

Press Release - For Immediate Release

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Sunshine Walk - Toronto to Ottawa demands climate justice from all Parties

Toronto – A group of concerned citizens who set out by foot yesterday on a 400 km journey from Toronto to Ottawa to demand immediate action on climate justice from our next federal government will pass through Pickering, Ajax, Whitby, Oshawa and Courtice today.

Under the banner of "The Sunshine Walk," Dewan Afzal, Rita Bijons and Adriana Mugnatto-Hamu are walking to Ottawa to illustrate the deep desire Canadians have for real renewable solutions to climate change.

On its way to Ottawa, the Sunshine Walk will pass through over 50 cities and towns where it will be meeting with local candidates during the election to ask them to sign the Kyoto Plus pledge, which includes a promise to support "strong measures in support of energy conservation and renewable energy," and "urgent measures to minimize climate change impacts on people and ecosystems here and abroad."

Having departed from Toronto yesterday, the walkers reached Pickering last night. They departed from there at 7:30 this morning and will gather at the Whitby Library at 12:15pm today at Highway 2 and Brock Street and at Oshawa Centre at King St. & Centre St. at 3:00pm.

"Truly sustainable energy sources, such as solar, wind, geothermal and marine power, as well as crucial conservation techniques exist now. We don't need to rely on oil, gas and nuclear, all of which only exacerbate the global climate crisis," says a statement from Sunshine Walk organizers.

"Canada is repeatedly called upon to meet its commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions but the Harper government has been busy tilting at windmills instead of building them," says Afzal. "Our emissions are having a devastating impact, especially on developing parts of the world. Whatever our government looks like coming out of this election, Canadians demand that one of its first tasks be to implement green jobs and green energy."

The Sunshine Walkers are also asking other concerned citizens to join them along the way, for some or all of the trip, or to give them their climate solutions in a letter, drawing or photograph for the next Prime Minister. These letters will be delivered to Parliament Hill, and the new federal government, on October 20. Along the way, the walkers will also collect signatures for the Kyoto Plus petition.

"Canadians deserve a government that thinks outside of the tar sands, toward a more secure energy future for Canada," says Stuart Trew of the Council of Canadians, one of

several organizations sponsoring the walk, including Greenpeace, the David Suzuki Foundation, the Sierra Club of Canada, the Climate Action Network, the Canadian Federation of Students and others. "We demand a government that prioritizes the interests of people and the environment not corporate profits, and plans for a just transition to publicly funded and delivered sustainable, renewable energy."

"Canada needs true leadership on climate change now," says Bijons. "Our government has been using our tax dollars to subsidize dirty energy like tar sands and nuclear power for too long. We want that money to be spent implementing clean, sustainable energy solutions instead. It's also time Canada worked toward facilitating a global shift to alternatives and played a leadership role in influencing other G8 nations to embrace clean energy."

People can follow the Sunshine Walk at sunshinewalk08.blogspot.com, or contact info.sunshinewalk@gmail.com if they'd like to join the walkers or simply come out at any point along the route to Ottawa to wish them well. A full route and itinerary are available online at <http://sunshinewalk08.blogspot.com/2008/09/route.html>.

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