CCL Monthly Conference Call, Saturday, Feb. 2, 2013

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

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.

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

Guest speaker: Dr. Martin Tresguerres, Scripps Institution of Oceanography

Our February guest speaker is Dr. Martin Tresguerres, assistant professor at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California San Diego. He’ll shed some light on global warming’s evil twin – ocean acidification, which could lead to a collapse of the marine food chain if left unchecked. Dr. Tresguerres is currently working with a four-year grant from the National Science Foundation to study the effect of ocean acidification on coral. He’ll share some preliminary findings from that study.

Actions:

1) Write letters to the editor asking Canada to take the lead on climate change and not wait for President Obama. Use this month's laser talk as a guideline. The date to expect President Obama to be in the news again speaking of climate change is February 13, when he gives his State of the Union address.

2) Eat an elephant. How does one eat an elephant? - one bite at a time. For the new people to Canada's CCL make yourself comfortable with CCL's KISS Principle on how we are creating the political will for a livable world. Continue to foster the relationship with your MP this month. Ask her or him to sign the CLIMATE FAST PLEDGE if they have not already done so. Additionally, get 27 people to sign one of our parliamentary petitions on climate change and ask your MP to read it aloud in the House of Commons. These are both ongoing actions at Canada's Citizens Climate Lobby and were designed in part to help us build relationships with our MPs.
Canada should take the lead on climate change and not wait for President Obama

In his inaugural speech and in his State of the Union address President Obama said "we will respond to the threat of climate change". Lacking a legislative solution from Congress, President Obama will turn to regulation to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels.

Given Canada's consistent alignment with US climate and energy policies, the Harper Government would probably follow the US lead. However regulation of pollutants is a method most small "c" conservatives hate because it makes for bigger government and it is expensive.

The regulatory approach would become unnecessary, however, with the passage of a steadily-rising tax on the CO2 content of fossil fuels. A clear and predicable price on carbon pollution would use the power of the market to speed the transition to clean energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Returning revenue from the tax to households would shield consumers from the economic impact of rising energy costs associated with the carbon tax.

Coupled with a tariff on goods from nations that lack similar carbon-pricing, the carbon tax would also achieve something unattainable through regulation – motivation for other nations, such as our neighbours to the south, to initiate policies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In a well researched Reuters article in early January, former US Presidential Candidate Ralph Nader reported that 33 countries in 2013 will have some form of a carbon tax in place: countries such as Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, India, Finland, the Netherlands, France, Slovenia, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Switzerland, the UK, the Republic of Ireland, Costa Rica, Brazil and South Africa. As well, China is experimenting with seven different pilot carbon pricing programs with a view to rolling out the best model nationally by 2015.

Our future King, Prince Charles in response to the environmental crises facing humanity, has officially stated on his website: "to continue with "business as usual" is an act of suicide on a gargantuan scale."

Canada should take the lead on the climate crisis in North America, not wait for the United States and become the 34th country with a carbon tax in 2013.
ACTION #1
Canada should take the lead on climate change and not wait for President Obama

In his second inaugural speech, President Obama said, “We will respond to the threat of climate change, knowing that failure to do so would betray our children and future generations.”

On Feb. 12, Obama will deliver his State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress. We anticipate he will have more to say on the topic of climate change, perhaps identifying the steps he intends to take to address the problem.

This will be widely reported in newspapers across the North America, offering us a major opportunity for letters to the editor.

At your meetings this month, begin drafting the letter to the editor (LTE) that you will send the morning after the President’s address. The opening of your letter, which will need to be finished after Obama’s speech, should make reference to what the President said about climate change in the State of the Union address. After that, there are numerous talking points that can be brought up. You only need to pick two or three points:

