



SIERRA
CLUB
BC

Sierra Report

ONE EARTH. ONE CHANCE.

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SIERRA CLUB BC HEADED TO COURT TO PROTECT B.C.'S WATERWAYS!



DON HOFFMAN

Don't Frack with Our Water Act!

In November, we filed a case against the B.C. Oil and Gas Commission for allowing oil and gas companies such as Encana to withdraw vast quantities of fresh water from lakes, rivers and streams for fracking and drilling operations, in violation of the Water Act.

The lawsuit, brought by Ecojustice on behalf of Sierra Club BC and the Wilderness Committee, seeks a Supreme Court order declaring that the Commission's practice of repeatedly granting short-term water withdrawal approvals to oil and gas companies is unlawful. Encana Corporation, one of B.C.'s major natural gas players, is also named in the suit.

"The B.C. government's liquid natural gas agenda comes with a huge cost, and the cost is B.C.'s water," said Caitlyn Vernon, Sierra Club BC

campaigns director. "The proposed new LNG industry would require a huge increase in drilling and fracking, sucking northern lakes and rivers dry and contaminating watersheds — just as we're seeing increased droughts due to climate change."

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Fracking operations require huge amounts of water to extract gas from shale. Much of the water used in fracking returns to the surface highly polluted with toxic chemicals. Fracking fluids can escape through rock fractures, whether natural or created through the fracking process itself, contaminating groundwater. Given the pressure of global warming

on our fresh water systems, we need to ensure that B.C.'s water is protected for people, farms, fish and forests, not offered on a platter to oil and gas companies.

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MESSAGE From the Executive Director



As long as I can remember I have loved the outdoors and spent as much time in nature as possible. This journey has taken me around the province to hike, bird-watch and explore; and involved me in conversations with wonderful, passionate people in many walks of life.

My journey has been one of advocacy as I campaigned to protect special places such as the Stein, Khutzyemateen, Muskwa-Kechika, Carmanah and the southern Okanagan. It has taken me to workshops, political boardrooms and kitchen tables, as well as classrooms, nature centres and museums.

And now this journey brings me to Sierra Club BC, where as Executive Director, I am honoured to work on your behalf. I look forward to continue campaigning to save and protect nature, and

work to get children and families better acquainted with nature and the fundamental understanding that our health is linked to the health of nature, the wildlife and the landscapes that surround us.

We need to bring common sense and integrity to the current 'ram-ahead' approach to development whether it is pipelines and tankers, the fracking boom or the proposed Site C dam. Sierra Club BC's campaigns in the Great Bear Rainforest, the Peace River and Flathead River Valley are great examples of the need for protection as we work to keep these landscapes intact and a home for endangered plants and animals to survive.

Given the dramatic threat of climate change we must all work hard to protect B.C.'s globally significant biodiversity. The B.C. government needs to behave more responsibly, develop our vast resources more slowly, and collect a fair share of monies to protect the environment, provide for our education and health systems, and build a rainy-day fund. Why not add value to these assets instead of depleting them, just as we attempt to add value to our household in our daily lives?

It is essential that Sierra Club BC persist with our critical work campaigning to ensure the future of your communities, the health of our forests and a clean coastline. To conduct these campaigns we need your continuing financial investment and support. Please give generously.

I look forward to working with you and for nature on these important issues.

Bob Peart

YOU MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE!

When you make a donation to Sierra Club BC, every penny goes to protect B.C. wilderness and wildlife.

You can help support our work with three easy options:

- **Monthly Giving:** Convenient for you, helps Sierra Club BC year-round.
- **One-Time Gift:** Big or small, give a boost to our work when you're able to.
- **Legacy Giving:** Contact us for information about donating through your will.

To donate online or find out more information, please visit www.sierraclub.bc.ca/donate

Sierra Club of BC Foundation is a registered charity (charitable number 11914 9797 RR0001) and your donation is eligible for a tax receipt.

Great Expectations for the Great Bear Rainforest

In most parts of B.C., the state of forest management and forest health are very troublesome, after decades of overcutting combined with climate impacts like the mountain pine beetle. Companies like Island Timberland and TimberWest are targeting some of the last, highly-endangered coastal old-growth forest stands on Vancouver Island. Meanwhile, the B.C. government is moving toward giving logging companies even greater control over public forest lands through a massive tenure roll-over.

But there is one place for hope.

