



## CCL Monthly Conference Call, Saturday, September 6, 2014

Groups meet at 9:45am PT / 12:45pm ET

**Call-in number: 1-866-642-1665: Pass code 440699#**

The international conference call starts at 10:00 am PT/1:00 pm ET **SHARP!**

The conference call part of the meeting is a little over an hour long and the groups meet for another hour after that to plan actions.

**Instructions:** Sign on to the call at least five minutes before the start time. When you first get on the call, announce your name, city and how many people are in the room.

*Rear Adm. Len Hering (ret.), Center for Sustainable Energy*



Rear Admiral Len Hering Sr. (ret.) joins our next call to talk about the impact that climate change is having on national security. Hering is Executive Director of the Center for Sustainable Energy in San Diego. During his career in the Navy, Hering built a team that reduced energy consumption by nearly 42%, diverted 75% of Navy waste from landfills and reduced water consumption by more than one billion gallons. He instigated wind, thermal, photovoltaic and conversion technology at all levels in Navy facilities.

### **Actions:**

1. In solidarity with CCL USA and [Climate Fast\\*](#), **write** your MP mentioning the UN Climate Summit this month and the need for Canada to lead on solutions with carbon fee and dividend.
2. Early in the week of September 14 **phone** and then **email** your MP's Ottawa office and ask her/him to carefully study MP Chong's bill, The Reform Act and work together across party lines to bring the goals of the Reform Act into law.
3. Register early for our upcoming national conference and lobbying days using old-fashioned snail mail.

**Special for the Global Climate March on September 21:** Please contact [reports@citizensclimatelobby.ca](mailto:reports@citizensclimatelobby.ca) if you are planning to attend a local Global Climate March event or if you are going to New York City for the big event.

**Ongoing** – continue building a relationship with the editorial board of your local newspaper by submitting letters to the editor and an upcoming editorial packet on the UN Climate Summit (mid-next week).

\*There is a week-long Climate Fast in Ottawa taking place from Sept 28th to Oct 2nd. Please visit their website <http://climatefast.ca/> to find out how to support this important initiative.

# Leadership on global climate action

In 2010, Canada and the USA signed the weak and non-binding Copenhagen Accord to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Currently, Canada is not on track to meet this international commitment<sup>1</sup>. Even though the Minister of the Environment is on record indicating that the Canadian government is going to fulfill our non-binding commitment in the Copenhagen Accord, details have not been forthcoming<sup>2</sup>.

In 2012, Canada formally withdrew from the Kyoto protocol. Interestingly, a 2013 Canada2020 climate poll revealed that 76% of Canadians believe Canada should sign an international climate change agreement, even if it means doing so before China and the USA<sup>3</sup>.

Nations of the world will gather in Paris in late 2015<sup>4</sup> to sign an agreement in which countries will commit to emissions targets that will limit the risks of global warming.

It has been reported<sup>5</sup> that President Obama is pursuing another non-binding global climate treaty and will rely on a “name and shame” approach to make countries comply with targets for emissions reductions. Obama is reportedly pursuing “voluntary” goals because the US Senate is unlikely to ratify, with a two-thirds majority, any binding agreement. Treaties that do not have the force of law do not require Senate ratification in the USA.

In relying on a “name and shame” approach for compliance, however, the world runs a great risk of failing to cut emissions to levels that avoid catastrophic consequences.

The future of our world and its ability to sustain all forms of life cannot be left to such chance. If a voluntary treaty emerges in Paris next year at the urging of the U.S., then Canada can provide the leadership for the world to meet its emissions goals.

For starters, Canada can lead by example, by implementing a steadily-rising fee on carbon-based fuels that returns revenue to households. By including border tariffs<sup>6</sup> on goods from nations that lack an equivalent price on carbon, we provide a strong economic incentive for other nations to follow that lead.

In the run up to the Paris agreement next year, Canada can avoid the “name and shame” and reestablish its climate leadership by enacting carbon fee-and-dividend legislation.

MP \_\_\_\_\_, would you support Carbon Fee and Dividend legislation if it was introduced in the House of Commons?

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<sup>1</sup> [http://unfccc.int/files/national\\_reports/non-annex\\_i\\_natcom/submitted\\_natcom/application/pdf/final\\_nc\\_br\\_dec20,\\_2013%5B1%5D.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/national_reports/non-annex_i_natcom/submitted_natcom/application/pdf/final_nc_br_dec20,_2013%5B1%5D.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Is Harper committed to the Copenhagen targets? <http://www.macleans.ca/politics/is-the-harper-government-committed-to-its-copenhagen-targets/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.canada2020.ca/climatepoll/>

<sup>4</sup> Five Things to Know About the Climate Talks, from The Hill: <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/216285-climate-talks-five-things-to-know>

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/27/us/politics/obama-pursuing-climate-accord-in-lieu-of-treaty.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/27/us/politics/obama-pursuing-climate-accord-in-lieu-of-treaty.html?_r=1)

<sup>6</sup> CCLU webinar on border tax adjustments can be viewed on YouTube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=suC923ODptQ>

# Write to your MP in connection with UN Climate Summit

On September 23, world leaders will gather at the United Nations for a one-day Climate Summit, an event intended to generate momentum for the current negotiations that will lead to a global climate treaty late next year in Paris. With the summit, and events surrounding it like the **People's Climate March**, being in the news, this is an opportune time to write to MPs to urge their leadership on climate change.

