

Air Quality Policy - National Perspective

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A Smog day
(Feb. 5, 2005)



A Clean Air Day
(Feb. 11, 2005)



Photographs by Domenic Mignacca



Environment Canada
Environnement Canada

Smog has significant negative effects on our health, our environment and our economy

- Particulate Matter (PM) and ground-level ozone (Ozone) are the main components of smog
- PM and Ozone contribute to a wide variety of respiratory and cardiovascular health problems
- Particles that contribute to smog formation also responsible for Acid Rain
- Poor air quality affects wildlife, water and vegetation; ecosystem and human health are inherently linked
- Clean environments and healthy people are essential for a sustainable economy



Clean Air is a priority for Canadians.

- In June 2000, federal, provincial and territorial governments (except Quebec) endorsed the Canada-Wide Standards for PM and Ozone and jurisdictional implementation efforts are proceeding
- Standards recognized as a first step in reducing smog levels and environmental effects, and improving human health
- Established numeric targets for ambient levels to be achieved by 2010
 - PM target is 30 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (24-hour average)
 - Ozone target is 65 ppb (8-hour average)

The Standards contained commitments for the Federal, Provincial and Territorial Governments...

- National emissions reductions such that standards are met by 2010
- Publish implementation plans
- Implement strategies in support of Pollution Prevention, Continuous Improvement and Keeping Clean Areas Clean
- Regularly report on progress
- Participate in a review of the standards

In addition, the Federal government committed:

- To pursue reductions in transboundary flow into Canada from the United States



Over the last 5 years, Environment Canada collaborated in joint actions under CCME

- Responsible for national leadership under Canada-wide Standards, including:
 - Preparing PM and ozone guidance document including Pollution Prevention, Continuous Improvement and Keeping Clean Areas Clean
 - Joint Initial Actions (i.e. Multi-pollutant Emissions Reduction Strategies, alternative transportation, Health and Science updates)

Clean Air is also a priority for the federal government.

- **Included in Budget 2005, the Government of Canada has invested more than \$210 million in air priorities**
 - Established a Clean Air Agenda including a 10 year Vehicle and Fuels Agenda to reduce vehicle-related emissions
- **Other investments in Budget 2005, specifically identified in the Climate change plan, will also help address air pollution**
 - Since emissions of air pollutants and greenhouse gases often stem from the same sources, actions to reduce GHG emissions may have dual benefits

