



News Release March 12, 2013

## **The Harper government supports oil sands development and the Keystone Pipeline, but do Canadians?**

A report just released by Keepers of the Athabasca indicates that many Canadian groups do not support oil sands development. “We did online research for statements in opposition to oil sands development,” said Helene Walsh with the Keepers, “and found it surprising how many statements of opposition were out there, not just from environmental groups, but also from First Nations (all of Treaties 6, 7 and 8), labour, social, religious groups, political parties and prominent Canadians such as former Alberta premier Peter Lougheed in 2006.” This is what he said:

*“I was just up there [Fort McMurray] on a trip, just helicoptering around, and it is just a moonscape. It is wrong in my judgment, a major wrong, and I keep trying to see who the beneficiaries are. Not the people in Red Deer, because everything they have got is costing more. It is not the people of the province, because they are not getting the royalty return that they should be getting, with \$75 oil. So it is a major, major federal and provincial issue.” SOURCE: “Sounding an alarm for Alberta – an interview with Peter Lougheed” Policy Options. September 2006. p.6. <http://www.irpp.org/po/archive/sep06/lougheed.pdf>*

In all we found 35 groups had indicated opposition to new tar sands development since 2006, (listed on next page).

In 2011 Lougheed also indicated opposition to the Keystone XL pipeline in 2011, saying the bitumen should be refined in Alberta.

In addition a March 4, 2013 Abacus Poll of Canadians indicated 69% of people surveyed preferred the east-west pipeline option. <http://abacusdata.ca/2013/03/04/canadians-overwhelmingly-support-an-west-east-oil-pipeline/>

“This makes us think that many Canadians would be pleased if the Keystone XL pipeline was turned down by President Obama,” said Jesse Cardinal also with the Keepers.

Contact:

Helene Walsh 780 922 0908 Jesse Cardinal 780 404-5315

Report at: <http://www.keepersofthewater.ca/oilsandsopposition.pdf>

# Supporters of a Moratorium/Pause on New Oil Sands Projects in Alberta

March 2013



| Who                                       | Statement   | Source  |
|---|---|---|
| <b>Indigenous Groups</b>                  |   |   |
| <b>Treaties 6,7,8 2008</b>                | Chiefs from Treaties 6, 7 and 8 met last week and unanimously agreed that the Alberta government shouldn't let any new oilsands projects go ahead until First Nations have approved watershed and resource development plans.   | <a href="http://www.ctv.ca/CTVNews/SciTech/20080225/oilsands_moratorium_080225/">http://www.ctv.ca/CTVNews/SciTech/20080225/oilsands_moratorium_080225/</a>               |
| <b>Dehcho First Nations, 2007</b>         | Grand Chief Herb Norwegian of the Dehcho First Nations, called on Canada and Alberta to support a moratorium on further development of the massive oil producing Athabasca Tar Sands “until some sanity can be brought into this situation.”                                | <a href="http://www.polarisinstitute.org/deh_cho_leader_calls_for_tar_sands_moratorium">http://www.polarisinstitute.org/deh_cho_leader_calls_for_tar_sands_moratorium</a> |
| <b>Fort Chipewyan FN 2007</b>             | First Nations residents at an environmental rally Tuesday in Fort Chipewyan, Alta., called for a halt or slowdown to oilsands development in the province.  | <a href="http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/story/2007/08/15/alta-chip.html">http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/story/2007/08/15/alta-chip.html</a>                     |
| <b>Beaver Lake Cree First Nation 2012</b> | STOP THE TAR SANDS, SAVE THE PLANET!  | <a href="http://www.raventrust.com/beaverlakecree.html">http://www.raventrust.com/beaverlakecree.html</a>   |
| <b>Indigenous Environmental Network</b>   | IEN has launched a CANADIAN INDIGENOUS TAR SANDS CAMPAIGN to work with Indigenous and non-Indigenous supporters and environmental organizations for a coordinated and collective response led by concerned First Nations and Métis opposing the expansion of the tar sands. | <a href="http://dirtyoilsands.org/files/IEN_CITSC_Tar_Sands_Info_Sheet.pdf">http://dirtyoilsands.org/files/IEN_CITSC_Tar_Sands_Info_Sheet.pdf</a>                         |

