

Global Warming's greatest threat may also be the smallest.



C.W. Perkins, Animals Animals®

Tropical diseases used to be someone else's problem, but global warming makes it ours. Living in a cold climate, it's tempting to think that a little global warming might be a good thing. But not when you consider what the cold protects us from: the tropical mosquitoes that transmit deadly infectious diseases such as malaria, dengue fever and encephalitis.

The Asian Tiger mosquitoes which transmit dengue fever have already moved from the southern U.S. to the Canadian border in the last ten years. And the threat of malaria, the world's number one insect-borne killer, is

growing and striking hardest at the world's poorest people. With malaria on the move to places where Canadians often visit, such as the U.S., business travelers and tourists can bring the disease home.

These threats have been described by scientists from many prestigious international organizations, including the World Health Organization, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta and the Harvard Center for Health and the Global Environment.

Preventing global warming itself is the most effective way to protect the earth's people from the perils it will spawn, such as violent weather, destructive floods and the spread of infectious diseases. That's why 30 Canadian associations of health professionals have signed a statement urging the Canadian government to take leadership in the worldwide effort to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"Climate change is likely to have wide-ranging and mostly adverse impacts on human health, with significant loss of life."

— UNITED NATIONS INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Canada has an opportunity this December when representatives of 165 countries gather in Kyoto, Japan to negotiate a legally binding agreement on global warming.

The world's foremost scientists have determined that 50 per cent cuts in emissions of greenhouse gases are necessary to stabilize their concentrations in the atmosphere. And the Royal Society of Canada has concluded that Canada can achieve 20 per cent cuts by 2010 with net economic benefits. *Canada must take the*

lead in Kyoto to ratify a treaty that reflects Finance Minister Paul Martin's position that "We can begin by pressing for an international convention to reduce CO2 emissions by at least 20 per cent. We should set an example by exceeding that target at home."

Canada's per capita contribution to global warming is the second greatest on earth. And Canada's emissions have risen 11 per cent since our Prime Minister pledged at the 1992 Earth Summit to stabilize emissions at 1990 levels.

We know the cause of global warming. We know how to prevent it and, by doing so, how to prevent serious threats to our health. This knowledge compels us to act. To learn more, please return the coupon below.

"The Council is on record as urging the Government of Canada to play an active role at the Kyoto Conference to exercise a leadership role ensuring our long-term well-being."

— ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF CANADA, September, 1997

"The Canadian Medical Association [CMA] calls upon the federal government to reaffirm, at the Kyoto Convention on Climate Change in December 1997, its position on achieving a 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emission by the year 2005."

— MOTION PASSED AT THE CMA GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING, AUGUST, 1997

David Suzuki Foundation

Finding solutions

YES, I want to help prevent global warming and its damaging effects on human health.

Enclosed is \$10 for *Global Warming: Climate Change*, the Foundation's briefing kit.

Here is my tax-deductible contribution to help you inform the public of the solutions to global warming.

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