

March 1, 2017.

## **Open Letter to all Liberal MP's:**

OR February 28, 2017

Dear Jonathon Wilkinson MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of the Environment

Why would you keep Harper's unjustifiable Site C dam and break your own promises?

Site C dam is one of the biggest infrastructure projects in Canadian history, with **more significant adverse environmental impacts than any other project** subject to assessment in Canada.

Hiding behind the pretence that changing Harper's terrible decision would cause "uncertainty" is morally and ethically bankrupt. As a Liberal MP **you are responsible** to get informed about the-massively destructive Site C dam. Keep your promises. Keep your integrity. Please - It is **NOT** too late to do the right thing!

Consider that Site C Dam has not been justified. It is not in the national interest nor is it financially viable. Further, it is not in keeping with your promises to:

- Build respectful relationships with First Nations
- Make science based decisions
- Make environmentally sound decisions
- Fix our broken democracy with open and transparent public processes
- Build a strong resilient economy.

To ignore these issues of serious concern becomes the willful blindness and dictatorial decision-making so reminiscent of the Stephen Harper regime. **Citizens voted to remove that problem. They voted for you. And now they need YOUR voice.**

It's true that many Canadians haven't heard about the Site C dam up in northeastern BC. That doesn't make the project acceptable. As a member of government, it behooves you to become thoroughly informed before you continue to support Site C dam construction.

Will you ignore the 70% of British Columbians who "want BC Hydro's Site C dam sent for an independent review and support stopping construction on the project while alternatives are investigated"?

Will you ignore the voices of the vast majority of elected municipal leaders calling for a review of the Site C dam project?

### **First Nations Treaty Rights ignored:**

Your government has approved fisheries permits which will have a dramatic negative impact, including extirpation, on key food fish species. This will seriously harm First Nations whose fishing rights are guaranteed by the Constitution and Treaty 8. Your legal responsibility regarding any permitting is to judge them on their merits, not to fob off your clear duty onto previous governments who have allowed prior permits on the same project.

### **Agriculture, food security and farmers ignored:**

- At this time farmers in the Peace River Valley are facing imminent expropriation of their land by BC Hydro. There is the only large body of fertile and productive farmland in BC north of Quesnel.
- Over 30,000 acres of irreplaceable, prime valley bottom farmland that could feed a million people in perpetuity would be flooded for power we don't need, at a cost we can't afford, AND for which there are better alternatives currently available.

### **Science based decision making ignored:**

- Site C is one of Canada's biggest infrastructure projects in history, with more significant adverse environmental impacts than any other project subject to assessment in Canada.
- Cumulative Impacts, biodiversity loss, climate change impacts have not been included in the decision.
- Many new species, archeological sites, unique geological and wetland sites have been identified but not included in the environment impact assessment of the JRP.

### **Economic viability questions ignored:**

- Many experts have analyzed the **nine billion dollar** estimated cost of Site C and found BC Hydro's analysis to be **unsubstantiated**. With 100% public funding Site C's impact on future Hydro rates and public debt will be unsustainable.
- Expert energy analyst, Robert McCullough reports Site C is the most expensive alternative.

### **Democratic processes in the public interest ignored:**

- Critical recommendations of the Joint Review Panel to independently and publicly assess need, cost and alternatives were bypassed completely by decision makers.
- The BC Utilities Commission was established to ensure that projects of this magnitude are comprehensively assessed in the public interest by an arms-length from government body.
- Assessment by the BC Agricultural Land Commission was absented from participation despite requests from the Joint Review Panel! Two of three inclusive Public Processes ignored!

### **It is not too late to reconsider and change course on Site C**

Former BC premier, Mike Harcourt told the Globe and Mail that it's not too late to cancel Site C dam. He labeled the project as 'outdated' and 'disastrous', arguing that there are more economical and less disruptive options for energy generation than Site C.

The former chair of the joint review panel on Site C, Dr. Harry Swain (PhD, Economics) has repeatedly stated that proceeding with the project without looking into alternatives sufficiently is a 'dereliction of governments' duty'. He is not confident that the rationales for the need or cost of the project are justified.

### **Site C Dam is on your watch!**

You and your Liberal government are responsible for what happens now with this unjustified, uneconomic and imprudent project. **You cannot pretend with any honour or integrity that this decision belongs to the previous government or to the Province of BC as justification for your inaction.**

Please weigh for yourself the **significant costs and questionable “benefits”** of Site C dam. Please do your due diligence before you allow further construction without the thorough and public review process called for by the Joint Review Panel.

