

# Air Quality Policy - National Perspective

Peggy Farnsworth

Director, Transboundary Air Issues Branch

Environment Canada

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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

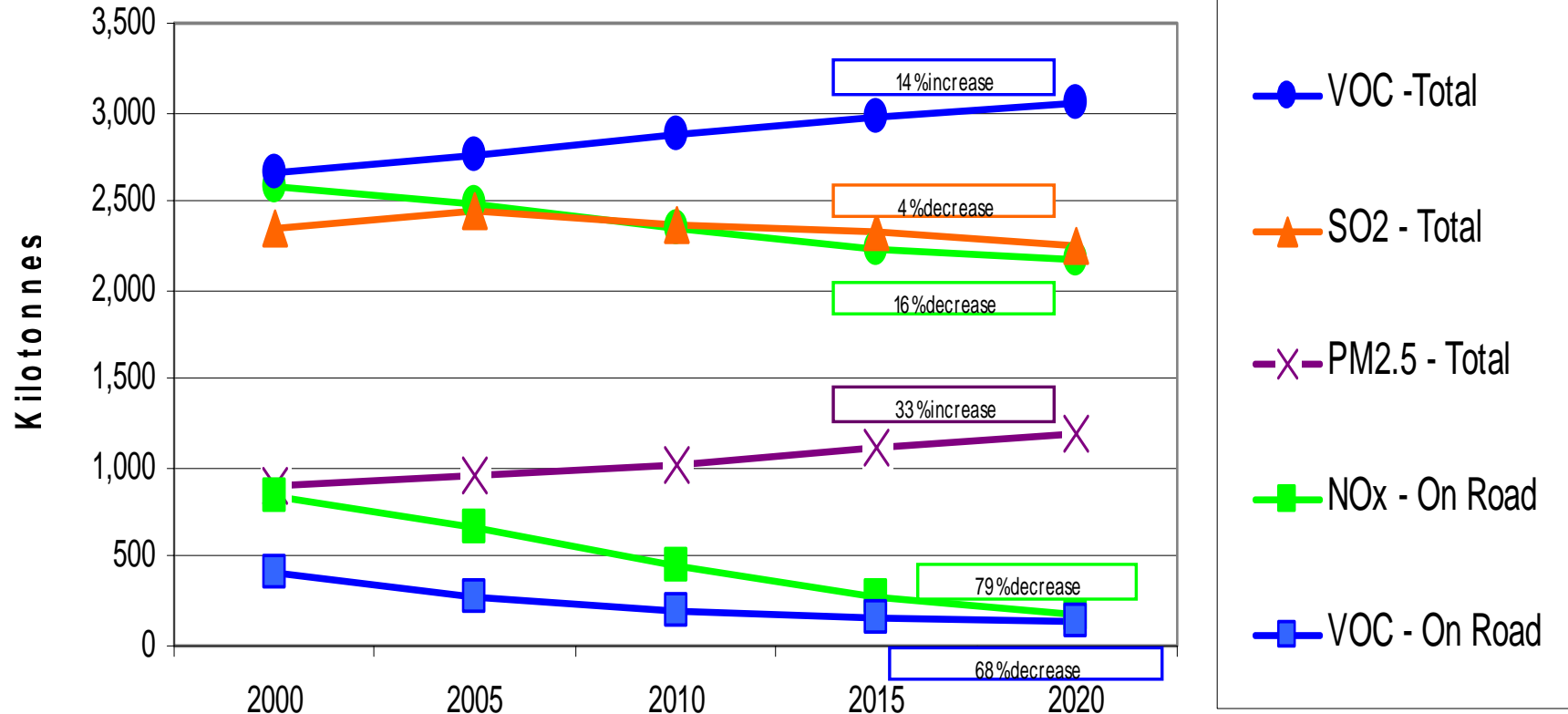


## And, we are acting on our own commitments:

- 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

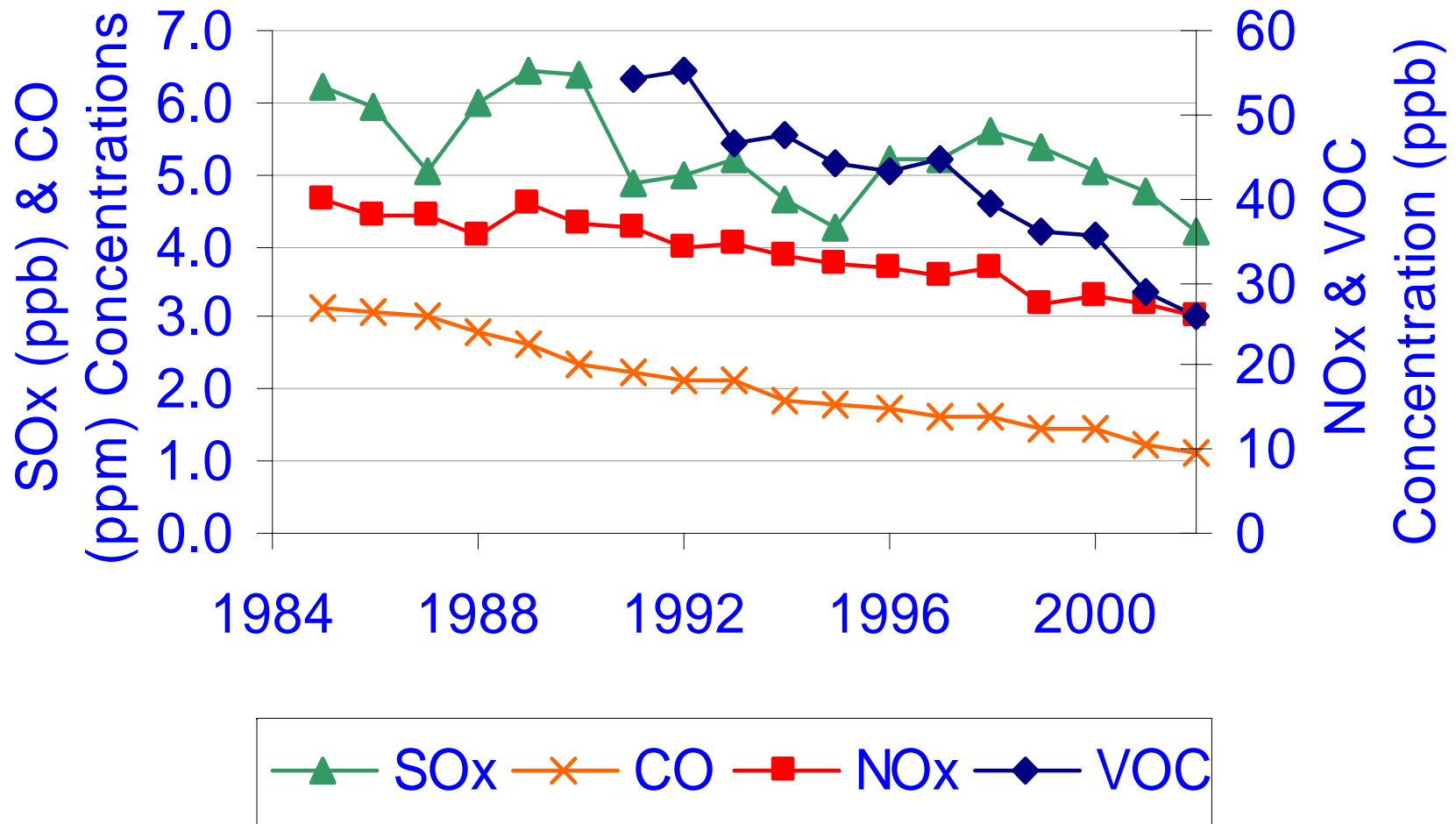
...which are expected to deliver emission reductions in key sectors.

