

CARPE DIEM: COMMUNIQUÉ

INTRODUCTION

"The era of procrastination, of half-measures, of soothing and baffling expedients, of delays, is coming to its close. In its place we are entering a period of consequences." (Winston Churchill, 1936)

Three years before the outbreak of WWII, Churchill foresaw a crisis on the horizon. Action was delayed, and humanity suffered a tragedy of epic proportions. In 2009, humankind is on the cusp of another catastrophe. We cannot afford procrastination this time. We, the youth are the emerging keepers of an ailing planet. If change is to occur, we must be its eyes, its heart, and its conscience. We must visualize the endless possibilities for recovery, and embrace visions that provide long term solutions. We must see our task as an ethical, moral, and ultimately mystical concept whereby we have enough respect for the future to provide for that future. We, the youth, must seize the day and act now.

CLIMATE CHANGE: AVERTING A CRISIS

We demand that the G8 nations take immediate action to invest in alternative energy sources to reduce the world's dependence on fossil fuels. It is realistic to meet and surpass goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, as stated in the Bali Action Plan, with available "green" technology. The consumption of fossil fuels must be supplanted by the implementation of renewable energy—like biomass, geothermal, solar, and wind power—on a large-scale foundation. Scientists worldwide confirm that enough solar energy falls on Earth's surface every 40 minutes to meet 100% of the entire world's energy needs per year. Similarly, tapping the Pacific Rim region for geothermal energy could supply copious amounts of energy. We urge the G8 countries to take full advantage of each terrain's unique energy potential and apply the respective technologies that harness what Nature has to offer. Governments must also ensure that biofuels are used to deplete cellulosic biomass waste, and not be singularly produced as another energy source.

We beseech the G8 nations to introduce incentives that encourage energy efficiency by taxing fossil fuels and activities that emit greenhouse gases. In return, the revenues can be channeled to ease the transition from oil dependence to support equitable distribution of alternative energies, and to establish ways in which the developing nations such as China and India will embrace energy efficiency. Such measures are necessary to address the heart of the problem—the lack of public will to conserve energy. By compelling every citizen to become environmentally friendly, it becomes instinctive to save energy. This delicate economic push will trigger profound changes in lifestyles and consumption patterns; the benefits will include the judicious use of water, lessening of air pollution, conservation of resources, and ultimately improved health for both the planet and its citizens.

THE ELUSIVE VACCINE: EDUCATION

With no cure to date, the MDG of halting and reversing HIV/AIDS will never be realized in Africa unless greater action is taken to contain the disease's transmission. To do this, we propose that the G8 countries focus on injecting an unconventional vaccine, sure to facilitate the achievement of multiple MDGs: resources to establish free primary education, as well as improved access to secondary education in all African countries. Amidst the chaos spawned by the epidemic, structured environments are needed to support youth who account for 50% of new infections. Schools must provide extensive education regarding HIV/AIDS prevention, free counseling, HIV testing facilities, as well as parental figures to rear the generations of AIDS orphans. The resultant antibodies will include new generations of empowered, HIV-negative youth, particularly girls, equipped with life skills allowing them to develop their communities and overcome the disease.

« STOP SIDA. TENEZ PROMESSE. »

Le slogan de la campagne de la Journée mondiale contre le sida 2008 exprime un problème : de nombreuses promesses rompues par les pays développés, ce qui crée un manque de crédibilité en ce qui concerne la provision et la distribution du support financier. Donc, les nations du G8 doivent établir des plans annuels pour assurer que dans l'avenir tout près, l'aide l'étranger atteindra 0.7% de leur PDB. L'ONU doit surveiller ces pays, et imposer des conséquences pour les nations qui ne rendent pas assez d'argent. L'ONU doit également assurer que ces nations honorent les promesses faites aux organisations locales qui combattent le SIDA. L'argent consacré la lutte contre le SIDA doit aussi être utilisé plus efficacement. Par exemple, les fonds sanctionnés la recherche la recherche d'un vaccin devraient plutôt être utilisés l'achat des médicaments antirétroviraux génériques pour que tous les gens infectés en aient accès.

L'EAU

L'EAU: UN DROIT HUMAIN

L'eau est l'élément primordiale pour le maintien de la vie - personne est en mesure de l'exproprier, ni pour le contrôler. Nous exigeons que l'eau soit reconnue comme un droit humain. Il est incombé sur les pays du G8 d'assurer l'accès universel à l'eau potable qui fait cruellement défaut à 1,1 milliards de citoyens mondiaux. Dans un monde en développement, l'accroissement de la demande en eau, entraîné par une explosion démographique, risque de produire des conflits qui, par vertu de leurs urgences, vont amoindrir les efforts consacrés à d'autres problèmes pressants.

