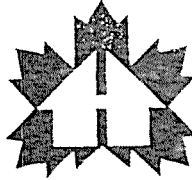


Canadian
Home Builders'
Association



Association
canadienne
des constructeurs
d'habitations

DATE: October 27, 2000

TO: Provincial Association Presidents and Executive Officers

FROM: John Kenward

RED ALERT - CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

Attached you will find the statements released following the Joint Meeting of Energy and Environment Ministers held in Quebec City on October 16-17, 2000. You will note that they are very general statements. As you can imagine, nothing specific is being said in Ottawa because of the election.

At this point, I believe it would be advisable to ask you to do the following:

- Ask your provincial Energy and Environment Ministers what they said at the meeting about the Model National Energy Code for Houses as contained in the Federal Government's Action Plan 2000 on Climate Change.
- Ask your provincial Energy and Environment Ministers if the National Implementation Strategy and the First National Business Plan on Climate Change contain the Federal Government's commitment to upgrading and encouraging the adoption of the Model National Energy Code for Houses.
 - If the MNECH is contained in above documents, and they disagree with this regulatory measure, then why did they approve the National Implementation Strategy and the First National Business Plan (only Ontario refused to sign).
- Ask your provincial Energy and Environment Ministers what measures are contained in their own provincial business plans which have an impact on housing.

As you obtain information, I would appreciate your keeping me informed.

Thank you for your help.

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Ref: 830-704/040

Joint Meeting of Energy and Environment Ministers Québec, Quebec - October 16-17, 2000

CANADIAN GOVERNMENTS RELEASE CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

Quebec City, October 17, 2000 -- Canadian Energy and Environment Ministers* reviewed and approved the final version of the National Implementation Strategy on Climate Change. Ministers also released the First National Business Plan, which sets out concrete measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The National Implementation Strategy and the First National Business Plan are a significant step forward in addressing climate change. Ministers recognize the need to act now -- the impacts of climate change are being felt in Canada now, particularly in the North.

Ministers discussed the importance of the upcoming international negotiations at the Sixth Conference of the Parties (COP6) on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in The Hague in November. Against this background, Ministers also released the First National Business Plan today to demonstrate to the world Canada's resolve to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Many provincial and territorial Ministers confirmed their participation as members of the Canadian delegation to the Conference.

Ministers agreed to continue working collectively in a spirit of trust and partnership, and with a clear, common purpose. The Business Plan is a key element of the National Implementation Strategy and will enable Canada to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing environment.

Ministers* directed that implementation of the First National Business Plan begin immediately. Some jurisdictions have provided details of their actions in appended documents.

The First National Business Plan will address climate change on many fronts: further reductions to Canada's greenhouse gas emissions; enhancing opportunities to store carbon in agricultural soils and forests (removal by sinks); advancing timely and prudent efforts that can reduce the cost of future actions; assessing impacts; identifying adaptation needs; and preparing the basis for future decisions through analysis and options development.

The First National Business Plan draws on the extensive work of 450 experts and input from stakeholder sessions held across the country. This plan also builds on over a decade of action on climate change by all jurisdictions. Improvements in energy efficiency and emissions intensity have resulted from better practices, technology development and increased public awareness, as described in *A Compendium of Canadian Initiatives – Taking Action on Climate Change*.

Ministers directed officials to conduct analytical work, including a full range of options for future business plans, competitiveness issues, implementation in an

integrated national, North American and international economy, disaggregation of modelling results and the discussion of future policy approaches such as domestic emissions trading. This would include possible approaches to provincial/territorial or sectoral allocations of any Canadian target, and how any resulting burden would be shared.

Ministers also announced the implementation of the Baseline Protection Initiative - a key element of removing disincentives to early action. Effective March 1, 2001, companies are encouraged to register their baseline emissions levels with the Voluntary Challenge Registry (VCR) Inc. and/or ÉcoGESte in Québec.

