

## Statement in support of 350.org's "We > Tar Sands" campaign and action on July 4, 2015

This Saturday, on July 4th, communities from coast to coast are gathering along the potential routes of the Energy East, Kinder Morgan, Line 9, and Northern Gateway pipelines to defend the water, land, and climate. **We will mobilize in Fredericton to demonstrate that we, the people, are greater than the tar sands.**

We believe that as we approach one of the most important elections in this country's history and another round of international climate negotiations, it is crucial for us to unite and demonstrate to our leaders that we are ready for real climate action.

This October, people across Canada will go to the polls to elect the next government. Then, a few weeks later, whoever wins will head to Paris for what is being billed as the most important global climate summit since the disastrous gathering in Copenhagen.

We recognize that the tar sands have an outsized political footprint on Canada. The fact is that the tar sands represent a mere 2% of our national GDP and more people are already working in renewable energy than in the tar sands. We need to take action in this moment to demand a real economic vision for a prosperous new Canadian economy.

We know that globally, to keep global climate change below 2 degrees C, we need to leave the vast majority of fossil fuels in the ground. In Canada this means leaving tar sands underground.

We stand in solidarity with citizens across the country who think that it's time that Canada shows our political leaders and the world that we're ready to do what the science tells us – leave tar sands in the ground and transition to a just, clean energy economy.

This is the moment to come together like never before, to massively invest in green infrastructure and clean energy and create hundreds of thousands of climate friendly jobs. We join together with communities standing up to tar sands pipelines and with student divestment organizers fighting for a safe climate future. We unite with workers being laid off by the thousands in the Alberta oil patch and with Indigenous communities working to build clean energy solutions on the frontlines of extraction.

The dropping price of oil has shocked the Canadian economy, and workers and others are reeling from the effects. But by working together, we can turn this shock into a positive shift, kick-starting Canada's clean energy economy.

From Alberta to the coasts, people are hungry for a move toward an economy that reflects our values, protects the air, land, and water, and improves our lives.

We know we don't have to choose between the economy or the environment. Real climate action — massively investing in transit, clean energy infrastructure, and affordable housing; expanding low-carbon sectors like health-care, education, and sustainable agriculture; and implementing just immigration policies — can create hundreds of thousands of jobs, a more fair economy, and greater social equality.

Water is sacred to life.

Water is precious.

Water is a symbol of life.

Access to freshwater supplies is becoming an urgent matter across the planet.

Annually, *Canada's* rivers carry 7% of the *world's* renewable water supply.

Fossil fuels are not only warming our planet, but also polluting our air, waterways and land. Our family's health is being impacted by toxic spills and air pollution. Today we join with civil society across this country and the world to state that we will fight for ambitious climate action at all scales of government. We demand that fossil fuel corporations stop influencing our government. We will stand together on July 4 to demand that our government work for a binding global treaty to turn the corner towards a clean sustainable, fossil free future.

Statement supported by:

Centre d'Animation Jeunesse de Tracadie Sheila  
Concerned Citizens of Saint John  
Council of Canadians – Fredericton Chapter  
Council of Canadians – Saint John Chapter  
Ecology Action Centre  
Hampton Water First  
New Brunswick Anti-Shale Gas Alliance  
New Brunswickers Against Fracking  
Organic Crop Improvement Association – Atlantic  
PEACE NB  
Penniac Anti-Shale Gas Organization  
Red Head Anthony's Cove Preservation Association  
Shediac Bay Watershed Association  
Sierra Club Canada Foundation-Atlantic Canada Chapter  
Sustainable Energy Group – Carleton Chapter  
Voices for Sustainable Environments and Communities