- Between the record heat and numerous climate-related disasters that unfolded in 2012, it’s clear that our nation must take steps to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that are warming up our planet.
- Lacking a legislative solution, the US President will turn to regulation. Small “c” conservatives, who abhor regulation, should answer the climate challenge with the free-market approach of a revenue-neutral carbon tax.
- Exxon, Shell and BP have expressed support for a price on carbon. What’s holding back the Harper Government?
- Many conservative economists support a revenue-neutral carbon tax, including Reagan economist Art Laffer and Greg Mankiw, economic advisor to George W. Bush and Mitt Romney.
- David Frum, former speech writer for George W. Bush and son of the late Barbara Frum (CBC Television Journalist and Canadian icon) supports a carbon tax too*
- Former US Presidential Candidate and Consumer Critic Ralph Nader supports a carbon tax, and has reported that 33 countries will have some form of a carbon tax in place by 2013
- Returning revenue from a carbon tax to consumers would speed the transition to clean energy without inflicting economic pain on Canadian households.
- Border adjustment tariffs on goods from nations that don’t price carbon would protect Canadian businesses and give other countries a strong incentive to follow our lead.

Here some quotes that can spice up your LTE:

- In January 2013, his Royal Highness and future King of the Common Wealth, Prince Charles, in response to the environmental crises facing humanity, including humanity has officially stated on his website: ‘to continue with “business as usual” is an act of suicide on a gargantuan scale.’ ***
- At the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, former Chief Economist at the World Bank and author of the UK government commissioned 2006 Stern Review on the economic impacts of climate change said, ‘I got it wrong on climate change – it's far, far worse****
- Also speaking in Davos, Switzerland was Dr. Jim Yong Kim current President of the World Bank. Dr. Kim echoed warnings of the breakdown of civil society if climate change is left unchecked but also said, ”There is a lot of money to be made in building the technologies and bending the arc of climate change.”

Get a list at your meeting of volunteers committed to sending a letter to the editor and assign someone to send a reminder out to folks the morning after President Obama’s address.

* http://www.cnn.com/2012/12/03/opinion/frum-tax-energy/index.html
**ACTION #2**

**Eat an Elephant** - How does one eat an elephant? - one bit at a time. For the new people to Canada's CCL make yourself comfortable with CCL's KISS Principle on how we are creating the political will for a livable world. Basically we proceed one step at a time, keeping it simple and slow.

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**CITIZENS CLIMATE LOBBY UTILIZES THE "KISS" PRINCIPLE**

The methodology employed by Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) is about 30 years old and was developed by RESULTS.

Group leaders generate political will for a livable world in less than 5-10 hours per month.

To stay focused and effective, group leaders need to do only four things with the help of the National and International Office:

**KEY ROLES OF CCL GROUP LEADERS:**

1) create a small group of people around you to help you with the CCL's monthly actions
2) develop a relationship with your MP around the issue of climate change with your volunteers
3) develop a relationship with your local media around the issue of climate change with your volunteers

**THE ADDED BONUS:**

4) Listen to and participate in teleconference calls. The weekly group leaders calls and the monthly international calls are empowering. These calls are how we get to know each other so that we can support each other.

The CCL diaspora and the regular and facilitated teleconference phone calls are the most valuable aspects of Citizens Climate Lobby. Connecting with people across Canada, the USA and the world who care so deeply about planet Earth is magical.

*Thanks to all our group leaders for being on the journey from me to we!*

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**Two ways you can continue to foster a relationship with your MP are by asking her or him to:**

1) **Sign the Climate Fast Pledge**
2) **The Ongoing Parliamentary Petition Project**

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1) **Sign the Climate Fast Pledge**

Note that this was our November 2012 action and it is ongoing. All instructions are on website here: [http://citizensclimatelobby.ca/node/122](http://citizensclimatelobby.ca/node/122)

Many thanks to the Climate Fasters for creating this action and Hamilton 350 for supporting it in November!

