November 20, 2009

The Honorable Jim Prentice

Minister of the Environment

Government of Canada

Les Terrasses de la Chaudière  
10 Wellington Street, 28th Floor  
Gatineau, Quebec  
K1A 0H3

**RE: 15th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), 7-18 December 2009, Copenhagen, Denmark**

Dear Minister Prentice:

We are writing to encourage the federal government and your Ministry to help negotiate a binding climate change agreement in Copenhagen that will succeed the Kyoto Protocol. We are very concerned that your government has indicated that no agreement will be reached in Copenhagen. The world has an opportunity to set all societies on a course to a truly sustainable, low-carbon, equitable and prosperous future for all citizens of the world. Your government has a duty to all Canadians to take a leadership role.

Canada must commit to take action to keep global warming below 2°C above pre-industrial temperatures, which is what the international scientific community urges. To achieve this, Canada must significantly increase domestic actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Canada has no shortage of expertise to reduce domestic greenhouse gas emissions and stimulate the economy, creating thousands of good jobs.

Similarly, we are writing to express the Canadian Union of Public Employees’ priorities with respect to COP 15. CUPE sees the following as the pillars of a successful outcome at COP 15:

* The international community must agree to binding greenhouse gas reduction targets consistent with what is called for by the science to cap warming at 2°C above the pre-industrial temperatures.

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* The agreement must include short-term greenhouse gas reduction targets in the range of 25-40% below 1990 levels.
* The agreement must include a strong Just Transition component to ensure that workers displaced by the move to a greener economy are provided with opportunities for decent work and quality jobs.
* The agreement must be fair and equitable. Canada must do its part to finance international mechanisms to assist low carbon and climate resilient development in emerging economies and provide financial assistance for mitigation and adaptation in areas most severely affected by climate change.

We cannot delay any further on this issue. Canada and all countries are presently being adversely affected by climate change. Canada must show international leadership and domestic ingenuity to help avert the climate crisis. Your government has the power to help make Copenhagen a success.

Thank you for your consideration.

**[add division name]**

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c.c.: P. Moist, CUPE National President; C. Généreux, CUPE National Secretary-Treasurer; G. Dupuis; S. Ruffo; D. Burke; M. Butler; P. Beattie; S. Marshall; T. Greaves; J. Swaok; J. Finley; A. Pizzino; M. Bélair; D. Letarte; R. Spence; M. Firth; Members, National Executive Board