



## 40,000 letters for 40,000 kilometers around the world

Vaudreuil-Dorion, **October 9, 2007** . – *Changing the world, on step at a time!*

This is Benoit Tousignant's (the CycloNomade) mission. Benoit is a teacher at Ecole Secondaire Soulanges.

Benoit intends to collecting 40 000 letters from primary and secondary students from now until April 2008, and he will bring these letters with him on his venture as he cycles 40,000 kilometers around the world.

In these letters, students are invited to express their concerns with in regards to the deterioration of the environment, and to personally commit to taking measures to protecting the environment and to take a firm stand in matters of the environment that the Canadian government should bring to the forefront. Upon Benoit return, students' letters will be submitted to the Prime Minister of Canada.



Benoit intends to taking on a solitary cycling adventure around the world for an estimated 520 days. Pedaling for 18 months following in the footsteps of Marco Polo, Alexander the Great, and Genghis Khan on the old silk road, all the while, contemplating the Blue Istanbul Mosque, The Great Wall of China and Angkor Vat, int the heart of the Cambodian jungle. He will meet people of all races, religions, beliefs and traditions. In short, Benoit wants young people to come to know the marvels of the world, as Benoit affirms, "to have the desire to love and protect it, one most know it".

The departure for the trip is scheduled for the 10th of April 2008, leaving from Saint-Polycarpe heading to Halifax N.S. where he will then fly to Dublin, Ireland.

Throughout his journey a number of meetings with young people from different countries are anticipated. On of Benoit's objectives is to sensitize young people in protecting the environment.

One can follow the CycloNomade's travels by accessing his website <http://www.cstois-lacs.qc.ca/cyclonomade/>. On this site one could find his travel journals and photos. A discussion forum will allow students to ask questions or to react to the CycloNomade's responses.

Finally, young people will be invited to participate in cycling across Canada. The ultimate objective is to finish the world tour with the CycloNomade and help him deliver the 40 000 letters to Ottawa.

From now until his departure, the CycloNomade is looking for sponsors to financially support him. Benoit will personally invest about \$6000 for expenses and material on this adventure.

The Quebec Environmental Fondation (la Fondation québécoise en environnement) has decided to collaborate and support Benoit's project given that the project's objective is to sensitize young people to the importance of protecting the environment.

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Benoit Tousignant, the CycloNomade (and teacher)

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