

Keep the Peace

Say No to the Site C Dam

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A River at Risk

The majestic Peace River is one of BC's richest natural wonders. The Upper Peace River no longer flows freely, and its remaining channel is controlled by the operation of BC Hydro's WAC Bennett and Peace Canyon dams. In 1968, productive land was flooded to create the Williston Reservoir, which is now the largest body of fresh water in BC. Some species of fish in the reservoir have become so contaminated with mercury which has leached from the drowned lands that the BC government says high consumption may be hazardous to human health. The two existing dams have had far reaching impacts within the Athabasca and Mackenzie Deltas; low water levels have resulted in negative impacts on sensitive wetlands downstream which has significantly altered the livelihoods of First Nation communities in Alberta and the Northwest Territories.

Nestled in the Northeast corner of British Columbia, the Peace River Valley is home to fertile agricultural lands and farms, old growth boreal forests, and a rich and vibrant First Nation, fur trade and pioneer history.

The Peace region is also one of the most important wildlife corridors in the Rocky Mountain region. This low-lying

valley is key to facilitating movement between the northern and southern Rocky Mountains for many wildlife species, including grizzly bears, elk, mule deer, and moose. Its islands provide secure birthing habitat for ungulates. Threatened bull trout currently migrate as far as 100 km up the Peace River to spawn in its headwaters and tributaries every fall.



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Now BC Hydro wants to build a third dam on the Peace River, in the heart of this spectacular valley at a location BC Hydro has named 'Site C'. The proposed 60 meter high Site C Dam would flood over 100 km of river valley, flooding a land area equal to 14 Stanley Parks, and cause landslides as the banks of the reservoir erode over time. The flooding of the valley bottom would destroy old growth boreal forests that store climate change-causing carbon dioxide, and submerge over 7,000 acres of prime agricultural land.

So why is the BC government pushing ahead with this destructive project? BC Hydro says it is because BC needs the energy, but their own reports say we can meet current demands through energy conservation. Site C is not about meeting the electricity demands of British Columbians - it is about exporting electricity to power

air conditioners in California and expanding BC and Alberta's oil and gas and mining industries. It's a \$10 billion tax payer subsidy to private power operators that threaten hundreds of BC rivers with destruction, and to a dirty fossil fuel industry that needs cheap energy to expand.

The Site C Dam has been proposed for over 30 years. Twice before concerned citizens have killed this project because BC Hydro has not been able to demonstrate the need for the power or show that Site C is the only viable alternative. This is still the case. This extremely expensive project is not worth the significant environment impacts it will entail. With your help, we can and will save this beautiful valley. Please join the fight to protect the Peace River Valley today.



“This is the last land we have. Future generations have a right to a landscape that is the same as their ancestors knew it.” —Treaty 8 First Nation Elder

The Peace River waters and adjoining lands are a vital resource for the local First Nations and are a part of their social, cultural, and spiritual identity. An agreement for peace, sharing, and co-existence called: 'Treaty 8' was signed between the Beaver, Cree, Slavey, Saulteau, Tse'Khene First Nations

and Canada. Some of the historical signing events even occurred along the banks of the Peace River. The Treaty was a promise that the First Nation people could continue their way of life as they wanted. To be able to hunt, fish, and trap for as long as the sun shines, the river flows and the grass grows.

Published by the Wilderness Committee with support from the West Moberly First Nations, Prophet River First Nation, Doig River First Nation, Halfway River First Nation and Peace Valley Environment Association.

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Photos in this publication

Front page: Peace River Valley, Aspen forest and "Keep the Peace" sign by Graham Osbourne.

This page: Peace River Valley by Graham Osbourne. Grizzly bear by Roberta Olenick.



WEST MOBERLY FIRST NATIONS



Dear Premier,

The proposed **Site C Dam** will cause irreparable damage to the sensitive ecosystem of the Peace River Valley.

Site C would flood over 7,000 acres of agriculture land, destroy the livelihood and history of the region's First Nations and pioneer communities, disrupt one of the largest and most important wildlife corridors in the continent, and submerge valuable carbon sinks that help combat climate change. In contrast, **preserving the Peace River Valley** will promote food security and play an important role in our ability to adapt to climate change.

This project is not worth the significant environmental and financial impacts. The flooding of over 100 km of an important river valley is neither clean nor green, and BC Hydro's own studies show we can meet our energy demands through conservation.

We should not sacrifice the Peace River Valley for power to be used for export and to expand dirty oil and gas production.

I support I do not support
keeping the Peace free of the Site C Dam.

Mr. Premier, please register my opinion, and let me know where you stand on this issue

Name (please print) _____ Signed _____

Address _____ Postal code _____

Photo front: Peace river valley by Graham Osbourne. Printed in Canada. wildernesscommittee.org © 2010

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