

## How to take action with the *Canadian Interfaith Call for Leadership and Action on Climate Change* PETITION

1. **The Canadian Interfaith Call for Leadership and Action on Climate Change** was released publicly on October 25th, 2011 in a press conference by faith community leaders on Parliament Hill. *The Call* can be viewed at <http://www.councilofchurches.ca/en/>. Almost 30 faith community leaders signed, and more may do so before the 17<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change takes place in South Africa (November 29 – December 9, 2011.) This petition is designed to build support for more positive Canadian action at that UN conference, as well as in Canada.
2. **This petition has been designed** to conform to House of Commons rules **so that it can be presented in the House of Commons by Members of Parliament**. That is why it is a hard copy petition, not an electronic petition. This petition has been certified as correct by the Clerk of Petitions of the House of Commons.
3. **Photocopy the petition** (it can be reproduced on two sides to save paper) and ask your friends and members of your faith community to sign it. You could also distribute it to volunteers who agree to gather signatures. The best way to get signatures quickly is to take the petition to regular meetings of churches, unions, anti-poverty or student groups where people are likely to be sympathetic to the cause and get everyone present to sign on. Alternatively a petition drive can be organized and have volunteers gather signatures at public places on selected days. This is a way to give the issue more public visibility.
4. **When you have 25 or more signatures, contact your MP and ask them to present the petitions from their constituents in the House of Commons**. If you have a petition signed by 25 or more people it can be presented to the House of Commons. There is a 15 minute time slot in the agenda of the House every day for presenting petitions. Generally MPs are expected to present petitions from their constituents even if they don't support the cause. You can find your MP and contact info at: [www.parl.gc.ca](http://www.parl.gc.ca)

The best thing would be to **arrange a meeting with your MP** when you could discuss climate change as a moral issue and hand over the signed petitions. Ask for a commitment on presenting the petitions to the House of Commons and ask to have a report back on the date they will be presented so you can check in the record of debates (or Hansard) online at:

<http://www2.parl.gc.ca/housechamberbusiness/ChamberSittings.aspx?View=H&Language=E&Mode=1&Parl=40&Ses=3>.

If a meeting cannot be arranged, try to set up a phone call with your MP or failing that send a letter with the petitions attached asking that they be presented in the House of Commons. Be sure to ask for a reply as to whether they will present them and if so on what day they plan to do so.

5. **If your MP refuses** to make a commitment to present the petitions, then send them to Citizens for Public Justice, at #501-309 Cooper Street, Ottawa, ON K2P 0G5. We will arrange for another MP to present them to the House of Commons.
6. **Please report back** by sending an email to [melodi@cpj.ca](mailto:melodi@cpj.ca) telling us how many signatures you gathered and which MP you have sent your petitions to.
7. **For more information** or if you have any questions please contact Melodi Alopaeus at [melodi@cpj.ca](mailto:melodi@cpj.ca) or phone 1-800-667-8046 ext. 229.



# PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS on *the Canadian Interfaith Call for Leadership and Action on Climate Change*

**We, the undersigned residents of Canada, draw attention to the House of the following:**

- Global warming is a reality, such that in 2010, Canadians experienced the warmest year on record since 1948;
- Although our governments have committed to decrease our greenhouse gas emissions (which contribute to global warming), Canadian levels have been increasing;
- Climate change affects all Canadians, but disproportionately affects residents of the countries of the Global South who have done the least to cause these changes;
- The growing crisis of climate change is symptomatic of greed, an underlying spiritual deficit which has led to unsustainable patterns of production and consumption;
- We cannot wait for others to act but instead must lead by example;
- Implementation of emissions reduction plans in several Canadian provinces and other countries has shown emissions can be reduced;

**We call on Parliament to adopt the following policy goals:**

- **In the spirit of global solidarity, take collective action by signing and implementing a binding international agreement replacing the Kyoto Protocol that commits nations to reduce carbon emissions and set fair and clear targets to ensure that global average temperatures stay below a 2° Celsius increase from pre-industrial levels;**
- **Demonstrate national responsibility by committing to national carbon emission targets and a national renewable energy policy designed to achieve sustainability; and**
- **Implement climate justice, by playing a constructive role in the design of the Green Climate Fund under United Nations governance, and by contributing public funds to assist the poorest and most affected countries to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change.**

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When you have 25 or more signatures, please send the petition to your Member of Parliament and ask him/her to present them to the House of Commons. You can find your MP and address at: [www.parl.gc.ca](http://www.parl.gc.ca) And please let us know the action you have taken by contacting [melodi@cpi.ca](mailto:melodi@cpi.ca)