4 December 2009

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
Canadian Embassy, Beijing, China

Dear Prime Minister Harper,

Greenpeace notes with interest your visit to China only three days before the start of what many are calling the most important negotiations ever undertaken, the UN climate meeting in Copenhagen, where world leaders must commit to legally binding, science-based targets for reducing global greenhouse emissions.

The climate is in crisis. Leading scientists agree that the planet is in danger and that we’re approaching a point of no return. Unfortunately the evidence suggests that, while other countries are working toward strong climate commitments, your government is standing in their way.

With the Alberta tar sands dictating Canada’s position in the UN climate talks, Canada is obstructing progress on a global scale. Tar sands revenue and oil industry lobbying have seriously undermined Canada’s international reputation. Your government is fighting standards to lower the carbon content of fuels, lobbying against international legislation to lower emissions, preventing its federal scientists from doing their job, and obstructing the international climate change negotiations.

Unfortunately, Canada is becoming a symbol of everything that stands in the way of urgent action on climate change. Greenpeace is calling on you and your government to be a part of the solution, not part of the problem. This means a stop to tar sands expansion and the start of real commitments to reducing emissions. In your talks with the Chinese Government, we hope that you will work with them to ensure a clean energy revolution, one that moves the whole world away from projects such as tar sands towards a different development path.

Prime Minister Harper, we need a genuinely clean energy revolution, one in which Canada plays the leadership role it is supposed to play. We urge you to rise to this challenge. The time is now.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Pang Cheung Sze
Campaign Director
Greenpeace China