

# **A Statement of Commitment**

## **Amongst Tourism, Hospitality and Outdoor Recreation Educators**

### **Taking Action on Global Climate Change through Tourism and Hospitality Education**

#### **2008 Tourism & Hospitality Educators Conference Whistler, BC**

**May 10, 2008**

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#### **The Context**

Global climate change is widely considered to be the most challenging public policy issue of our time. According to the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change, tourism activities are a significant contributor to the challenges that we face. As tourism and hospitality educators, we have a responsibility to take action on global climate change concerns. While the challenges are profound, the implications of inaction are untenable. Currently, educators prepare tourism and hospitality students for an industry of significant uncertainty as a result of climate change concerns. It is our ethical responsibility as teachers to prepare our students for the context in which they work. A common agreement amongst tourism and hospitality educators can help to provide collective guidance on actions that will improve the sustainability of the tourism and hospitality industry, and contribute to managing the broad scope of climate change concerns. Our impact as educators will be greater if we work together and agree on a common framework.

#### **The Statement of Commitment**

This draft provides an initial framework, which individuals can apply. Under this statement, I will:

#### **In Curriculum and Teaching**

- Commit to incorporating and/or enhancing education content on strategies and practices that promote more sustainable outcomes in tourism and hospitality operations.

- Encourage student driven initiatives that promote greater awareness, remediation and adaption strategies related to climate change and sustainable tourism and hospitality practices
- Encourage critical thinking and decision making with respect to sustainable tourism and hospitality development.
- Encourage and facilitate climate change and sustainable development research that addresses the implications and adaption strategies needed to reduce the ecological footprint of the tourism and hospitality industries.

### **In Operations of Education Facilities and Programming**

- Reduce waste and encourage re-usable and recycled products
- Reduce carbon emissions in operations where practical and possible
- Become sustainable development demonstration models for industry partners
- Encourage senior administration to adopt proactive energy and material flow reduction strategies across educational institutions

### **As Advocates for Tourism, Hospitality and Outdoor Recreation**

- Participate in forums and dialogue addressing climate change concerns where possible and feasible
- Share progress in implementing initiatives about climate change with other education, industry and government partners
- Talk the language of climate change concerns with candor and honesty
- Ensure climate change concerns are integrated with the agenda of tourism and hospitality management and development where possible and at each and every opportunity

### **Next Steps:**

- Form a small task group to communicate this statement of commitment to the wider tourism and hospitality community and assist in implementation
- Utilize existing resources through LinkBC to communicate initiatives, progress, and build a base of relevant information
- Utilize this statement to communicate the commitment of BC tourism and hospitality educators and other signatories on climate change concerns



Signed in-principle by the following Individuals:

| Name (Please Print)                    | Signature             |
|--|-----------------------|
| Peter Williams                         | Peter Williams        |
| FAYE PARLOW                            | Faye Parlow           |
| Shari Heller                           | Shari Heller          |
| Karen Cathcart                         | Karen Cathcart        |
| Sydney Hansen                          | Sydney Hansen         |
| David Hines (NIC)                      | David Hines           |
| Yameli Velazquez                       | Yameli Velazquez      |
| RICHARD FLOODY                         | Richard Floody        |
| RON SPENCE                             | Ron Spence            |
| Philip Schettini                       | Philip Schettini      |
| GILLES VALADE                          | Gilles Valade         |
| Rob Hood                               | Rob Hood              |
| MARY MAITON JONES                      | Mary Maiton Jones     |
| SANE KAPIO                             | Sane Kapiro           |
| AWIN CHONG - Vancouver Premier College | Awin Chong            |
| Susan Halsall                          | Susan Halsall         |
| CATHERINE MACK                         | Catherine Mack        |
| JANAINA MAGALHAES                      | Janaina Magalhaes     |
| Silvia Zuazua Machado                  | Silvia Zuazua Machado |
| Greig Gjerdalen                        | Greig Gjerdalen       |
| PAUCA CARR                             | Pauca Carr            |
| SUSAN RIBAR                            | Susan Ribar           |
| MORGAN GERSLER - LINEBC                | Morgan Gersler        |
| Melanie Dierksen                       | Melanie Dierksen      |
| MARILYN ROBERTS                        | Marilyn Roberts       |
| JOE SIMCO                              | Joe Simco             |
| JOHN BROWNE                            | John Browne           |
| KEB LOTT                               | KEB LOTT              |
| Nicole Beaulieu                        | Nicole Beaulieu       |
| Stephen Regan                          | Stephen Regan         |
| Sandra White                           | Sandra White          |
| Christy Watts                          | Christy Watts         |
| RIAL DAVIES                            | Rial Davies           |
| ROY SANTREN                            | Roy Santren           |
| MARK ELLIOTT                           | Mark Elliott          |
| BRIAN WHITE                            | Brian White           |
| Pat Mable                              | Pat Mable             |

Name (Please Print)

Signature

Jane Chalk  
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Jonathan Kouse  
Casey Davis  
Janelle Knowles  
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CHRIS BOTTRILL  
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