



FREE REPORT



OIL AND GAS PIPELINES

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A RALLYING CRY FOR CLIMATE DEFENDERS



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Does it seem to you like you take your eye off your backyard for a day, and the next thing you know there's an oil or gas pipeline proposed to run through it?

Right now Canadians are facing an onslaught of fossil fuel projects as companies work to get their products east and west to the coastline, or south to the United States. But what's the rush?

At a time when the world's nations are finally coming to grips with the challenge of climate change, why is the government

of Canada so supportive of pipeline proposals that will make this challenge even greater?

The burning of fossil fuels is what drives climate change, and Canada is doubling down to become a major supplier of these fuels while other nations are making real progress in developing renewables such as solar, wind and geothermal energy.¹ Meanwhile, our national contribution to climate change keeps rising:

Canada is on track to greatly exceed even its own inadequate targets for reducing climate-changing carbon emissions.²

One reason for the Canadian industry's frantic pipeline blitz is the growth in America's accessible reserves of oil and gas. With the use of fracking or "hydraulic fracturing" techniques to unlock previously non-viable pockets of trapped fossil fuels (both oil and gas), the United States is now less dependent on foreign suppliers. In the case of gas, these new-found reserves have lowered the price that Canadian producers can ask on the open market.

As a result, gas producers in Canada are rushing to construct pipelines west to the Pacific Ocean in the hope that they can get a better price for

their gas in Asia. In order to get it overseas, the gas must be frozen into liquid form to be transferred onto tankers. This product is often referred to as *LNG*, or *liquefied natural gas*.

In the case of oil, the use of fracking has meant the Bakken oil fields of North Dakota are now pumping out a more explosive type of crude oil at rates never seen before.³ This has led to claims that the US may soon become self-reliant when it comes to oil, which is bad news for Canada's oil industry.⁴ The threat of US energy independence has forced Canadian producers with stakes in the Alberta tar sands to push for a number of expensive and potentially dangerous tar sands pipelines to our east and west coasts. Again, the goal is to secure a better price for their oil in Asia or in Europe.

With so many new pipeline proposals popping up each year, and so many names to keep up with – like Kinder Morgan, Energy East and Keystone XL – you may feel a little overwhelmed!



Photo top: Defend our Climate Rally in Victoria, BC (TJ Watt),
above: Tar sands operations in Fort McMurray, AB (Kris Krug).

In this report, you'll find an easy-to-read summary of newly proposed and recently approved oil and gas projects that are "in the pipeline" for Canada's communities (pardon the pun!). You'll also find out more about the political influence that fossil fuel companies hold in Canada, and the political power exerted by the industry's lobby group, the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP).

The industry wants you to feel out-gunned and powerless in the face of their influence. However, knowledge is power – and the first step in confronting the fossil fuel industry is to understand their plans.



Photo: Yellow warbler (Rebecca & Glen Grambo).

PIPELINES: DANGEROUS BUSINESS IN AN ERA OF CLIMATE CHANGE



The time to invest in carbon-free energy systems has arrived. The latest climate change reports released by the United Nations (UN) lay it out perfectly clear: **we have to shift towards renewable energy or face runaway climate change.**¹⁷

International institutions such as the World Bank and the International Energy Agency (IEA) say we cannot afford to burn all the fossil fuels that energy companies now have on their books. Savvy stock market investors know this, and have been demanding that Big Oil state the value of all the oil and gas that can't be burned (called "stranded assets").

To those who are paying attention, it's becoming clear that fossil fuel companies are over-valued.¹⁸

Unfortunately, it has also become clear that the government of Canada has bet the farm on oil and gas. To better the odds in industry's favour, it was necessary for the government to withdraw any commitments to other nations on climate change. **In 2011, Canada became the only country on Earth to withdraw from the Kyoto Protocol, the UN's agreement between nations on climate change.**¹⁹

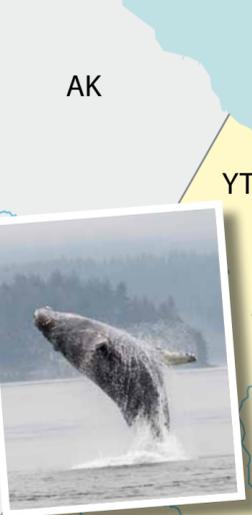
It was also necessary for the government to battle Europe's efforts to address the climate impacts of the Canadian tar sands industry. When Europe sought to impose tariffs on tar sands oil – the most destructive and carbon-intensive form of crude oil – our government sent its ministers to Europe to prevent those taxes from being imposed. By threatening reciprocal tariffs, the Canadian government was successful in slowing down this important initiative by European nations

that would classify crude oil in accordance with its climate impacts.²⁰

While other countries around the world recognize the harm in investing in fossil fuels, Canada's government thinks the exact opposite. It supports the fossil fuel industry by subsidizing companies with tax breaks. Those same subsidies would stimulate greater investment in renewable energy if they were directed towards the Canadian innovators that are desperate to lead the way to a clean energy future.²¹ But that isn't part of Ottawa's petroleum-fuelled plan.

