



GSX Concerned Citizens Coalition

302 - 733 Johnson Street, Victoria, BC, V8W 3C7
Telephone 250-743-5551, Fax 250-381-4407
Email: gsxccc@sqwalk.com Website: www.sqwalk.com

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Federal Cuts to Climate Change Programs Hurt Clean Energy in BC

Cobble Hill, BC – 40% cuts planned by the federal Conservatives to climate change programs will hurt energy conservation and renewable energy projects in BC, according to the GSX Concerned Citizens Coalition (GSXCCC).

Following comments (28 March) by Prime Minister Harper that, “we’re starting from scratch” [on climate change programs], the GSXCCC has learned the Conservatives intend to cut 40% of climate change funding, possibly including programs such as the popular One Tonne Challenge, the EnerGuide program for home efficiency renovations and the Wind Power Production Incentive (WPPI or “Wippy”), which has provided vital assistance to the Canada’ fledgling wind industry.

“So far, the Harper government has only taken negative actions on climate change – attacking the Kyoto Protocol and the last government’s policies, said **Arthur Caldicott, President of the GSXCCC**. “But with California planning to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050, and the Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers making similar commitments, we know that we can’t keep hiding from the problem.”

“Weak federal leadership makes it easier for bad energy to offload its costs onto the public,” said **Tom Hackney, GSXCCC Director**. “When coal-fired power gets an easy ride in the regulatory reviews due to lax federal standards, that means that, down the road, when the pressure builds to cut greenhouse gas emissions, the public will be saddled with the costs.”

The GSXCCC is a non-profit association of citizens committed to promoting sound energy use and planning in British Columbia.

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For more information, please contact:
Arthur Caldicott, GSXCCC President: (250) 743-5551
Tom Hackney, GSXCCC Director: (250) 381-4463