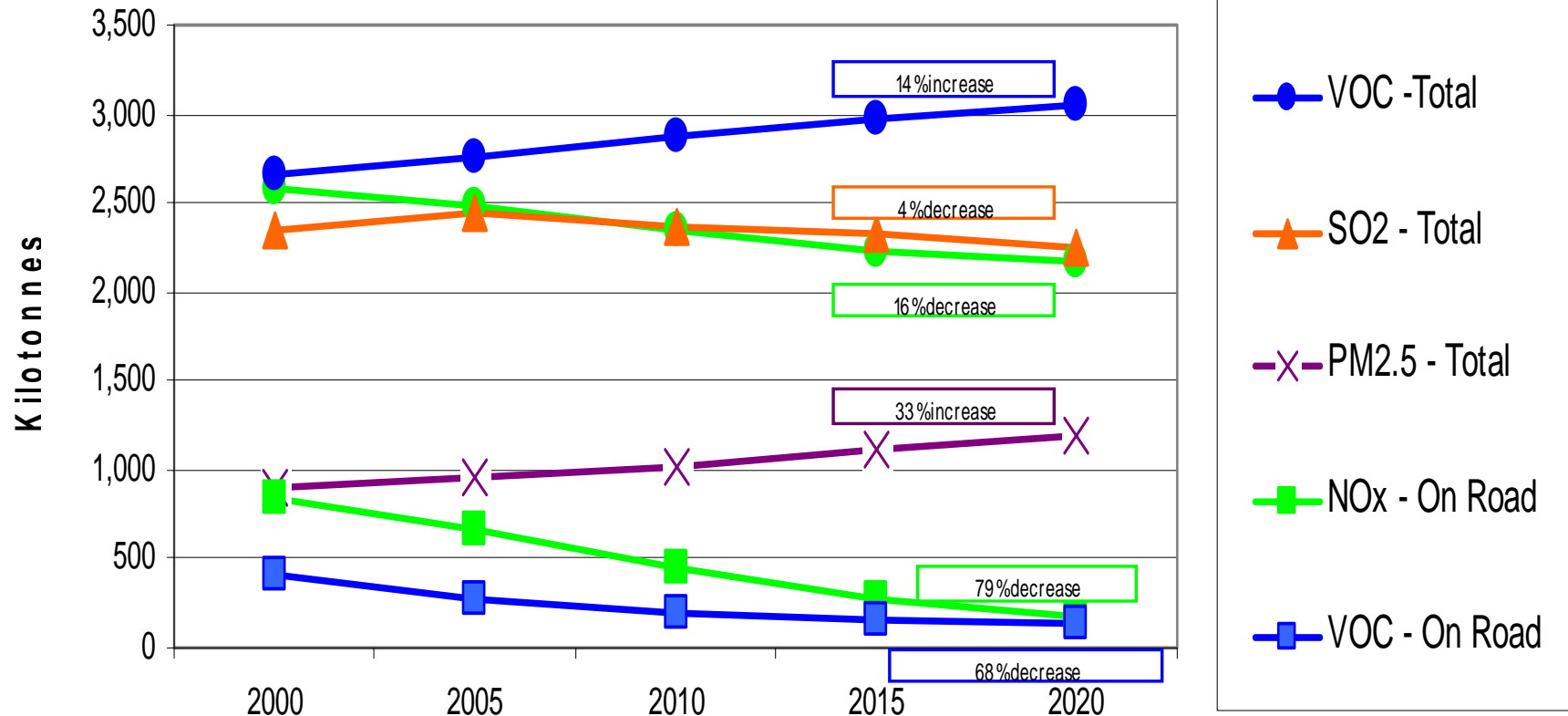


And, we are acting on our own commitments:

- Declared PM and Ozone, and their precursors, toxic and listed on CEPA Schedule 1
- Published the federal implementation plan
- Negotiated the ozone annex to the Canada-US Air Quality Agreement
- Developed and implemented the 10-year agenda for vehicles and fuels
- Developed the VOC agenda
- Enhanced air monitoring network
- Improved emissions inventories
- Collaborated on analytic pilot projects with provinces
- Prepares annual report on PM and ozone levels and trends

