



November 20, 2009

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, PC, MP
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington St.
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister:

At the Copenhagen climate change summit this December you and other world leaders will have an historic opportunity to commit to actions that help to protect the world's people from the disastrous consequences of climate change.

The Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) urges you to reach a just and sufficient international agreement on climate change that will secure our futures and those of generations to come. The agreement should serve as a bold, strengthened second phase of the Kyoto Protocol. It should commit wealthy industrialized countries to:

- a fair and globally binding commitment to cap and reduce carbon emissions, and
- financial support to developing countries for tackling climate change in their own countries.

In addition, CNA calls on the Government of Canada to:

- set a national target to cut greenhouse gas emissions at least 25 per cent from 1990 levels by 2020, and
- implement an effective national plan to reach this target and to help developing countries to reduce their emissions and adapt to climate change.

CNA is the national professional voice of registered nurses, supporting them in their practice and advocating for healthy public policy and a quality, publicly funded, not-for-profit health system. We are a federation of 11 provincial and territorial nursing associations and colleges representing more than 136,000 registered nurses and nurse practitioners.

Nurses have the skills to support mitigation measures by, for example, promoting behavioural changes by Canadians to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. CNA believes encouraging individuals to change their behaviour must be coupled with supportive government policies and programs that enable Canadians to live healthier lives based on "green" choices.

The nurses of Canada want to see our country play a leadership role this year in Copenhagen. We urge you to act now to make climate change a top priority.

Sincerely,

Kaaren Neufeld, RN, MN
President

cc: The Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of the Environment, Government of Canada