



Via e-mail: pm@pm.gc.ca

November 22, 2010

Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa
K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister:

The Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) wishes to express our disappointment in the defeat of Bill C-311, the *Climate Change Accountability Act*, at the hands of the Senate on Tuesday, November 16, 2010. This unfortunate decision thwarted the will of the majority of the democratically elected House of Commons.

Bill C-311 would have given Canada clear and meaningful targets for greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions. Such reductions are vital to preventing catastrophic climate change and, as nurses are keenly aware, to benefitting the health and safety of Canadians.

The Public Health Agency of Canada cites the physical environment we live in as a key determinate of health. Poor environmental conditions affect Canadians' health through exposure to pollutants such as poor air quality, chemicals and toxic waste. And as Health Canada stated in 2005, climate change affects Canadians' health through increased exposure to food-, water- and vector-borne illnesses; more frequent extreme weather events; and severe heat waves.

The link between climate change and the health of Canadians is clear. CNA strongly requests that your government set meaningful GHG reduction targets – such as those laid out in Bill C-311 – in order to combat climate change and protect the health and safety of Canadians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Judith Shamian".

Judith Shamian, RN, PhD, LLD (hon), D.Sci. (hon), FAAN
President

CNA is the national professional voice of registered nurses in Canada. A federation of 11 provincial and territorial nursing associations and colleges representing 139,893 registered nurses, CNA advances the practice and profession of nursing to improve health outcomes and strengthen Canada's publicly funded, not-for-profit health system.