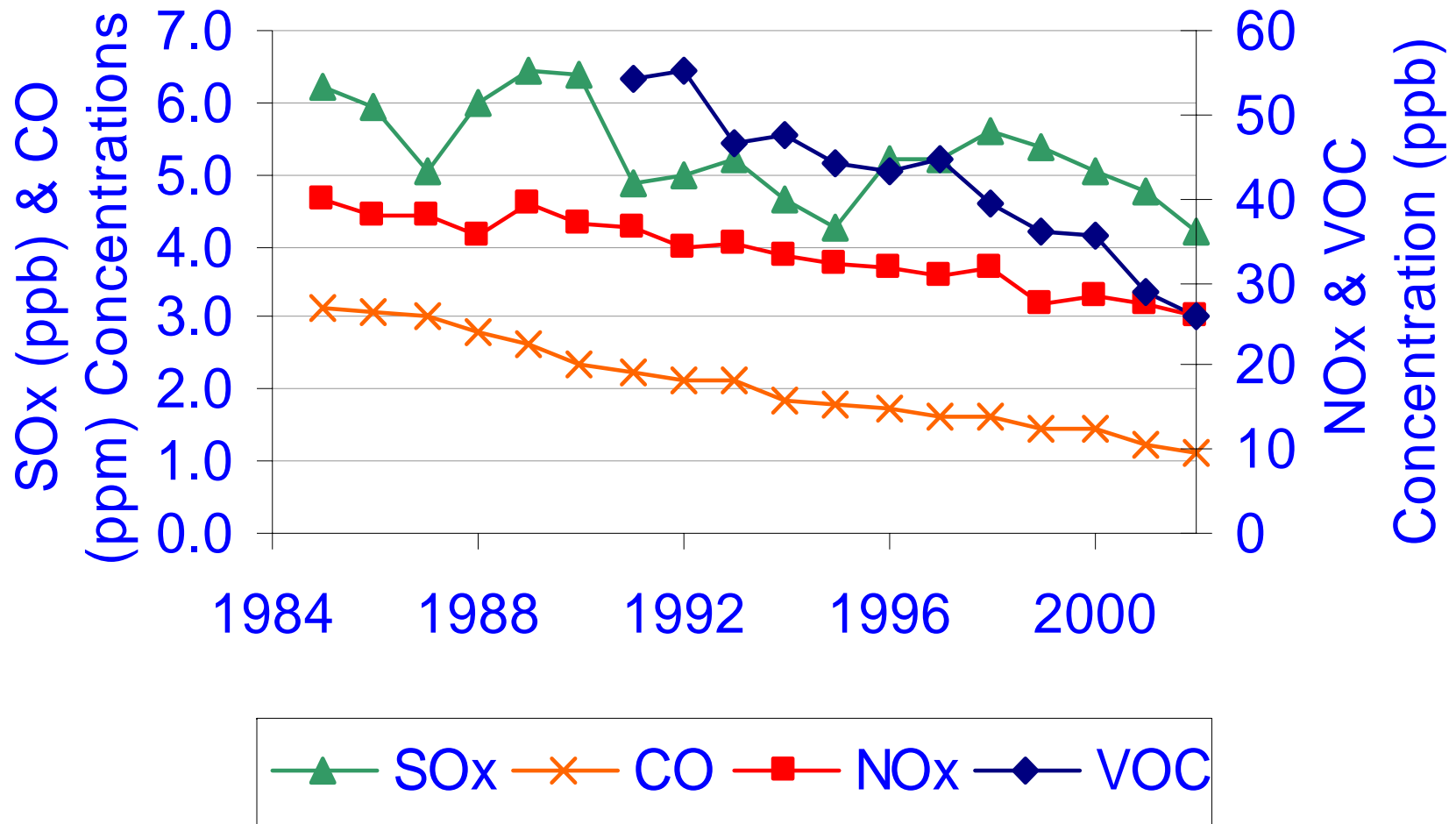
...which are expected to deliver emission reductions in key sectors.

Where we are now and where we forecast national emissions are going ...