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- Below is a sample letter, which we encourage you to personalize. You can copy the code below and paste it into your email.
- Please send a copy of your message to [ClimateFast@ClimateFast.ca](mailto:ClimateFast@ClimateFast.ca)
- If you do not know the name and/or contact information for your Member of Parliament you can find it using this form (you will need your postal code) on the [House Of Commons Website](http://www.parl.gc.ca/)
- Below the letters are a list of MPs and Senators who have signed the pledge as of November 26, 2012

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**Suggested follow-up:** Thank your MP’s personally and very PUBLICALLY in a letter to the editor. Our national Manager thanked her MP Glenn Thibeault for signing the Climate Fast Pledge in Sudbury’s *Northern Life Newspaper*. Note especially how she highlighted that not one Conservative MP in Canada would sign the pledge. Be sure to check in with the National CCL Office in Canada (cathy@citizensclimatelobby.ca) for updates on who has signed the pledge recently as it is difficult to stay on top of everything.
I am writing to you as my Member of Parliament.

I want you to know that I am very concerned about the impact global warming will have upon our children’s future and the world they live in.

I want to know that you will take action for three needed changes:

1. End fossil fuel subsidies
2. Put a price on carbon
3. Support the development of a renewable energy plan for Canada

These changes will give me greater confidence in our shared future.

Can you assure me that you will work for these changes in the upcoming Parliamentary session?

Sincerely

(your name and address here)

la version française

Vous trouverez, ci-dessous, une lettre modèle, que nous vous encourageons à modifier avec vos propres paroles. Vous pouvez copier le texte ci-dessous et la coller dans votre message courriel.

Veuillez nous envoyer une copie de votre message, au ClimateFast@ClimateFast.ca

Si vous ne connaissez pas le nom et/ou les coordonnées de votre député(e), vous les trouverez ici, à partir de votre code postal : http://www.parl.gc.ca/Parlinfo/Compilations/HouseOfCommons/MemberByPostal... (Site du Parlement)

Monsieur/Madame,

Je vous écris puisque vous êtes mon député(e).

Je veux que vous sachiez que je suis très soucieux/soucieuse de l’impact qu’aura le réchauffement de la planète sur l’avenir de nos enfants et sur leur monde.

Je veux savoir que vous faites tout ce qui est possible afin de mettre en vigueur ces trois changements nécessaires:

• Mettre fin aux subventions des combustibles fossiles.
• Imposer un prix sur le carbone.
• Soutenir le développement d’un plan d’énergie renouvelable pour le Canada

Ces changements me rendront plus optimiste quant à notre avenir partagé.

Pouvez-vous m’assurer que vous mettez tout en œuvre afin d’effectuer ces changements pendant cette session parlementaire?

Bien à vous,

(votre nom et adresse ici)
**LIBERAL SIGNATURES**

**PLEASE DOUBLE CHECK THE SCROLL ON THE HOMEPAGE OF THE CLIMATE FAST FOR UPDATES and to cross check for possible mistakes -- the data was collated by humans**

**WESTERN CANADA**
- Joyce Murray – Vancouver/Quedra
- Mark Eysing – Sydney / Victoria
- Kevin Lamoureux – Winnipeg North

**GTA**
- Bob Rae – Toronto, Ontario
- Carolyn Bennett – St. Paul’s
- Kirsty Duncan – Etobicoke North
- Judy Sgro, York West
- John McKay, Scarborough – Guildwood

**SOUTHERN & EASTERN ONTARIO (not GTA)**
- John McCallum – Markham Unionville
- Frank Valeriote – Guelph
- Ted Hsu – Kingsport & the Islands

**QUÉBEC**
- Francis Scarpaleggia – Lac St. Louis
- Denis Coderre – Bourassa
- Lise St. Denis Saint-Maurice-Champlain
- Irwin Cotler – Mount Royal
- Massimo Pacetti, St Leonard, St Michel

**THE EAST COAST**
- Scott Brison – Kings Hants
- Geoff Regan – Halifax West
- Dominic LeBlanc – NB
- Wayne Easter – Malpeque Nfld
- Judy Foote – Random Burin St Nfld
- Sean Casey – PEI

**New Brunswick**
- 22 MP’s to date

**SENATORS**
- Grant Mitchell – Alberta
- Bob Peterson – Sask
- Maria Chaput – Manitoba
- Frank Mahovlich – Northern Ontario
- Marie Charette-Poulin – Nord Oit
- Art Eggleton – Toronto
- Celine Hémiex-Payette – Que

