



Take Charge: A National Day of Action in support of a Canadian Energy Strategy, February 4, 2009

Declaration of Support

Eighty-nine per cent of Canadians agree that Canada should establish an energy policy that provides reliable supplies of oil, gas and electricity at stable prices and protects the environment, even if this means placing restrictions on exports and foreign ownership of Canadian supplies (EnviroNics, April 2008).

On February 4, 2009 for the Council of Canadians' second annual Energy Day of Action, get your municipal, provincial and federal representatives to sign a declaration supporting a Canadian Energy Strategy!

The purpose:

In the lead up to the February 4 day of action, work with your chapter to get politicians at all levels of government to sign this declaration. You can print copies of the declaration for signature and deliver them (either by mail or fax) to your regional organizer when they are signed.

On February 4, the Council of Canadians will **publicly launch** this important campaign action. We plan to release the number of declarations signed across the country. Getting declarations signed will continue to be an energy campaign tool beyond this year's day of action.

By collecting signatures supporting this declaration, chapter activists are helping to build a groundswell of support for a Canadian Energy Strategy and policies that are in line with the goals of energy security and ecological sustainability. This will provide the groundwork for following up with elected officials on community, regional and national energy demands in line with the declaration.

The plan:

Use the materials in this toolkit to help prepare a group of citizens to meet with elected officials and request the declaration be signed. Bring copies of the declaration to events you know elected officials will be attending. Alternatively, work with your regional organizer to divide up a list of politicians at all levels of government in your province and assign chapter members the challenge of getting the declaration signed by a specific individual. Talk to your regional organizer about developing a strategy to encourage the signing of this declaration.

Timeline:

Please ensure that you submit all of the signed declarations to your regional organizer no later than **Thursday, January 29, 2009**

Contact your regional organizer at:

British Columbia-Yukon: 1-604-688-8846 (toll free) 1-888-566-3888

Prairies: 1-780-429-4500 (toll free) 1-877-729-4500

Ontario-Quebec: 1-416-979-5554 (toll free) 1-800-208-7156

Atlantic: 1-902-422-7811 (toll free) 1-877-772-7811

Background information:

Faced with climate change and diminishing resources, governments across the world are taking a more active role in developing strategies and policies to protect their energy security, limit the impact on the environment and move away from fossil fuel dependency. Market forces alone cannot satisfy essential energy requirements; the state must assume more responsibility for performing this role. Although the Conservative government often refers to our country as an energy super power, Canada does not have an energy strategy, and our country does not have strategic petroleum reserves or an energy sharing arrangement. Free trade agreements and free market rules have helped create a situation where energy production and consumption in Canada are disconnected – where Canada imports almost half of its oil needs, even though Canada exports two-thirds of the oil it produces to the U.S. Meanwhile, 89 per cent of Canadians agree that Canada should establish an energy policy that provides reliable supplies of oil, gas and electricity at stable prices and protects the environment, even if this means placing restrictions on exports and foreign ownership of Canadian supplies (Envionics, April 2008).

DECLARATION OF SUPPORT

I support the development of a Canadian Energy Strategy based on the principles of energy security and ecological sustainability. This includes energy policy that is guided by the public interest in ensuring Canadians' access to energy resources and helps transition to more sustainable energy production and consumption in a manner that is good for the environment and people. The federal government must work collaboratively with provincial, territorial, municipal governments and First Nations to ensure Canadians' energy security is met. Governments must find ways to reduce fossil fuel dependency, improve energy conservation and efficiency, and support renewable energy production.

Signed,

