



CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY

L'INSTITUT CANADIEN DU
DROIT ET DE LA POLITIQUE
DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT

130 Spadina Avenue Suite 305
Toronto, Ontario M5V 2L4

Tel: (416)923-3529
Fax: (416)923-5949
www.cielap.org
cielap@cielap.org

January 19, 2009

The Hon Jim Flaherty
Minister of Finance
House of Commons
Ottawa K1A 0A6

Dear Minister

On behalf of the Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy (CIELAP), I am writing to you today about the proposed budget and stimulus package that you will be announcing on January 26 2009.

There are many different views in Canada and proposals on what such a package should look like. I am strongly encouraging you to use this opportunity and to focus this package as a stimulus to change Canada's direction towards a more sustainable – taking the economic, social and environmental impacts into account - economy.

CIELAP has written extensively on sustainable development – integrating economic, environmental and social initiatives - and has even suggested priorities for Canada. We would encourage you to consider these priorities when deciding how to focus the stimulus package.

These priorities are:

- our commitments to the Kyoto Agreement and addressing climate change;
- Cities, especially public transit and environmental infrastructure – water, sewage, retrofitting homes and offices;
- early childhood poverty and deprivation, including early education and daycare;
- housing for the homeless; and
- “greening” Canadian innovation and competitiveness.

As well, we would encourage you to engage with other levels of government and sectors of society as you finalize your plans so that this becomes an integrated effort across the country and society.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss our ideas further with you and your colleagues.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Owen Mitchell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "O" and a long, sweeping underline.

Executive Director

cc Rt Hon Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada
Hon Jim Prentice, Minister of the Environment
Hon Tony Clement, Minister of Industry