When we factor in the potential cost of climate change in Canada – ranging anywhere from \$21 to \$43 billion by the 2050s – we can see the sheer magnitude of what is at risk for our communities. These costs include flooding damages, timber supply losses and rising healthcare costs due to poor air quality.²² **The federal government is pushing for Canada to be a "world leader" in supplying fossil fuels, but more and more Canadians agree that these are fuels the world needs to turn its back on.**

Photos clockwise from left: Great Bear Rainforest wolves, BC (Ian McAllister Pacific Wild), Humpback whale (John E. Marriott), Canadian Arctic (Mark & Leslie Degner), Peace Athabasca Delta, AB (Wayne Lynch), Moose with calf, ON (Robert McCaw), Algoma Highlands, ON (Gary McGuffin), Keystone XL protest in front of the White House in DC (Victoria Pickering), Greater Sage-grouse, SK (Rebecca & Glen Grambo), Tar sands, Fort McMurray, AB (Garth Lenz).



WESTCOAST CONNECTOR GAS TRANSMISSION (Spectra Energy/BG Group)²
 Description/Route: 850-km gas pipeline from the Cypress area in northeast BC to Prince Rupert, BC.
 Status: An application was submitted to the BC Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) in March 2014.
 New Capacity: 4.2 billion cubic feet of fracked gas per day.

PRINCE RUPERT GAS TRANSMISSION (TransCanada Pipelines Ltd.)⁶
 Description/Route: 900-km gas pipeline from near Hudson's Hope, BC to Prince Rupert, BC.
 Status: An application is expected to be submitted to the BC EAO and National Energy Board (NEB) in 2014.
 New Capacity: 2 billion cubic feet of fracked gas per day, with the potential for expansion up to approximately 3.6 billion.

NORTHERN GATEWAY (Enbridge Inc.)⁷
 Description/Route: 1,177-km tar sands pipeline from northern Alberta to Kitimat, BC. The project involves "twin" pipelines – one carrying tar sands oil westbound to the coast, and the other flowing east carrying condensate (a product used to thin tar sands oil for pipeline transport).
 Status: The project was approved by the NEB Joint Review Panel in December 2013, along with a list of 209 conditions. A final decision is expected from the federal cabinet in June 2014.
 New Capacity: 525,000 barrels per day of tar sands oil, and 193,000 barrels per day of condensate.

COASTAL GASLINK (TransCanada Pipelines Ltd.)⁸
 Description/Route: 650-km gas pipeline from near Dawson Creek, BC to Kitimat, BC.
 Status: An application to the BC EAO was submitted in January 2014.
 New Capacity: 1.7 billion cubic feet of fracked gas per day, with the potential for expansion up to approximately 5 billion.

TRANS MOUNTAIN EXPANSION (Kinder Morgan Canada)¹⁰
 Description/Route: 1,187-km tar sands pipeline from Alberta to Burnaby, BC. The project involves constructing a new pipeline to run "alongside" Kinder Morgan's existing Trans Mountain pipeline, though it diverges from the existing route in several places.
 Status: An application was submitted to the NEB in December 2013. The Board will hear traditional evidence from First Nations in fall 2014, and oral hearings are expected to begin in January 2015.
 New Capacity: 890,000 barrels per day of tar sands oil.

ENERGY EAST (TransCanada Pipelines Ltd.)¹⁵
 Description/Route: 4,600-km tar sands pipeline from Alberta to New Brunswick. The project involves converting an existing gas pipeline for oil transport and constructing new pipelines to link up with the converted pipe.
 Status: An application is expected to be submitted to the NEB in mid-2014.
 New Capacity: 1.1 million barrels per day of tar sands oil.

PACIFIC TRAIL (Chevron Canada/Apache Corp.)^{11,12,13}
 Description/Route: 480-km gas pipeline from near Summit Lake, BC to Kitimat, BC.
 Status: BC EAO approval was granted in June 2008, followed by federal environmental approval in March 2009. A final investment decision is expected in 2014 in conjunction with the Kitimat LNG project.
 New Capacity: 4 billion cubic feet of fracked gas per day.

KEYSTONE and KEYSTONE XL (TransCanada Pipelines Ltd.)¹⁴
 Description/Route: 4,247-km oil pipeline system from Hardisty, Alberta to the Gulf Coast of Texas, US.
 Status: Three sections of the project are in operation, and the controversial fourth section (Keystone XL) is currently under consideration by the US President.
 New Capacity: 830,000 barrels per day of tar sands oil.

