



Vote Wild!



MAY 9TH IS BC ELECTION DAY



Joe Foy
Campaign Director,
Wilderness Committee
[@JoeFoyWild](#)

History is made by those who show up. On May 9 you really need to get out and vote for the environment.

If you think that the importance of the upcoming provincial election may be overblown, consider this: government policies impact just about everything in our daily lives, from the air that we breathe to the water that we drink, and from the taxes that we pay to the jobs that are available in our communities.

If Kinder Morgan builds their Trans Mountain pipeline from the Alberta tar sands to their tanker terminal in Burnaby, BC, tanker traffic will increase sevenfold — from five tankers a week to thirty-four tankers a week.¹ A catastrophic oil spill in the Salish Sea would be just one bad day away.

A major tar sands spill in a BC harbour or inlet could result in a trail of broken businesses and lost jobs in the tourism and

seafood industries, plummeting property values and a hit to our economy. It would be accompanied by the loss of iconic BC species like the southern resident killer whales and some of the world's most important salmon runs.

But it's not just the politics of pipelines and tankers that are at stake on May 9.

This province contains some of the tallest trees on Earth — world-renowned tracts of rainforest that provide critical habitat to endangered species that aren't protected under BC law.

A catastrophic oil spill in the Salish Sea would be just one bad day away.

These forests provide resources and medicines that Indigenous people have utilized since time immemorial. Yet for decades, governments in BC haven't seen the forest for the trees. This May, vote for a provincial election candidate who prioritizes these ecosystems over the profits of giant logging companies.

Consider the impact of the Site C dam. This devastating project would flood 100 kilometres of the Peace River Valley, destroying First Nations homelands, evicting farmers, and drowning BC Hydro in a rising tide of debt that will lead to higher

power rates for decades.

Make sure you know your candidates' positions on Site C, and that they know yours!

In this newspaper we have outlined these and other hot-button environmental issues for you to ask your candidates about prior to the election.

- Where do candidates stand on banning raw log exports in order to preserve BC mill jobs?
- What will they do to protect BC's remaining old-growth giant trees in places like the Walbran Valley?
- Will candidates commit to a BC endangered species law?
- Which candidates will protect our water and climate by walking away from LNG and fracking?

This coming election, everything British Columbians hold dear hangs in the balance.

If you want to see endangered species protected by law, the grizzly bear trophy hunt banned or investment in a green economy, you need to get informed, ask questions and challenge the policies of your candidates.

And then you need to **Vote Wild** on BC Election Day 2017.



Photo top: Killer whale (Jim Borrowman/All Canada Photos).
Photos: Sockeye salmon (Dale Sanders), March opposing the Kinder Morgan pipeline (WC files).



NO TANKERS ON OUR COAST!

By Peter McCartney Climate Campaigner, Wilderness Committee @Climate_Pete

BC is at a fork in the road. Our battle over Kinder Morgan's pipeline will determine the fate of BC's pristine coast. Despite the federal and provincial governments' green light, widespread opposition will stop this project.

Seven times the current number of tankers would make their way through the Vancouver harbour, past the Gulf Islands and Victoria.² A massive oil spill in the Salish Sea would destroy countless jobs, permanently damage the marine environment, put numerous endangered species at risk, and poison First Nations' food supplies.³

City of Vancouver research puts the risk of an oil spill in the Burrard Inlet at 79 to 87 per cent over 50 years.⁴

Beyond the local impacts of the pipeline is the massive amount of carbon pollution the project would enable — equivalent to adding 34 million cars to the road.⁵ Building Kinder Morgan would lock in decades



Photo: WC staff when Trudeau approved pipeline (WC files).

of further reliance on fossil fuels. Continued expansion of the tar sands cannot be squared with the goals set out in the 2015 Paris Agreement to limit global warming to safe levels.

British Columbians have made themselves abundantly clear. First Nations, municipalities, universities, faith groups, unions, students associations, tourism businesses, environmental groups and others from every sector of society have opposed the pipeline. Five thousand people marched against this project just days before the approval and over 20,000 have pledged to do whatever it takes to stop it.⁶

Our provincial government needs to have our backs and stand up to Kinder Morgan. Let all candidates know that we're not backing down. It's not too late to change course. We will fight until tankers no longer pose a threat to our coast and our climate.

