

Canadians for Limits to Growth

Dedicated to Reducing Human Impact on Earth

THE SIGNATORIES TO THIS MANIFESTO WERE MEMBERS OF THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF THE CLUB OF ROME which meets regularly in Ottawa to discuss all aspects of the developing crisis in our world which was first identified by a group of scientists in Rome in an epoch-making report, *Limits to Growth*, in 1972. A *30-Year Update* in 2004 demonstrated that the warnings of the earlier report were entirely correct: the earth has reached the limits of its ability to sustain the ever growing human population and its ever growing appetite for consumption. When some members of CACOR failed to persuade the organization to make a public statement to sound the alarm once again, some of us resigned from the CACOR in protest.

Troubled by the continuance of public and corporate policies that ignore the changing world, eight of us met in private and, finding that between us we commanded the necessary expertise, crafted over many months a declaration, *Canadians for Limits to Growth*, urging the public to confront the realities of climate change, population explosion, and peak oil with all its implications for disaster, and to change their way of life both individually and as a society. The result is printed below.

We have no plans to create an organization dedicated to work for the political application of these insights, but you are invited to react to this manifesto at CanadiansForLimitsToGrowth@gmail.com.

—Henry Beissel

We, members of **Canadians for Limits to Growth**, call upon our fellow Canadians to join with us in restoring the health of our planet and in achieving a more secure future for humanity.

Ten thousand years ago, at the beginning of the era of agriculture, humans numbered about five million and their impact on Earth's ecosystems was minimal. Since about 1800, when the population had reached 900 million, technological development, fossil fuel energy, and increasing plunder and consumption of an apparent cornucopia of Earth's resources have contributed to more than a seven-fold increase in human numbers to almost seven billion, a level which vastly exceeds the Earth's carrying capacity and continues to increase. The multiplication of human numbers has also accelerated the discharge of our wastes and poisons, thereby undermining the health of the ecosphere.

Experience tells us that no species can indefinitely increase its numbers, its level of consumption, and its production of wastes, without leading to widespread impoverishment, misery and

the collapse of its population. Among humans, exceeding limits to growth is already resulting in major resource wars and regional pandemics and famines. Thousands of species around the world are at serious risk of extinction. Climate change provides irrefutable evidence that humans have exceeded the limits of the atmosphere's capacity to absorb the by-products of human activity.

Humanity's practice of taking what we want from the Earth and discharging wastes without thought for tomorrow must end! Now, more people are beginning to awaken to emerging wastelands. The sciences, from ecology to molecular biology, have demonstrated our kinship with all other forms of life on Earth. Slowly, there is an increasing awareness that our actions affect the ecological health of all parts of Earth's terrestrial and marine ecosystems required for wellness and survival. This awareness brings responsibilities.

The time has arrived to acknowledge our interdependence with all life and to embrace our responsibility to nurture and respect the Earth. We are part of and dependent on the web of life; as we damage it, we also wound ourselves.