HOW DO PIPELINES AFFECT CLIMATE CHANGE?
 Burning fossil fuels – like the oil and gas that would be transported through these pipelines – releases large amounts of carbon and other greenhouse gases into the Earth's atmosphere. These gases build up and act like a blanket around the planet, trapping energy in the atmosphere and causing changes in the Earth's climate.²³

LINE 9 REVERSAL (Enbridge Inc.)¹⁶
 Description/Route: 820-km oil pipeline from Sarnia, Ontario to Montreal, Quebec. It currently transports oil westbound from foreign markets, but the reversal would allow oil from the tar sands and the Bakken region to flow from west to east.
 Status: The final stage of reversal was approved by the NEB in March 2014.
 New Capacity: 300,000 barrels per day of tar sands and Bakken oil.

— Proposed & Recently Approved Tar Sands Pipelines
 — Proposed & Recently Approved Fracked Gas Pipelines for LNG Export
 — Existing Major Oil Pipelines
 — Existing Major Gas Pipelines in BC

0 500 km



Atlantic Ocean

TWO MORE CASUALTIES: SCIENCE AND PARKS

It's not just our chances of avoiding runaway climate change that have fallen victim to the pipeline push – fossil fuel expansion is also wreaking havoc on our scientists and our parks.

In the past five years, the federal government has dismissed more than 2,000 scientists, including many who were doing important research into climate impacts in sensitive places like the Canadian Arctic.²⁴

The international scientific community has reacted in shock and horror as respected Canadian experts have lost their jobs. Why would we reduce our scientific knowledge base at a time when the Arctic is suffering the worst effects of climate change?²⁵

Silencing the experts won't help

anyone in the end. **Rather than stick our heads in the sand on climate research, we need to support Canada's world-class scientists.**

In western Canada, our park system has also become a target for pipeline pushers. The BC government, with no public consultation and very little debate in the legislature, recently pushed through the *Park Amendment Act*.

The Act specifically permits industrial research in parks and protected areas in British Columbia – something previously not allowed – enabling corporations to research locations for projects such as pipelines and logging roads.²⁶ Once this "research" is done, the companies can then apply to have land removed from the protected area.



Photo left: Bridal Veil Falls Provincial Park, BC (Gwen Barlee), right: NoEnbridge Defend our Climate Rally, BC (Mark Klotz).

CAPP: EXERTING POWER OVER POLITICS

The Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP) evolved from the Canadian Petroleum Association, one of Canada's most influential lobby groups. Its member organizations produce around 90 per cent of Canadian oil and gas, and part of its mission is to secure "streamlined" (aka "weakened") regulations over the industry's activities.²⁷

Oil and gas lobbyists have paid more visits to government officials than any other industry group²⁸, and make substantial donations to political parties.²⁹ The result of all that lobbying is the ability to influence Canada's environmental laws.

Following recommendations made jointly by CAPP and pipeline operators, the Canadian government drastically altered its environmental assessment laws, gutted protection for fish and fish habitat and rewrote the *Navigable Waters Protection Act*. These were the very changes pipeline proponents listed in a letter to the government as crucial to "enable economic growth" in the industry.³⁰ How's that for political influence?

CAPP also benefits from a close relationship with one of Canada's largest mainstream media outlets. Agreements have been made between CAPP and Canadian publishing company Postmedia related to the reporting of energy issues. For instance, a presentation that recently surfaced on the Internet outlined how newspapers owned by the company should publish content on "topics directed by CAPP and written by Postmedia."³¹ When it comes to energy, the days of unbiased journalism may be over for our most important newspapers.

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TAKE ACTION!

SAY NO TO OIL AND GAS PIPELINES YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Tell the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition that you want Canada to take leadership on climate change and turn its back on pipelines, oil tankers and other fossil fuel infrastructure. Send a message to our elected leaders demanding:

1. A moratorium on oil and gas pipelines, tar sands expansion and other new fossil fuel export infrastructure,
2. An immediate end to fossil fuel subsidies and a shift toward investment in Canada's renewable energy sector, and
3. A re-commitment to the Kyoto Protocol, the world's agreement to take action on climate change.

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Photo: Pipeline protest in Burnaby, BC (Matthew Black).

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YES! I WANT TO HELP DEFEND OUR CLIMATE

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The Wilderness Committee is Canada's largest membership-based wilderness preservation organization.

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Wilderness Committee, Vol. 33, No. 5, 2014.
Canadian Mail Product Sales Agreement No. 0900567.
Posted in Vancouver for free distribution. Printed in Canada on recycled newsprint with vegetable-based inks.
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Published by
Wilderness Committee — National Office
46 E. 6th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V5T 1J4
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