- Elizabeth Hardisty – PEI
- Fernand Robichaud – New Brunswick
- Joseph Day – New Brunswick
- Wilfred Moore – Nova Scotia
- Jane Cordy – Nova Scotia
- George Furey – Nfld

- 13 Senators

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**NDP SIGNATURES**

**PLEASE DOUBLE CHECK THE SCROLL ON THE HOMEPAGE OF THE CLIMATE FAST FOR UPDATES and to cross check for possible mistakes -- the data was collated by humans**

**WESTERN CANADA**
1. Libby Davies – Vancouver East
2. Nathan Cullen – Skeena Bulkley Valley
3. Alex Atamanenko – BC South Int
4. Jenny Sinns – Newton North Delta
5. Peter Julian – Burnaby New Westminster
6. Dennis Bevington – Western Arctic
7. Niki Ashton – Churchill
8. Linda Duncan – Edmonton-Strathcona
9. Jean Crowder – Nanaimo-Cowichan
10. Pat Martin – Winnipeg Centre

**GTA**
11. Peggy Nash – Parkdale High Park
12. Dan Harris – Scarborough Southwest
13. Andrew Cash, Davenport
14. Craig Scott, Toronto Danforth
15. Mike Sullivan, York South-Weston
16. Rathika Sitsabaiesan – Scarborough, Rouge River
17. Olivia Chow-Trinity-Spadina
18. Mathew Kellway – Beaches East York

**ONTARIO (not GTA)**
19. Paul Dewar – Ottawa Centre
20. Wayne Marston – Hamilton East
21. Glenn Thibeault, Sudbury
22. Carol Hughes – Algoma, Manituwin
23. Claude Gravelle, Nickel Belt
24. Charlie Angus, Timmins James Bay
25. John Rafferty – Thunderbay
26. Dave Christopherson – Hamilton Centre
27. Chris Charlton – Hamilton Mountain
28. Irene Mathyssen – London Fanshawe
29. Brian Masse – Windsor West

**QUÉBEC**
30. Megan Leslie, Halifax
31. Ryan Cleary, St John’s South Mount Pearl
32. Peter Stofer, Nova Scotia (Sackville eastern shore)
33. Robert Chisholm, Dartmouth-Colbourne
34. Yvon Godin, Acadiachathurst New Brunswick
35. Guy Caron, Rimouski Negetoie-Temiscouata-Les Basques
36. Sana Hassainia, Vercheres-Les Patriotes
37. Francois Lapointe, Montmagny L’Islet Kamouraska Riviere du Loup
38. Mylene Freeman, Argenteuil Papineau-Mirabel
39. Laurin Liu – Rivier des Nîmes Isles
40. Pierre-Luc Dutseault, Sherbrooke
41. Elaine Michaud – Portneuf – Jacques Cartier
42. Pierre Nantel, Longueuil-Pierrefonds
43. Ruth-Ellen Brosseau – Berthier-Maskinonge
44. Jean-Francois Larose, Repentigny
45. Matthew Dube – Chambly-Bordas
46. Paulina Ayala - Honoré-Mercier
47. Alexandra Latendresse – Louis St. Laurent
48. Francois Choquette – Drummond
49. Dany Morin – Chicoutimi-Le Fjord
50. Anne Marie Day, Charlesbourg Haute Saint Charles
51. Robert Aubin, Trois-Rivieres
52. Eve Peelot, La Pointe de l’ile

**SENATORS**
63. Anne Minh Thu Quach, Beaus;banois Salaberry
64. Raymond Cote, Beauport Limoilou
65. Pierre-Jacob, Brome-Missisquoi
66. Hoang Mai, Brossard La Prairie
67. Marjolaine Bouthin-Sweet, Hochelaga
68. Annick Papillon, Quebec
69. Denis Blanchette, Louis-Hébert
70. Djouadji Sallah, St. Bruno – St. Hubert
71. Philip Toone, Gaspesie, Ile de la Madeleine
72. Nycole Turmel, Hull-Aylmer
73. Alexandre Boulerice, Rosemont La Petite Patrie
74. Jean Rousseau – Compton-Stanstead
75. Jonathan Tremblay, Montmorency Charlevoix-Adriatic Nord
76. Christine Moore – Abitibi-Temiscamingue
77. Sylvain Chicoine, Chateauguay Saint-Constant
78. Jose Nunes-Melo, Laval
79. Francois Pilon, Laval – Les Iles
80. Jonathan Genest – Jourdain, Manicouagan
81. Jamie Nicholls, Vaugard Soulanges
82. Sadia Gergahi, Saint-Lambert
83. Green indicates new signatures in November as the result of the efforts of MP Jamie Nicholls

