



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Parliamentary Office
Room 774
Confederation Building
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6
Tel.: 613-995-7614

Community Office
1- 2207 Gottingen Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3K 3B5
Tel.: 902-426-8691



Megan Leslie
Member of Parliament
Députée
Halifax

Bureau Parlementaire
Pièce 774
Édifice de la Confédération
Ottawa (Ontario) K1A 0A6
Tél.: 613-995-7614

Bureau Communautaire
1- 2207 rue Gottingen
Halifax (Nouvelle-Écosse) B3K 3B5
Tél.: 902-426-8691

megan.leslie@parl.gc.ca
<http://www.meganleslie.ca/>

27 November 2012

The Honourable Peter Kent, P.C., M.P.
Minister of the Environment
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Kent,

Re: Commitments made during Committee of the Whole, May 15, 2012

I am writing with respect to commitments you made during the Committee of the Whole on the environment that took place on May 15, 2012.

During questioning respecting your government's lamentable and short-sighted decision to withdraw Canada from the Kyoto Protocol, you agreed to my request that you table the analysis from which your government derived the \$14 billion dollars in penalties your government asserts Canadians would have had to pay had Canada remained a signatory to the Treaty.

Further, when I asked later that evening if you were unable to table your government's economic analysis of the impact of climate change on the Canadian economy, you again responded that you were, in fact, able to do so.

During that same Committee of the Whole on the Environment, Minister, you also failed to answer questions about the cost of your government's sector by sector approach to emissions reductions, or whether your government had done a costing analysis.

Minister, six months passed since you made those promises, and you did not fulfill them, which is why my colleague Anne Minh-Thu Quach asked you again for this information during the Standing Committee on the Environment and Sustainable Development meeting on the Supplementary Estimates (B) on November 19, 2012. You again refused to shed any light on the expected costs of climate change to Canadian tax payers, although you did admit that the alleged \$14 billion dollar cost of Canada remaining a signatory to Kyoto was not based on any government analysis, and that in your opinion the costs of your government's emission reduction plan were irrelevant. Neither I nor my New Democrat colleagues think the cost of regulatory action is unimportant, and I believe Canadian tax payers agree with us.



When asked again for this information during Question Period on November 20, 2012, no answer was forthcoming, and no clarity was given on these important numbers.

The very basis of your government's decision-making on this file has been called into question by your inability to provide essential information on cost. Your government's understanding of the risks to Canada's economy and the well-being of Canadians has been called into question by your lack of transparency respecting the projected impacts of climate change.

Sound policy decisions must be based on good science and good accounting. You and your government have failed to show evidence that you are meeting this standard. Similarly to your decision to withdraw from Kyoto, your plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions has been roundly criticized as inefficient, ineffective and more costly over the long term than other plans. With the latest round of international climate negotiations taking place in Doha, Qatar this week, this information is even more pertinent.

Minister, I strongly urge you to move quickly to table the information you undertook to provide during the Committee on the Whole in May and to furnish the projected costing analysis of your government's sector by sector approach to emissions reductions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Megan Leslie', written in black ink.

Megan Leslie
NDP Environment Critic