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15<sup>th</sup> October, 2016 WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

### **MONTREAL PROTOCOL AMENDMENT AMONG MOST SIGNIFICANT STEPS TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE...**

Kigali, RWANDA: Very early **Saturday morning, October 15, 2016**, Parties to the Montreal Protocol embraced a new amendment to the long standing **Montreal Protocol** to include HFCs (hydrofluorcarbons) for the first time in history. HFCs are potent greenhouse gases that have been projected to significantly influence climate change going forward including a rise in global temperatures upwards of 1C if left uncontrolled (an estimated 100 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions).

HFCs are used in a variety of applications from aerosol container carrier gases, in fire suppression and many industrial uses but primarily as a refrigerant in air conditioning and refrigeration systems around the world. They are thousands of times more harmful to the planet in terms of climate change impact (i.e. GHG) than carbon dioxide and many other substances.

MOPIA salutes the United Nations Ozone Secretariat and participating countries (i.e. Parties) and recognized agencies in their progress and extensive deliberations to reach this initial consensus to control HFCs. MOPIA supports actions that regulate harmful HFCs in the vast variety of industrial applications they are currently used. Manitoba has already adopted mandatory controls, including the proper servicing and recapture of existing stocks of HFCs in the air conditioning (HVAC) sectors.

MOPIA has been actively engaged in the protection of the ozone layer and climate system since 1994. The Association will continue to advance the safe and proper stewardship of ozone depleting and climate change substances (halocarbons) going forward for the benefit of all society.

The Honourable Cathy Cox, Manitoba's Minister of Sustainable Development has rightly declared October "Sustainability Month".

See: <http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/print,index.html?item=39470&posted=2016-10-06>

See UNEP Ozone Secretariat and MOP 28 details at: <http://ozone.unep.org/>

#### **MEDIA NOTE:**

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