

Statement

GREENPEACE

Arctic issues should be addressed on election trail

23 September 2015 (Clyde River, Nunavut) – Following the publication of an [open letter](#) from Nunavut's Premier Peter Taptuna addressed to the federal party leaders and asking them to clarify their position on a number of Arctic issues, Greenpeace Arctic Campaigner Farrah Khan said from Clyde River, Nunavut:

“At a time when environmental issues are top of mind for many Canadians, the absence of an Arctic discussion on the election trail leaves an obvious gap in the campaign discourse. Harper's Northern strategy claims to put Northerners first, but Inuit rights were ignored when oil exploration was approved for Baffin Bay and Davis Strait, despite the fact that these communities will be the first to deal with negative impacts from this risky project. For development to be truly sustainable and safeguard the livelihood and culture of Inuit communities, seismic blasting and Arctic drilling must be left out of the equation.”

“A key opportunity for economic development that is not being taken advantage of is renewable energy,” added Khan. “Party leaders should commit to investing in renewable energy in the North to help reduce reliance on expensive and polluting diesel imports. The people of the Arctic are already living with the effects of climate change and out of control fossil fuel extraction, and they deserve to be among the first to benefit from the transition to a clean, renewable energy economy.”

Greenpeace is in Clyde River this week to host a community feast, meet with local leaders and help determine the solar energy potential of a few buildings.

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