CLIMATE ACTION NOW

By Peter McCartney

As the climate crisis worsens every day, our provincial government must take meaningful action to cut carbon pollution.

British Columbia has a long history of working hard to fight climate change. However, increases to the carbon tax have stalled, leading to rising emissions. BC's Climate Leadership Team has warned that the province will miss its 2020 goal of reducing emissions by 33 per cent.⁷



Photo: Fracking operation in northern BC (Jeremy Sean Williams).

Carbon pollution is projected to increase until 2030 if we don't make drastic cuts.⁸

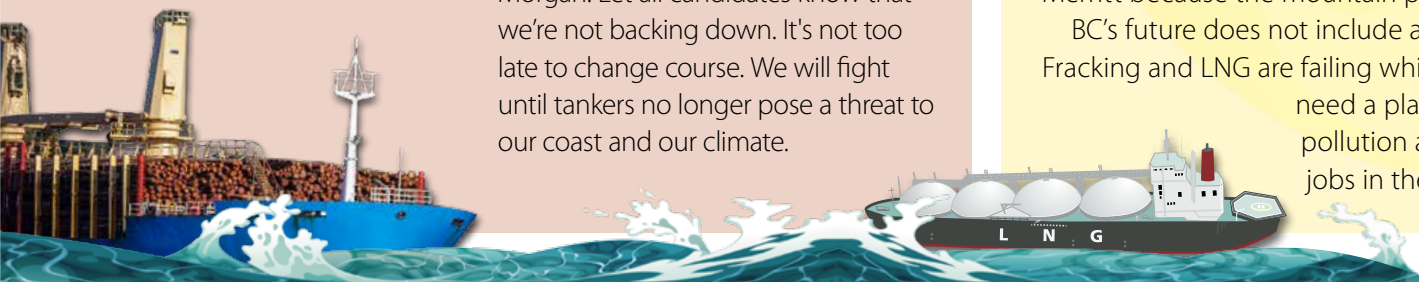
But it's not too late to get back on track. BC must do its share to avert a global climate disaster.

British Columbians are working hard to cut carbon — taking transit, composting

and eating local. However, fracking and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) threaten to undo all of that work and blow our emission targets out of the water. If BC builds this industry, provincial emissions will skyrocket to rival Alberta with its tar sands carbon pollution.⁹

Climate change is already wreaking havoc in our communities. Last year, we saw wildfires drive people from their homes in Fort St. John¹⁰, sockeye salmon fishing closed on the Fraser River¹¹ and a mill close in Merritt because the mountain pine beetle decimated the forest.¹²

BC's future does not include a brand new fossil fuel industry. Fracking and LNG are failing while the green economy takes flight. We need a plan that aligns with science, cuts carbon pollution and create tens of thousands of green jobs in the process.



SITE C DAM – KEEP THE PEACE

By Joe Foy

Coming in at a whopping \$9 billion of public money, the Site C dam project in northeast BC's Peace River Valley is a mega-gamble that provincial ratepayers are bound to lose.

If the dam project is allowed to continue to its 2024 completion date, the final tab owing on the dam and associated power lines could climb well beyond \$12 billion.¹³ It would result in no foreseeable market for the hydro power produced and no way to pay off the public debt.

While some clearing of forest has occurred and a work camp built, construction on the actual dam has not yet started.¹⁴ Even though the BC Premier has said that she intends to get the project "beyond the point of no return," **there is still time to walk away from this colossal mistake.**

The Site C dam would flood over 100

kilometres of valley-bottom lands along the Peace River and its tributaries between Hudson's Hope and Fort St. John.

Thousands of hectares of prime farmland would go underwater, which would be the largest loss from the Agricultural Land Reserve in its 30-year history.

First Nations cultural, heritage and food gathering sites would be drowned by this project. The Prophet River and West Moberly First Nations have been fighting the dam project in the courts as have local farmers.¹⁵

As the refrain goes in Kenny Rogers' *The Gambler*, "Know when to walk away, know when to run"¹⁶ — it's time to run away from this multi-billion dollar gamble.

Ask your candidates where they stand on stopping the Site C dam mega-fiasco — before it gets even more expensive and environmentally damaging.