## At your meeting this month:

- Write letters to your MP.
- Plan a letter-writing event in your community.

## Outline for letter:

- Introduce yourself and share something personal about who you are.
- Thank the MP and their staff for anything they may have done recently.
- Mention that the attention of the world is focused this month on world leaders who are attending the UN Climate Summit.
- Tell them it's time for Parliament to demonstrate leadership by enacting a fee on carbon that gives revenue back to households.
- Ask for a reply.

## Points you can bring up (use no more than two):

- Mention some of the ways that climate change is affecting your region.
- At the UN Climate Summit on Sept. 23, world leaders –will speak about their nations' efforts to contain global warming. It's important that Canada be seen as a leader in this movement and that we can follow through on our commitments.
- Express your dismay that Prime Minister Harper has not yet confirmed his attendance at UN Climate on September 23.
- The New York Times reported on Aug. 26<sup>th</sup> that Obama will seek a climate treaty with voluntary goals because the President does not believe the Senate will ratify a binding agreement. This is disappointing and creates the risk that the world will fall far short in efforts to limit carbon pollution and the warming it causes.
- Even if a climate treaty is non-binding, Canada can help ensure the world reaches much needed goals by leading with a strong policy that puts an escalating fee on carbon. Border adjustments on goods from nations that do not price carbon will provide a strong economic incentive for other countries to follow our lead.
- Carbon fee-and-dividend is a solution supported by a number of conservative, free-market economists, like former Secretary of State George Shultz – who maintain that the market will move away from polluting sources of energy if we fix the distortion that currently exists in the price of fossil fuels. They say this distortion exists because the price of dirty energy does not reflect the damage done to society.
- A recent study from Regional Economic Models, Inc. shows that the US can reduce emissions AND add jobs to the economy, provided we put a rising fee on carbon-based fuels and return the revenue from that fee to households.
- The REMI study found that with a fee on carbon starting at \$10 per ton of CO<sub>2</sub> and rising \$10 per ton each year, in 20 years we can reduce emissions to 50 percent below 1990 levels. By giving all revenue back to households, the fee-and-dividend solution provides an economic stimulus that adds 2.8 million jobs to the American economy over those 20 years.
- British Columbia has a carbon tax that recycles the revenue back to citizens. A recently released five year study on BC's carbon tax found BC's per capita fossil fuel use has decreased while BC's GDP growth slightly outpaced the rest of the country.
- Consider personalizing this month's laser talk "**Leadership on Global Climate Action**" if you are at a loss for words.

## Call and email your MP and ask him/ her to support The Reform Act

When CCL lobbied Conservative MP Michael Chong (Wellington - Halton Hills) in June 2014, he asked CCL to support the Reform Act. The Reform Act will strengthen the capacity of our MPs to represent our views in Ottawa. Thus, after much thought, we agreed to support it.

**This action is time sensitive:** the bill will probably go for second reading in the House of Commons early the week of September 15 when Parliament resumes.

**The action:** Using the Laser Talk on the next page, call and then email your MP's Ottawa office and ask them to consider supporting the Reform Act.

### Why we feel this is an important bill for climate lobbyists to support?

A major obstacle for our MPs to act on climate change in Parliament is the weakened the role of MPs and the centralized power in the party leaders.

### Background

Since the early 1970s the roles of MPs have progressively weakened. The Reform Act is a federal bill designed to re-balance power in the House of Commons and strengthen our democracy. The bill strives to make our MPs and political parties more representative, responsible and accountable to Canadians.

In Canada, unlike the US, citizens exercise only one vote at the national level: A vote for their local MP. Canadians rightfully expect that their local member be able to represent their views in Ottawa, and not the other way around.

### The *Reform Act* proposes three simple reforms to improve Parliament:

1. It would **remove the party leader's ability to veto local MP nominations**, making sure MPs can speak freely without fear that the party leader will force them out before the next election, and putting the power of candidate nominations back in the hands of local constituencies.
2. It will help keep party leaders in check by giving the **MPs in each party the power to trigger a leadership review vote and remove abusive leaders from power.**
3. It would give MPs, not the party leader, the final say over whether a given MP should be permitted to sit in their caucus.

The Prime Minister and other party leaders would still be immensely powerful under the proposals in the *Reform Act*. It's just that they wouldn't be *all* powerful.

The ideas in this bill are not new ideas, but very old ones. They are the ideas that Canada's democratic institutions were founded upon in the 1840s, after the Rebellions of 1837.

If enacted, the *Reform Act* would restore Parliament to the way it worked in Canada for many decades. It would strengthen Baldwin and LaFontaine's principle of responsible government, making the government more accountable to the people's elected representatives.

Furthermore, many of the reforms proposed in the *Reform Act* are similar to current practices in other Westminster parliaments in Australia, New Zealand and the UK.

