

Notes for Intervention at meeting of City of Ottawa, Environment Committee.

Subject: Air Quality and Climate Change Strategy

May, 20th, 2014.

Good Morning.

My name is John Stone. I am an Adjunct Professor at Carleton University and have been deeply involved in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change since the beginning.

Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to say a few words regarding the draft Air Quality and Climate Change Strategy.

I should first say that I find the draft Strategy quite encouraging. The authors clearly understand the threat which is climate change. I would like to express my gratitude to them. However, my sense is that it is weakened by three gaps.

The first is a lack of urgency. The science is telling us that climate change seems to be accelerating. We see this not only in temperature increases but in the decline of sea-ice in the Arctic and the melting of the Greenland and Antarctic ice-sheets. The implication is that we are seriously running out of time to ensure we will be able to avoid the worse dangers of climate change. Time is not on our side.

The second gap is the lack of clear, ambitious and quantified targets for each of the elements of this Strategy. Along with this is the essential need to have adequate tools to measure progress. As any MBA graduate will tell you the key to management is measurement. We need these targets to challenge us all.

The final lacuna is the absence of an aggressive communications plan. As others have mentioned, we cannot do this alone. We need to engage the citizens, businesses and civic organizations in Ottawa. We need to show them what has already been accomplished and what we hope to do collectively to meet the goals of this Strategy.

Thus to conclude: we need a greater recognition of urgency, ambitious targets and an effective communications plan. Do this and I will know to take you seriously.

Thanks you.