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October 14, 2009

Colleagues,

I have been approached by a group of young lawyers who have created an organization named the *Climate Change Lawyers Network*. Its mandate is to advocate for a stronger climate change commitment throughout Canada and particularly within the legal profession.

I support and applaud their efforts and believe that as lawyers, that we have a powerful role to play and the expertise to make a lasting contribution to the collective response to climate change.

Legal professionals will play an important role as Cap-and-trade, carbon taxes, offset and allowance credits, mean that carbon is likely to become the newest commodity. However, carbon finance and trading is only one of many approaches to solving this unprecedented environmental crisis. In addition to environmental protection, the climate crisis will influence Canada's approach to responsible corporate governance, ethical business practices, and the protection of human rights. We must be equipped to help clients understand the risks and opportunities presented by climate change.

As respected professionals living and working in communities across Canada, Canadian lawyers are well positioned to address the challenges and embrace the opportunities to promote positive change. We can do this by adding our voices to the call for stronger climate protection policies at all levels of government.

In less than 60 days, 192 countries will attempt to come to an agreement to avert catastrophic climate change at the United Nations Climate Change Convention in Copenhagen. This is an historical occasion, the outcome of which may re shape the course of human development. Left alone, the climate crisis has the potential to jeopardize peace, prosperity and health for everyone.

If we are to succeed, we must all play our part. We urge all lawyers to bring their efforts to bear on addressing the climate change crisis in both their professional and personal capacities. Working together, Canadian lawyers can help reshape the cultural

underpinnings that are at the root of the climate crisis.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Roy McMurtry', with a stylized flourish at the end.

R. Roy McMurtry  
RRM:jab