



The Honourable Darrell Dexter  
 Office of the Premier  
 1700 Granville Street  
 Halifax, Nova Scotia  
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July 13, 2009

**Re. Council of the Federation Meeting and Climate Change**

Dear Premier Dexter:

We are writing you because, as you know, this is a critical time for making progress on climate change. It is an issue that International negotiations will conclude in Copenhagen in December, giving Canada a tight window within which to formulate its position and to advance national cap and trade design.

The Council of the Federation meeting in Regina in August is a critical building block towards Copenhagen. In the absence of federal leadership, Nova Scotia and other provinces have begun to move forward on developing policy responses that scientists tell us are critical if we are to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. Nova Scotia has shown national leadership most notably with commitments to place absolute caps on the electricity sector, establish a sole purpose independent administrator for energy efficiency, and the strengthening of renewable energy targets. We have just begun to open the door to what is possible. Strong climate policy is an opportunity to secure green jobs and build a sustainable economy and we must learn from jurisdictions that are benefiting from this success.

On the national stage Nova Scotia must act to ensure strong national climate policy. We are therefore writing to encourage you to work with other provinces to make progress at the Council of the Federation session towards these goals:

We are therefore writing to encourage you to work with other provinces to make progress at the Council of the Federation session towards these goals:

- The provinces jointly commit to emission reduction targets of at least 25% below 1990 levels by the year 2020, in line with what scientists tell us are necessary to avoid the worst impacts of climate change;
- The provinces agree that any national cap and trade system must be designed to be effective at reaching those targets and also fair to all economic sectors and regions, and that Aboriginal

peoples must be included in these policy decisions. Oil sands emissions must not be allowed to continue to rise, nor to skew pollution permit allocation and cost, thereby negatively affecting other regions and sectors; and

- In order to include developing countries as part of a strong Copenhagen agreement, the provinces agree to the principle that Canada must do its part to finance international mechanisms under the UNFCCC to support low carbon and climate resilient development that emerge from climate negotiations. Such financing must be democratically governed, accountable, additional to existing and projected Overseas Development Assistance, and accessible by low-income and vulnerable developing countries, civil society, women and indigenous peoples.

We thank you for your ongoing leadership on climate change and look forward to your efforts at the Council of the Federation meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Cheryl Ratchford  
On behalf of the Atlantic Canada Sustainable Energy Coalition (ACSEC)

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