

Climate Change

Daily Media & Issues Update

October 28, 2016.

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Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change

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Climate Change – Top Stories

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[Canadian Press: Motion on carbon tax on agenda as Wildrose party holds annual general meeting; Carbon tax on agenda at Wildrose meeting](#)

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Issues Tracking:

- Auto industry
- Electric vehicles
- Natural gas
- Sending money out of Ontario to California
- Green Bank
- Carbon tax vs. cap and trade
- Criticism of household and industry costs for fuel, natural gas and electricity and other costs related to cost of living (i.e. food, transportation, etc.)
- Transitional allowances for large industrial emitters
- Allocation of proceeds
- Administration costs of cap and trade program
- Building Codes
- Net zero

Message of the Day:

- Ontario is establishing itself as a leader in climate change action and science by building a strong, low-carbon economy, which will help avoid irreparable damage to our environment, and leave a legacy of a healthy planet for our children and our children's children.
- Governments around the world, including in Canada, are talking about climate change and the need to take immediate action by putting a price on carbon.

- Ontario has already made great strides in fighting climate change by ending coal-fired power, and investing in public transit, stronger infrastructure and regional planning initiatives, but we know we need to do more.
 - In November 2015, Ontario released its Climate Change Strategy which sets out the government's vision for Ontario to 2050, and outlines the path to a prosperous, low-carbon society where GHG reduction is part of our growth, efficiency and productivity.
 - The Climate Change Action Plan to implement the strategy over the next five years was released on June 8, 2016. The Action Plan creates a foundation on which Ontario will develop and build the policies and programs needed in the next five years to provide more choices to families and businesses on ways to become energy efficient and lower energy bills.
 - The Action Plan also lays out the specific commitments Ontario is making to meet its near-term 2020 emissions reduction targets, and establishes the framework necessary to meet its targets in 2030 and 2050.
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Bureaucrats wanted to muzzle MPs, First Nations leaders and others bound for climate change conference

- **News - National Post**
- **Fri Oct 28 2016**
- **Section:** Canadian Politics
- **Byline:** David Akin
- [Permalink](#)

Environment Minister Catherine McKenna was forced to step in late last night and overrule bureaucrats in her department who wanted to take the unprecedented step of muzzling MPs, First Nations leaders and others invited to accompany her to next month's United Nations **climate change** conference.

The twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 22) (unfccc.int) will be held Nov. 7-18 in Marrakech, Morocco and invitations were sent out over McKenna's name to, among others, her official opposition critics, including Conservative Ed Fast.

The invitation, dated Oct. 24, offers to reimburse Fast for his travel and accommodation to a maximum of \$4,500 but only if he'll sign an agreement promising not to give any media interviews and that he

would "respect the authority of the Head of the Delegation (McKenna) on all matters regarding your conduct as a member of the delegation."

Fast, who served in the Harper government as Canada's minister of international trade, was part of the Canadian delegation to COP21, held last fall in Paris, and travelled there at the government's expense with no strings attached.

Fast replied to McKenna's invitation on Oct. 27, telling McKenna that he would not attend COP22 on those conditions.

"Canadians elected me to promote Canada's national interests wherever and whenever I have the opportunity to do so," Fast wrote to McKenna. "This effort to muzzle my ability to communicate with Canadians on issues they deeply care about is highly objectionable and contrary to the democratic principles we are both entrusted to uphold.

"As your (Official Opposition) Critic, it is my constitutional responsibility to challenge the Government of Canada and to offer Canadians alternative policy and legal perspectives when and where appropriate. I do not intend to shirk that responsibility," Fast wrote.

Related

Nearly 200 countries agree to historic pact in Paris to reduce emissions and fight **climate change** (news.nationalpost.com)

Smyth: Canada sent 383 people to the UN climate conference, more than Australia, the U.K. and U.S. together (news.nationalpost.com)

Late Thursday evening, McKenna's office intervened.

"The COP 22 Delegate Agreements provided to opposition MPs, indigenous groups, provincial, territorial and municipal representatives, NGOS, youth and business included an error made by [Environment and **Climate Change** Canada] officials that suggested limits on interactions with media," McKenna's press secretary Caitlin Workman wrote in an e-mail. "We have asked [department] officials that all invited delegates be contacted immediately to rectify this error."

THE CANADIAN PRESS/Sean Kilpatrick Conservative MP Ed Fast rejected the conditions request by McKenna's department and declined her invitation to join her at COP22.

The Canadian delegation to COP22 will be much smaller than last year's massive delegation which included Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, almost all the premiers, and more than a hundred others. While the size of this year's delegation has yet to be set, McKenna hopes it will include MPs as well as representatives of provinces, municipalities, indigenous groups, advocacy and environmental organizations, youth and business.

