

# Chapter Action Updates



The Montreal Chapter of the Council of Canadians took part in an action in December calling for a green new deal to address climate change. Chapters also delivered copies of the recently released UN climate report to MPs across the country.

**Council of Canadians chapters help put campaigns and social and economic justice issues in the spotlight in communities across the country. Chapter activists continue to be busy protecting water and public health care, challenging unfair trade deals, calling for urgent and immediate action on climate change, and to standing up for democracy. Here are just a few examples of their recent actions:**

## Rewriting the rules

As the Northwest Territories government pursues sweeping reforms on seven pieces of legislation covering fossil fuel, land, and resource development, the Northwest Territories chapter has been pushing for the reforms to include binding references to the territory's commitments to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the human right to water and the Paris Climate Agreement. Over six months, the chapter participated in stakeholder meetings, wrote letters, and drew media attention to the shortfalls of the new bills. As first written, the pieces of draft legislation would allow for projects to go forward without Indigenous consent, fracking projects to be developed, and the expansion of oil and gas development in a time when we need to be transitioning towards renewable energy. Amended legislation is expected in mid-2019. The Northwest Territories chapter will be ready to hold their territorial government to account no matter what happens.

## Offshore Drilling still not worth the risk

The world is creeping closer to a climate tipping point. Corporations are gaining control over regulatory and decision-making processes. Some of the world's richest

corporations like Husky and BP are operating in the Atlantic Ocean and bouncing back from major industrial accidents without repercussions. These are the things the South Shore chapter is fighting against with their Campaign to Protect Offshore Nova Scotia. Since starting their campaign in 2016, they've gained the support of six municipal governments, been a driving force in establishing the Offshore Alliance coalition, educated people through speaking tours and the media, and delivered lawn signs and bumper stickers to communities from Yarmouth to Sydney in Nova Scotia. This year, they'll be working to make offshore drilling an election issue and garnering even more support to stop offshore drilling in Atlantic waters.

## Fighting the Site C dam

Seven chapters partnered with author and agriculture policy expert Wendy Holm to host a "Damming the Peace" speaking tour about BC Hydro's Site C dam from Victoria, B.C. to Fort Smith, Northwest Territories. With packed rooms at each stop, Wendy, chapters, and allies made the case that the risks to food sovereignty, watershed health, and Indigenous rights mean the mega-dam cannot go forward, and gave people the tools to get involved. Since the tour was held, the B.C. Supreme Court ruled that a full Treaty 8 Infringement trial needs to take place before the reservoir area is flooded in 2023, which means the fight against Site C continues!

## New Brunswick fracking ban in question

The current moratorium on hydraulic fracturing – also known as fracking – was established in New Brunswick when Brian Gallant's Liberals won the election in

2014. Fracking is an extreme extraction method for trapped natural gas. Current New Brunswick Premier Blaine Higgs is arguing that the community of Sussex and surrounding areas support fracking. Premier Higgs added an amendment in his recent Speech to the Throne that includes a partial lifting of the moratorium. When MLAs visited the communities of Sussex and Penobscus in December, chapter activists from Moncton, Kent County and Saint John reminded them that fracking opposition is still strong. New Brunswick chapters will be organizing rallies, radio ads, participating in actions and organizing strategy sessions to ensure the fracking ban stays in place.

## Eradicating poverty-sharing the solutions

The Hamilton chapter in Ontario organized a Forum on Poverty and Inequality on October 17, the United Nations International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Solutions to poverty and inequality such as the Guaranteed Basic Income program (which the Ford government abruptly cancelled despite the Premier's promise not to do so during the election campaign), "Rent Safe" and a proposed registry of landlords were presented and discussed. The event was endorsed and organized in partnership with the Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion, the Hamilton Roundtable on Poverty Reduction and the Disability Justice Network of Ontario.

If you are interested in joining a Council of Canadians chapter near you, please check out our Chapter Contacts on page 11, call us toll-free at **1-800-387-7177**, or visit our website at **canadians.org/chapters**. We can also help you start a chapter if there isn't one in your community.