



March 9, 2009

The Honourable Jim Prentice
Minister of the Environment
Les Terrasses de la Chaudière
10 Wellington Street, 28th Floor
Gatineau, QC K1A 0H3



Honourable Minister,

Re: The Government of Canada's Commitment to the Reduction of Global Mercury Pollution



We congratulate the Canadian government for its support of a legally binding global instrument to reduce human sources of mercury at the United Nations Environment Program Conference in Nairobi, Kenya. Global reduction and elimination of human sources of mercury is necessary for the protection of the environment and the health of Canadians and people around the world.



Since mercury is transported long distances by air or water, the Canadian government needs to work internationally and domestically to eliminate mercury. Only through coordinated effort will the environment and human health be protected.



We urge the federal government to support aggressive timelines and targets for mercury reductions in up-coming international negotiations. We also call on the government to demonstrate leadership by delivering on its domestic commitment to ban non-essential uses of mercury in products and processes and manage releases from legacy sources.



Sincerely,

Bob Oliver
Executive Director, Pollution Probe



On behalf of
Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment
Canadian Child Care Federation
Canadian Environmental Law Association
Environmental Health Clinic, Women's College Hospital
Environmental Health Institute
David Suzuki Foundation
Toronto Public Health
Learning Disabilities Association of Canada
Ontario College of Family Physicians
Ontario Public Health Association
South Riverdale Community Health Centre

