

PLUS SAVE 20¢/LITRE FOR ONE YEAR ON GAS ON SELECT VEHICLES



Learn more



BREAKING NEWS

No hatred for killer bear

cnews Science

July 24, 2007

HOME PAGE

- VIDEO GALLERY
- PHOTO GALLERIES
- COMMENT ON A STORY
- ACROSS CANADA
- WORLD WATCH
- THE WAR ON TERRORISM
- WEIRD NEWS
- DAILY FEATURE
- MEDIA NEWS

SCIENCE

- David Suzuki
- Discovery
- TECHNOLOGY
- Sun Papers
- Columnists
- Lotteries
- Weather
- RSS Feed



poll

What will be the big issue in the next federal election?

- Gun control
- Afghanistan war
- Equalization issues between the provinces

SUBMIT

Results

photo OF THE DAY

Environmental groups: Funding delays causing crisis

By JAMES KELLER

E-MAIL TO A FRIEND

PRINT PAGE

WRITE CNEWS

HALIFAX (CP) - Environmental organizations in Nova Scotia are decrying funding delays from Ottawa, with one comparing the federal environment minister to a "slum landlord" for refusing to fix a problem that is reaching across Canada.

A collection of non-profit environmental groups, including the Ecology Action Centre, Clean Nova Scotia and the provincial branch of the Sierra Club, told a news conference Tuesday how they've been affected as they wait for money that normally arrives in April.

Some groups still don't know whether they will receive any funding under a program administered by Environment Canada, while others have been told money is on the way but still don't know when it will arrive.

That program, the Atlantic Coastal Action Program, is fully funded and organizations that have made requests will soon be contacted about the government's decisions, said Eric Richer, Environment Minister John Baird's press secretary.

In the meantime, the groups said, they've had to either lay off staff, work without being paid or shelve projects that would require additional money or employees.

"Environmental groups and projects, not only in Nova Scotia but across Canada, are in a serious funding crisis," said Tamara Lorincz, executive director of the Nova Scotia Environmental Network, whose organization hasn't been able to pay her since April.

"If the federal government is serious about the environment, it will also be serious about funding."

GET AN EMPLOYEE PRICE DISCOUNT

PLUS SAVE 20¢/LITRE FOR ONE YEAR ON GAS ON SELECT VEHICLES

LEARN MORE



CANCUN





Another spokesman for Baird acknowledged that funding decisions were behind, partially due to a large number of requests.

"We're working to make decisions and get the information out to the groups as quickly as possible," said Mike Van Soelen, while denying the suggestion that the delays reflect a poor commitment on the environment.

"Our government's commitment to the environment is unwavering. We've contributed a great amount of resources towards to environment ... we are giving it 110 per cent."

Gretchen Fitzgerald of the Sierra Club said Baird is standing idle while environmental groups across the country are left to fall apart.

"Minister Baird is acting like a slum landlord when it comes to the environment," said Fitzgerald.

"The house's roof is falling in on our ears and he comes with his two-by-fours and props it up. We're grateful for the two-by-fours, but we want a long-term commitment that that roof is going to be fixed."

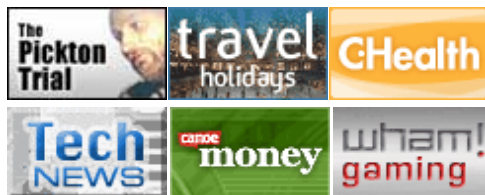
Lorincz said her group's umbrella organization, the Canadian Environmental Network, recently learned that it would receive federal funding this year, but she said it's too little, too late.

"Nothing has been signed, there is no contribution agreement, and it is the same level of funding that we have received for 15 years," said Lorincz. "Most importantly, what we still don't know is when we will get this funding."

The groups suggested the Conservative party's reluctance to fund environmental groups was evidence the current government isn't committed to green issues.

"Judge them by their actions," said Charlene Boyce Young of Clean Nova Scotia.

"We've seen a very constrained focus on a few key areas that they keep hammering away at, but we can't get by with just focusing on a few things. The environment is everything, and we having seen that level of commitment yet."



opinion



Reconnecting with food in the summer

Every summer, if I'm lucky, I get to spend some time with my family at our cabin on an island off Canada's West Coast. It's a place we go to recharge our batteries, and reconnect with each other and with the natural world. [Full Column](#)

Columnist [DAVID SUZUKI](#)

Across Canada

- [Ontario man wanted for 3 murders](#)
- [C-sections, epidurals, underweight babies on the rise: report](#)
- [No hatred for killer bear](#)
- [Bicyclist shoots driver dead](#)

World Watch

- [Spanish officials: Small blast along Tour de France route](#)
- [Libya pardons Bulgarian nurses](#)
- [Brits drying out from record floods](#)
- [Arab League delegation arrives in Israel](#)