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Feds pay to get clunkers off roads

Aim to cut pollution

By THE CANADIAN PRESS

OTTAWA — The federal government will announce a long-delayed program to give drivers incentives get older, polluting vehicles off the roads.

The Canadian Press has learned Environment Minister John Baird will announce federal funding Wednesday for the Toronto-based Clean Air Foundation's Car Heaven vehicle scrappage program.

Until recently, a patchwork of regional scrapping groups received federal funding to offer incentives — ranging from rebates on new vehicles to free transit passes and charitable receipts — in exchange for older vehicles.

The groups then turned the rusty clunkers over to scrapyards, which crush and recycle them according to provincial guidelines.

A recent Environment Canada annual planning report earmarked \$90 million over the next three years for a national vehicle scrappage program.

The department has mulled starting a national program since last year's budget set aside federal money for two years' worth of scrapping initiatives.