| <b>Communities</b>  |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>NWT Association of Communities 2009 (33 communities)</b>         | The resolution calls for a halt to new oil sands development until a trans-boundary agreement is in place “that ensures water flowing into the Northwest Territories is clean.”   | <a href="http://www.sqwalk.com/blog2009/001641.html">http://www.sqwalk.com/blog2009/001641.html</a>   |
| <b>Mayor Ft. McMurray 2007</b>                                      | Mayor Melissa Blake, who has repeatedly asked for a slowing of development and a moratorium on approvals to allow the municipality time to catch-up on infrastructure concerns  | <a href="http://www.afl.org/index.php/AFL-in-the-News/burning-issue-not-resolved-oilsands-report.html">http://www.afl.org/index.php/AFL-in-the-News/burning-issue-not-resolved-oilsands-report.html</a>     |
| <b>Labour and Social Groups</b>                                     |   |   |
| <b>Alberta Federation of Labour 2008</b>                            | ...encourage Alberta to place a moratorium on all new tar sands projects pending a full assessment of environmental, economic, social, health and community impacts.  | <a href="http://www.canadianlabour.ca/sites/default/files/conventions/17-19compost.pdf">http://www.canadianlabour.ca/sites/default/files/conventions/17-19compost.pdf</a>                                   |
| <b>Canadian Labour Congress 2008</b>                                | ...encourage Alberta to place a moratorium on all new tar sands projects pending a full assessment of environmental, economic, social, health and community impacts.  | <a href="http://www.canadianlabour.ca/sites/default/files/conventions/17-19compost.pdf">http://www.canadianlabour.ca/sites/default/files/conventions/17-19compost.pdf</a>                                   |
| <b>Council of Canadians 2008</b>                                    | The council is calling for a moratorium on any new oilsands development until thorough assessments are done on how such projects affect humans and the environment.   | <a href="http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/article/528337--alberta-s-oilsands-like-mordor-maude-barlow">http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/article/528337--alberta-s-oilsands-like-mordor-maude-barlow</a> |
| <b>National Council of Women of Canada 2009</b>                     | placing a moratorium on new tar sands projects until environmental concerns are resolved  | <a href="http://www.ncwc.ca/pdf/tarsands_brief.pdf">http://www.ncwc.ca/pdf/tarsands_brief.pdf</a>   |
| <b>Nobel Women's Initiative. 2011 (Eight Nobel Peace Laureates)</b> | Nobel Laureates to Harper: Stop Tar Sands Expansion   | <a href="http://environmentaldefence.ca/blog/nobel-laureates-harper-stop-tar-sands-expansion">http://environmentaldefence.ca/blog/nobel-laureates-harper-stop-tar-sands-expansion</a>                       |
| <b>Parkland Institute 2006</b>                                      | In March 2006, the Parkland Institute released a report calling for a moratorium on oil sands development for five years, citing the need for Canadians to discuss and understand all the implications.                 | <a href="http://www.polarisinstitute.org/files/Fuelling_Fortress_America-5.pdf">http://www.polarisinstitute.org/files/Fuelling_Fortress_America-5.pdf</a> Page 54   |
| <b>Polaris Institute</b>  | For the sake of present and future generations, we are calling for a <b>Moratorium Now</b> on the expansion of the Alberta tar sands enterprise until the fundamental conditions outlined above are satisfactorily met. | <a href="http://www.tarsandswatch.org/files/Polaris_Tar_sands_Moratorium_Declaration.pdf">http://www.tarsandswatch.org/files/Polaris_Tar_sands_Moratorium_Declaration.pdf</a>                               |

