

Canadian Big City Mayors' Climate Change Action

WHEREAS the 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change ("COP 21") is happening in December 2015 in Paris;

WHEREAS cities are essential to combatting climate change as they are responsible for producing 70% of climate-changing GHG emissions world-wide;

WHEREAS Canada's big cities were some of the first governments on the planet to formally acknowledge human-caused climate change and to develop and implement strategies to mitigate climate-changing GHG emissions and to take a leadership role internationally in encouraging coordinated global efforts to cut GHG emissions;

WHEREAS actions taken by Canadian cities to address climate change enhance and improve the quality of life, economic prosperity and livability of our cities;

WHEREAS it is recognized that that all efforts must be made to keep below a 2 degrees Celsius increase in global temperature, and cities will play a major role in this goal;

WHEREAS there is interest on the part of COP 21 for having language in the final agreement that pertains to cities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Canada's Big City Mayors' Caucus:

Stand alongside global efforts to avert the worst impacts of climate change through the following commitments:

1. Support for binding GHG emissions reductions targets at the international, national and city level that address both short- and long-term commitments.
2. The development and implementation of municipal climate action plans that have specific actions designed to cut GHG emissions, identify the risks posed by climate change, and how those risks will be mitigated;
3. Regular reporting of municipal GHG emissions through the Carbon Disclosure Project, and a move towards standardized inventories and reporting to ensure greater accountability and transparency.

THAT the BCMC call on the Government of Canada to engage with the Provinces and Big Cities in developing a national climate change strategy;

That the BCMC, through the Chair, communicate these commitments to COP 21, the Canadian government and other interested parties.