

# Kyoto is a Tough Challenge for Canada - But One It Needs to Win

**TORONTO, ON, & WINNIPEG, MB Feb. 15, 2005** – Al Cormier, the president of The Centre for Sustainable Transportation, says Canada has the toughest job of all countries that have agreed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions under the Kyoto Protocol. But it is a challenge the country must win.

“Canada is the only ratifying country experiencing substantial population growth between 1990 and 2012,” said Mr. Cormier. “As a result, the per-capita reduction in GHG emissions required of the 15 participating European Union countries, for example, is 14 per cent. For each Canadian, the emission reduction target is 23 per cent.”

“Canada’s ratification of the Kyoto Protocol is laudable, notwithstanding its population challenge. But we must follow through with actions that are effective enough to ensure that our obligations will be met,” said Mr. Cormier. “That won’t happen without strong measures to curb GHG emissions, particularly from road transport.”

He said fuel costs and prices will increase significantly over the next few years and people everywhere should start adapting to that reality now to maintain our competitive advantages in trade. More effective use of all transport modes needs to be encouraged, he said, and the fuel economy of new road vehicles needs to improve by 35 per cent within five years.

Mr. Cormier said The Centre proposes doubling public transit ridership by the year 2010, with as much of the increase as feasible carried by electrically-powered vehicles. He said The Centre is also suggesting implementation of a range of transport-demand-management measures—including tax exemptions for employer-provided transit benefits, pricing and other incentives for more efficient use of the transport system, and greater use of intermodal transport to help reduce road congestion and pollution. As well, current, accurate data collection is needed so society’s progress, or not, can be monitored and measures adjusted, as required.

The CST is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to securing the sustainable movement of people and freight within Canada through research, analysis, balanced information, cooperation and facilitating change. Further details are available on The Centre’s website at [www.cstctd.org](http://www.cstctd.org).

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