| Religious Groups   |   |   |
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| <b>Anglican Church of Canada 2010</b>                                | ...no further tar sands projects should be approved, nor should existing projects receive approval for further expansion.   | <a href="http://www.kairoscanada.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Sus-TTS-10-07-DrawingLineSandLimitTarSandPositionPaper.pdf">http://www.kairoscanada.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Sus-TTS-10-07-DrawingLineSandLimitTarSandPositionPaper.pdf</a> |
| <b>Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace 2010</b> | ...no further tar sands projects should be approved, nor should existing projects receive approval for further expansion.   | <a href="http://www.kairoscanada.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Sus-TTS-10-07-DrawingLineSandLimitTarSandPositionPaper.pdf">http://www.kairoscanada.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Sus-TTS-10-07-DrawingLineSandLimitTarSandPositionPaper.pdf</a> |
| <b>Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice 2011</b>                   | A moratorium on the growth of the tar sands.  | <a href="http://cusj.org/emerging-issues/energy/oil-energy-tar-sands/">http://cusj.org/emerging-issues/energy/oil-energy-tar-sands/</a>   |
| <b>Diocese of St. Paul, 2009</b>                                     | Bouchard called for a moratorium on further development until real solutions may be found, ....   | <a href="http://www.aims.ca/en/home/library/details.aspx/2470">http://www.aims.ca/en/home/library/details.aspx/2470</a>   |
| <b>Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada 2010</b>                    | ...no further tar sands projects should be approved, nor should existing projects receive approval for further expansion.   | <a href="http://www.kairoscanada.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Sus-TTS-10-07-DrawingLineSandLimitTarSandPositionPaper.pdf">http://www.kairoscanada.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Sus-TTS-10-07-DrawingLineSandLimitTarSandPositionPaper.pdf</a> |
| <b>Mennonite Central Committee of Canada 2010</b>                    | ...no further tar sands projects should be approved, nor should existing projects receive approval for further expansion.   | <a href="http://www.kairoscanada.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Sus-TTS-10-07-DrawingLineSandLimitTarSandPositionPaper.pdf">http://www.kairoscanada.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Sus-TTS-10-07-DrawingLineSandLimitTarSandPositionPaper.pdf</a> |
| <b>Presbyterian Church in Canada 2010</b>                            | ...no further tar sands projects should be approved, nor should existing projects receive approval for further expansion.   | <a href="http://www.kairoscanada.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Sus-TTS-10-07-DrawingLineSandLimitTarSandPositionPaper.pdf">http://www.kairoscanada.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Sus-TTS-10-07-DrawingLineSandLimitTarSandPositionPaper.pdf</a> |
| <b>Quakers 2010</b>  | At its summer 2009 sessions, Canadian Yearly Meeting (CYM) of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) called for a moratorium on new oil sands leases,                                   | <a href="http://quakerservice.ca/.../201008-CFSC-Briefing-Paper-on-Oil-Sands">quakerservice.ca/.../201008-CFSC-Briefing-Paper-on-Oil-Sands</a> -  |
| <b>United Church of Canada 2011</b>                                  | Expansion of oil sands production in Alberta should be rejected in favour of a clean and sustainable national energy policy according to Maritime Conference of The United Church of Canada | <a href="http://www.marconf.ca/marconf_website_2012_0229_0846pm_AST/pdf/TarSandsNewsRelease.pdf">http://www.marconf.ca/marconf_website_2012_0229_0846pm_AST/pdf/TarSandsNewsRelease.pdf</a>   |