### References:

<http://michaelchong.ca/2014/04/07/reform-act-2014-backgrounder/>

# Laser Talk

MP \_\_\_\_\_, I call on you to carefully study Mr. Chong's bill, The Reform Act and work together across party lines to bring the goals of the Reform Act into law.

Michael Chong's Reform Act represents a rare opportunity to meaningfully improve our democracy and make our Parliament work better for all Canadians.

I rightfully expect that you are able to represent my views in Ottawa, including my views on carbon pricing. The Reform Act will strengthen your capacity to do so.

Thank you for your time.

# The Reform Act

Giving you and your MP a stronger voice.

ACTION #3

# Register early for Carbon Fee Prosperity using snail mail

The Second Annual Citizens' Climate Lobby (Canada) Conference and Lobbying days

Saturday November 22, 2014 to Monday, November 24, 2014

Ottawa City Hall, 110 Laurier Avenue West, K1P 1J1 and the Parliament Buildings

Please keep [referring back to the conference webpage](#) as we will be updating it as we get more details.

## Saturday, November 22, 2014 – Ottawa City Hall

**Room:** Jean Pigott Place (main foyer) and another room (TBA) Ottawa City Hall

**Morning** - CCL Groups Leaders gather - activities TBA

**1:00 - 6:00** - Opening and welcome. CCL training and empowerment with Mark Reynolds - Executive Director of Citizens

**7:00 to 11:00 pm** - Social details TBA



## Sunday, November 23, 2014 – Ottawa City Hall

**Room:** Jean Pigott Place (main foyer)

- 10 am - Welcome
- 10:15 am - Canadian Climate Scientist Dr. Katharine Hayhoe will Videoconference in and share with us how to communicate climate change to evangelical Christians.
- TBA
- **Noon** - lunch on your own or Funders' Lunch (\$200.00 additional)
- **First Part** - Keynote Speaker Tom Rand re: [Waking the Frog](#)
- Short break
- **Second Part** - facilitated panel discussion on carbon pricing with [Stewart Elgie](#), [David Robinson](#), and more
- Nutrition Break and Socializing with panelists
- **3:45** - We are working on this part ... Interesting things incubating - yet to be finalized

## Monday, November 24, 2014 - Parliament Hill

Lobbying all day

7:00 pm - reception - Courtyard Marriot in the Byward Market

### Snail-Mail registration has now opened.

It is \$99\* (CDN) for the three day conference. The Funders' lunch is an additional \$200 (CDN).

[Please use this form to register.](#)

Send your check and completed form to:

The National Office of Citizens' Climate Lobby (Canada)

80 Elm Street, Sudbury, ON, P3E IT2

Please send an email to [cathy@citizensclimatelobby.ca](mailto:cathy@citizensclimatelobby.ca) when you send in snail mail registration to give her a head's up.

\*The conference fee can be waived for CCL members that are students and people living on low incomes. Contact [cathy@citizensclimatelobby.ca](mailto:cathy@citizensclimatelobby.ca) if you would like to have fees waived for you or someone in your group.

**Important:** Please note registration for the conference is separate from lodging. The Courtyard by Marriott Ottawa in the Byward Market is our conference hotel. Please indicate that you are part of the Citizens' Climate Lobby conference when registering at the hotel to get the conference rate (\$119.00 CDN). Registering for the conference **rate will be available after September 15, 2014.** The rate will be fixed until October 22, 2014.

Courtyard by Marriott Ottawa, 350 Dalhousie Street Ottawa, Ontario, K1N 7E9

Tel: 613-241-1000 Sales Hotel Fax: 613-241-4804

## TRAVELLING BY TRAIN TO THE CONFERENCE?

**VIA Rail Canada is participating as a major ground transportation company for the Citizens' Climate Lobby (Canada) conference. The following are the details pertaining to our conference fare: 12954**

**VALID:** November 14 to December 6, 2014

**TERRITORY:** From all stations throughout the VIA system to **Ottawa, Ontario** and return.

**RESTRICTIONS:** Fare applies to a maximum of two passengers per booking. One complimentary stopover is allowed at no additional charge. For travel on all fare plans in Business class, the first stopover is allowed at no additional charge, provided that this stopover takes place in Toronto, Montréal or Ottawa only.

**DISCOUNT:** **10% off the best available fare in Economy, Economy Plus, Business, Business Plus, Sleeper, or Sleeper Plus class.** "Subject to the conditions and restrictions of the fare plan to which the additional discount is being applied."

**EXCEPTION:** Discount does not apply in any **Escape Class fares.**

**IDENTIFICATION:** Participants must reference the event's VIA convention discount code: **12954.**

### INFORMATION TO COMMUNICATE TO PARTICIPANTS:

**Online booking tips >>** You have to log in to your profile, or create one prior to booking. On the Passenger information screen, select "Convention fare" from the "Discount Type" drop-down menu, and enter the discount code for your convention or event in the "Discount code" field. This code has been given to you by the conference organizer. The conference fare will be shown on the next page.



# VIA Rail Canada

Thanks to Christine (Red Lake) for arranging the Via Rail special fare for the conference.