

OPINION

# Open Letter to Prime Minister Harper

I feel Prime Minister Stephen Harper has done the right thing in inviting California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to Canada. Some criticize Harper for being passive and holding meetings; squandering time on communicating instead of taking action. I agree, after all it will be Harper's one year anniversary on January 23. Environmental issues have not gone away since then and he cannot possibly turn his head and ignore them any longer. Although another meeting may seem like a typical Harper time wasting move, it can't hurt if Schwarzenegger proves to influence Harper on environmental matters.

Perhaps they could meet at the gym and pump some iron, work up a sweat over a conversation on environmental policy and climate change. Schwarzenegger could share some of his ideas with Harper. The population of California is 33,871,648 which is slightly larger than Canada's of 32,802,531. If Schwarzenegger can change environmental policy for that many then surely Harper could attempt to as well.

What could they discuss? Perhaps how Governor Schwarzenegger has imple-

mented a law that "will require factories, utilities, and refineries, to cut emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 -- an estimated reduction of 25 percent" (Grist News & Analysis, September 8, 2006). Perhaps he can communicate to Harper that economic doom will not follow after this law is implemented. Harper can relax a little as he huffs and puffs on the stair-master.

After Harper decided to back out of Kyoto we all stood on guard for thee; that is for thee next action plan to replace Canada's Kyoto commitment. Good thing we didn't hold our breath too long as we all would have passed out by now. We have caught wind of the new environmental promise, however. "Under the Tories' proposed Clean Air Act, Ottawa would implement regulations to make industries cut air pollutants by 2010. It also sets a new target for cutting overall greenhouse gas emissions by 2050" (CBC online January 4, 2006).

Such a claim may soothe those individuals who are happy just to hear "Harper" and "environment" used in the same sentence. For the rest of us, however,

we can see the vagueness in this Clean Air Act. It seems to ignore issues of industry water pollution including pesticide run-off, urban sprawl eating up habitat and draining water reserves, and proper management of natural resources such as oil and lumber.

It will be interesting to see which "industries" he aims to regulate. Does he mean industries that employ health care workers and of Status of Women employees? Harper's logic may translate into fewer workers employed and commuting thus reducing CO2 emissions.

Let's hope the meeting between Prime Minister Harper and California Governor Schwarzenegger produces results for Canada's environment. At the very least Harper may acquire motivation to walk to work more often and replace the list of wind bag emissions known as "Harper's commitment to the environment" with a strategy designed for action and change. Cross your fingers!

Aleida Tweten  
January 20, 2007

## Quirky UPEI Facts Part 2

Martha MacIntyre  
Reporter

- There are 915 first year students at UPEI
- 700 first year students are under the age of 19
- Total number of applicants to all programs at UPEI (including AVC and graduate programs) varies from year to year. In 2006 there were about 2650 applicants.. In 2005 there were about 2660. In 2004 there were about 2990 and in 2003 there were about 3190
- Male/ Female ratio at UPEI is 0.54
- Of the 4075 undergrad's at UPEI, 915 of them are first year students, 839 second year students, 658 third year students, and 739 fourth years
- There is about 2.5 million spent on scholarships each year at UPEI

**What does Emily McGill have in common with almost 100 other Holland College students?**

**She has a university degree.**

*“After attaining a bachelor's degree in Psychology and a certificate in Human Resources Management from St. Mary's University in 2004, I came to Holland College to pursue a career in Graphic Design. The program is perfect for me, because I am always learning new subjects and exploring art. I do not regret going to university, because my professors exposed me to many industries and taught me countless skills that I value. What I learned at St. Mary's is complementary to what I am learning now at Holland College. I am happy with where I am today.”*

**Emily McGill**  
Graphic Design Program

**Over 65 programs to choose from.**

First application review date for all programs beginning in September is February 28, 2007.

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