Photos: Sea lions on BC coast (Andrew S. Wright), Earth Day parade (Michael Wheatley), Peace River Valley (Garth Lenz).



Photos: Paddle for the Peace (Joe Foy), Site C townhall meme (Perry Jack).



PROTECT BC PARKS

By Gwen Barlee Policy Director, Wilderness Committee [@GwenBarlee](#)

Golden Ears, Sooke Potholes and Miracle Beach are not just scenic places to visit and reconnect with nature, they are also part of BC's world-renowned park system.



Photo: Mt. Robson Provincial Park (Michael Wheatley).

Since 1911, BC Parks has grown to over 1,000 parks and protected areas covering more than 14 per cent of the land base.¹⁷ Today, Garry Oak meadows, old-growth forests and rippling grasslands are just some of the natural

treasures you can find when exploring BC's parks.

Unfortunately, not all is well in paradise.

Despite providing a \$392 million boost to BC's economy, our parks are starved of funding.¹⁸ Astoundingly, in 2016 just seven full-time year-round BC Parks rangers patrolled an area the size of Switzerland, Denmark and Costa Rica combined.¹⁹ Trails have fallen into disrepair, many parks have shorter operating seasons and under the Park Amendment Act corporations can now engage in "industrial research" in parks, paving the way for land to be removed from protected areas.

In the BC Parks Future Strategy 2016, some additional parks funding was announced, but information concerning operational funding and ranger numbers was scant.²⁰

If a BC government is serious about safeguarding our parks they must:

- Increase the number of full-time year-round park rangers to at least 50 and double the amount of summer rangers.
- Increase the BC Parks operational budget to \$60 million annually.²¹ BC Parks current budget is only \$30 million (which amounts to just over \$2 a hectare in funding — the lowest in North America).
- Work towards expanding our protected area system to 40 per cent of the land base — the minimum size needed to help maintain ecological resiliency.
- Ensure that BC parks "remain a public good, not to be sold, commercialized or privatized."²²

Remind your candidates that it's time to truly invest in BC Parks.



Photo: Clear Creek near Harrison Lake (WC files).

BIG TREES NOT BIG STUMPS

By Torrance Coste Vancouver Island Campaigner, Wilderness Committee [@TorranceCoste](#)

Canada's west coast is home to some of the most spectacular ancient rainforests on the planet. These ecosystems are world-renowned for their biodiversity and rich cultural history.

It would make sense then that this region would also be a leader in conservation and forest management.

Unfortunately, decades of provincial government policies haven't seen the forest for the trees.

On Vancouver Island, valley-bottom old-growth forest has been removed from more than 90 per cent of its range, while employment in the forest industry has plummeted to an all-time low.²³

Old-growth forests are a non-renewable resource, and leadership from the provincial government is desperately needed to protect them.

The profound importance of Vancouver Island's ancient rainforests can't be overstated. These ecosystems provide the greatest abundance of resources and medicines utilized by Indigenous peoples — the original stewards of these amazing forests.

Old-growth coastal temperate

rainforests can store more carbon than younger forests, keeping it out of the atmosphere where it destabilizes the climate and jeopardizes our future.²⁴

While the ecological picture in the woods is grim, the economic outlook isn't much better.

Large corporations dominate BC forestry, which dramatically increased raw log exports, killing jobs and impacting forestry-based communities up and

down the coast.²⁵ Every year, these corporations send millions of cubic metres of raw wood — enough to build more than 100,000 new homes overseas without adding any value here and costing BC jobs.²⁶

We need increased conservation of old-growth and other sensitive forests, in conjunction with revamped forest policy that maximizes local value-added processing and protects local jobs. We can find a way to protect old-growth forests that works for ecosystems and communities and recognizes Indigenous authority. This is within our reach. **What's missing is the political will.**



Photo: Walbran Valley (WC files).



Photos: Ban raw log exports protest in Duncan, BC (Torrance Coste), Stop Teal Jones banner, Walbran Valley (WC files).



STAND UP FOR BC'S WILDLIFE

By Gwen Barlee

Grizzly bears, spotted owls, badgers, killer whales and mountain caribou are part of the remarkable web of life here but unfortunately, they are also just a handful of the 1,900 species at risk in BC — **a province with no endangered species law.**²⁷

British Columbia has more types of wild plants and animals than any place in Canada. People who live here intuitively understand that protecting our province's natural heritage is not only the right thing to do but it also helps maintain our high quality of life.

