

November 5, 2009

The Honourable Jim Prentice  
Minister  
Environment Canada  
Minister's Office (TLC)  
10 Wellington Street  
Gatineau QC K1A 0H3  
Canada

***Transmission by email: Jim.Prentice@ec.gc.ca***

Dear Minister Prentice:

**RE: Canada's ratification process to support the listing of nine new POPs under the Stockholm Convention on POPs**

We, the undersigned Canadian public interest organizations, are writing to you regarding the important decisions made at the Fourth Conference of the Parties (COP4) under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) held in May, 2009 in Geneva, Switzerland.

At COP4, delegates reached a historic decision to list nine new POPs (i.e., Pentabromodiphenyl ether (Penta BDE); Octabromodiphenyl ether (OctaBDE); Hexabromobiphenyl (HBB); Lindane; Alpha hexachlorocyclohexane (Alpha HCH); Beta hexachlorocyclohexane (Beta HCH); Perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS); Chlordecone; and Pentachlorobenzene (PeCB), for elimination and reduction under the Stockholm Convention. Since Canada, in particular, the Northern region, receives POPs from domestic and international sources, the COP4 decision should provide significant benefits towards protecting the Canadian public and the environment from the impacts of POPs.

We were pleased to see important progress and contributions made by the Canadian delegation at COP4 to ensure that the Stockholm Convention was strengthened and its mandate expanded.

To complement these efforts, we are seeking your official support for the addition of the nine new POPs to the Stockholm Convention. Based on the ratification package prepared by Canada in 2001 for the Stockholm Convention, it is our understanding that Canada must inform the depositary within a year of the decision made at COP4 that it agrees with the listing of these new POPs. As organizations that work on chemical safety issues, we are particularly interested in efforts that promote the elimination mandate under the Stockholm Convention and the commitment made by over 165 Parties under the Convention, to protect human health and the environment from POPs.

We seek your response to this matter and urge the government to submit the required written documents to the depositary to inform them of Canada's agreement to the listing. Furthermore, we urge you to prepare and release a workplan that outlines the development of action plans for the elimination of the POPs and a public engagement component for this undertaking.

As the first country to ratify the Stockholm Convention in 2001, we feel certain that Canada will confirm its commitment to its environment and to protecting the health and safety of Canadians and the global community from the impacts of POPs.

We look forward to the news that Canada has submitted the required legal documents in support of the Stockholm Convention's recent listing of the nine POPs. We thank you in advance for your consideration. If you have any questions on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us (see below for information).

Sincerely yours,



Theresa McClenaghan  
**Canadian Environmental Law Association**  
Tel.: (416) 960-2284 Ext. 219  
Email: Theresa@cela.ca

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**On behalf of the following organizations:**

Sandra Boswell  
**The Allergy and Environmental Illness Group**  
Tel.: (902) 368-1817  
Email: sboswell@pei.sympatico.ca

Janice Melanson  
**Breast Cancer Action Montreal**  
Tel: (514) 483-1846  
Email: info@bcam.qc.ca

Gideon Forman  
**Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment**  
Tel.: (416) 306-2273  
Email: gideon@cape.ca

Sandra Madray  
**Chemical Sensitivities Manitoba**  
Tel.: (204) 256-9390  
Email: madray@mts.net

Derek Coronado  
**Citizens Environment Alliance of southwestern Ontario**  
Tel.: (519) 973-1116  
Email: dcoronado@cogeco.net

Mary Richardson  
**Crooked Creek Conservancy Society of Athabasca**  
Tel: (780) 675-3144  
Email: marygrichardson@gmail.com

Graeme Bousada  
**Eco-Action, Mount Allison University**  
Tel.: (506) 939-2330  
Email: gwousada@mta.ca

Elaine MacDonald  
**Ecojustice**  
Tel.: (416) 368-7533 Ext. 27  
Email: emacdonald@ecojustice.ca

Aaron Schneider  
**Ecology Action Centre**  
Tel.: (902) 929-2063  
Email: aaronschn@yahoo.ca

David J. Parker  
**EDMONTON FRIENDS of the NORTH ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY**  
Tel.: (780) 469-1448  
Email: voa@telusplanet.net

Rick Smith  
**Environmental Defence**  
Tel.: (416) 323-9521  
Email: rsmith@environmentaldefence.ca

Louise Lettstrom-Hannant  
**Environmental Health Association of Ontario**  
Tel.: (613) 747-1514 or (613) 860-2342  
Email: office@ehaontario.ca

John Jackson  
**Great Lakes United**  
Tel.: (519) 744-7503  
Email: jjackson@glu.org

Anna Tilman  
**International Institute of Concern for Public Health**  
Tel.: (905) 841-0095  
Email: annatilman@sympatico.ca

Soha Kneen  
**Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami**  
Tel.: (613) 238-8181  
Email: kneen@itk.ca

Olga Speranskaya  
**KAN Centre for Environment and Development**  
Tel.: (416) 972-9200  
Email: speransk2004@mail.ru

Barbara McElgunn RN  
**Learning Disabilities Association of Canada**  
Tel.: (416) 281-9676  
Email: mcelgunnb@rogers.com

Anne Rochon Ford  
**National Network on Environments and Women's Health, York University**  
Tel: (416) 651-7218 (M, T, W, F);  
(416) 736-2100 ext. 20713 (Th)  
Email: annerf@sympatico.ca

Julie Sommerfreund  
**Pollution Probe**  
Tel.: (416) 926-1907  
Email: jsommerfreund@pollutionprobe.org

Diana Daghofer  
**Prevent Cancer Now**  
Tel.: (250) 362-5810  
Email: diana@preventcancer.ca

Delores Broten  
**Reach for Unbleached**  
Tel.: (250) 339-6117  
Email: dbroten@rfu.org

Paule Hjertaas  
**Saskatchewan Network for Alternatives to Pesticides (SNAP Inc)**  
Tel.: (306) 584-2835  
Email: dp.hjertaas@sasktel.net

Sean Griffin  
**Toxic Free Canada**  
Tel: (604) 669-1921  
Email: seang@telus.net

Jim Brophy and Margaret Keith  
**Toxic Free Canada - Ontario**  
Emails: jimbrophy@yahoo.com and  
margkeith@yahoo.com

Jocelyn Schaffer  
**Women's Healthy Environments Network (WHEN)**  
Tel. : (416) 928-0880  
Email: office@womenshealthyenvironments.ca