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

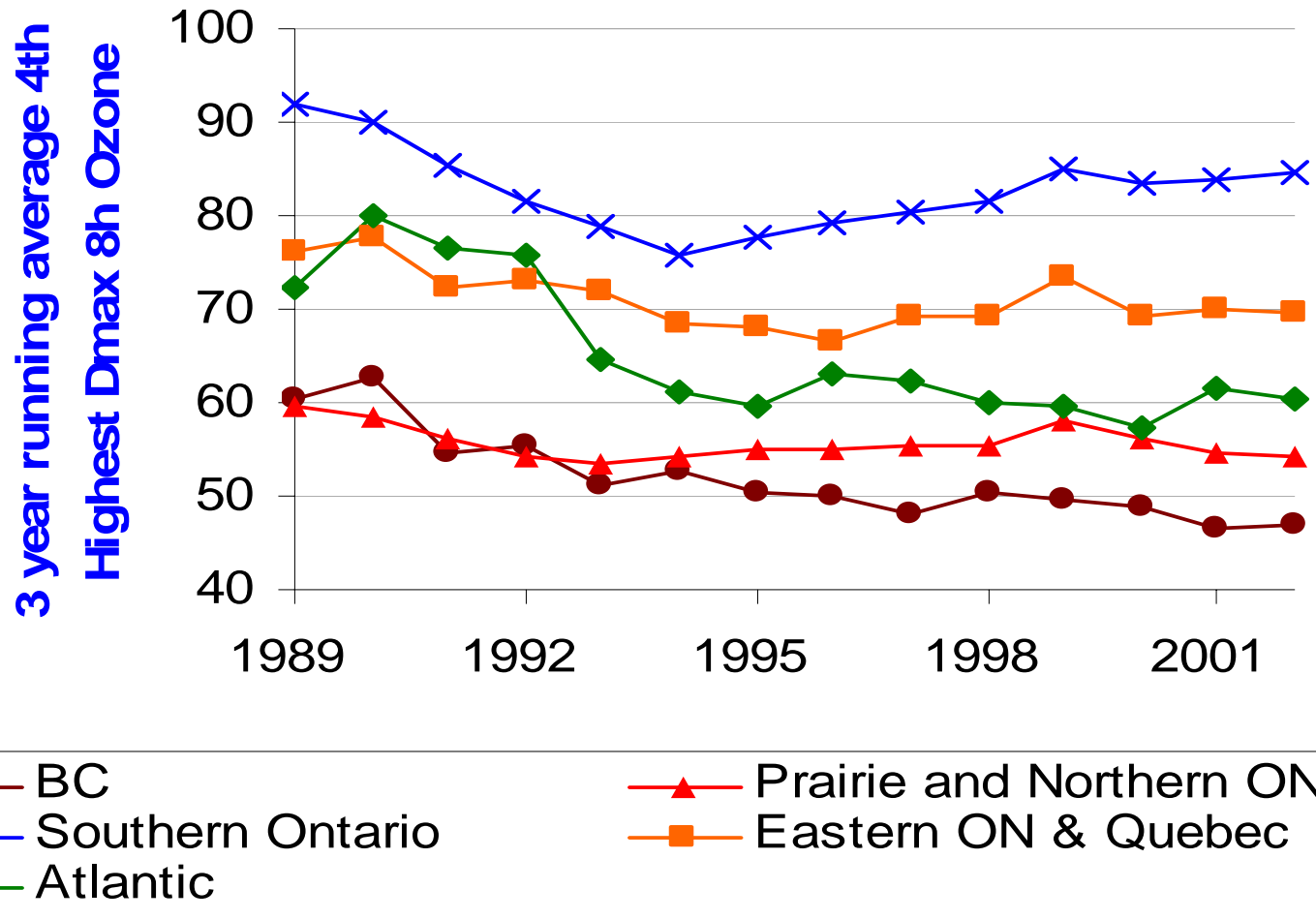


*(DRAFT Base Case Forecast - based on 2000 CAC Inventory Version 4)*