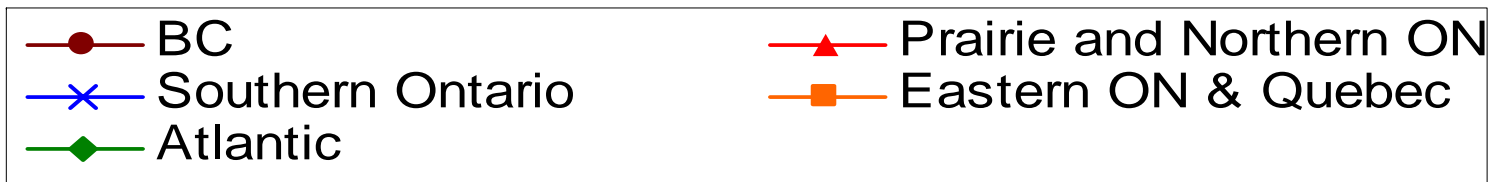
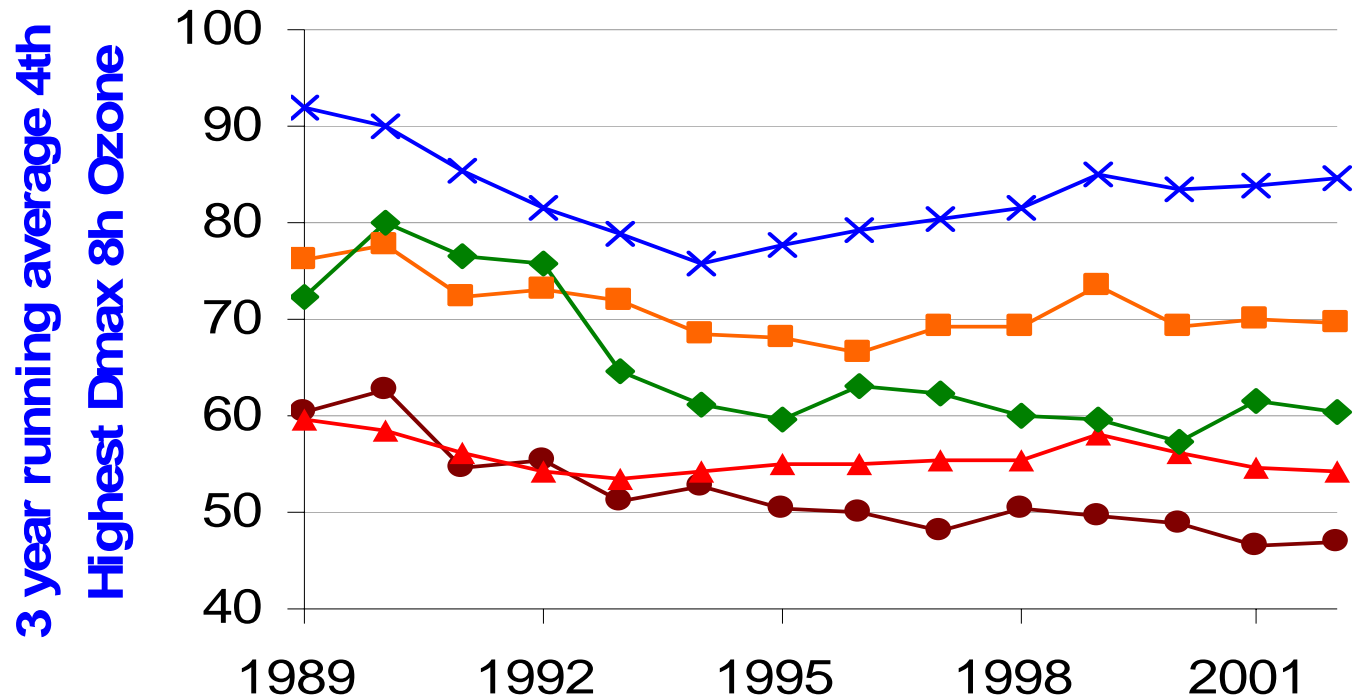


(DRAFT Base Case Forecast - based on 2000 CAC Inventory Version 4)

Concentrations of Some Air Pollutants Have Declined (1985-2001)

