

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
INFORMATION NOTE**

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PREPARED FOR: Honourable Terry Lake, Minister of Environment

ISSUE: Results of the 18th Conference of the Parties (COP18) in Doha, Qatar November 26th to December 7th, 2012.

BACKGROUND:

Parties to the 1995 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) meet annually to assess their progress on the Convention. The 2012 meeting occurred November 26 to December 7 in Doha, Qatar.

2012 marks the final year of the Kyoto Protocol. Canada ratified the Kyoto Protocol in 2002 and subsequently withdrew in 2011 citing \$14 billion in costs to comply. In 2009 at meetings in Copenhagen, Canada pledged to reduce emissions 17 percent below 2005 levels by 2020 on a similar track to the United States under the non-binding Copenhagen Accord.

UNFCCC negotiations take place between national governments. In the past, the province's role at the Conference of the Parties (COP) has been to advise the federal delegation of provincial interests and profile the province's leadership on climate action. Minister Lake was involved in COP17 events to highlight BC's progress. BC did not actively participate in COP18 given there were no priority issues related to BC.

Negotiations for COP18 included:

- the end date for the second period of the Kyoto protocol that extends the protocol beyond the first Commitment Period's end in 2012;
- mechanisms to provide flexibility such as offsets for new state commitments; and,
- discussions on sources of funding for the Green Climate Fund, which is intended to serve as the central long-term financing body for climate action in developing countries.

DISCUSSION:

2015 was established as the deadline for negotiating a new climate change agreement including binding targets that would come into force in 2020. The United Nations will convene a conference of world leaders in 2014 to discuss this post-2020 climate change agreement. Prior to a new agreement coming into effect, 35 countries volunteered to join a second Commitment Period to the Kyoto Protocol between January 1st, 2013 and December 31st, 2020. The collective goal is to reduce their emissions by 25-40% from 1990 levels. Canada was not amongst the signatories to this voluntary interim, nor was the United States, China, Russia, Japan, New Zealand or India. As expected, Canada had a lower profile at the negotiations than in previous years.

SUMMARY:

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DM	SB for Wes	28/12/12	N
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