

To: Premier of British Columbia David Eby.
Cc: Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy George Heyman;
Minister of Energy, Mines and Low-Carbon Innovation Josie Osborne; and
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Steven Guilbeault.

Re: Climate impacts of expanded fracking and liquefied natural gas (LNG) in Canada

Dear Premier Eby,

We write to you today as organizations working around the world to halt climate change to express our concern about British Columbia's plans to increase extraction of fossil fuels. Plans for five new liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities do not align with global efforts to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius or to transition away from fossil fuels as agreed upon in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

While U.S. President Joe Biden recently took the necessary step of halting approvals of new LNG terminals, B.C. is allowing environmental reviews for the Ksi Lisims and Tilbury LNG projects to proceed without fulsome consideration of their climate impacts. The province also recently approved Cedar LNG, while Woodfibre LNG and LNG Canada are currently under construction. Together these projects amount to nearly 50 million tonnes of proposed LNG exports and 30 megatonnes (MT) of greenhouse gas emissions in B.C. every year until long after the world needs to stop burning fossil fuels.

Some of these projects propose to mitigate these emissions using electricity from BC Hydro to power their liquefaction process. But BC Hydro would need 8.4 Site C dams worth of new generation and new transmission lines to these LNG plants, easily consuming the \$36 billion in capital spending for the public utility the provincial government recently announced.¹ Not only would this put the cost of greenwashing the LNG industry on everyone in the province with a hydro bill, it would also divert much-needed clean electricity from other CleanBC initiatives like heat pumps and electric vehicles. There is no worse use for renewable energy than exporting fossil fuels.

Gas is not a solution to climate change nor does it have any role to play in the global effort to reach net-zero emissions by 2050. In large part that's due to methane that escapes at every step of the supply chain. Recent analysis of lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions shows little to no climate benefit in replacing coal with LNG, instead showing a 27 per cent to twofold increase

¹ Gorski, Jan and Lam, Jason. "Squaring the Circle: Reconciling LNG expansion with B.C.'s climate goals." Pembina Institute. May 2023.

in pollution.² Methane leakage rates of just 0.2 per cent mean the fossil fuels create the same amount of pollution while B.C.'s is more than double that.^{3 4}

Meanwhile, B.C. gas is more likely to compete with renewable and nuclear energy than replace coal in its target markets. The International Energy Agency already expects coal-fired electricity to decline in Japan and South Korea, the two most likely customers for B.C. LNG.⁵ There is already enough LNG supply under construction around the world to satisfy demand until 2030. Adding to this global glut of LNG will only depress prices and slow the transition to clean power.

Over the long term, new LNG infrastructure in B.C. and abroad would also lock-in decades of continued pollution and undermine progress in the global effort to reach net-zero emissions. These LNG facilities can have a lifespan of 40 years. Once they're built, they must either become stranded assets or they will prevent governments from meeting climate goals. Global gas demand is forecast to decline starting in 2030 but the speed of that decline will help determine whether or not the world achieves its goal of limiting global heating to safe levels.⁶ LNG will only prolong reliance on fossil fuels and make that commitment unattainable.

Indigenous Peoples across B.C. and around the world are already experiencing the loss of their traditional foods and the transformation of their territories because of rising temperatures. First Nations communities are also particularly at risk from climate disasters like wildfires and flooding given systemic denial of access to resources and the often remote location of reserves. These impacts to Indigenous Title and Rights must be taken into account when evaluating proposed fossil fuel projects. Meanwhile, gas infrastructure continues to be built without the consent of all affected First Nations despite the provincial government's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.

Together we're calling on your government to reject new LNG infrastructure, stop issuing permits for more fracking wells and develop plans to phase out gas extraction in B.C. on the timelines science and justice demand. You can follow the lead of jurisdictions like Quebec, New York and California that are moving past fossil fuel extraction. B.C. can show the world how to develop a real transition plan that includes workers and communities who rely on oil and gas development instead of waiting for global market forces to shut it down after it's already too late.

Sincerely,

² Howarth, Robert. "The Greenhouse Gas Footprint of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Exported from the United States." Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, Cornell University. January 2024.

³ Gordon, Deborah, et al. "Evaluating net life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions intensities from gas and coal at varying methane leakage rates." Environmental Research Letters. July 2023.

⁴ Matthew, Johnson, et al. "Creating measurement-based oil and gas sector methane inventories using source-resolved aerial surveys." Communications Earth and Environment. April 2023.

⁵ "World Energy Outlook 2023." International Energy Agency. October 2023.

⁶ "World Energy Outlook 2023." International Energy Agency. October 2023.

350 Canada
350 Eugene (Oregon)
350 PDX (Oregon)
350 Seattle (Washington)
Avalon Council of Canadians (Newfoundland)
BC Hydro Ratepayers Alliance
Burnaby For Our Kids
Burnaby Force of Nature Alliance
Burnaby Residents Opposing Kinder Morgan Expansion
Calgary Climate Hub (Alberta)
Campbell River Council of Canadians
Canadian Association of Nurses for the Environment - BC
Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment
ChariTree Foundation
Chase Environmental Action Society
Chemainus Climate Solutions
Citizens Environment Network in Colwood
Citizens for Public Justice
Citizens Oil and Gas Council
Climate Action Network
Climate Action Now!
Climate Emergency Unit
Climate Messengers
Columbia Riverkeeper (Oregon)
Communities Protecting our Coast
Community Climate Resilience Thetis Island
Council of Canadians
Cowichan Valley Naturalists
Creston Climate Action Society
Denman Island Climate Action Network
Dogwood Initiative
Don't Gas Indonesia (Indonesia)
Down Syndrome Resource Foundation
Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power and Light (Washington)
Ecology Action Centre
Elders for Ancient Forests
Environmental Defence Canada
Équiterre (Quebec)
First Things First Okanagan
Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty BC
Fraser Valley Climate Action
Friends of the Earth (Japan)
Grandmothers Advocacy Network Canada
Greenpeace Canada
Gulf Islands Frontlines

Kairos BC-Yukon
Khalsa Aid Canada
LeadNow
Metchosin Climate Action Team
Mid-Island - Nanaimo Council of Canadians
Nature Canada
New Brunswick Anti-Shale Gas Alliance (New Brunswick)
Oak Bay Climate Force
Oil Change International (Washington, D.C.)
Okanagan Climate Hub
Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility (Oregon)
People's Coalition for the Rights to Water - KRuHA (Indonesia)
Programs in Earth Literacies
qathet Climate Alliance
re•generation (Quebec)
Rogue Climate (Oregon)
Saanich Eco Advocates
Safety Before LNG (Ireland)
Say No to LNG
Shift Action for Pension Wealth and Planet Health
Sierra Club BC
Skeena Watershed Conservation Coalition
SoCal 350 Climate Action (California)
Solutions for Our Climate (Korea)
South Island Climate Action Network
Stand.earth
Sustainable Environment Network Society
Synergia Institute
Terrace Council of Canadians
Texas Campaign for the Environment - (Texas)
Tidelines Institute (Alaska)
Transition Kamloops
Transition Salt Spring
Union of BC Indian Chiefs
Vancouver Unitarians Environment Team
View Royal Climate Coalition
West Coast Climate Action Network
West Kootenay Climate Hub
West Kootenay Council of Canadians
Wild Idaho Rising Tide (Idaho)
Wilderness Committee
Wildsight
Youth Involvement Project