Across BC, communities are working hard to save endangered wildlife. Whether it is helping at-risk western toads across busy highways; establishing nest boxes for highly endangered burrowing owls; or working to stop the trophy hunting of grizzly bears, it is clear British Columbians care deeply about BC's wildlife.

However to really protect endangered species, a provincial government needs to step up, help out local communities, and enact a BC endangered species law. Currently, BC and Alberta are the only two provinces in Canada with no provincial endangered species legislation.



Photos: Barn owl (Paul Burwell), Bumble bee (City Farmer), Western toad (Jakob Dulisse).

A strong BC endangered species law must:

- Be based on science and be scientifically defensible.
- Identify, protect and recover species at risk across BC.
- Safeguard and recover species by protecting their critical habitat.
- Be robustly enforced and adequately funded with provisions for public enforcement of the law.
- Incorporate public accountability and transparency.

For more information please visit: lastplaceonearth.ca



Photos: Oil tanker in Burrard Inlet (WC files), Salish Sea canoe gathering (Michael Wheatley).

Take Action

IT'S AS EASY AS 1, 2, 3...

1 EDUCATE!

Share this paper with friends, families, neighbours and colleagues, and talk with them about how their vote could impact critical environmental issues in BC.

For more copies call or email: papers@wildernesscommittee.org
Download copies at wildernesscommittee.org/VoteWild

Get in touch with us if you have any questions. Together we can defend our province's wild places.

2 ENGAGE!

Attend public events and forums where candidates are present prior to the election. Make sure your candidates know where you stand on the key environmental issues in this paper. Write, call or email them.

Share your views with your local paper and radio stations. Remind your candidate that you'll be holding them accountable after the election.

Find out who your candidates are at:
<http://bit.ly/2017candidates>

3 VOTE!

The environment and climate matter. Get out to vote, take your friends and family with you, or volunteer to help neighbours get to their polling station.

Check out the Elections BC page if you have questions, need to register to vote or are looking for your nearest polling station:
<http://bit.ly/BCvotes2017>



Photos: Killer whale (Flip Nicklin/Minden Pictures), Grizzly bear (John E Marriott).

