

MEDIA RELEASE

Young Leaders Make Environment Their New Year's Resolution Call on Federal Government to Honour Canada's Kyoto Commitment

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For immediate release:

NORTH VANCOUVER - Young municipal politicians from across British Columbia are calling on Prime Minister Stephen Harper to honour Canada's commitment to the Kyoto Protocol. Making it their 2007 New Year's resolution, each young councillor has pledged to work in their own communities to find local solutions, as well.

"We recognize that climate change presents an urgent threat to the environmental, economic, and social health of our communities," said New Westminster City Councillor Jonathan Cote. "Local governments have some tools to help reduce green house gas emissions, but we need federal leadership, too."

"Our generation faces the threat of climate change more than any other," said North Vancouver City Councillor Sam Schechter. "If we do not take action now to protect our natural environment, our generation and our planet will face the consequences."

Both Schechter and Cote are working on their local councils to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas production in their home communities. Other municipal councillors under the age of 30 who have pledged to do the same include:

- Councillor Sonya Chandler, Victoria
- Councillor Shannon Watkins, Port Moody
- Councillor Gerry Taft, Invermere
- Councillor Carmen Gustafson, Golden
- Councillor Chad Eliason, Salmon Arm
- Councillor Sarah Thomas, Fernie

Each of the young municipal councillors has pledged to:

- recognize climate change as an urgent threat to the environmental, economic, and social health of their communities
- take action on their local council and bring forward policies that will contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere
- fight for greater action from the federal government to keep its commitment and obligation to the Kyoto Protocol

"This is not an issue we can wait until 2050 to take action on," added Cote. "All levels of government must move quickly and together before serious & irreversible damage is caused to our planet."

"The environment is quickly becoming one of the most important issues for Canadians," ended Schechter. "We as young councillors are making this pledge as our New Year's resolution for 2007, and we call on the Prime Minister and his government to do the same."

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