

**FEB 28 2013**

Ms. Joy Kennedy
Chair, Commission on Justice and Peace
The Canadian Council of Churches
47 Queen's Park Crescent East
Toronto ON M5S 2C3

Dear Ms. Kennedy:

Thank you for your letter of November 21, 2012, regarding climate change.

I appreciated the opportunity to meet with you and your associates at the 2011 Durban Climate Conference and am pleased that Ms. Monica Kugelmass from my office was able to meet with your representatives in May 2012. I welcome your views and am encouraged by your commitment to climate change.

As you know, I recently returned from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Doha Climate Conference, held December 2012 in Qatar. While the negotiations were challenging, parties were able to resolve critical elements of the negotiation process. Most importantly, countries made progress such that, going forward, our full efforts can now be focused entirely on advancing our work toward the establishment of a new, post-2020 agreement that includes commitments by all major emitters. Canada is committed to this new process under the Durban Platform and will continue to be actively engaged in these negotiations to achieve a fairer, more effective and comprehensive new climate change regime for the future.

Concerning the recommendations outlined in your letter, I can assure you that Canada does have a credible plan to meet its goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 17 percent from 2005 levels by 2020. Furthermore, we are delivering on our commitment to provide climate finance for developing countries as agreed to under the Copenhagen Accord in 2009.

Domestically, the Government of Canada has begun to implement its climate change plan by addressing emissions in the transportation and electricity sectors—two of the largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions in this country. We also intend to address emissions from other major-emitting sectors, including oil and gas. At the same time, the provinces and territories have been taking significant steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

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Canada collaborated with the United States to introduce harmonized greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger automobiles and light trucks for model years 2011 to 2016. Building on these, proposed new regulations will put in place progressively more stringent standards for model years 2017 through 2025. With these regulations, it is projected that 2025 vehicles will consume up to 50 percent less fuel and produce 50 percent fewer greenhouse gas emissions than 2008 vehicles. Proposed regulations were also announced for heavy-duty vehicles that will apply to 2014 and later model years. The Government has also introduced new biofuel content regulations to reduce the greenhouse gas content of transportation fuels. As a result, gasoline is now required to contain an average of five percent renewable content, and diesel and heating fuels have a two percent requirement.

This country has one of the cleanest electricity systems in the world, and we are taking further steps to make it even cleaner. In September 2012, the federal government established a tough regulatory performance standard for new coal-fired electricity generating units and those that have reached the end of their economic life, accelerating a transition toward lower- or non-emitting types of generation. In addition to contributing to Canada's climate change objectives, this measure will help improve air quality for Canadians.

Taken together, all current federal and provincial/territorial government actions will generate about one half of the reductions needed to meet Canada's 2020 target. The Government of Canada is committed to implementing its sector-by-sector regulatory plan to achieve additional reductions until the total reduction achieved by federal and provincial measures is sufficient to reach Canada's 2020 target.

In addition to committing to a greenhouse gas target under the Copenhagen Accord, Canada, along with many other developed countries, committed to provide fast-start financing in support of the mitigation and adaptation efforts of developing countries. To date, more than US\$30 billion has been distributed to support a wide range of climate change initiatives and projects in developing countries.

Since 2010, Canada has provided a total of \$1.2 billion in new and additional funding for fast-start finance as part of this joint effort. This is Canada's largest-ever contribution to support international efforts to address climate change. The funding has been used to support climate change adaptation projects in Haiti, Vietnam and Africa; forest protection in the Congo Basin; and energy efficiency and mitigation projects in Mexico, Peru, Costa Rica and Colombia. A significant portion of funding is also directed to multilateral

institutions, including the Least Developed Country Fund, the Catalyst Fund, the Asian Development Bank and the Global Environment Facility. Enclosed are two documents on Canada's fast-start finance that provide details on the many important projects we are supporting.

I note your recommendation to develop a Canadian energy plan. Canada's energy policy falls under the purview of Natural Resources Canada. Therefore, I am forwarding a copy of your letter to the Honourable Joe Oliver, P.C., M.P., Minister of Natural Resources, for consideration.

In conclusion, the Government of Canada is taking a number of important tangible efforts to ensure that we achieve the right results for Canadians and the environment. This approach will result in real emission reductions, while maintaining Canada's economic competitiveness and our ability to create jobs for Canadians.

I trust that the information provided is helpful, and I extend my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter Kent". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

The Honourable Peter Kent, P.C., M.P.

Enclosures

c.c.: The Honourable Joe Oliver, P.C., M.P.
Ms. Michelle Rempel, M.P.