"Minister McKenna's office made it clear starting last year that Canadian delegates at COP 21 were not required to submit to any conditions on interactions with media," Workman said. "We look forward to Mr. Fast or any of our critics joining us at COP22, just as they did at COP 21 to build on the important work underway."

Workman also noted that the Trudeau government's policy of inviting opposition MPs to international conferences "is in stark contrast to the previous Conservative Government which routinely failed to invite opposition representatives to international events in which Canada was a participant."

Correspondent between Environment Minister Catherine McKenna and MP Ed Fast (www.scribd.com) by David Akin (www.scribd.com) on Scribd

- **Length:** 629 words
- **Tone:** Negative
- **Reach:** 607500



Motion on carbon tax on agenda as Wildrose party holds annual general meeting; Carbon tax on agenda at Wildrose meeting

- **Broadcast news**
- **Fri Oct 28 2016**
- **Section:** National

RED DEER, Alta. - Alberta's **carbon tax** is high on the agenda as members of Alberta's Wildrose party gather today in Red Deer for their annual general meeting.

Party leader Brian Jean will deliver the keynote address tonight and on Saturday delegates will debate a number of policy resolutions.

Among the resolutions is a motion to repeal the **carbon tax**.

Premier Rachel Notley's NDP government is set to begin collecting the tax on Jan. 1 on everything from gas at the pumps to home heating bills.

Another motion is a call to ensure public money is never used to reimburse candidates in election campaigns.

Earlier this year, the NDP majority on an all-party committee passed a motion to reimburse half the money spent by political candidates, although the legislature as a whole has yet to ratify that decision.

- **Length:** 137 words
- **Tone:** Neutral



Clinton told climate activists to 'get a life'

- **Toronto Sun**
- **Fri Oct 28 2016**
- **Page:** A17

- **Section:** Comment
- **Byline:** Tom Harris Guest
- **Source:** Toronto Sun

Environmental activists and their supporters in the media are appalled that not a single question in the presidential debates focused on **climate change**.

Writing in the New York Times, David Leonhardt said, "the lack of a single question on the world's biggest problem was a grievous error." May Boeve, executive director of climate group 350 Action, complained in the Guardian that "this crisis threatens our communities, our economy, and the future for our children ... yet **climate change** doesn't get a single direct question in the debate."

Baltimore Sun editorial staff concluded: "Shame on the various moderators for not insisting that (Donald) Trump and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton speak directly on such a critically important topic."

Even if they weren't asked about **climate change** by the moderators, Clinton or Trump could have easily bridged the questions posed to them to that issue, if they had wanted to do so.

Clearly, neither of them placed a high priority on the issue.

And that is exactly how it should have been.

Contrast **climate change** with many of the topics asked about in the debates: The Syrian civil war (asked about six times), terrorism (four times), Russia (three times), immigration (three), job creation (three), and the national debt (twice). These are real issues demanding our attention.

Consider the facts.

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on **Climate Change** (IPCC) estimates that the statistical average of surface temperatures increased 1.53 F (0.85 C) between 1880 to 2012.

Humanity's contribution to this relatively small temperature rise is not a problem of the same importance as terrorism.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration website shows that the incidence of extreme weather state records has been decreasing in recent years.

Roger Pielke Jr., a professor of environmental studies at the University of Colorado, Boulder, summarized the situation well in 2014: "When you read that the cost of disasters is increasing, it's tempting to think that it must be because more storms are happening ... In reality, the numbers reflect more damage from catastrophes because the world is getting wealthier. We're seeing ever-larger losses simply because we have more to lose."

The current rate of sea level rise is less than one tenth that of 8,000 years ago.

There are regions in the ocean where pH (a measure of acidity) varies more in a day than the most extreme forecasts for the 21st century, yet ocean life adapts.

Arctic summer sea ice area increased almost a million square kilometres between the low of 2012 and this year.

Yet Vox, a prominent American advocacy news website, argued: "Humanity is departing from the stable climatic conditions that allowed civilization to thrive, yet the most powerful nation on Earth can't set aside five minutes to discuss."

The best answer to environmental activists and their media supporters was unexpectedly provided last year by Clinton herself.

In the leaked e-mails of Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta, published by Wikileaks, it was revealed that in her Sept. 9, 2015, meeting with the Building Trades Union, Clinton said: "They (climate activists) say, 'Will you promise never to take any fossil fuels out of the earth ever again?' No. I won't promise that. Get a life, you know?"

Harris is executive director of the Ottawa-based International Climate Science Coalition, which opposes the hypothesis carbon dioxide emissions from human activities are known to cause climate problems