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| <b>Conservation Groups Alberta</b>        |  |   |
| <b>AWA 2007</b>                           | Alberta Wilderness Association (AWA) added its voice to those asking for a moratorium on oil sands activities, for new protected areas in oil sands regions, and for an overarching provincial land and resources management plan that effectively addresses cumulative impacts. | <a href="http://www.aenweb.ca/node/1356">http://www.aenweb.ca/node/1356</a>   |
| <b>Keepers of the Athabasca 2011</b>      | The Keepers strongly support a moratorium on new tarsands projects at least until independent scientific research and monitoring is in place and the cumulative effects of the current projects on the environment and human health are understood.                              | <a href="http://www.keepersofthewater.ca/news/110927/pitman">http://www.keepersofthewater.ca/news/110927/pitman</a>   |
| <b>Conservation Groups Canada</b>         |  |   |
| <b>350.org</b>                            | Stand in Solidarity - Stop the Tar Sands!  | <a href="http://act.350.org/sign/tar-sands/">http://act.350.org/sign/tar-sands/</a>   |
| <b>Climate Action Network Canada 2009</b> | The event was organized by Climate Action Network Canada, a non-governmental organization, to coincide with the release of a new report that calls for an immediate halt to oilsands work.   | <a href="http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/story/2009/12/09/copenhagen-oilsands-protest.html">http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/story/2009/12/09/copenhagen-oilsands-protest.html</a> |
| <b>Environmental Defence 2009</b>         | ...put a moratorium on any new oilsands developments until more safety studies can be done on the effects on water supplies.   | <a href="http://cnews.canoe.ca/CNEWS/Canada/2009/05/08/9391366-sun.html">http://cnews.canoe.ca/CNEWS/Canada/2009/05/08/9391366-sun.html</a>   |
| <b>Forestethics</b>                       | Dirty Tar Sands oil is a step backward on our path to a clean energy future. <b>Right now, we need to stop the accelerating development of Tar Sands projects.</b>   | <a href="http://forestethics.org/tar-sands">http://forestethics.org/tar-sands</a>   |
| <b>Greenpeace 2012</b>                    | Greenpeace is calling on oil companies and the Canadian government to stop the tar sands and end the industrialization of a vast area of Indigenous territories, forests and wetlands in northern Alberta.   | <a href="http://www.greenpeace.org/canada/en/campaigns/Energy/tarsands/">http://www.greenpeace.org/canada/en/campaigns/Energy/tarsands/</a>   |

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| <b>Keepers of the Water</b>  | The Keepers strongly support a moratorium on new tarsands projects at least until independent scientific research and monitoring is in place and the cumulative effects of the current projects on the environment and human health are understood. | <a href="http://www.keepersofthewater.ca/news/110927/pitman">http://www.keepersofthewater.ca/news/110927/pitman</a>   |
| <b>Nature Canada 2012</b>  | Nature Canada has urged the Government of Canada to declare a moratorium on any new tar sands development and to implement stricter environmental controls over existing operations.  | <a href="http://www.naturecanada.ca/tarsands.asp">http://www.naturecanada.ca/tarsands.asp</a>   |
| <b>Sierra Club of Canada 2007</b>  | Join the Sierra Club of Canada in our call for a moratorium on new developments in Alberta's tar sands, and demand that the government of Alberta create and safe energy future that we can all live with!  | <a href="http://itsgettinghotinhere.org/2007/04/23/take-action-tar-sands-moratorium/">http://itsgettinghotinhere.org/2007/04/23/take-action-tar-sands-moratorium/</a>   |
| <b>Wilderness Committee</b>  | But the victory against KeystoneXL shows that we can stop the expansion of the tar sands, it shows that when people stand up at the grassroots level, from across the political spectrum, we can win.”  | <a href="http://wildernesscommittee.org/press_release/keystone_xl_win_shows_yes_we_can_stop_the_growth_the_tar_sands">http://wildernesscommittee.org/press_release/keystone_xl_win_shows_yes_we_can_stop_the_growth_the_tar_sands</a>               |
| <b>World Wildlife Fund 2007</b>  | WWF is working with partners to secure a moratorium on new oil sands development until key environmental and social criteria are met.   | <a href="http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/where_we_work/project/projects/index.cfm?uProjectID=CA0087&amp;source=ge">http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/where_we_work/project/projects/index.cfm?uProjectID=CA0087&amp;source=ge</a>                     |
| <b>People</b>  |   |   |
| <b>Schindler 2007</b>  | The scientist who won Canada's top research prize for his work on pollution in the Great Lakes now wants a moratorium on development in the Alberta oil sands, saying the rush to extract petroleum could threaten the mighty Athabasca River.      | <a href="http://www.canada.com/ottawacitizen/features/rivers/story.html?id=b9a9f43d-451e-4f53-8905-fd13bf62f3af&amp;k=16746">http://www.canada.com/ottawacitizen/features/rivers/story.html?id=b9a9f43d-451e-4f53-8905-fd13bf62f3af&amp;k=16746</a> |
| <b>Lougheed 2006</b>   | Mr. Lougheed thinks a moratorium should be declared on oil sands projects. Public hearings should be held during the moratorium. Albertans should be asked what kind of development they want, and at what pace.                                    | <a href="http://www.anticorruption.ca/forum/phpBB2/viewtopic.php?t=3689&amp;sid=0d7b0acd7ba2fb9747d472f7b2b63169">http://www.anticorruption.ca/forum/phpBB2/viewtopic.php?t=3689&amp;sid=0d7b0acd7ba2fb9747d472f7b2b63169</a>                       |
| <b>Gordon Pinsent<br/>Tantoo Cardinal<br/>Graham Greene,<br/>Mia Kirshner<br/>Kate Vernon<br/>2011</b> | Gordon Pinsent is the latest Canadian celebrity to endorse the protest against the oil sands planned for Parliament Hill on Monday.   | <a href="http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2011/09/22/gordon-pinsent-oil-sands_n_976519.html">http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2011/09/22/gordon-pinsent-oil-sands_n_976519.html</a>   |

