

FLASH SHEET #2 -
Gracia Janes, Environment Convener, Nov 14th/02
GLOBAL WARMING - URGENT MESSAGE TO SEND TO
THE PM THROUGH YOUR MPS!

Well, just as I predicted in the last flash sheet! **“... we are surely in for a rough ride, as anti-Kyoto forces flail at the government and the treaty.”** This week, the Globe and Mail warned that scientists from Canada and the USA are gearing up for an event that will reveal what they say are scientific and technical flaws in the Kyoto Protocol.” The Globe went on to cite the recent poll (it commissioned) which supposedly saw a dramatic drop in support for ratification, along with 63% of respondents needing to know more, and wanting a “made in Canada” solution.

Never mind, that a dramatically different poll, showing that support for Kyoto among Canadians remained very strong, at 80%, came out last week as well, and that its author takes strong exception to the way the globe poll questions were set out. This latest report from the Globe, merely reinforces its business oriented approach and enhances the self interested view of the oil producing provinces, particularly Alberta.

As for the supposed scientists, remember the exposure by Michelle Landsberg in the Star article of September 7th (noted in the last Flash Sheet) of the pseudo-scientific petition signed by 22,000 scientists and circulated by the “faculty of six” of the Oregon Institute of Science and Medicine, based in Cave Junction Oregon”.

Most important, remember that in the view of most scientists and other knowledgeable people, the ratification of the Kyoto Accord is the most important first step to take, if Canada is to be a world leader in creating a better future for the world’s children.

One also has to ask the questions: **Who will benefit from not ratifying Kyoto? Who is funding the forums, where the scientists opposing Kyoto are speaking out this week? How independent is the view from the podium? Who will lose if we don’t ratify this historic accord?** I would agree with the Minister of Environment as he so succinctly put it in a forum at the University of Alberta this week in answering the “Students Against Kyoto” . **God help the business community if we ignore the science....God help the public.”**

The Prime Minister is, as I type, apparently working on the Premier’s response to his plans to ratify Kyoto by Christmas, and their “made-in-Canada” solution. **It is indeed timely that we , as ordinary Canadians, who must, along with our children and grand children, live with the consequences , speak out loud and clear!** We want the Prime Minister to ratify the Kyoto Accord immediately. **Christmas is really too late! 5 years ago was too late!**

In fact, **Ten years ago, NCWC told the Prime Minister and the Minister of Environment, that we , the public, from coast to coast, were willing to conserve energy, which in turn would go a long way to cut back on the greenhouse gases that accelerate global warming.** All we needed was the knowledge of which energy saving and alternative

technologies were out there and some individual, institutional and industry incentives to save costs. We told him also, that **the government should conduct a massive campaign to alert people of the need to save energy and the ways to do so- somewhat along the same lines as the 2nd World War efforts, or the 70s oil crisis. We offered to help with such a campaign-** to no avail.

Now global warming, massive environmental damages, current and potential from conventional energy sources eg. dams, cars, ageing nuclear plants, make it clear, that the efforts society makes now to combat global warming, will have other increasingly beneficial effects. And, as I said in the last flash sheet, the switch to energy conservation and alternative energy sources could as Star reporter Dana Flavelle noted on September 7th “ **open an estimated \$90 billion in new domestic markets for technologies and process that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.**”

Let's tell our MPs and the Prime Minister that we support the ratification of Kyoto. With all the loud wind against the sail of progress on Kyoto, our voices must be heard!

Sign petitions if you see them (eg.climateaction@davidsuzuki.org) start one if you can; write a letter, phone/fax/e-mail your MP; and talk to your friends, neighbours and acquaintances.

Tell them about the many benefits of Kyoto, for example:

*** the chance for industry to take a leading edge in alternative energy technology, such as fuel cells, and wind**

*** the reduction in the very costly pollution from traditional sources of energy**

*** the opportunity to develop an ambitious and visionary energy strategy for Canada, which takes advantage of the potential for renewable energy sources and energy conservation to protect the environment, lower health costs, reduce global warming and acid rain, advance technological markets and job creation, and conserve scarce resources.**

If you would like to ask me questions, get advice, or obtain a copy of my submission to the Province of Ontario's Select Committee on Alternative Fuels of February 20th 2002, in which I outline some of the National and Provincial Council of Women policies and recommendations regarding the issues and potential for renewable energy sources, drop me an e mail at **jrjanes@sympatico.ca**, or phone 905 468 2841.