In addition, Ministers directed their officials to develop a cost-shared program for pilots that would allow the purchase of emission reductions in strategic areas; this would involve the various jurisdictions adopting multilateral and bilateral approaches.

Ministers were pleased to see the establishment of pilot 'hubs' - multi-stakeholder Public Education and Outreach Centres or other consultation mechanisms - that will help increase Canadians' awareness and understanding through regionally appropriate outreach activities coordinated across the country.

This National Business Plan is the first in a series that Canada will implement to deal with climate change. Ministers* agreed to submit the draft framework agreement on climate change for approval by their respective governments so that it can be ratified at the next Joint Meeting of Energy and Environment Ministers.

Governments will continue to analyse future policy options and update the plan annually. Ministers agreed to meet again in 2001 to discuss domestic and international progress on addressing climate change.

In closing their meeting, Energy and Environment Ministers agreed that they had made significant progress with respect to climate change.

* Except Ontario

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For more information, please communicate with:

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Conference Information

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GOVERNMENT OF CANADA WELCOMES AGREEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

QUÉBEC — Natural Resources Canada Minister Ralph Goodale and Environment Canada Minister David Anderson today welcomed the agreement by Environment and Energy Ministers from all provinces and territories, except Ontario, on the National Implementation Strategy and the First National Business Plan on Climate Change.

"The National Business Plan will achieve a significant reduction of GHG emissions," said Minister Goodale. "Our approach addresses this important environmental challenge by opening exciting economic opportunities, including the increased use of ethanol, green power and fuel cells."

The Business Plan is a key element of the National Implementation Strategy. It is the first in a series that Canada will implement to address climate change. The Plan calls for action on many fronts: further reductions to Canada's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in all sectors; increasing the use of ethanol; investing in the refuelling infrastructure for fuel cell vehicles; infrastructure enhancing opportunities to store carbon in agricultural soils and forests; investigating the potential of geological storage of carbon dioxide; assessing impacts; identifying adaptation needs; and analyzing policy options such as domestic emissions trading.

The Government of Canada and most provinces and territories contributed actions to the Business Plan. As well, some jurisdictions have provided further detail on their own specific plans. The Government of Canada expects its own *Action Plan 2000* to lead to a 65 megatonne reduction in GHG emissions per year in the period 2008-2012 or one third of Canada's target under the Kyoto Protocol. The actions proposed by other jurisdictions in the National Business Plan will help move Canada even closer to its Kyoto target.

"The Government of Canada is eager to develop stronger partnerships with our provincial and territorial colleagues," said Minister Anderson. "We now have a strong basis to collaborate on initiatives with those governments, with the private sector and with all sectors of Canadian society. This Business Plan will help us do even more; it also will help us deliver on our larger commitment to a healthy environment."

Governments will continue to analyze future policy options and update the Plan. Both Ministers agreed to meet again with their counterparts in the provinces and territories in 2001 to discuss domestic and international progress on addressing climate change.

In order to help increase Canadian's understanding of climate change, the Ministers look forward to the development of pilot 'hubs' through which various partners can work together on public education and outreach activities.

Ministers Goodale and Anderson expressed regret over the Ontario government's decision not to endorse the National Business Plan. They noted that the door remains fully open for Ontario to formally contribute its actions to the National Business Plan in the future.

Canada will participate in November's Sixth Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention (COP6) in The Hague. That conference will seek to finalize the ways Canada and other countries can meet their Kyoto Protocol targets. Finalization of the National Business Plan demonstrates to the world Canada's determination to meet its Kyoto commitment.

The First National Business Plan draws on the extensive work of 450 experts over two years and input from stakeholder sessions held across the country. This plan also builds on over a decade of action on climate change by all jurisdictions. Improvements in energy efficiency and emissions intensity have resulted from better practices, technology development and increased public awareness.

For information, media may contact:

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For a copy of the *National Business Plan on Climate Change*, or the *Government of Canada Action Plan 2000 on Climate Change* or to learn more about climate change, please visit <http://www.climatechange.gc.ca>.

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