REFERENCES

- Canadian Press. "Clark says Ottawa close to meeting B.C.'s five pipeline conditions." City News. Nov.30, 2016. <http://bit.ly/2iHnMvq>
- Anthony Swift et al. "Pipeline & Tanker Trouble: The Impact to British Columbia's Communities, Rivers, and Pacific Coastline from Tar Sands Oil Transport." Natural Resources Defense Council. November 2011. <http://bit.ly/2i7zyp1>
- Grandia, Kevin. "International Implications of Trudeau's Kinder Morgan Pipeline Approval." Desmog Canada. Nov. 30, 2016. <http://bit.ly/2h7UZVR>
- Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion Proposal – Summary of Evidence." City of Vancouver. May. 27, 2015. <http://bit.ly/2gZ04uP>
- Scott, Adam. "Kinder Morgan Pipeline proposal a recipe for disaster." Oil Change International. May.19, 2016. <http://bit.ly/2hXMJX2>
- CBC Staff. "Kinder Morgan protest draws a huge crowd in Vancouver." CBC News. Nov. 19, 2016. <http://bit.ly/2g9B4DM>
- Climate Leadership Team: Recommendations to Government." BC Ministry of Environment. Nov. 27, 2015. <http://bit.ly/1V475uc>
- MacNab, Joshua and Maximilian Kniewasser. "How do BC's climate action commitments stack up." Pembina Institute. June. 14, 2016. <http://bit.ly/2gz0t9i>
- Boothe, Paul and Félix-A. Boudreau. "By the Numbers: Canadian GHG Emissions." Lawrence National Centre for Policy and Management. Jan. 29, 2016. <http://bit.ly/2hRkqtq>
- Li, Wanyee and Betsey Trumpener. "B.C. wildfires near Fort St. John spark evacuations." CBC News. May.6, 2016. <http://bit.ly/2hRgAAS>
- Hoekstra, Gordon. "DFO shutting down all salmon sports fishing on Lower Fraser to protect sockeye." The Vancouver Sun. Aug. 11, 2016. <http://bit.ly/2holbzb>
- Turcato, Megan. "It's just a sad day: Vernon based Tolko shutters Merritt mill." Global News. Sept. 23, 2016. <http://bit.ly/2i7IYN>
- Cox, Sarah. "Site C Dam Already Cost \$314 Million More than Expected, Behind Schedule, New Documents Show." Desmog Canada. June. 30, 2016. <http://bit.ly/2hRgVMV>
- Penner, Derrick. "B.C. Hydro opens \$470-million, town-sized camp for Site C construction workers." The Vancouver Sun. Oct. 19, 2016. <http://bit.ly/2i7Q8WG>
- Wakefield, Jonny. "After day-long court hearing, it's wait and see for Site C dam opponents." The Dawson Creek Mirror. Sept. 13, 2016. <http://bit.ly/2hXMIYE>
- Rogers, Kenny. "The Gambler – Genius." Genius. <http://bit.ly/2gZRBjt>
- "BC Parks: 2013/2014 Annual Report." BC Parks. 2014. <http://bit.ly/2hSFBy1>
- Outspan Group Inc. "BC Parks: More Than Just a Pretty Place." BC Parks. July 2011. <http://bit.ly/2hSAgXu>
- BCGEU, the union representing BC park rangers, confirmed in 2016 that the provincial government employed just 7 full-time year round park rangers. BC Parks hires about 90 summer rangers each year but their numbers have been dwindling and the "season" they work reduced to as little as 8 weeks.
- The document was released with no public consultation and although it promised 800 more camping spots in parks over 5 years, it provided no numbers for the promised increase in park rangers or budget. The strategy also left the door open for increased privatization of BC parks. <http://bit.ly/2hXlnLX>
- As recommended by the government-appointed Park Legacy Panel.
- Ibid.
- MacLeod, Andrew. "Logging Opponents Block Road Work in 'Threatened' Walbran Valley." The Tyee. Nov.11, 2015. <http://bit.ly/2hF9GOS>
- Biello, David. "Old-Growth Forests Help Combat Climate Change." Scientific American. Sept.11, 2008. <http://bit.ly/2hRMxML>
- Parfitt, Ben. "Wood Waste and Log Exports on the BC Coast." Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. June 2007. <http://bit.ly/2h9Z7qa>
- Coste, Torrance. "Raw Log Exports: A Made-in-BC Problem that's Only Getting Worse." The Tyee. Feb. 4, 2015. <http://bit.ly/2hXAnhy>
- The 1,900 species at risk also includes the different populations of species like mountain caribou.

WildernessCommittee.org • 1-800-661-WILD (9453)

yes!

I'LL GIVE TO A WILD BC



clip

Return to the:
Wilderness Committee
 46 E. 6th Avenue,
 Vancouver, BC V5T 1J4

Enclosed is: \$25 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____
 Fed. reg. charity #11929-3009-RR0001

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

PROVINCE _____ POSTAL CODE _____ EMAIL Yes, send me updates via email.

Canada's people-powered, citizen-funded wilderness preservation group.



call

(604) 683-8220 in the
 Lower Mainland
 1-800-661-9453 toll-free
 elsewhere in Canada

CREDITS

Writing: Joe Foy, Gwen Barlee, Peter M'Cartney, Torrance Coste.
Editing: Rumnick Nannar, Geoff Senichenko, Beth Clarke.
Graphic Designer: Perry Sky Jack, Sue Fox.
Wilderness Committee, Vol.36, No.1, 2017.
 Canadian Mail Product Sales Agreement No. 0900567.
 Posted in Vancouver for free distribution. Printed in Canada on recycled newsprint with vegetable-based inks.
Press Run 20,000 © Wilderness Committee 2017.
 All rights reserved. Written material may be used without permission when credit is given.

Published by
Wilderness Committee — National Office
 46 E. 6th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V5T 1J4
 ☎ 604-683-8220 or 1-800-661-9453 📠 604-683-8229

[f /WildernessCommittee](https://www.facebook.com/WildernessCommittee)
[@WilderNews](https://twitter.com/WilderNews) [@WilderNews](https://www.instagram.com/WilderNews)