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

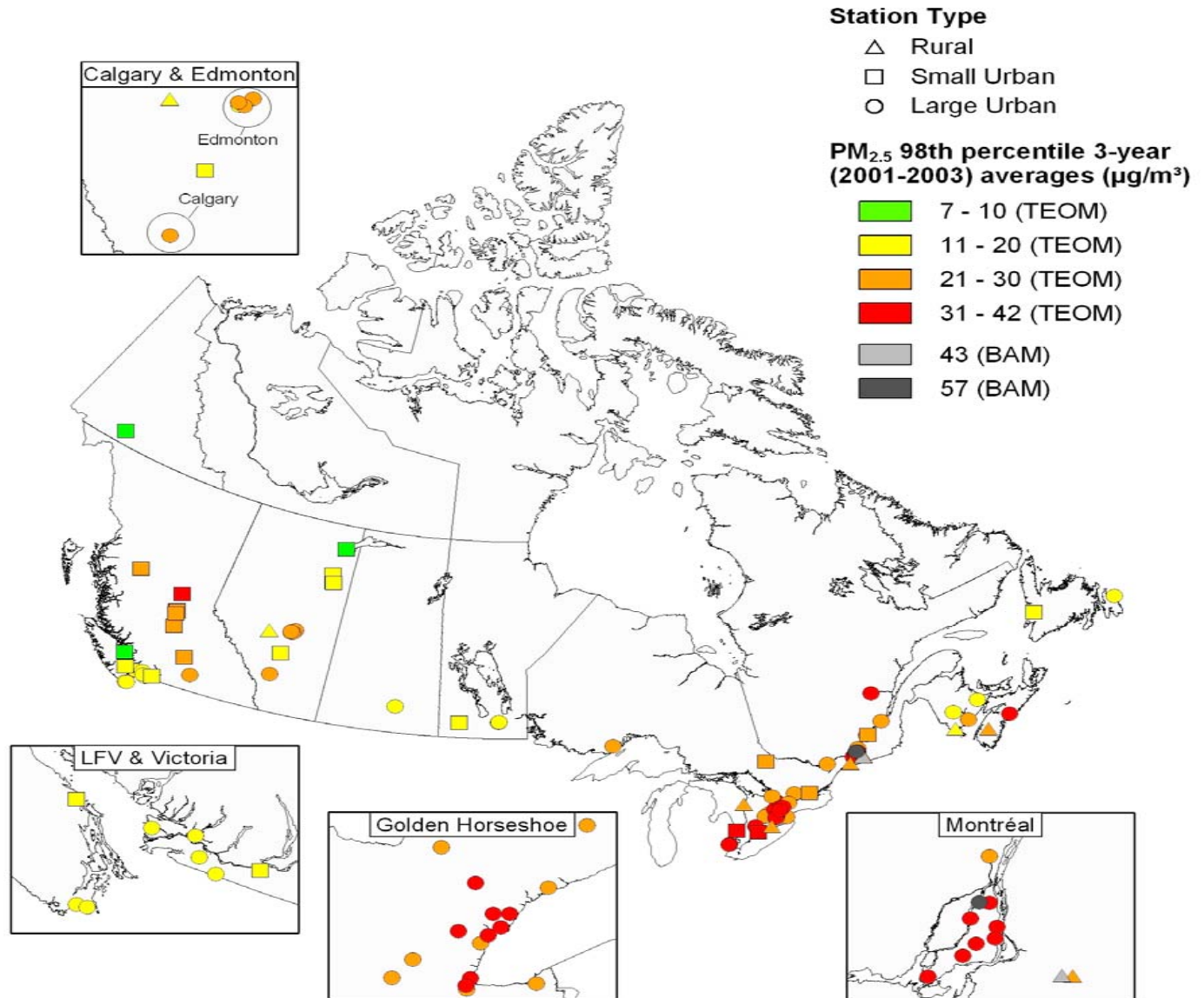


*...however Ground-level Ozone Trends are Variable.*



