

Message to Paris climate agreement signers: Now is the time to Break Free from Fossil Fuels

22 April 2016 (Vancouver) - The high level of participation and commitment at the Paris agreement signing ceremony is a historic step but governments can't sign the climate deal and then continue with business as usual, according to the organizers of a May 14 protest in Vancouver.

"Today's signing of the Paris climate agreement is a significant step forward," Melina Laboucan Massimo, climate and energy campaigner at Greenpeace Canada. "Now begins the hard work of closing the gap between our politicians' promises and the action needed to meet them. In order to meet Canada's global climate commitments Prime Minister Trudeau must chart a path to a 100% renewable energy economy and away from domestic policies that continue to support the expansion of dirty energy."

Vancouver's Break Free event is the Canadian component of the global "Break Free from Fossil Fuels" mobilization, a wave of mass actions targeting the world's most dangerous fossil fuel projects in order to meet the science by keeping coal, oil and gas in the ground and accelerating the just transition to 100% renewable energy. Currently actions are planned in 12 countries on 6 continents between May 4 and 16, 2016. Some of these actions will involve civil disobedience.

In Canada, the major action is a May 14th mobilization for a renewable energy economy and against the proposed Kinder Morgan tar sands pipeline. Participants will surround the Kinder Morgan terminal by water and by land. The action will take place in advance of the National Energy Board's May 20 submission of its final recommendation on the Kinder Morgan pipeline, at which point the federal government will start its review of the project.

"We know that building more dangerous tar sands infrastructure will only lock us into the fossil fuel economy and make the shift to 100% renewable energy all the more difficult," said Cam Fenton of 350.org. "The Kinder Morgan pipeline is the first major choice that the Trudeau government will have to make between the old fossil fuel economy and the renewable future they promised in Paris and signed today in New York."

Environment Canada's greenhouse gas emissions projections show that existing Canadian policies will not even come close to achieving the emissions reductions we committed to in Paris, and that the planned expansion of the tar sands is the single largest source of growth in emissions. If the tar sands do expand as project, it will make meeting our Paris commitments virtually impossible.

"We know that Kinder Morgan doesn't have the consent of communities and Indigenous Peoples." said Melina Laboucan Massimo. "On May 14th, we will stand together to demand we live up to our climate commitments and our commitment to Indigenous peoples. We send a simple message to all of our politicians: if you choose to be a climate leader, we are here to support you."

For media interviews:

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For more information about Break Free in Canada, visit: canada.breakfree2016.org

For more details on the global “Break Free from Fossil Fuels” campaign and other actions happening around the world, click [here](#).