



November 19, 2009

Dear Basil L. Steward, President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities,

On behalf of the Council of Canadians, we would like to encourage the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to send a strong message to the federal government on the importance of an international climate agreement resulting from THE Copenhagen negotiations this December.

We encourage the FCM to do so by ensuring the quick passage of the resolution being tabled at the Environmental Issues Committee on Friday November 20, which builds on the recently passed emergency resolution by the City of London and the *Stockholm Appeal on Climate Change*.

In passing the resolution, the FCM would join other leading cities in Europe and the U.S., alongside EUROCITIES and the United States Conference of Mayors that have endorsed the *Stockholm Appeal on Climate Change*. This appeal and the City of London resolution send a powerful statement to national governments to reach an agreement in Copenhagen and affirm local government's mutual climate protection and sustainability desires.

The Council of Canadians is one of Canada's largest public advocacy organizations, with members and chapters across the country. We work to promote progressive policies on fair trade, clean water, sustainable energy, public health care, and other issues of social and economic concern to Canadians.

The Council of Canadians believes the world needs a strong agreement that achieves deep emission reductions and advances climate justice, which is why we will be present and active in Copenhagen during climate negotiations. A strong agreement means setting the world on path to 350 parts per million – reported as the highest safe level of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere by leading climate scientists.

Our organization joins numerous others in recognizing that advancing climate justice includes: commitments for deeper domestic emissions reductions by Global North countries, ensuring the rights of peoples affected by climate change are properly included in negotiations and significant climate financing for the Global South managed in accordance with democratic and equitable principles.

There can be no doubt that the climate crisis demands urgent action at all levels of government - federal, provincial, and municipal - to make the necessary transition to a low carbon future. Local governments will be on the frontline in responding to the negative social, environmental and economic

impacts of the climate crisis. Municipalities are also vital to the effective implementation of actions that transition communities across Canada to a low carbon future.

In passing this resolution, the FCM would be playing a vital leadership role in recognizing the urgency of addressing the climate crisis through an effective international climate agreement at Copenhagen negotiations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maude Barlow".

Maude Barlow
National Chairperson, Council of Canadians

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrea Harden-Donahue".

Andrea Harden-Donahue
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