

GREENPEACE CANADA

Seventy-five groups from Canada, US and Europe call for an end to toxic tar sands tailings

4 November 2010 (EDMONTON) — As European Members of Parliament continue their tour of the tar sands, 75 groups from across Canada, the U.S. and Europe have signed on to a call-out demanding that toxic tailings lakes be phased out immediately.

The groups, from communities from British Columbia to Prince Edward Island, the U.S and Europe, are calling on the federal and Alberta governments to legislate a complete phase-out of tar sands tailings ponds and to immediately deny all projects that would create new tailings lakes. Greenpeace Canada issued the call-out late last week. Since then, the petition calling for the phase out of tailings lakes has been endorsed by 45 groups across Canada, from every province and one territory, by six U.S. groups, one group from Europe and 23 Alberta-based groups.

The petition reads:

We, the undersigned, represent diverse interests and priorities. We come from different walks of life {environmental, social, conservation, labour, health, First Nation, Metis, arts/culture, forestry, land use, environmental justice, humanitarian, water, business, and farmers}; but we are united in our concern about the impact that tar sands tailing lakes are having on bird, animal, plant, aquatic and human populations.

We are calling, with one voice, for the Alberta and the Federal government to address the growing and at times deadly impacts tar sands tailing lakes have by immediately denying all proposals that would require the creation of new tailings lakes and by legislating the complete phase out of existing tailings lakes because of the on-going and potential danger they pose to bird, animal, plant, aquatic and human populations.

A full list of the signed-on groups appears below contact information.

For more information, please contact:

Jessica Wilson, Greenpeace communications officer, 778-228-5404
Mike Hudema, Greenpeace climate & energy campaigner, 780-504-5601

Organizations supporting a phase out of toxic tar sands tailings lakes

Alberta:

1. Alberta Wilderness Association, Calgary, AB
2. Central Athabasca Stewardship Society, Fort Assiniboine, AB
3. Citizens for Responsible Development, Fort Saskatchewan, AB
4. Council of Canadians Calgary Chapter, Calgary, AB
5. Council of Canadians Edmonton Chapter, Edmonton, AB
6. CPAWS Northern Alberta, Edmonton, AB
7. Edmonton Friends of the North Environmental Society
8. Euphoria Interiors, Edmonton, AB
9. Euphoria Culinary Experiences, Edmonton, AB
10. Ernst Environmental Services
11. Friend of Lily, Lake, Sturgeon Country, AB
12. Greenpeace on Campus, Edmonton, AB
13. Keepers of the Athabasca Watershed Council

14. Nihahi Resources Ltd, Calgary, AB
15. Peace River Environmental Society, Peace River, AB
16. Public Interest Alberta
17. Rainforest Action Network, Edmonton, AB
18. Sierra Club Prairie, Edmonton, AB
19. STOP - stop tar sands operations permanently, edmonton, AB
20. Tipping Point Project, Whitecourt, AB
21. University of Alberta Council of Canadians, Edmonton, AB
22. University of Alberta Rights and Democracy Network, Edmonton, AB
23. Vegans & Vegetarians of Alberta Association

Canada:

1. Association québécoise de lutte contre la pollution atmosphérique (Montreal, QC)
2. Bells Clanging, Vancouver, BC
3. Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, Toronto, ON
4. Canadian Peace Alliance
5. CAPE, Victoria, BC
6. Code Pink Canada
7. Conservation Council of New Brunswick, Fredericton, NB
8. Council of Canadians National
9. Council of Canadians Campbell River, BC
10. Council of Canadians Comox Chapter, Comox, BC
11. Council of Canadians Delta/Richmond Chapter, BC
12. Council of Canadians Inverness Chapter, Inverness, NS
13. Council of Canadians Montreal Chapter, Montreal, QC
14. Council of Canadians Nelson, West Kootenay Chapter, BC
15. Council of Canadians Peterborough and Kawarthas Chapter, Peterborough, ON
16. Council of Canadians Quill Plains Chapter, Archerwill, SK
17. Council of Canadians Regina Chapter, Regina, SK
18. Council of Canadians Surrey, Langley and White Rock Chapter, Surrey, BC
19. Council of Canadians Vancouver/Burnaby Chapter, Vancouver, BC
20. Council of Canadians Whistler Chapter, Whistler, BC
21. Downstream Research Project, Vancouver, BC
22. Environmental Defence, Toronto, ON
23. Forest Ethics, Vancouver, BC
24. Friends of the Earth Canada
25. Greenpeace Canada
26. Greenspiration, Toronto, ON
27. Indigenous Environmental Network
28. Kootenay School of Writing
29. Lake: A Journal of Arts and Environment, Kelowna, BC
30. Margaree Environmental Association (MEA), Cape Breton Island, NS
31. Manitoba Wildlands, Winnipeg, MN
32. Mixedwood Forest Society, Brandon, MN
33. Nature Saskatchewan, Regina, SK
34. Naturopack, Toronto, ON
35. Pacific Wild, Denny Island, BC
36. Polaris Institute, Ottawa, ON
37. Prevent Cancer Now, Ottawa, ON
38. REDOIL's (Resisting Environmental Destruction on Indigenous Lands) Tribal Campus Climate Challenge team
39. Rhythms of Resistance, Toronto, ON
40. Sea to Sands Conservation Alliance, Prince George, BC
41. Save Our Seas and Shores Coalition, NS/NB/PEI
42. Skeena Watershed Conservation Coalition, Hazelton, BC
43. Toronto Climate Campaign, Toronto, ON

44. West Coast Environmental Law, Vancouver, BC
45. Yukon Conservation Society, Whitehorse, YK

U.S. and International:

1. Drilling Mora County, Ocate, NM
2. Global Community Monitor, El Cerrito, CA
3. Greenpeace International
4. LEAD Agency, Inc., Vinita, OK
5. Natural Resources Defense Council
6. Root Force, Tucson, AZ
7. Women's Voices for Earth, Missoula, MT