

PRESS RELEASE -- *For immediate release*



Canada joins global wave of actions to break free from fossil fuels

Hundreds swarm the Kinder Morgan terminal, on land and water, for a 100% renewable energy future

May 14, 2016 (Vancouver, Coast Salish Territories, BC) — [Canada](#) has joined a global wave of actions across six continents - in countries including the UK, the Philippines, New Zealand, Australia, Nigeria and the US - pushing for increased action to curtail a growing climate crisis.

Today, under the banner of [Break Free from Fossil Fuels](#), more than 800 people swarmed the Kinder Morgan marine terminal in Burnaby on land and water. Participants, who included members of local communities and First Nations, took part in a peaceful direct action to voice their opposition to the proposed expansion of the Kinder Morgan tar sands pipeline and to call on Prime Minister Trudeau to live up to his global climate commitments by transitioning Canada to a 100% renewable energy future.

The Canada Break Free action comes just before the National Energy Board's May 20 submission of its final recommendation on the Kinder Morgan pipeline, at which point the federal government will begin its official review of the project. The review presents the Trudeau government the opportunity to show that he respects the science of climate change and the voices of Indigenous peoples by rejecting the project.

On the water, around 200 people participated in a kayak and canoe flotilla. The flotilla crossed the Burrard Inlet to encircle the tanker terminal, which would see an increase from 60 to over 400 tankers a year if the project were approved, putting the coastline and the economies that depend on it at an even greater risk. On the land, over 600 of protesters marched down to the facility and staged a sit-in outside the gates, sending a message to Prime Minister Trudeau that our governments must respect the science and their commitment to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) by keeping fossil fuels in the ground.

Science tells us that in order to keep global warming below 1.5 C, new fossil fuel projects, like Kinder Morgan's pipeline expansion, Enbridge's Northern Gateway pipeline and TransCanada's Energy East pipeline, must be shelved. Canada has incredible renewable energy potential but needs Federal leadership to unlock it and bring the job, economic and health benefits to communities across the country.

Just days ago at the UN in New York City, the Trudeau government reversed the Harper government's position on UNDRIP and committed to adopting the declaration. There is no way to reconcile the construction of these proposed new fossil fuel projects, which face strong opposition from First Nations communities, with the commitment to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) found in the UNDRIP. Nor has the existing process honoured existing fiduciary and legal obligations to ensure adequate and meaningful consultation with Indigenous communities.

In Canada, Break Free is supported by Greenpeace Canada, 350.org, Burnaby Residents Opposing Kinder Morgan Expansion (BROKE), Stand, Tanker Free BC, the PIPE-UP Network, Leadnow, We Love This Coast, Council of Canadians and other groups.

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QUOTE SHEET:

"We are currently at a crossroads in humanity where we continue down a path of climate catastrophe by extracting fossil fuels or we choose to build a green energy future. What we need to see are renewable energy projects that empower communities, not more tar sands pipelines that put our communities at risk. These pipelines don't have the support of local communities or the Indigenous nations they will impact. We need to ensure the dangers of climate change, like more frequent and intense wildfires, are felt by fewer communities not more. In order to keep our communities safe we need to break free from fossil fuels and speed the national move to 100% renewable energy. **Melina Laboucan-Massimo, Lubicon Cree First Nation, Greenpeace Canada Climate & Energy Campaigner and 350.org Board member**

"On one hand, Prime Minister Trudeau has made an international commitment to act on a growing climate crisis and adopt the UNDRIP based on Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of Indigenous Nations. On the other hand, he has simultaneously supported the construction of new fossil fuel projects. These goals are in complete contradiction to one another, and it's time that Prime Minister Trudeau stop toeing the line between the fossil fuel industry and communities." **Clayton Thomas-Muller, member of the Mathias Colomb Cree Nation in Northern Manitoba and 350.org Stop It at The Source Campaigner**

"Everyday information from newscasts, weather reports, and scientific studies tell us we are not just facing an emergency, we are already experiencing one. It's time we started acting like it." **Gene McGuckin, member of Burnaby Residents Opposing Kinder Morgan Expansion-BROKE**

"I grew up with the privilege of being able to explore the mountains, forests and oceans of British Columbia. For me this is all about protecting these things for my niece and nephew, and all the other young people that will feel the effects of our actions. I want to be able to tell them I did everything I possibly could." **Justine Nelson - the PIPE UP Network**

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Break Free Canada Media Pack [available here](#)

PHOTO AND VIDEO *(to be updated throughout the duration of Break Free)*

Photos from Break Free Canada available at 1 PM PST [here](#)

Raw video footage available at 3 PM PST, and edited footage available at 8 PM PST
[here](#)

You can also download photos from Global Break Free actions [here](#)