

Controls could be disastrous, business warns

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action plan on greenhouse gases years ago.

The protocol commits Canada to cut its emissions by 30 per cent — or 240 megatonnes — by 2010. The federal government estimates this will reduce the Gross Domestic Product 1 to 1.2 per cent by 2012 but says no single region will bear an "unreasonable" burden.

Industry representatives at the Richmond Hill discussion, however, said Kyoto's emission controls may drive them out of business.

"You're instantly put into a position where you're not competitive," argued Tim Huxley, health, safety and environment manager for Hamilton's steel giant Stelco Inc.

Stelco, which operates in a global market for a relatively small profit, has lowered emissions 21 per cent between 1990 and 2001 but is still being asked to do more, he said.

But Dr. Harvey said Canada's Kyoto plan is mere "tinkering on the edges of

the energy system" and greater changes are needed to prevent a global catastrophe by 2100.

At the Fifth Canadian Urban Forest Conference in Markham, Dr. Chiotti outlined a study on the future health effects of climate change for the Greater Toronto Area and Niagara.

To be released this week, the report says a warmer Ontario will see more droughts, smoggy days, wind storms and flash flooding, as well as many more deaths related to air pollution and summer heat.

Dr. Chiotti noted the Greater Toronto Area's summer of 2002 had 31 days with highs over 30 C, where only 15 is normal.

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