



Clean Air Act Delivered to Canadians



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OTTAWA – The Conservative Government recently introduced *Canada's Clean Air Act* in Parliament. **“We listened to Canadians. They told us they were concerned about worsening air quality and increasing emissions of greenhouse gases,”** says Environment Minister Rona Ambrose. **“After more than a decade of inaction on the environment by the previous Liberal Government, *Canada's Clean Air Act* is the first step in turning things around to protect the health of Canadians.”**

The Act and subsequent Notice of Intent to regulate demonstrate a clear commitment to the establishment of short-, medium- and long-term industrial air pollution targets. These fixed targets would compel polluters to respect emissions limits and will be at least as stringent as those in other leading environmental countries.

“Previously, voluntary targets were set according to what industry felt they could live with,” explained Minister Ambrose. “This is a historic Act as we are the first government that is regulating and enforcing emission targets. We are doing this with the health of Canadians in mind.”

The Honourable Tony Clement, Minister of Health, noted that smog can worsen existing heart and lung problems and causes thousands of deaths each year. **“The proposed Clean Air Act will go a long way towards improving the health of Canadians,”** added Minister Clement. **“Most vulnerable Canadians such as young children, elderly Canadians, and people who suffer from chronic heart and respiratory illnesses will definitely benefit from our action to improve the quality of the air we breathe.”**

Short-term intensity based greenhouse gas reduction targets would be set in consultation with provinces and territories and all affected industry sectors. This approach will ensure better results for the environment. Additionally, the Government would establish a long-term target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by between 45 and 65 per cent from 2003 levels by 2050.

Under the Clean Air Regulatory Agenda, over the next twelve months, the Government will introduce new regulations pursuant to the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999* to address air pollutants from certain consumer products and vehicles.

Over the next three years, new regulations, targets and timelines will be discussed and set. They will lead to significant and long-term reductions in air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from industry, transportation and consumer products, as well as new standards for energy efficiency in a wide range of everyday products and appliances.

For more information, visit www.jamesmoore.org

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