

## **Dion admits green plan a tough sell in Alberta**

Metro Edmonton

As part of a much-publicized tour of Alberta, federal Liberal Leader Stephane Dion was at the University of Alberta yesterday to promote his controversial new carbon tax plan.

Dion told more than 100 people at the Canadian Youth Climate Coalition Conference that his plan would be a tough sell in Alberta.

"I know Alberta is a pluralistic society with different views," he said.

"I say to (people opposed) that I'm convinced that ... it's better for Alberta do it than not do it and do it with the Liberal approach and not the Conservative approach."

Dion said that while Prime Minister Stephen Harper's plan is "full of loopholes" and "would not get any results", the Liberal plan would be a plausible way for Albertans to make social changes by shifting tax weight off low-income families to emissions instead.

"(Albertans) want to look at their grandkids and say, 'I did something for you,'" Dion said. "I think Canada should lead and not be a free rider of climate change."

Greenpeace spokesman Mike Hudema says it can be difficult to cipher through Dion's political promise when elections are on the minds of politicians.

"You need to take it with a little bit of grain of cynicism," he said. "(But) the fact he's talking about climate change, I think it shows just how much of a national priority this is for Canadians.

"The carbon tax is one possible solution ... we need much more."

Premier Ed Stelmach said Dion's plan would harm the province's agriculture and manufacturing sectors, along with terminating its economic competitiveness with other countries and jurisdictions.