhance collaboration in the development and deployment of clean energy technologies to reduce greenhouse gasses and combat climate change. Canada has also been working regionally with the United States and Mexico, through the North American Leaders' process, to develop a coordinated approach to climate change that will advance our respective environmental and energy objectives as well as strengthen the North American economy.

Internationally, the Government of Canada will continue to work with key partners, through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change process as well as in other international fora, to build on the Copenhagen Accord toward a new, legally binding international climate change agreement that is fair, effective and comprehensive, covering the vast majority of global emissions and engaging all major economies in meeting the global climate challenge. We will also continue our efforts to assist Mexico in its role as the incoming host of the next United Nations Climate Change Conference in 2010.

For more information on federal actions to address climate change and on how you can make an important difference, please visit [www.climatechange.gc.ca](http://www.climatechange.gc.ca), or call 1 800 O-Canada (1-800-622-6232, TTY 1-800-926-9105).

I appreciate receiving the Islands Trust Council's input on this important issue, and extend my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

The Honourable Jim Prentice, P.C., Q.C., M.P.