After years of hard work we are getting closer to final implementation of the agreements for the protection of the Great Bear Rainforest, the largest remaining rainforest outside the tropics and home of the rare white spirit bear. The agreements, endorsed by the Province, First Nations, a group of logging companies and

environmental organizations in 2006, call for setting aside 70 per cent of the natural level of old-growth forest across the region, and supporting conservation-based economic activities in local communities. By March, 2009, half of the forest was off-limits to logging and a new plan was announced to increase conservation by March, 2014.

What needs to happen to move to the 70 per cent target? Conservation levels need to be increased across ecosystems without unnecessarily constraining logging in the appropriate places. Harvesting will be more concentrated in limited portions of the region while respecting critical thresholds for protection. Sierra Club BC and our allies expect that, once the agreement has been fully implemented, over 1 million hectares of forest will be permanently off-limits to logging, in addition to the more than 2 million hectares of protected areas in the region.



GREENPEACE/OLIVER SALGE

There are only about 400 white spirit bears on the planet and their only home is the Great Bear Rainforest. Support our work to ensure that the B.C. government increases conservation as promised. Stay tuned at takeittaller.ca

Despite challenges, all parties involved continue to work towards meeting the 2014 milestone.

Full success in the Great Bear Rainforest is more important than ever before because our province and the world desperately need models that show how economic activity can be adjusted to respect the web of life and protect our last wild places. To meet our goals the province has to follow up their promises with true leadership. We would not have been able to get so close to success without ongoing support from our members and other concerned citizens. Stay tuned and help us to build up great expectations by visiting our coalition website (www.takeittaller.ca).

United Against Climate Change



TJ WATT

Over 1,000 people joined together in Victoria to form a united wall of opposition to pipelines, tankers and runaway climate change on Nov. 16, as part of a national day of action involving over 130 events from coast to coast to coast. Buffeting winds and squalls did not deter the enthusiastic crowd who cheered speakers from First Nations, fishing industry, and environmental groups. The Victoria rally was organized by Sierra Club BC, along with other local organizations and volunteers.

www.sierraclub.bc.ca



DAYN CRAIG, SIERRA CLUB PRINCE GEORGE

OUR WORK at a glance

FLATHEAD

There's been significant positive news for the Flathead over recent months. In September, the federal government announced that portions of the Dominion Coal Blocks within the Flathead Valley will be exempted from a planned sale of federal lands. Then in October, Teck Mining purchased three parcels of land in the Flathead River Valley area for conservation purposes. Representatives from Flathead Wild will work with Teck to develop appropriate stewardship structure and strategy for these lands. While these initiatives are both welcome Sierra Club BC is still working hard with our coalition

partners in Flathead Wild to secure more comprehensive protection for this diverse and delicate area with a National Park in the southeastern one-third of the valley.

SITE C DAM

The Joint Review Panel responsible for assessing the proposed Site C dam on the Peace River is moving swiftly to the public hearing phase of the review. With few hearings scheduled close to the Christmas holidays and only in the north-east of B.C., we have concerns about limits to public participation in this process. Site C will affect all British Columbians and hearings should be held across B.C. including Victoria and Vancouver.

The proposed Site C dam will flood more than 100 kilometres of river valley, choking off North America's

longest wildlife corridor at its narrowest point and washing away prime agricultural land, family farms and First Nations' heritage sites. So-called "clean energy" from Site C would be used to power dirty fossil fuel industries such as fracking, yet B.C. taxpayers will end up footing the \$8 billion bill when B.C. Hydro is already deeply in debt. Please help us to make sure the panel hears from citizens across B.C. Visit

www.stopsitec.org and send a letter to the federal and provincial governments voicing your opposition.

EDUCATION

The Education Team is off to a great start this school year with the launch of a new program: Youth Environmental Leadership Program (YELP). Emerging from our Sustainable High Schools Project, YELP works to reconnect youth to

urban green spaces, while developing their leadership skills. The 9-month program includes conservation experiences, project planning workshops, outdoor skills training, and a movie-making workshop in which youth will create their own environmental or social justice short films. The program already has approximately 50 youth signed up for activities and 16 youth already actively engaged within the CRD.

We are also excited to welcome our new team members Kim McCrory (Environmental Educator), and Chris Fretwell (Youth Engagement Leader). Both Kim and Chris bring a tremendous amount of experience in and talent for environmental education and youth engagement.



LYNN MATHIESON