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*New - BC MP Jean Crowder - new CCLer Blaise Salmon in Victoria got the latest signature*

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**2) The Ongoing Parliamentary Petition Project**
Note that this was our June 2012 action and it is ongoing.

**Purpose:** to educate some MP’s and C-PAC watchers about the urgency of the climate crisis, impacts and provide hopeful and realistic solutions

- Call your MP’s office
- Identify yourself as a constituent of his/her riding
- Ask if your MP if he/she would be willing read a Parliamentary Petition in its entirety (excluding the name of the signatories) on climate change in the House of Commons
- You can pick one of the versions attached. They have been preapproved
- Print the petition on **legal sized** (8.5 x 17) or regular sized (8.5 x 11) paper
- Make sure there are three lines for signatures on the first page (you may have to format the page to get it to fit)
- Make sure there is a line at the top of every signature page thereafter indicating it is a parliamentary petition for climate change
- get **at least 25 signatures** on the petition - follow the instructions closely
- To be safe get 27 signatures. Once completed, copy it for your files if you wish, bring the original file to your MP’s office in to be read in Parliament
- start a new petition
- if your MP will not read it, we can send it to other MP’s who will happily read it in the House of Commons
- follow-up by asking when it was read in Parliament, how it was received and a big thank you
- Cabinet Ministers are not permitted to read petitions in the House of Commons as it would constitute a "conflict of interest". Thus if your MP is a cabinet Minister you should inform him/her about the petition and ask if he or she could suggest an conservative MP from the province who might read the petition instead.
- for more details please go here: [http://www.parl.gc.ca/About/House/PracticalGuides/Petitions/petitionsPG2008_Pg02-e.htm](http://www.parl.gc.ca/About/House/PracticalGuides/Petitions/petitionsPG2008_Pg02-e.htm)

Please inform us in your **monthly Citizens Climate Lobby field report** when you have completed a petition.

**Resources:**

You can download the petitions from our website on this page here: [http://citizensclimatelobby.ca/content/parliamentary-petition-project](http://citizensclimatelobby.ca/content/parliamentary-petition-project)

Or check the email that accompanied these action sheets.
**Why do we prefer a fee over cap-and-trade?**

Cap and trade is our second favorite solution. We prefer a straightforward fee because it takes no time to set up and requires no additional bureaucracy. It's easy to understand and monitor.

A carbon fee sends a predictable price signal that is not subject to market fluctuations and which enables businesses and consumers to plan their energy investments. Conservative-minded economists like Greg Mankiw, Art Laffer and Robert Reich overwhelmingly agree that a fee is the optimal way to reduce carbon emissions. David Frum, former speech writer for George W. Bush and son of the late Barbara Frum supports a carbon tax too.

By contrast, the current European Union cap-and-trade system places a price on permits so low that it has no impact on emissions. Undoubtedly, the biggest problem is offsets, which are easy to manipulate and extremely difficult to measure and verify. Trying to make compliance inexpensive via offsets is the antithesis of what needs to happen.

Also, the problem of climate change is worldwide and an approach is needed that can accommodate the needs of emerging economies. A fee more easily lends itself to border adjustments between countries with different or no carbon fees, enabling agreements that can be harmonized worldwide.

Sweden imposed a carbon tax in 1990, which is now 100 Euros per ton, a pretty hefty price. Since that time they have reduced emissions while GDP has risen 36%, demonstrating that a substantial fee is effective in reducing emissions without harming the economy.