

## For Immediate Release

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## YOUTH CALL FOR CANADIAN COMMITMENT

Cancun, MX (08/12/10) – Canadian youth from across the country are calling on government to recognize the crucial need for a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. Canada remains one of only a few countries negotiating in Cancun who have yet to accept a continuation of Kyoto. It's been reported that, behind closed doors, Canada is blocking any progress.

*“The Kyoto Protocol is the only legally binding international agreement ever created to address the issue of climate change. While it is not without difficulties, this treaty represents nearly two decades of hard work at the UN, and is currently the only viable base for legally binding commitments to reduce emissions from developed countries. If the Kyoto framework is thrown out, it will set back negotiations for many years and prevent the necessary peaking of global emissions by 2015 required by the IPCC. Kyoto should not be used as an excuse for developed countries like Canada to avoid climate action.”*

Adam Scott, 28, Toronto, ON

*“It is difficult to imagine that the Kyoto Protocol has been discussed, negotiated and debated for most of my life. What's even more difficult to imagine is that countries like Canada are willing to throw away years of hard work and international compromise simply so that they can further delay committing to a binding deal that would require them to seriously take on their fair share of responsibility. How will I explain this negligence to my children and grandchildren? Many of the negotiators threatening to kill Kyoto will no longer be here to provide an answer, and I'll be left feeling as if I've failed my family and humanity as a whole. “*

Lena Phillips, 24, Charlottetown, PE

However, simply signing on isn't sufficient; this much is clear after Canada's abysmal performance during the first commitment period. In fact, Canada was the only country to ratify Kyoto, giving their word in good faith to act on the global crisis of climate change, and then openly refusing to act on these promises despite the devastating impacts that are occurring within our own borders and all over the world.

*“Kyoto is far from enough; it promotes mechanisms that undermine indigenous and community rights and allows emissions to stay at a level that would commit millions to death and displacement. However, it is a compromise which nations from around the world, including Canada, have committed to, and in our case, ignored. But, abandoning even this inadequate commitment so we can put off action and continue polluting is not only irresponsible, it is equivalent to saying that the lives of millions upon millions are dispensable.”*

Tasha Peters, 19, Calgary, AB

*“As a scientist, I recognize that the current KP doesn't go far enough, and as a young person, I am incredibly alarmed about our future. If we get rid of the Kyoto Protocol, we set the global community's efforts to decrease greenhouse gas emissions back years. Keeping Kyoto doesn't mean developing countries and the US won't take action - but it does ensure that the countries signed on the Protocol will, and will do so now, rather than waiting to develop a new legal framework from scratch. Furthermore, it means that Canada will be held to account on our climate action record. If we reject the continuing application of the Kyoto Protocol, it will be all too easy for Canada to slip out of our past commitments. Canada needs to commit to a strong agreement during the next commitment period, and we need to keep our word.”*

Thea Whitman, 24, White Rock, NS

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The Canadian Youth Delegation (CYD) includes diverse youth from across the country who are concerned and active on the issues of climate change. CYD aims to engage Canadians, mobilize youth and provide communication that makes these global challenges and negotiations accessible. This year 29 young Canadians traveled with CYD to the United Nations climate negotiations in Cancun. Learn more and see their progress at [canadianyouthdelegation.wordpress.com](http://canadianyouthdelegation.wordpress.com).