

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **RECLAIM EARTH DAY: U-TURN ON CLIMATE CHANGE!**

Rally • Parade • U-Turn • Street Festival

**A RALLY WITH SPEAKERS AND PERFORMANCES BEGINNING AT 12 NOON ON SUNDAY, APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup> AT YONGE-DUNDAS SQUARE, FOLLOWED BY A FAMILY-FRIENDLY PARADE WEST ACROSS QUEEN ST FROM 1-2PM. AT THE QUEEN/SPADINA INTERSECTION, THE PARADE WILL STAGE A SYMBOLIC “U-TURN ON CLIMATE CHANGE” AROUND A CEREMONIAL TREE CARRIED FROM THE RALLY (AMONG OTHER CREATIVE AND COLOURFUL FLOURISHES OF ACTIVITY), THEN RETURN TO JOHN ST. FOR A FESTIVE, INTERACTIVE, ALL-AGES STREET FESTIVAL HOSTED BY “STREETS ARE FOR PEOPLE” FROM 2-4 PM.**

*“What we do in the next two to three years will determine our future.  
This is the defining moment.” -- Rajendra Pachauri, Chair, IPCC, 2007*

Having staged the Toronto contingent of the D8: Global Day of Action this past December (more than 2500 participants and extensive non-corporate sponsorship and support), the Toronto Climate Campaign (TCC) is staging its next major public demonstration: **Reclaim Earth Day, U-Turn on Climate Change!**

In April, 1970, the environmental movement burst onto the political stage with one of the largest grassroots demonstrations ever seen! It wasn't corporate or green-washed, and with 20 to 25 million people who answered the call, it could not be ignored. Its success forced governments to take unprecedented action to enact new laws, reforms and regulations. The time is NOW to reclaim the true spirit and activism of the ORIGINAL EARTH DAY. This event is another big step toward building this kind of mass-movement in Canada.

The Toronto Climate Campaign and its coalition of endorsing unions, environmental and social justice organizations, students, and citizens are putting the activism back into Earth Day with a rally to call on the Harper government to: 1) Take urgent action to implement Kyoto at a minimum and introduce aggressive, ever more stringent, mandatory and binding emissions reduction targets; 2) Initiate a rapid and just transition away from the environmental devastation and social inequity caused by our fossil-fuel-based economy toward one grounded in the principles of conservation, clean, safe, renewable energy, sustainability and responsible stewardship – NOW! This must include a moratorium on all new tar sands licensing and development and a moratorium on all new coal and nuclear power development.

When we advocate for a more ecologically responsible future, we reject false solutions that trade one type of devastation for another. We refuse proposals that benefit the most powerful voices and disproportionately injure those voices which are easier to ignore. So today, we stand in solidarity with the Shabot Obaadjiwan and Ardoch Algonquin First Nations, and Kitchenumahkoosib Inninuwug (KI) First Nation. We condemn the imprisonment of Robert Lovelace for his peaceful opposition to uranium mining on Ardoch lands, and we condemn the incarceration of the six KI Band Councillors for their peaceful opposition to platinum mining on their lands. Ardoch Algonquin Co-Chief, Paula Sherman, and Lawyer, Christopher Reid, will speak to these injustices during the rally.

Speakers (order to be confirmed): **Glenn MacIntosh**, Toronto Climate Campaign (TCC), [ecoSanity.org](http://ecoSanity.org); Host: **Sandy Hudson**, VP equity, President Elect, U of T Students' Union; **Adam Vaughan**, Toronto City Councillor, Trinity-Spadina; **Paula Sherman**, Ardoch First Nations Co-Chief with Lawyer, **Christopher Reid**; **John Cartwright**, President, Toronto and York Region Labour Council; **Javier Davila**, Teacher, Activist, No One is Illegal; **Eduardo Sousa**, Ontario-Quebec-Nunavut Regional Organizer, Council of Canadians; **Dave Martin**, Climate and Energy Coordinator, Greenpeace Canada. Performers: The New Kings, The Unity Singers, Samba Elegua.

This Earth Day, help us to reclaim it. Join our efforts to celebrate, defend and preserve a livable world for all peoples and all species.

**TCC Coordinator: Glenn MacIntosh**; tel prior to event (416) 861-1303; cell day of event (905) 550-0216  
**TCC Operations: Soo Luen Tom ('Sue Lynn')**; cell prior to and day of event (905) 550-0216  
Web: [www.torontoclimatecampaign.org](http://www.torontoclimatecampaign.org) • Email: [info@torontoclimatecampaign.org](mailto:info@torontoclimatecampaign.org) • Tel: (416) 861-1303