



Councillor Michael Walker
Ward 22, St. Paul's

Councillor Lorenzo Berardinetti
Ward 37, Scarborough Centre

NOTICE OF MOTION
TORONTO CITY COUNCIL
OCTOBER 1 – 3, 2002

RE: *THE KYOTO PROTOCOL: RATIFY AND IMPLEMENT*

WHEREAS “The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change” was adopted at the United Nations in New York City on May 9, 1992 --- over ten years ago; and,

WHEREAS each Party (Nation) in “The United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change” agreed to reduce overall emissions of hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulphur hexafluorides by at least 5% below 1990 levels in the first commitment period: 2008 to 2012, stating that each Party (Nation) agreed, by 2005, demonstrable progress in achieving these commitments will have been made; and,

WHEREAS “Each Party [Nation]... in order to *promote sustainable development*, shall: (a) Implement and/or farther elaborate policies and measures in accordance with its national circumstances, such as:(vi) *Encouragement* of appropriate reforms in relevant sectors aimed at promoting policies and measures which limit or reduce emissions of greenhouse gases...”(Kyoto Protocol To The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, December 1-10, 1997, Article 2(a)(vi)); and;

WHEREAS eighty-seven (87) nations have accepted the Kyoto Protocol; and,

WHEREAS recently, Russia and China committed to ratify the Kyoto Protocol; and,

WHEREAS Canada accounts for an estimated 2% of the world’s greenhouse gas emissions; and,

WHEREAS Canada is flush with “carbon sinks” that would lessen the burden of regulation on Canadian industry; and,

WHEREAS the increased burning of fossil fuels and the resulting global warming are contrary to the goals that the Kyoto Protocol is trying to reach; and,

WHEREAS dozens of energy projects, big and small, would be affected if Canada tries to reduce its emissions; and,

WHEREAS the Federal government is heavily lobbied by associations, such as the CAA, and corporations, such as oil companies, to stall Canada's ratification of the Kyoto Protocol; and,

WHEREAS the Canadian oil industry, before the oil is burned, contaminates tens of billions of litres of fresh water per year to extract oil – some companies are permitted to use a million litres per day for this purpose; and,

WHEREAS reliance on fossil fuels has been proven to be unsustainable and detrimental, though the Ontario Provincial government continues to operate five (5) coal-fired power plants, namely: Nanticoke on the north shore of Lake Erie, Lambton (near Sarnia), Lakeview in Mississauga, and Atikokan and Thunder Bay in northwestern Ontario; and,

WHEREAS Nanticoke, a Provincial power plant, is the single largest source of air pollution in the province; and,

WHEREAS the population of the Greater Toronto Area (G.T.A.), over five (5) million people, is suffering from the Provincial government's lack of leadership on environmental issues; and,

WHEREAS combined, these five (5) Ontario Power Generation (OPG) coal-fired power plants produce 7,770 megawatts of electricity (21%-24% of OPG's output), there are clean alternatives, as well as conservation, to replace this capacity; and,

WHEREAS governments effectively subsidize corporations who produce harmful emissions by often cleaning up their toxic mess; and,

WHEREAS implementation of the Kyoto Protocol can be designed to ensure that no industry or sector suffers disproportionately; and,

WHEREAS there are several areas of real environmental concern within the boundaries of Toronto, such as Smog & Heat Alert days, the Portlands, Toronto's beaches, et cetera; and,

WHEREAS the Canadian prairies have endured the second arid growing season and now farmers are routinely being driven out of business because of the change in climate; and,

WHEREAS sections as large as 500 billion tons of ice have broken off arctic ice shelves, which has incrementally raised the levels of the world's oceans; and,

WHEREAS in action, like the phrase "Think Globally, Act Locally", the local Municipal governments will be most effective and efficient in implementing the incremental programs and regulations needed for this mandated change; and,

WHEREAS stated in Wednesday August 28, 2002's *Globe and Mail*, "Climate decay harms the vulnerable first. They live at the margins: the first to smell fumes, the last to escape the scorching heat..... To ratify Kyoto is to stand with farmers facing drought in Africa, and families cramped in stuffy apartments in Toronto."; and,

WHEREAS the "Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer" was adopted on September 16, 1987 --- fifteen years ago;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Toronto City Council, representing the largest city in Canada:

- 1) Aggressively request the Federal government to ratify and expeditiously implement the Kyoto Protocol;
- 2) Aggressively request the Provincial government to close the five (5) Provincial coal-fired power plants in Ontario by 2007;
- 3) Aid the Federal and Provincial governments to increase public awareness regarding environmental concerns relating to industrial regulation and the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol;
- 4) In line with the initiatives of the Kyoto Protocol, offer possible suggestions for ratification to the Federal government.

September 16, 2002

Moved By: Councillor Michael Walker

Seconded By: Councillor Lorenzo Berardinetti

Disposition: Motion was adopted unanimously; Council requested report on Kyoto's impacts to Toronto's residents and businesses from Economic Development, Culture, and Tourism Committee (October 3, 2002)

CJS