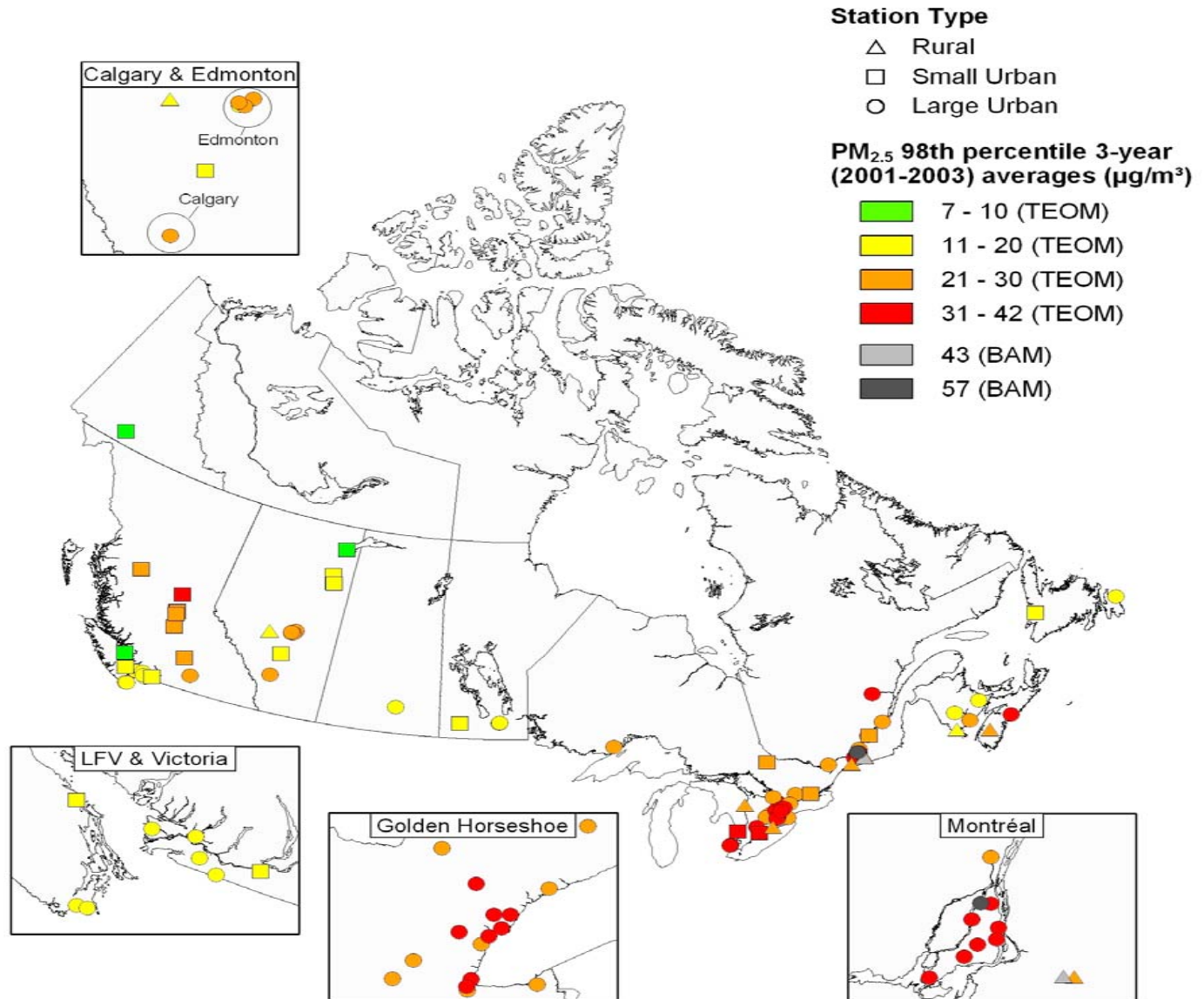


...however Ground-level Ozone Trends are Variable.



