

statement

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*Greenpeace is an
independently funded
organization that works to
protect the environment.
We challenge
government and industry
to halt harmful practices
by negotiating solutions,
conducting scientific
research, introducing
clean alternatives,
carrying out peaceful acts
of civil disobedience and
educating and engaging
the public.*

Greenpeace statement on the Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement

18 May 2010 (Toronto and Montreal) — Statement from Richard Brooks, Forest Campaign coordinator with Greenpeace Canada on the historic Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement (CBFA):

"Over seven years of hard-fought campaigning, intense market pressure and peaceful direct action got us to today's announcement of one of the biggest, most ambitious conservation agreements ever and a step towards zero deforestation in Canada and worldwide.

In essence, a truce has been reached in the Battle for the Boreal. The Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement is our best chance to permanently protect many of the last intact wilderness areas within Canada's Boreal Forest and usher in a new era of world leading sustainable forest management.

Greenpeace is proud to be a leading member of this historic partnership. The CBFA is a long-term agreement with major logging companies that begins with a three-year planning period to identify new conservation areas and determine how best to protect this globally-valuable forest.

On top of this wide-scale conservation planning, we are happy to announce an immediate moratorium on nearly 29 million hectares of critical woodland caribou habitat – an area the size of Italy, or four times the size of New Brunswick. This isn't just good for business; it means iconic caribou herds across the Boreal Forest that are now on the brink of extinction have a fighting chance at survival.

Greenpeace in Canada and around the world worked closely with other environmental organizations such as Canopy and ForestEthics to mobilize and engage large corporate customers and create the right environment for the agreement with industry to happen.

We hope to work closely with First Nations and Aboriginal communities to develop fair and just solutions that support conservation proposals for their traditional territories.

There is a lot of work to do, but because of this landmark agreement, Canada will see vast new protected areas across the Boreal Forest, securing billions of tonnes of stored carbon that will help fight climate change, saving woodland caribou on the brink of extinction."

- Richard Brooks, Forest Campaign Coordinator
Greenpeace Canada

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