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| <b>William Marsden 2007</b>          | Time out Canada: put a moratorium on massive oil sands in Alberta now, says author  | <a href="http://www.hilltimes.com/the-q-a-by-kate-malloy/2007/10/22/time-out-canada-put-a-moratorium-on-massive-oil-sands-in-alberta-now/19164">http://www.hilltimes.com/the-q-a-by-kate-malloy/2007/10/22/time-out-canada-put-a-moratorium-on-massive-oil-sands-in-alberta-now/19164</a> |
| <b>Other</b>                         |   |   |
| <b>Lush</b>                          | Stop Canada's Tar Sands:<br>The Most Destructive Project on Earth   | <a href="https://www.lush.co.uk/content/view/262">https://www.lush.co.uk/content/view/262</a>   |
| <b>NDP Canada 2011</b>               | She [Megan Leslie] said she just wants a pause for now, so the federal and Alberta governments can consider the environmental implications of expanding the oilsands. 2011                    | <a href="http://www.ipolitics.ca/2011/10/04/megan-leslie-calls-for-pause-%E2%80%94-not-moratorium-%E2%80%94-on-keystone/">http://www.ipolitics.ca/2011/10/04/megan-leslie-calls-for-pause-%E2%80%94-not-moratorium-%E2%80%94-on-keystone/</a>   |
| <b>NDP Alberta 2007</b>              | Mason has called for a moratorium on new oilsands development in Alberta, 2007  | <a href="http://www.ndpopposition.ab.ca/node/1967">http://www.ndpopposition.ab.ca/node/1967</a>   |
| <b>Environmental Law Centre 2007</b> | First, is the need for a moratorium on further oil sands development until an effective planning regime is in place; and  | <a href="http://www.elc.ab.ca/pages/Publications/PreviousIssue.aspx?id=571">http://www.elc.ab.ca/pages/Publications/PreviousIssue.aspx?id=571</a>   |
| <b>Green Party Canada 2012</b>       | The Green Party is advocating increased environmental responsibility of oil sands developers and placing a moratorium on further oil sands development (i.e. increases in annual production). | <a href="http://www.greenparty.ca/media-release/2012-01-19/keystone-cancellation-boon-canada">http://www.greenparty.ca/media-release/2012-01-19/keystone-cancellation-boon-canada</a>   |