



PRESS RELEASE

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International Ozone Day – Saturday, September 16

As part of raising awareness on global initiatives to protect the stratospheric ozone layer, the General Assembly of the United Nations (Resolution 49/114) has declared September 16 as “International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer”. The theme for 2006 is “**Protect the Ozone Layer, Save Life on Earth**”. Among various international activities linked to September 16, a website for children, including information and games, is hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme (OzonAction Branch) at www.unep.fr/ozonaction/events/ozoneday/2006.htm

MOPIA and many Manitoba stakeholders continue to be global leaders in their efforts to protect the ozone layer. Several initiatives including technician training, integration of alternatives to ozone depleting substances, industry innovations and public awareness are all valuable efforts which have led to our successful leadership role. To further promote International Ozone Day 2006 locally, MOPIA is launching our ozone awareness materials list, which includes resources (i.e. weblinks, posters, material order) for industry and the public to further understand their responsibilities to comply with legislation.

Background

In 1987, the Montreal Protocol was originally signed by 24 nations (including Canada). The Protocol came into effect in 1989 and requires parties to freeze production and consumption of substances harmful to the ozone layer on a graduated schedule. There are 96 chemicals controlled. Nations must introduce measures, including regulations and codes, and take responsibility for governing the production and use of controlled substances.

September 16 was selected to commemorate the date in 1987 on which The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer” was originally signed. At present, 189 nations world-wide have ratified the Montreal Protocol. The 18th Meeting of the Parties (MOP 18) to the Montreal Protocol takes place from 30th October – 3rd November 2006 in New Delhi, India. The Signatories will evaluate the current framework and consider measures to further strengthen and protect the ozone layer.

Manitoba is unique in that our province has one of the most comprehensive and dynamic stratospheric ozone protection programs in the world. Strong stakeholder partnerships and commitments by industry and government have reduced the use of ozone depleting substances -- strong elements of the programs decade of success.

For more information:

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