Thank you for considering this information. We respectfully ask that you review and give it your full consideration.

Emma Lui for Council of Canadians and  
D Lynn Chapman for PVEA

**Learn more about who believes we don't need Site C and why by visiting the following sites:**

**Mike Harcourt, former Premier of BC**

- <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/site-c-dam-an-outdated-solution-says-ex-premier-1.3839903>

**Dr. Harry Swain, former Chair, Joint Review Panel on Site C EA**

- <http://www.ceaa.gc.ca/050/documents/p63919/99173E.pdf>
- <http://www.desmog.ca/2015/03/10/exclusive-b-c-government-should-have-deferred-site-c-dam-decision-chair-joint-review-panel>
- <http://www.desmog.ca/2015/03/11/derelection-duty-chair-site-c-panel-b-c-s-failure-investigate-alternatives-mega-dam>
- <http://www.desmog.ca/2016/04/13/premier-clark-s-proposal-electrify-oilsands-site-c-dam-has-air-desperation-panel-chair>
- <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/british-columbia/site-c-not-the-best-choice-for-bcs-energy-needs-report-author-says/article29024804/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=desmog%20cutting%20through%20the%20spin>

**Marc Eliesen, former CEO of BC Hydro**

- <http://www.desmog.ca/2016/11/16/video-70-british-columbians-support-pausing-site-c-dam-construction-poll>
- <http://www.desmog.ca/2016/02/17/bc-hydro-injunction-against-site-c-encampment-based-illusionary-analysis-former-ceo-marc-eliesen>
- <http://www.desmog.ca/2015/08/04/exclusive-site-c-dam-devastating-british-columbians-says-former-ceo-bc-hydro>

**David Bond, former Chief Economist HSBC Bank Canada**

- [http://www.vancouversun.com/technology/Opinion+dream+will+fail/11416125/story.html?\\_lsa=a536-c27f](http://www.vancouversun.com/technology/Opinion+dream+will+fail/11416125/story.html?_lsa=a536-c27f) NOTE this link failed

**Richard Stout, Executive Director, Association of Major Power Customers of BC**

- <http://www.desmog.ca/2014/06/10/b-c-business-community-slams-astronomical-cost-building-site-c-dam>

**Dan Potts, former Executive Director, Association of Major Power Customers of BC**

- <http://www.vancouver.sun.com/business/Opinion+Government+policy+responsible+high+power+costs/10060322/story.html#ixzz38ukmWcms>

**John McIlveen, SVP Research, Jacob Securities Inc**

- <https://sitequiz.files.wordpress.com/2015/05/letter-to-ken-boon.pdf>

**Stewart Philip, Grand Chief, Union of BC Indian Chiefs**

- <http://desmog.ca/2015/06/25/starting-construction-site-c-dam-july-will-indefinitely-scar-b-c-s-relationships-first-nations-grand-chief>

**Perry Bellegarde, National Chief, Assembly of First Nations**

- <http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:4z9M5b-lqj4J:ipolitics.ca/2015/12/09/if-trudeau-wants-a-re-set-with-first-nations-hell-kill-the-site-c-dam-bellegarde/+&cd=1&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=ca>

**Shane Gottfriedson, Regional Chief, BC Assembly of First Nations**

- <http://www.bcafn.ca/bc-regional-chief-shane-gottfriedson-stands-with-treaty-8-nations-against-the-site-c-hydroelectric-project/>

**Union of BC Municipalities**

- <http://commonsensecanadian.ca/ubcm-calls-delay-site-c-construction-clearcutting-set-begin/>

**29 British Columbia MLA's vote against Site C dam**

- <http://www.alaskahighwaynews.ca/regional-news/site-c/dam-debate-floods-legislature-floor-1.2075124>
- <https://www.facebook.com/rollingjusticebus/posts/1725285367686934?match=dm90ZWQgYWdhaW5zdCwyOSBtbGHqJlZLHNpdGUgYyxkYW0%3D>

**Site C Statement by Concerned Scholars of Canada:**

- <https://sitecstatement.org/>

**Treaty 8 First Nations on Site C:**

- <http://treaty8.bc.ca/about-site-c/>

**Expert Energy Analyst, Robert McCullough:**

On how Site C is the most expensive alternative

- Site C Business Case Assumptions Review, May 2015 [http://www.mre-search.com/pdfs/20150525-SiteC\\_Economic\\_evaluation.pdf](http://www.mre-search.com/pdfs/20150525-SiteC_Economic_evaluation.pdf)

Presented by:

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Lynn Chapman - On behalf of Peace Valley Environment Association PVEA