



August 27, 2002

VIA FACSIMILE

The Right Honourable Jean Chrétien, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
Langevin Block
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A3

Dear Prime Minister:

We are writing in response to your comments last week in Saguenay that the government of Canada will “probably” ratify the Kyoto Protocol. Over the past few months, each of our organizations has been in touch with your government to raise the very real concerns of our members regarding this Protocol and the potential impact that a hasty decision could have on Canada’s economy and standard of living. Recent comments from you and other representatives of your government indicate that it is important to restate these concerns through this letter, providing a common voice of business.

Our organizations represent companies of all sizes and sectors in all regions of Canada, and collectively they account for the vast majority of Canada’s investment, exports and employment. All Canadians have a tremendous stake in the outcome of this important issue and the business community is committed to a Canadian strategy on climate change that can make a meaningful contribution to a vital global challenge while also enhancing Canada’s prosperity. Canadian companies already have demonstrated their commitment by significantly improving energy efficiency in their operations, by switching to less carbon-intensive fuels and by developing and adopting new technologies that can foster economic and environmental progress.

Last year, you committed your government to full consultation with the provinces and territories, with businesses and other stakeholders in Canada before deciding on ratification. While the process of analysis and consultation is underway, it has not been completed, and we urge you to carry out due diligence prior to making a decision of such far-reaching consequence. The government still has not laid out a concrete plan indicating the policies that it will utilize to implement the Kyoto Protocol. Nor has there

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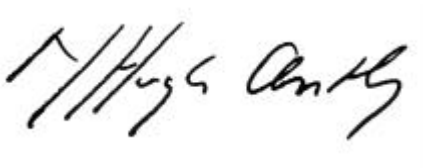
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been adequate discussion with businesses, provincial, territorial and local governments, and individual Canadians about the implications of such policies, their cost and how they will be financed. The reality is that Canada will only have a successful strategy to deal with climate change if it is understood and supported by Canadians in all parts of the country.

Our organizations, and large and small businesses across the country, are ready to work with the federal government in devising a credible and effective strategy to deal with the climate change issue. And we are ready to begin now, working on immediate actions prior to commencement of the commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol, while also building the foundation for change that can contribute to global solutions over the longer term. A number of concrete and innovative ideas have been advanced as to how Canada can make an effective contribution to this issue while also contributing to Canada's economic and social priorities, and we urge you to give these ideas full consideration.

We urge you and your government to take the time necessary to ensure that Canada has a concrete and workable national strategy on climate change that governments at all levels, public and private institutions and Canadian citizens can support and implement. In fulfillment of this urgent task, please be assured of our full cooperation.

Sincerely,



Nancy Hughes Anthony
President & CEO
Canadian Chamber of Commerce



Thomas d'Aquino
President & Chief Executive
Canadian Council of Chief Executives



Catherine Swift
President, CEO & Chairperson
Canadian Federation of
Independent Business



Perrin Beatty
President & CEO
Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters