

# ecobrief: Making the Case for a **Better Earth.**



## **While the incoming government has no shortage of urgent issues to tend to, addressing the interlocking climate, pollution, and biodiversity crises must be at the top of that list.**

This summer, people in all corners of the country witnessed the frightening consequences of these environmental crises up close. Deadly heatwaves, smoky skies, perilous droughts, and the loss of old-growth forests have cast a long shadow over our sense of health and wellbeing at a time when collective COVID-19-related exhaustion has long set in.

But the science is clear: to avoid climate catastrophe, we must transition to a low carbon economy. We know this won't be easy for families who rely on income generated from Canada's tar sands, or for any of us who have grown used to living in a society and economy built around fossil fuels.

Addressing the climate crisis will require a massive, coordinated effort and many difficult decisions. Because of this, it's imperative that our new government helps Canadians make this transition in a just way. We can't leave anybody behind.

Now is the time to turn words into action, and with your ongoing support, the Ecojustice team will ensure our government delivers on their promises to fight the climate crisis, reduce pollution, and better protect the air, land and water that is essential to our survival and wellbeing.

Thanks to you, Ecojustice and our partners played a critical role in the passing of Canada's new *Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act* (Bill C-12) in June, marking

a significant step forward for action on climate change. This new law formalizes Canada's target to achieve net-zero emissions by the year 2050 and establishes a series of interim emissions reduction targets at 5-year milestones toward that goal, improving transparency and consistency around climate action and allowing Canadians to hold the federal government to account for meeting its targets.

At this critical moment in time, Ecojustice will also be calling on the federal government and all political leaders to lead the fight against the climate crisis with an unprecedented level of conviction and determination, and we will urge our leaders to listen to Indigenous voices and recognize that reconciliation and decolonization go hand-in-hand with tackling environmental crises.

With you by our side, we will keep pushing for the legal protections that are essential for our survival. The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed some of the deep inequalities and contradictions at the heart of the Canadian political system and our battle to reduce emissions. Without systemic change, we will not meet our emissions targets and protect those most vulnerable to the threat of a rapidly changing climate.

Canadians don't just want a return to normal, they are demanding a green and just recovery. With your support, Ecojustice will use the full force of the law to create a future that is better than normal.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



# NO-GO FOR GOLDBORO LNG

**The climate wins as Pieridae Energy comes up short in its bid for to create Goldboro LNG, a liquefied natural gas project proposed in Nova Scotia. Among environmentalists across Canada, Ecojustice urged the federal government to reject Pieridae's request for \$1 billion in financial assistance for the project.**

Ecojustice supporters and allies sent more than 4,000 letters to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, reminding him that new fossil fuel projects like Goldboro LNG have no place in a climate-safe future.

The project would bring natural gas sourced in Alberta and delivered through several thousand kilometres of pipelines, to Nova Scotia's Eastern Shore. There, it would be liquefied at the Goldboro plant and exported by ship.

The facility would emit 3.78 megatonnes (MT) of new greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions into the atmosphere annually, based on the initial project proposal, making it virtually impossible for Nova Scotia to meet its current and future emission reduction targets.

Pieridae has signaled that it will continue to look for ways to break ground on Goldboro LNG. To that end, the Ecojustice team's work on this file will continue.

The federal government dropped close to \$18 billion in subsidies and other forms of financial support on the fossil fuel industry last year alone according to a report from the Environmental Defence. The fossil fuel industry and their political allies have worked hard to falsely convince us that more extraction and exports are inevitable and essential for our economy. To secure a safer climate future, we must say no to fossil fuel extraction and export. Your continued support plays an important role in realizing this vision of a climate-safe future for everyone in Canada. Thank you for standing with us.

## HEALTHY COMMUNITIES:

# CANADA'S FIRST ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM LAW

**On the northern edge of Halifax, the tight-knit community of Africville, home to hundreds of descendants of enslaved black people, became a dumping ground for waste from the Halifax industries before it was bulldozed in the 1960s.**

Near Sarnia, in southeastern Ontario, a stretch known as chemical valley houses about 40% of Canada's chemical industry, which particularly affects the Aamjiwnaang First Nation, as found in 2017 report by the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario.

Dams built in Northern Quebec in the 1970s elevated mercury levels in fish, forcing many Cree people to abandon their fisheries, and with it their traditional diet.

Environmental racism refers to the disproportionate impacts on Indigenous, Black, and other racialized communities from polluting industries and other environmental hazards. These toxic burdens have been linked to high rates of cancer, reproductive diseases, respiratory illnesses, and other health problems, compounding cultural loss from poisoning food and destruction of culturally significant places.

Bill C-230, if passed, would require the federal environment minister to develop a strategy on environmental racism and environmental justice – a Canadian first. It would mandate the federal government to examine the link between race, socio-economic status, and environmental risk, including collecting data on this matter.

Communities across Canada know too well the devastating impacts of environmental racism and the failure of successive governments at all levels to adequately address this harm. Ecojustice, alongside a broad and diverse coalition of civil society groups, urge Parliament to move forward with passing an environmental racism law.

# WHAT BEGAN AS THEIR BROTHER'S WISH GREW INTO A FAMILY MISSION TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.



Wayne Martlin loved animals and nature throughout his life — his brother was the captain of one of the first eco-tourism boats operating off B.C.'s coast. As a family, the Martlins deeply cared for all sorts of animals — particularly birds, dogs, and bears — and being Westcoasters brings a natural awareness to the Oceans.

When Wayne passed away unexpectedly, his siblings — Janet and Steve — sought to honour his memory and wishes. While Wayne didn't have a Will, he talked about wanting to dedicate a portion of his estate to protecting the animals and nature he cherished throughout his life. To carry out those wishes, Janet and Steve established a fund in Wayne Martlin's memory.

Initially they gave to charities to protect and rescue specific animals. While those causes are still close to their hearts, they learned about Ecojustice and started to understand the "bigger picture issues". It opened their eyes to "how the world really works", and the systemic issues that drive species extinction and other environmental harms. Janet and Steve realized that Ecojustice was tackling those issues through the power of the law, and decided to make a generous donation in Wayne Martlin's memory.

*"A simple wish from our late brother has led us to be much more aware and pro-active with our charitable giving. We trust Ecojustice to make long-term changes in the most effective way possible. We believe that 'all you can do is your best' — and Ecojustice always does its best."*

## TREE HUGGERS

**It is not at all possible to sustainably log 800-year-old trees. Once gone, they are gone forever. Yet, the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) has been certifying old-growth logging across Canada as "sustainable" since 1996. The most valuable forests in Canada are being cut down for profit at alarming rates.**

Recent studies show that only three percent of B.C.'s old growth trees remain. These trees play a crucial role in forest ecology.

These trees have been cut down under CSA's Sustainable Forestry Management standard certification, which does not require logging to meet any definition of sustainability. This skews competition and ultimately threatens genuinely sustainable alternatives.

Ecojustice has filed a request for an investigation with the federal Competition Bureau at the request of six signatories, supported by Stand. earth and Ancient Forest Alliance. The complainants seek an investigation and, if the claims are found false, recommend the organization be required to publicly retract the sustainability claims and pay a significant fine towards supporting conservation projects.

The complaint sets out how CSA certified companies are using the term "sustainable" to promote wood products, even though the CSA Standard does not require logging practices to meet any definition of "sustainable" nor "sustainable forest management."

These signatories are foresters, scientists, First Nations leaders, tourism operators, environmentalists, and municipal leaders with first-hand knowledge of CSA certified logging. Your donations allow Ecojustice to represent these groups and fight for meaningful, authentic certifications across our beautiful nation.



# TO AVOID CLIMATE CATASTROPHE, CANADA MUST ACCOUNT FOR ITS HIDDEN EMISSIONS



**This summer was a wake-up call for many Canadians as large parts of the country sweltered under an intense “heat dome” that is believed to have contributed to at least 719 sudden deaths in British Columbia.**

Scientists have since concluded the heat wave would have been “virtually impossible” without climate change caused by the burning of fossil fuels.

The solution is clear, we must reduce fossil fuel consumption both here in Canada and around the world.

Canada has a crucial role in this fight — address the role of our fossil fuel exports. But, until recently, the full extent of such was hidden from Canadians by our government.

New data from Environment Canada — secured by Ecojustice — reveals just how rapidly Canada’s exported emissions are increasing. **Between 2012 and 2019, Canada’s exported emissions from the sale of oil, gas and coal increased an alarming 46.43 per cent, exporting more than ever before.**

Exported emissions are the CO<sub>2</sub> pollution released when other countries burn fossil fuels sold to them by Canada. While Canada is reducing domestic emissions, exported emissions remain largely hidden and increasing.

Since negotiating the Paris Agreement in 2015, Canada’s exported emissions have eclipsed our

domestic emissions, per Environment Canada data.

In 2019, Canada’s domestic emissions were 730 megatonnes (Mt) of CO<sub>2</sub>, but exported emissions were 954 Mt, totaling 1,684 Mt — more than the domestic emissions of the U.K. and Japan combined.

International agreements, like the Paris Agreement, obligate countries to account for only their domestic emissions, obscuring the full extent of Canada’s contributions to the climate crisis.

The federal government does not account for fossil fuels exported abroad, nor does it indicate any intention to.

This is no longer good enough. We cannot continue committing to reduce domestic emissions while taking no responsibility for the impact of Canadian exports on the climate.

While aspiring to be leaders on climate change, Canada is one of the largest exporters of fossil fuels and crude oil. Data from Environment Canada shows that in 2018, Canadian exported emissions were almost 25 tonnes of greenhouse gases per person, compared to slightly more than three tonnes per person in the United States.

Canadian politicians continue to back fossil fuel exporting projects, with \$23 billion to support oil and gas pipelines in the past three years.

The federal government has started in the right direction with domestic emissions targets, climate accountability legislation, and moves to phase out coal. **But none of this gets at the bigger problem.** This climate action, while necessary, is insufficient to address Canadian fossil fuel exports.

Canada can, and should, choose to stop making things worse by counting exported emissions and taking responsibility.

If we don’t account for what we put out into the world, these emissions will come back to haunt Canadians in the form of scorching heat waves, disastrous flooding and choking wildfires in the years and decades to come.

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## DONOR INQUIRIES

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