L'INITIATIVE B.L.E.U.

Nous implorons que l'élément vital de notre planète, l'eau, soit partagée, préservée, et protégée. Pour réaliser cela, nous proposons la mise en oeuvre de l'initiative B.L.E.U.

BANNISSEMENT DE L'EAU EN BOUTEILLE:

La consommation épouvantable de l'eau en bouteille aggrave le réchauffement terrestre et cède des énormes bénéfices aux intérêts des entreprises. Donc, la vente de l'eau embouteillée doit être interdite dans les régions où l'accès à l'eau potable existe.

LÉGISLATION:

Puisque l'eau est essentielle à la stabilité globale, il faut éviter des crises concernant l'eau dans l'avenir. Les pays du G8 doivent mener des discussions régionales, comme dans le bassin du Nil, pour empêcher des conflits internationaux.

ÉDUCATION:

Il est essentiel que les curriculums divers des écoles dans le monde incluent l'éducation des problèmes de l'eau. Ainsi, les jeunes comprendront leur rôle éthique et moral.

USAGE RESPONSABLE:

Il faut promouvoir un usage responsable de l'eau. Par exemple, beaucoup d'eau est perdue à de mauvaises techniques d'irrigation et à des fuites, de sorte que le partage des technologies liées à l'eau est critique. Nous recommandons également la mise en oeuvre d'un "Water Equality Act," pour taxer l'usage inutile de l'eau par des industries et des foyers dans tous les pays.

REFERENCES

ARTICLES AND BOOKS

- Lewis, S. (2005). *Race Against Time*. Toronto: House of Anansi Press.
- Burgan, M. (2008). *Not a Drop to Drink*. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Society.
- DiMento, J. F., & Doughman, P. (2007). *Climate Change: What it means for Us, Our Children, and Our Grandchildren*. Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
- Coren, M. (2009, March 31). *Open Season on Benedict*. National Post, p. A12.
- The Blue Covenant, Maude Barlow (2007) • WaterWorld magazine: The scarcity of water, September 2006

MULTIMEDIA CONTENT

- Guggenheim, D. (Producer), Gore, A. (Writer), & Bender, L. (Director). (2006). *An Inconvenient Truth* [Motion picture]. USA: Paramount.

ADVISORS

Contacted over 100 individuals and organizations, including:

- letters sent to the leaders of all of the G8 countries
- letters sent to Stephen Harper, Michael Ignatieff, Jack Layton, and Elizabeth May
- E-mails sent to local Members of Parliament, federally and provincially

- Correspondences with high schools in Canada, the United States, Australia, France, Kuwait, Mexico, and Spain
- Members from within the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Natural Resources
- World Environment Center
- United Nations Environment Programme
- World Environmental Organization
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- Canadian Centre for Environmental Education
- Canadian AIDS Society
- Doctors Without Borders
- Correspondences with high schools in Canada, the United States, Australia, France, Kuwait, Mexico, and Spain, such as: International School of Madrid, Kuwait national English School
- Students of the University of Western Ontario, University of Waterloo, University of Ottawa
- Professor A. Allahar of the University of Western Ontario

INTERNET WEBSITES

- <http://www.iavi.org/viewpage.cfm?aid=11>
- <http://www.stephenlewisfoundation.org/index.cfm>
- <http://www.cdn aids.ca/web/casmisc.nsf/pages/welcome>
- <http://www.avert.org/>
- http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=33437&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html
- http://www.davidsuzuki.org/Climate_Change/
- <http://www.greenfacts.org>
- <http://www.greenparty.ca/>
- <http://www.solarbuzz.com/FastFactsGermany.htm>
- <http://www.renewableenergyworld.com>
- <http://www.un.org/>
- <http://www.ipm-microbicides.org/index.htm>
- <http://www.cbc.ca/dispatches/summer2008.html>
- <http://www.catie.ca/Fre/VivreAvecVIH/journeemondiale2008.shtml>
- http://www.canadians.org/water/issues/World_Water_Day/
- <http://www.globalissues.org/article/601/water-and-development>
- <http://www.unicef.org/>
- <http://www.oxfam.org/home>

SOCIAL COMMITMENT: PURPOSEFUL ACTION

Even before Carpe Diem's formation, our team members prioritized involvement in both local and global communities, involvement which consists of social responsibility and environmental sustainability.

Currently the founders and leaders of our school's Social Justice Club, we have initiated classroom discussions and debates among the two thousand strong student body, regarding accountable citizenship. Our initiatives have recognized the opinions of our peers concerning the topics of this year's G8 Summit, and encouraged global citizenship. Moreover, our club diligently organizes and presents forums to our local elementary schools. These

forums both inform the new generations of the existence of the G8 and J8 Summit, and encourage future participation in it. More importantly, we entrust unto them what we have garnered.

