

# RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'



PETITION NO.: **421-00131**

BY: **MS. MAY (SAANICH-GULF ISLANDS)**

DATE: **MARCH 22, 2016**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **THE HONOURABLE CATHERINE MCKENNA**

Response by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "C. McKenna", written over a horizontal line.

SIGNATURE  
Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

**Climate change**

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

The Government of Canada recognizes the challenges posed by climate change, and the urgent need for action at all levels. The Government of Canada will provide national leadership and partner with the provinces and territories to address climate change both domestically and internationally. Climate change presents an opportunity for economic innovation, and Canada intends to take a leadership position in the low-carbon economy.

The Government of Canada is working with provinces and territories to take action on climate change domestically by adopting a range of measures, including carbon pricing. The Government of Canada considers that carbon pricing policies minimize the cost of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, provide a continuous incentive for technological innovation, give consumers and industry flexibility, and accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy. In the Vancouver Declaration on March 3, 2016, Canada's First Ministers committed to work together on the development of a pan-Canadian framework on clean growth and climate change, and currently a number of working groups, one of which is a Working Group on Carbon Pricing Mechanisms, are considering options to reduce emissions and grow the economy over the longer-term. This collaboration will inform the pan-Canadian framework, which is to be implemented in 2017.

The Working Group on Carbon Pricing Mechanisms will explore options on the role of carbon pricing mechanisms in meeting Canada's emission reduction targets, including different design options taking into consideration existing and planned provincial and territorial programs. It will consider various elements of carbon pricing policy, including coverage, comparability and stringency. It will take account of particular challenges, such as those facing northern and remote communities. It will also address issues that are particularly important to industry and investors, such as predictability and interprovincial and international competitiveness, including carbon leakage.

The Government of Canada will also ensure that this country capitalizes on the investment and job opportunities associated with the global transition to a low-carbon economy. In Budget 2016, the Government committed significant investment to support Canada's transition to a low-carbon economy. For example, Budget 2016 provided \$2 billion over two years, starting in 2017-18, to establish the Low Carbon Economy Fund, which will support provincial and territorial actions that materially reduce greenhouse gas emissions and are incremental to current plans. Additional funds will be deployed to support the transition to a cleaner transportation sector, energy efficiency and renewable energy development, and the advancement of regional electricity cooperation.

The Government of Canada will also continue to work with international partners to tackle climate change. Canada was pleased to play an active and constructive role in the recent international negotiations that led to the adoption of the Paris Agreement—a new and effective global climate change agreement. Moving forward, the Government will push for global action to implement the Paris Agreement while seeking out opportunities to address climate change bilaterally or multilaterally, beginning with its North American partners. In Paris, Canada also joined the Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition (CPLC), and is currently an active participant in the Coalition. The CPLC brings together leaders from government, business and civil society to support the introduction of carbon pricing, share experience, and enhance global, regional and sub-national understanding of the emerging practices in the implementation of carbon pricing. The Government of Canada views carbon pricing and international market mechanisms as key tools in the global climate change mitigation efforts.