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Tue. Jun. 8 2004 7:04 PM ET



### Harper disqualified from 'eco-Olympics'

CTV.ca News Staff

As Stephen Harper and his Conservative Party gain in popularity, some groups are taking aim at his policies, including his stance on the environment.

The Sierra Club of Canada said Tuesday it would be disqualifying Harper from its annual environmental "olympics" when the results are announced in Ottawa.

Harper's opposition to the Kyoto Protocol has upset many environmentalists, including the Sierra Club. He is the only federal leader opposed to the Kyoto Protocol, which the Conservative Party calls "irrelevant."

"His position that the science is not clear and that he would, if elected, repudiate the Kyoto protocol put

Harper's policies in line with those of (U.S. President) George Bush and against the great majority of scientists and national leaders," the group said in a statement.

The Kyoto Protocol calls for a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by six per cent from 1990 levels by 2012.

While Harper's environmental policies aren't popular, the Conservative Party appears to be. For the first time in the election campaign, a poll has the newly merged party ahead of the Liberals.

The SES poll, conducted for CPAC, shows the Conservatives with 34 per cent voter support, followed closely by the Liberals with 32 per cent. The New Democrats have 20 per cent support.




The Green Party has also been gaining momentum, particularly in British Columbia where it has the possibility of winning two seats.

The Sierra Club plans to give the Greens the "gold" for an environmental platform that is "solidly oriented to environmental protection and rehabilitation."







The Green Party says although the Kyoto Protocol is flawed, it is better to develop the treaty than lose time trying to negotiate a stronger agreement.

The party wants to create a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Registry, requiring companies earning more than \$1 million in annual revenue to submit reports to the organization





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-  [The Sierra Club of Canada](#)




The NDP, which wants big bucks for public transit and rail, and the creation of a national energy program, will pick up a "silver" in the eco-Olympics.

The Bloc and Quebecois and the Liberals, who both emphasize their support for the Kyoto treaty, will tie for third.

Liberal Leader Paul Martin, in his election platform, has made wind energy a key focus. It wants to boost the number of wind farms, and promote its benefits and costs. The budget also committed \$4 million to clean up contaminated sites.

The Bloc platform emphasizes public transit and protect the St. Lawrence River and fresh water reserves of Quebec.

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