Two of our team members are involved in our school's Environmental Club, which takes action to promote responsibility among youth. Our team has also initiated discussion in our Principal's Student Advisory Group to improve our school's environmental footprint. Our belief in building bonds within our local community extends to our volunteer work with our city's Food Bank, and with our community churches.

Passionate about our endeavor of completing our J8 submission, our team researched extensively, interviewed experts, sent letters to national and international organizations, and met frequently to discuss issues. Inspired initially to participate in the J8 Summit by our social commitments, our work on this project has had the result of sparking even further commitment in serving our community.

Our social consciences encompass our involvement in our school's Student Council, its Cancer Society, its Language Council, its Multi-Racial Ethnic Relations Club, its Music Council, its orchestras and bands. We are all tutors in one subject or another. We are members of the Christian Fellowship Club and the Academic Reach for the Top Team. We are Science Olympians and we are "Mathletes." Within our community we are lifeguards, group church leaders, volunteers and sports enthusiasts.

Our school and community involvement has helped us appreciate the needs and desires of every facet of society. We feel confident that, if chosen, we will attend the summit as mature, intelligent, and dignified representatives of the broad spectrum of Canadian youth, and act as a link to its international community.

Our group work on our J8 submission has also provided us tremendous insight into the cooperative process. The difficulties typically associated with group work, such as expression of creativity, articulation of thought, meeting of deadlines, we overcame through our willingness to make sacrifices and remain cooperative. We demonstrated our initiative in myriad ways and were able to forge a submission reflective of our fervor. We recognize that today's world leaders encounter the identical issues and our work with Carpe Diem has prepared us to share our message with the G8 leaders: only by taking action together, today, can solutions become realities.

MOBILIZING OTHERS

PART A:

Si nous avons l'honneur de participer au Sommet G8 de 2009, Carpe Diem s'assurerait d'agir non seulement pour notre équipe, mais comme ambassadeurs de tous les jeunes canadiens et canadiennes motivés. Pour y arriver, notre groupe contacterait toutes les équipes qui furent « short listed ». Cela nous permettra d'avoir un point de vue plus compréhensif des concerns des adolescents. Comme ça, nous compilerons et étudierons les idées pour assurer de bien présenter les inquiétudes des jeunes, sous tous les angles possibles.

Avant de partir pour le sommet, Carpe Diem verra la création d'un site web. Il sera lié celui de notre lycée, et idéalement celui du J8 et de UNICEF. Nous communiquerons son existence toutes les écoles secondaires de notre commission scolaire, en faisant des présentations, et nous leur encouragerons visiter notre site pour en apprendre plus, et pour partager leurs pensées. Ces présentations communiqueront aussi notre mission comme équipe.

Le site inclura une section dans laquelle nous publierons un rapport quotidien de nos activités pendant le sommet ainsi qu'une section pour recevoir des commentaires et suggestions de tous les adolescents intéressés. Ces

commentaires nous permettrons de bien représenter les sentiments de la jeunesse canadienne dans tous nos engagements.

PART B:

If selected, our team would make it a priority to foster deeper awareness of global issues in our contemporaries. Before, during, and after the Summit, we intend to secure the support of a national Canadian newspaper, and arrange for the publication of a short series. Within our submissions, we will outline our experiences, our proposals as well as the developments at the Summit. This column, published across the country will convey to today's youth the message that despite our age, we, the keepers of our planet, are instrumental in creating change. Additionally, when in attendance at the G8 Summit, we will keep journals of our ventures that we will subsequently publish to inspire youth like ourselves to partake in activities that promote social awareness. Leading up to the Summit, we will pursue opportunities to engage with the media so that global issues will be displayed prominently.

Our team will remain in contact with the other J8 representatives whom we will have met at the Summit. In the long-term, we envision working with the other winning J8 teams to create a multi-lingual website connecting motivated youth the world-over to nurture international relations. Along with these initiatives, our team will continue running our school's J8 Social Justice Club; with the support that would result from our selection, our club membership will increase in number. Carpe Diem will work to ensure a greater sense of global citizenship in our school, will make regular visits to elementary schools to hold presentations concerning global issues, and will become the bridge for the path we have created.

DIVERSITY

We intentionally created our team to represent the Canadian mosaic. Our group comprises two girls and two boys, who are fluent in English, French, Korean, and Japanese. We have taken the initiative to learn Spanish, German, Mandarin, and Italian. Proud to call ourselves Canadian, we nevertheless have international roots. Collectively, we have ancestry in South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands, France, Japan, and Italy. We have travelled the globe on Foreign exchanges. Our interests are eclectic and our futures lead us on divergent paths, but all are professions that recognize the need to heal our world.