

Food crisis creating chaos around the world

Some of the world's top scientists have emphasized that aggressive actions are needed to slash emissions to stop global warming. Experts also agree that global warming is real and accelerating. They argue humans are fouling up the atmosphere with carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gases.

While global warming continues to be a big concern, there is another issue that needs attention. In recent weeks, I have been watching television reports on food crisis being felt around the world. This major issue does not receive the publicity it deserves.

Escalating food prices have triggered riots in Mexico, Morocco, Senegal, Uzbekistan, Guinea, Mauritania as well as many other countries in Africa and Asia.

Aid agencies around the world are openly expressing fear they may not be able to feed the poorest of the poor.

This is a big concern for the United Nations and some of the major powers of the world. Price of rice has been climbing at a rapid pace.

Philippines, one of the largest importers, has announced plans to buy one million tons and some of the world's largest exporters cut sales to ensure they

feed their own people.

Rice is a staple food for many countries around the world and particularly in Asia. Nearly half the world depends on rice for food. Philippine President Gloria Arroyo has pledged to crack down on hoarding. Anyone, she said, found guilty of stealing rice from the people will be jailed.

This concern about food shortages is shared by an international organization.

"We are in for a tough time," said Roland Jansen, chief executive officer of Mother Earth Investments AG. Unless prices decline, he said, people will have a huge problem of daily nutrition for half the planet.

In the Philippines, officials have been raiding warehouses looking for unscrupulous traders hoarding

rice. In South Korea, panicking housewives have been stripping grocery store shelves of food like rice and other products like noodles made from wheat.

Food staples have become too expensive for millions because of sudden and dramatic surge in prices. Rising prices for cereal crops as well as growing scarcity have created a tricky situation. Rice producers like Egypt have decided to stop exports for a while to meet domestic demand. This is not good news for countries like Syria, Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan who depend on Egyptian rice.

Vietnam, the world's second largest rice exporter after Thailand, has also drastically cut exports.

The international rice market is currently facing a particularly dif-

ficult situation with demand outstripping supply and substantial price increase.

A senior economist for the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations said the worldwide rice market is currently facing a difficult time with demand outstripping supply and substantial price increase.

Today, China, India, Egypt, Vietnam and Cambodia have either imposed minimum export prices, export taxes or export quotas. Countries that rely heavily on rice imports are Bangladesh, Indonesia and Iran. Rice is the staple food for about three billion people. Meanwhile, the World Bank estimates that 33 countries around the world face potential social unrest because of the hike in food and energy prices. Robert Zoellick, the bank's president, said for those countries there is no margin for survival.



Sultan JESSA
Opinion

National victims of crime awareness week

On an average day, more than 8,000 Canadians seek the assistance of victim-serving organizations. Three out of every four of these are victims of violent crimes.

Too often, people look at these statistics and focus solely on the offenders and how to get them off the streets. Unfortunately, this can mean overlooking the needs of the victims and the impact of the crime on their families and friends, as well as on our communities.

National Victims of Crime Awareness Week, April 13-19 2008, is a time to fight this perception and bring the needs of victims to the forefront of the debate. It is a week to focus on what we can do to support victims and give them a greater voice in the criminal justice system in the coming year.

The theme for this year's National Victims of Crime Awareness Week, "Finding the Way

Together," recognizes the need for a cooperative approach that includes everyone, not just victims. Crime affects the entire community, and all must work together to find the way to recovery.

Victims have long been overlooked in Canada—if you had asked a victim before the 1980s what support services were available, the answer would have been short.

In 1983, a Federal-Provincial Task Force on Justice for Victims of Crime issued a report that led to slow but sweeping changes in the way victims were treated by the justice system. Since then, we have seen many improvements, including victim impact statements, the Canadian Statement of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime Bill C-79, which instituted

testimonial aids for vulnerable victims and witnesses, and the appointment of the first Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime.

But there are still gaps that need to be filled. Even among justice professionals there is a lack of awareness of victim issues and a reluctance to take victims' concerns into account.

Justice cannot be served unless victims can take part in the criminal justice system and have access to support, regardless of who they are, where they live, or where they come from. The victims of crime in your community need your help and support. I urge you to take advantage of National Victims of Crime Awareness Week to learn what you can do. Together we can find the way.



Guy LAUZON
MP Update



Jail governor

Cornwall Jail Governor John Sutherland Dickey in his winter uniform outside the jail in the late 1930s. Dickey lived at the jail with his family in the building now occupied by Cornwall Tourism. He supervised the inmates with his wife Beatrice who served as jail matron. Throughout April the Cornwall Community Museum will be displaying the history of the jail along with a new book titled **CORNWALL JUSTICE: A HISTORY OF THE CORNWALL JAIL**. The museum is now open

Wednesday to Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Cornwall Community Museum photo

Ian BOWERING
Cornwall History



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