

December 15, 2009

TO: The Bowen Island Community

This week our federal government is negotiating new international agreement on climate change action at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark. To clarify the position of Bowen Island Municipality, Council passed the following motion last night:

" That Bowen Island Municipality Council direct the Mayor to write the Prime Minister of Canada, requesting that the Government of Canada support a legally binding, socially just, and scientifically defensible climate change treaty, and that the important role of local and regional governments be maintained in the texts to be negotiated at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, December 7-18, 2009"

[Click here to view the copy of the letter sent to Prime Minister Stephen Harper.](#)

On Saturday night, December 12th, about 100 Bowen Islanders gathered in a vigil at the library to show support and participate in a worldwide *Weekend of Action* linked to gatherings around the world - more than 3000 communities, 137 countries, and 11 million people coming together.

(See <http://www.350.org/vigil-vid> ; http://www.avaaz.org/en/real_deal_hub/.)

On December 13th, the bell at the Bowen United Church was rung 350 times, as part of a worldwide bell ringing by the *World Council of Churches* to signify 350 parts per million of carbon dioxide, the safe upper limit of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere according to the latest science (<http://tcktcktck.org>; <http://www.350.org>).

At the December 12th vigil, I spoke these words:

"Thank you Caitlin and your team for organizing this vigil. By doing so, you allow us, Bowen Islanders, to join millions of voices world wide, in a call for real progress combating climate change: an international agreement that is fair, ambitious, and binding.

I stand here both concerned and encouraged.

I am concerned because I believe we face a daunting crisis. The scientific community has spoken clearly. Our human actions are changing global climate. This is clear. The stakes are high - the habitability of our planet. The timing is urgent. We may have only a decade to make dramatic changes and avert a climate crisis.

So we need action. We need an international agreement that is fair, ambitious, and binding.

I am also encouraged.

I am encouraged that we are meeting here tonight on Bowen Island, linked to a world wide call for action. Over 3000 communities are involved.

I am encouraged because we are part of what is likely the largest public call to action ever mounted.

I am encouraged because smart, caring, and passionate people have created a remarkable, internet-based way of connecting millions of concerned citizens with the decision-makers in Copenhagen. It is happening right now.

And I am encouraged because Bowen will do its part. We will need leadership on many fronts - a broad grass-roots coalition of citizens, schools, community groups, and our local government. Whatever happens at Copenhagen, there is much work to do here on Bowen. "

So, I invite you, as citizens, to join over 11 million people in the world's largest ever climate petition. Please consider adding your name - this message is being delivered to leaders at the Copenhagen climate negotiations later this week.

***"Petition to the 110 Presidents and Prime Ministers negotiating in Copenhagen:
We call on each one of you to work for a real deal. Do not wreck negotiations, or fail to do your part. Your agreements must be fair, ambitious and binding. Rich countries should lead the way, with fair long-term financing so poorer countries also do their share, while all countries must accept deals with legal force, and targets ambitious enough to stop catastrophic global warming.
Act now, decisively and together: the world wants a real deal in Copenhagen."***

Please add your voice at <http://www.avaaz.org/en/savecopenhagen1/97.php?CLICK TF TRACK>

All the best,



Bob Turner
Mayor, Bowen Island Municipality