



## **ECOLOGY ACTION CENTRE: REACTION TO ENVIRONMENT CANADA EDUCATION INITIATIVE ANNOUNCEMENT**

HALIFAX (09/14/11) The Ecology Action Centre is pleased to congratulate Environment Canada on the re-release of What a Difference a Degree Makes, an elementary school teaching module designed to educate young Canadians about the causes and impacts of climate change. The program originally ran during the early 1990s, and its re-release could not be more timely.

"Climate change is already having devastating impacts worldwide, and more climate catastrophes will come if governments continue to drag their heels," said Mark Butler from Ecology Action Centre. "Proper climate change education in Canadian schools has previously been neglected by our government, and we hope the re-launch of this education campaign signifies the beginning of a shift in Canadian climate policy."

What a Difference a Degree Makes highlights many of the consequences of climate change: global food and water shortages, climate refugees, and extinctions in the natural world.

"We applaud Environment Canada's efforts to address the problem of climate change through education. Young Canadians will undoubtedly have to cope with significant impacts of climate change in their lifetime. It's important that they understand the basic science, and what's at stake", says Butler. "The cover image of young, crying globe on a melted hockey rink speaks volumes about our government renewing their commitment, and the debt we owe to youth and future generations."

Educational programs such as What a Difference a Degree Makes are important, but are not replacements for a strong climate change strategy. Canada must reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and assist frontline communities at home and abroad cope with the impacts of climate change.