

# The Environment

## **Introduction**

Most Canadians believe that the greatest public policy challenge of our time is dealing with climate change, specifically a rapidly warming planet. The scientific evidence is no longer refutable. The world faces a runaway greenhouse effect caused by human activity.

RTO/ERO remains very concerned that, while the ravages of global warming are adversely affecting Canada, all three levels of government continue to prefer pronouncements, token promises, and voluntary targets to immediate action.

Few people can deny that melting ice caps, droughts, floods, and other frightening weather patterns are signs that our atmosphere is even more polluted, that our water supplies are in jeopardy, and that the health of our grandchildren is at risk.

RTO/ERO urges governments to support a national strategy to address the environment immediately. It is imperative that our provinces and country reduce our environmental footprint. We need aggressive rules and policies to cut green house emissions. Hesitation and fragmentation among all the governments in Canada are dangerous to our future.

## **Proposed Action Plan**

It is imperative that municipalities and provinces in Canada develop and outline their plans to tackle our environmental challenges. Governments must act immediately to:

- Deploy greenhouse gas reduction technologies,
- Increase energy efficiency,
- Mandate clean air,
- Protect water resources, and
- Implement sustainable development projects.

## **Questions**

1. What actions will your government/party take to work with all levels of government and business to create a real national strategy on the environment?
2. What will you government/party do to make credible changes to reduce carbon dioxide emissions?
3. What will your government/party do to encourage and develop new sustainable technology?
4. What actions will your government/party take to create clean, renewable energy resources?