



Canadian Association of
Physicians
for the
Environment

Press Release – Doctors Unite for Day of Global Climate Action

Toronto – October 13, 2015

Today, the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE) joined more than 50 international health and medical organizations to raise global awareness about the impacts of climate change on human health.

“Physicians around the world are realizing that climate change, and our response to it, will be the single greatest factor to affect human health in this century” explained Dr. Courtney Howard, an Emergency Physician in Yellowknife, and a CAPE Board Member. “This summer, Canadians experienced intense forest fires, thick smoke in nearby cities, drought-related crop failures, severe heat waves, and severe storms in different parts of the country. It is clear that we can’t afford anything less than our best efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible.”

CAPE signed on to the Royal Australasian College of Physicians’ [Global Consensus Statement – Act now to reduce the damaging health impacts of climate change](#) to draw attention to the need for urgent, meaningful action to combat the adverse health impacts of climate change. CAPE is also participating in the [Global Climate and Health Alliance’s](#) concurrent launch of “[Our Climate, Our Health](#),” a global campaign to put health at the heart of COP21 (Conference of Parties 21). The global health and medical community is united in calling upon global leaders to commit to the actions needed to tackle climate change. CAPE calls for Canada in particular to show new leadership. Canadian academics tell us that it is possible for us to have [100% clean energy in Canada by the year 2035 and to reduce emissions by 80% by mid-century](#). This is the order of magnitude of action that is required for us to be able to hand over a liveable world to today’s children.

“The actions needed to address the climate change can produce immediate health benefits and health care savings for Canadians” explained Kim Perrotta, CAPE Executive Director and long-time public health advocate. “When we replace coal plants with wind turbines, we reduce air pollution that contributes to heart and lung diseases, while eliminating greenhouse gases. When we replace cars with bicycles, we can increase levels of physical activity which reduced the rates of heart disease and diabetes, while reducing greenhouse gases.”

CAPE is encouraging everyone concerned about the impact of climate change on health to visit <http://www.ourclimateourhealth.org/resources/campaign-materials/> and call for real action.”

Contact: Dr. Courtney Howard, Board member, CAPE 416-306-2273
 Kim Perrotta, Executive Director, CAPE 905-628-9437