



MEDIA RELEASE

CAPE Applauds Powering Past Coal Alliance Launched

TORONTO – November 16, 2017

CAPE applauds Canada and the United Kingdom for creating and launching the Powering Past Coal Alliance in Bonn today to accelerate global action on coal-fired power plants. **Dr. Courtney Howard**, President Elect with CAPE, addressed the founding meeting of the Powering Past Coal Alliance today as one of the co-authors of the recently released, Lancet Countdown Policy Brief for Canada.

“The Lancet tells us that climate change is the biggest global health threat of the 21st century...and that tackling climate change could be the greatest global health opportunity of the 21st century” explains Dr. Howard. “Phasing out coal is about reducing the 44% of global carbon dioxide emissions due to coal—and the trauma, displacement and heat-related deaths associated with severe weather events due to climate change. It’s about a future with less burns and cough-inducing smoke clouds from wildfires, less conflict and migration, and less undernourished children. As an emergency room physician, I know what to do for a heart attack. With the climate crisis, where millions of lives are at stake, the best thing we can do to slow climate change is phase-out coal plants”.

Globally, coal plants are also one of the most significant sources of air pollution. “The World Health Organization estimates that outdoor air pollution is responsible for 3.7 premature deaths each year” notes **Dr. Joe Vipond**, Emergency Physician in Alberta and CAPE Board Member. “By phasing out coal plants around the world, we can prevent millions of early deaths each year”.

Canada has become a global leader on this issue. Ontario reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by almost 20% by phasing out its coal plants in 2014, Alberta is working towards a 2030 phase-out of its coal plants, and Canada is working towards a 2030 phase-out. “Levels of air pollution have dropped dramatically in Ontario as coal plants were phased out” offers **Kim Perrotta**, Executive Director of CAPE. “The phase-out has produced health benefits valued at \$3 billion per year.”

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Contact:

Kim Perrotta, Toronto, 1- 905-320-8710 Kim@CAPE.ca

Dr. Joe Vipond, Calgary 1-403-510-9236

Dr. Courtney Howard, Bonn, Germany 1-867-446-7776

Full recording of Dr Howard’s remarks at the launch: <https://youtu.be/iIGznAbWukY>