

OFFSHORE DRILLING



MAY DESTROY MARINE HABITAT

According to a recent study, shipping noise dropped in the first few months of 2020, while life on land slowed down in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These changes are bound to be temporary and likely won't have a direct, long-term impact on marine life. But they do give scientists an opportunity to conduct valuable research on how marine mammals behave in quieter waters.

The Grand Banks and the open oceans off the eastern coast of Newfoundland and Labrador are one of the most important marine environments in the world and home to a wide assortment of ocean life, including the endangered cod and humpback whales.

Despite the ecological importance of Newfoundland and Labrador's offshore, in February 2018, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador announced a plan to increase oil production in the region and allow more than 100 new offshore exploratory wells by 2030.

Though increasing offshore oil drilling exploration poses a direct threat to marine ecosystems and undermines Canada's stated commitment to reach net-zero emissions by 2050, the RIA report concluded that it

was unable to analyze the risk to ecology in the subject area and the cumulative effects of offshore drilling. We already know underwater noise and boat traffic are two of the biggest threats to endangered whales.

All offshore oil exploration must be subject to proper environmental assessment. The new Impact Assessment Act was introduced to protect the environment, improve the assessment process, and make decisions more transparent. The federal government's actions in Newfoundland fly in the face of this intention.

The people of Newfoundland and Labrador, and all Canadians, should be able to trust that projects will only proceed if they pass a proper assessment and their effects on the environment are properly accounted for.

A win in this case would also see environmental laws, like the Impact Assessment Act, properly applied to projects that pose more risks to our environment. Vitality, a win would safeguard this important marine ecosystem from risky offshore oil exploration.

Ecojustice has used the power of the law at every opportunity to protect our oceans from risky offshore oil and gas developments. But we can't do this work without the support of people like you. Please make a donation today to ensure we can continue to defend coastal waters and communities from risky oil and gas exploration.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The ancestral territories of the Mitchikanibikok Inik First Nation encompass many sites of ecological, cultural and survival importance, including: Burial sites, ceremonial sites, heritage sites, and occupancy sites; habitat for bears, spawning fish, and bald eagles; and hunting grounds for moose, medicinal plant gathering and tree harvesting.

That's why for years, the community has fought to keep mining off of their territory — including when junior mining company, Copper One attempted to push through

deforestation permits to facilitate mining activities on their land.

Ecojustice lawyers, working with the centre Québécois du droit de l'environnement (CQDE), successfully represented the Mitchikanibikok Inik First Nation as interveners in Copper One's proceeding against the Québec government. But that wasn't the end of the story for the community.

In 2017, Copper One and Québec engaged in closed-door negotiations that resulted in the handover of the company's mining claims to SOQUEM — a subsidiary of Ressources Québec — in exchange for \$8 million. This was done without first consulting the Mitchikanibikok Inik community, as required by the Constitution Act. Since then, claims have continuously been renewed without consultation.

Québec's Mining Act uses the "free entry" system approach.

This loophole allows mining claims to be registered without first consulting with Indigenous communities, as required under the Constitution Act.

That's why, on behalf of the Mitchikanibikok Inik First Nation, Ecojustice, in collaboration with CQDE, has filed a lawsuit that argues that Québec's Mining Act is unconstitutional.

A win in this case will see Québec's Mining Act amended to ensure consultation takes place. A win would also prevent and remove all mineral claims on Mitchikanibikok Inik First Nation territory.

Help ensure we have the resources we need to go toe-to-toe with the Québec government in court and defend the Mitchikanibikok Inik First Nation's constitutional rights and renew your support today.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



TOXICS REFORM TERRIBLY OUTDATED

The Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA) is Canada's main federal law for protecting us and the environment from pollution and toxics. In 2018 the Minister of Environment and Climate Change committed to modernizing CEPA in the next Parliament, and acknowledged that many Canadians would like to see the right to a healthy environment enshrined in federal law.

