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Feds give go-ahead to seismic tests

VANCOUVER -- Environmentalists are fuming after learning the federal government has given permission to a U.S. research ship to begin controversial seismic testing in Canadian waters, despite an ongoing court challenge.

Ecojustice, an environmental law group representing groups opposed to the research, says the vessel Marcus Langseth could be off Vancouver Island as early as today after the Department of Foreign Affairs issued a permit.

Environment a concern

OTTAWA -- Canadians are telling governments not to let the recession become an excuse for easing up on efforts to protect the environment, a new poll suggests.

The finding and others in The Canadian Press Harris-Decima survey suggests that while voters are worried about the economy, they do not want governments to ease off on measures to protect the environment. On the key question, 67% of those asked said the environment should be just as much as priority for governments as tackling economic problems, with only 26% saying it was a secondary concern.

Record haul in drug bust

MONTREAL -- A drug bust in Charlevoix netted police a regional record haul of marijuana and dope paraphernalia. Quebec police discovered 3,100 marijuana plants Saturday in a wooded area in St-Hilarion, a town some 150 km northeast of Quebec City. Local residents blew the whistle on the elaborate grow-op. The site had an irrigation system and was encircled with five concealed traps. No arrests were made.

Car-surfing injures teen

MONTREAL -- A teenage girl riding on the trunk of a car yesterday in a Montreal suburb suffered multiple broken bones after being tossed from the moving vehicle. The teen was sitting on the trunk of the convertible with her feet on the back seat when thrown off during a sharp turn. The 18-year-old driver has been charged.

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