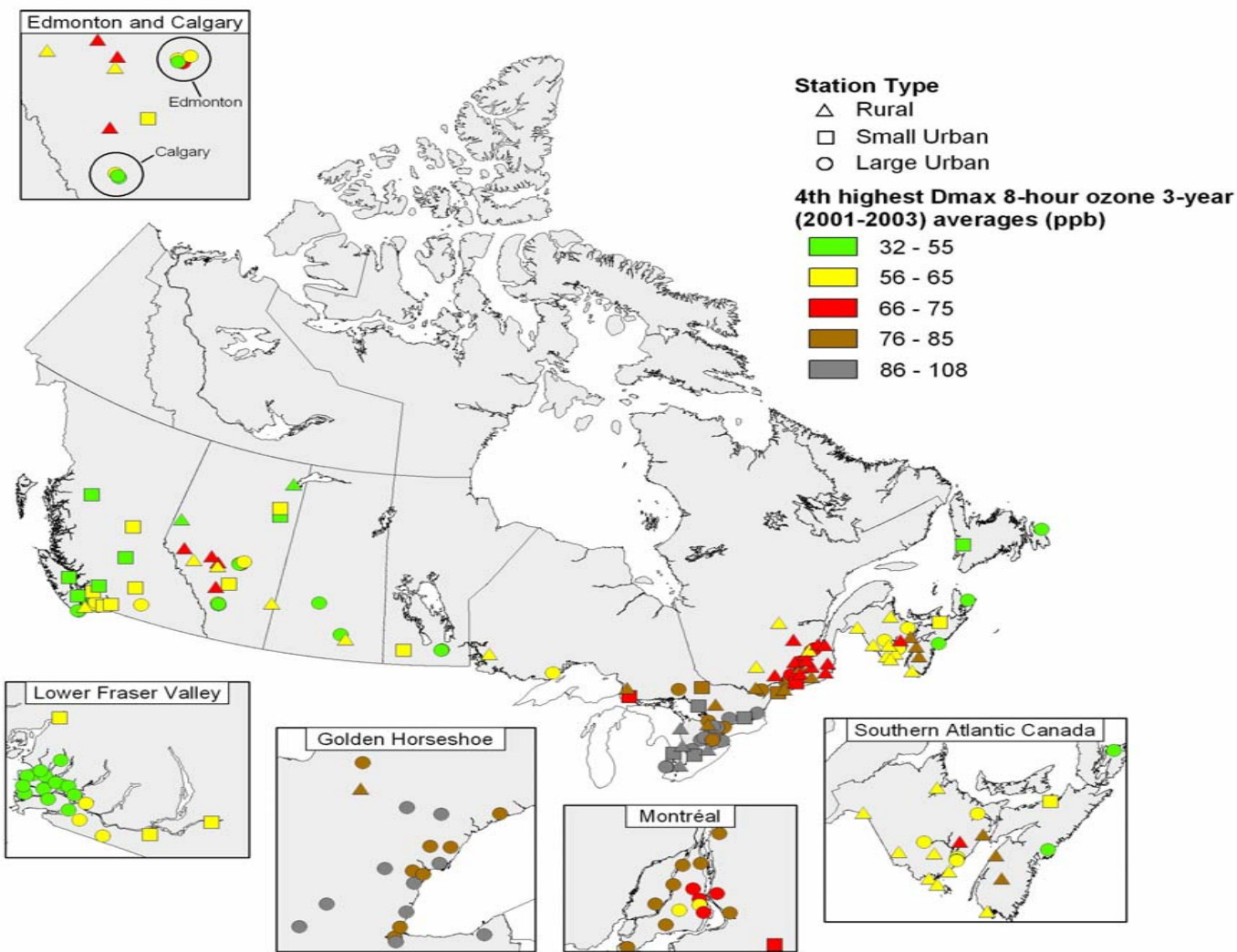
# PM<sub>2.5</sub> Annual 98<sup>th</sup> percentile 3-year averages (2001-2003)

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