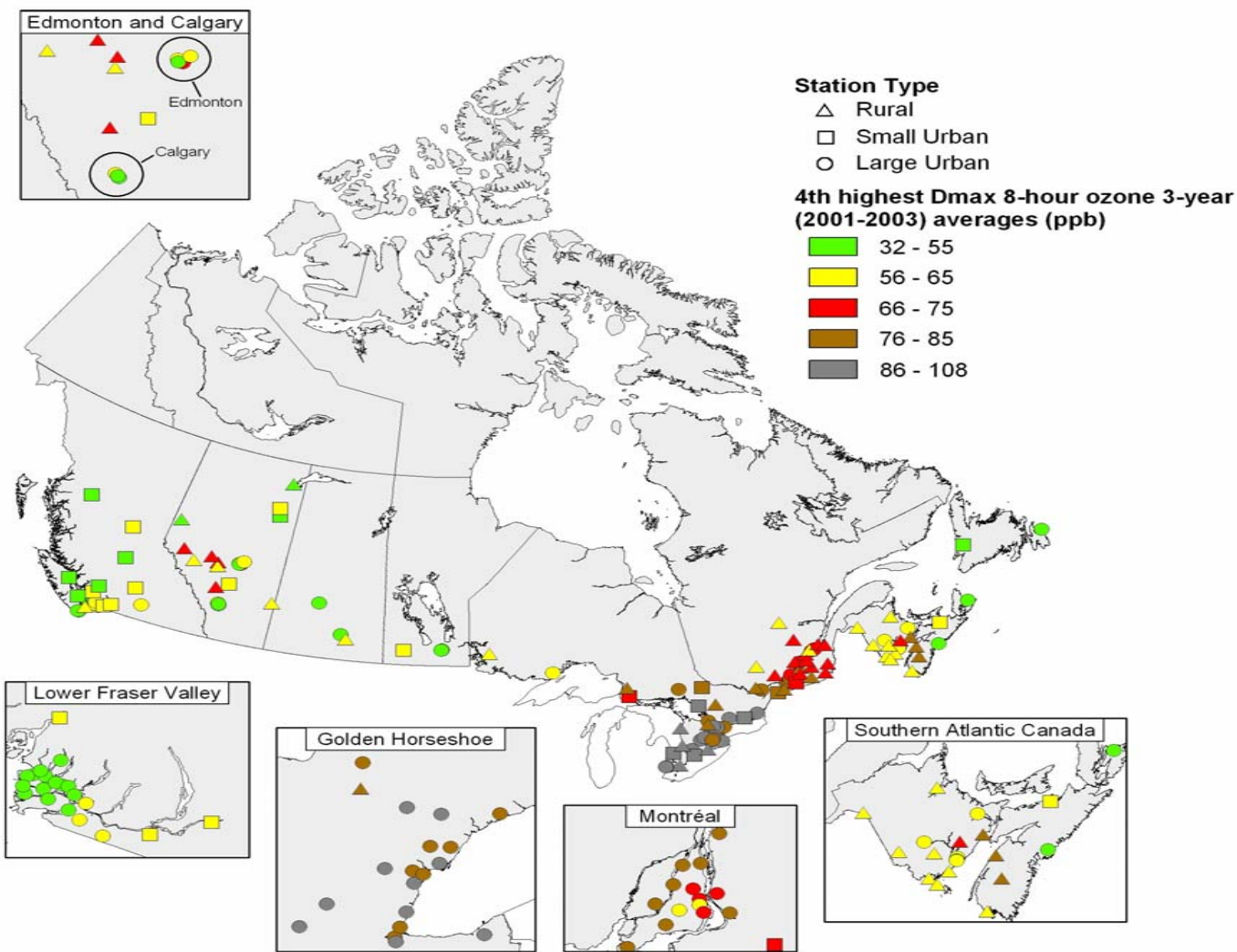
PM_{2.5} Annual 98th percentile 3-year averages (2001-2003)

1 in every 3
Canadians
lived in areas
with 3-year
averages
above the
standard
(2001- 03)



Annual 4th Highest Dmax 8-hour Ozone 3-year Averages (2001 - 2003)

1 in every 2
Canadians
lived in areas
with 3-year
averages
above the
standard
(2001-03)



The Next Two Years will be key...

- The First 5-Year Comprehensive Reports on progress towards achievement of the CWS is due in 2006
- Tabling of remaining jurisdictional implementation plans
- Scope of the 2010 review of CWS to be set by CCME
- Improved understanding of air pollution on a continental and hemispheric scale
- Opportunity to maximize clean air benefits from major new policies/programs - both domestically (e.g., 2005 Climate Change Plan, New Deal for Cities) and internationally (e.g., Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) of North America).

In parallel, the Federal Government will be centering on actions on a number of fronts:

- Federal House in Order
- Taking full advantages of linkages to climate change, acid rain, Project Green and other major initiatives
- Renewed fed/prov cooperation
- Participation in 2010 review of the CWS PM and ozone standards
- On-going science effort:
 - Initiation of federal science assessments of PM and Ozone
 - Federal government will continue to assist provinces with analytic capacity
- Possible negotiation of a PM Annex to the Canada-US Air Quality Agreement
- Sectoral reductions under the CESF
- Updated/renewed federal implementation plan
- Continued implementation of the vehicles and fuels agenda