Since elected in 2019, the federal government has renewed commitments to strengthen CEPA and implement a ban on certain classes of single-use plastics by including both priorities in the mandate letters of the ministers of Environment and Climate Change, and Health. It has been more than two decades since Parliament passed CEPA (1999) and now is the time for this cornerstone pollution-prevention law to be updated to address today's environmental threats.

In collaboration with the Coalition for Action on Toxics, and other organizational partners as well as our donors, Ecojustice is pushing for legislation to modernize CEPA to be introduced before the end of 2020, and pushing for the inclusion of a right to a healthy environment in that legislation. Together with our partners, we are engaging with the ministers and their staff, department officials and MPs on the Parliamentary committee responsible for studying legislation to reform CEPA.

We are working hard for you on reforms including increased protections for vulnerable communities, bans on the most dangerous chemicals, and national air and water quality standards. But we aren't doing this alone. More than 2,000 of you have sent letters to the Minister as part of an online action we arranged and we plan to keep up that momentum for you.



FORD GOVERNMENT TRIES TO HALT YOUTH HOLDING HIM ACCOUNTABLE

Late last year, Ecojustice helped seven young clients sue the Government of Ontario for weakening its climate targets and violating Ontarians' Charter-protected rights to life, liberty, and security of the person. The Ford government is now trying to use a procedural delay tactic by filing a motion to strike. If successful, he would avoid a hearing that will undoubtedly highlight the science behind the climate emergency and the urgent need to take action. On July 13th, Ecojustice presented arguments against the government's motion to strike, which argues our clients deserve a full hearing in their fight for a safe climate and we look forward to bringing you news on a full hearing as this case develops.

#GenClimateAction



LEGACY DONOR FEATURE: DIANA BAINBRIDGE

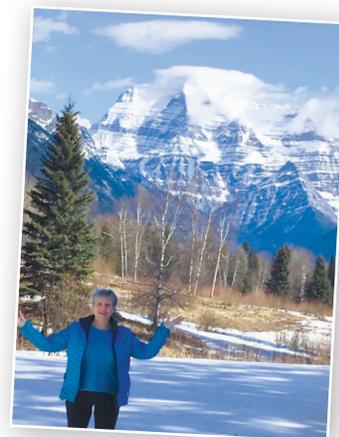
Growing up in the Yorkshire Dales, England, Diana had a passion for nature and the outdoors from an early age. She was able to identify all her local wild flowers, trees, and birds, helped her father with the gardening, and attended summer Nature Study camps for kids. This passion eventually led her to a teacher training college where she majored in Environmental Studies.

As a teacher, both in the UK and Canada, Diana shared her passions with her students, and encouraged them to experience the world as much as possible through the outdoors. She encouraged them to “try to do something that makes a difference”, and has been inspired to watch many of her past students grow into caring adults who are involved in impactful projects around the world.

From a young age, Diana was dismayed to see the nature she loved so dearly become degraded through industry malpractice. So, she decided that

“**Ecojustice boldly stands up to big companies with big money in court. There is no other organization I know of that does that.**”

while she may be powerless alone, she could support organizations that act on behalf of the public to protect the animals and green spaces she loved. Recognizing that large corporations with a lot of money and power are often the culprits of environmental degradation, she was drawn to Ecojustice’s innovative legal cases to hold industries accountable. “Ecojustice boldly stands up to big companies with big money in court. There is no other organization I know of that does that.”



Diana Bainbridge

Diana has supported Ecojustice by giving as much as she can through monthly and annual donations as well as by leaving a gift in her will. “I truly believe in Ecojustice’s work and it’s important to me that I continue to support it.” A gift in her will is an incredibly meaningful way for her to ensure that the nature she’s loved throughout her life will be safeguarded and protected for future generations.

For more information on how you can protect the environment with a gift in your will, contact Tess for a confidential call at 1-800-926-7744 ext. 293, or tconrad@ecojustice.ca

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

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or email donor@ecojustice.ca. Write to us at 390-425 Carrall Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 6E3

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