Site C Dam on the Peace River in northeast British Columbia: The devastation has begun: Why it needs to STOP and how YOU can help

The Site C dam, Canada’s largest infrastructure project, would flood over 107 kilometres of river valley in B.C., including some of the province’s best quality farmland, critical wildlife habitat, First Nations cultural and burial sites, as well as hunting and fishing territory.

Preliminary works commenced in 2015; however it is anticipated to take approximately 10 years to build, so efforts to stop it are strong, and growing daily.

The dam would cause an 83 km section of the Peace River, from the Peace Canyon Dam to Fort St. John to be flooded, widening it by up to five times.

Watch drone footage of the Peace River Valley before and after clearing began [here](#).

So many reasons NOT to build Site C

### We don’t need the power
- BC’s Energy Minister, Bill Bennett recently stated that BC’s electricity requirements in 2016 are the same as they were 8 years ago and that BC wants to sell surplus power to Alberta.
- The power from Site C is far more expensive than alternatives; BC ratepayers don’t need to subsidize power for Alberta.

### Less destructive and cheaper alternatives
- Internationally recognized expert, Robert McCullough states that Site C is dramatically more expensive than a mix of alternatives.
- Both McCullough and economist, Dr. Marvin Shaffer state that BC Hydro didn’t provide appropriate comparisons to alternative sources of power in their analysis.
- McCullough stated that the prices BC Hydro used to compare alternatives to Site C were out of date; they have come down significantly since Hydro’s comparison was done.

### Infringement of Treaty and Aboriginal Rights
- For First Nations, the Peace Valley offers stories, serves as a burial site and is an indispensable source of food, furs, fish and medicines for their people.
- The Peace Valley is one of the last remaining areas in northeast BC that has been sufficiently protected from industrial development so that Indigenous peoples can still exercise their Treaty rights.
- The Joint Review Panel on the Site C EA concluded the dam would cause severe and irreparable harm to many Indigenous uses of the land.
- The federal and provincial governments have openly acknowledged that they have never examined whether Site C can be reconciled with their treaty obligations.

### Loss of food producing land
- “The Peace River Valley has the capacity to produce a wide range of produce. The land to be flooded is capable of providing an annual, local, sustainably produced supply of fresh produce to over a million people,” Wendy Holm, agricultural economist.
- Over 31,000 acres of Class 1-7 farmland will be impacted by Site C.

### Dr. Swain, Joint Review Panel Chair pronounces serious reservations
- “Have we really pushed conservation and efficiency as far as they can go? And the answer is no...What other kinds of generation or energy production are available and what are their costs and benefits?”
- Dr. Swain also stated that the lack of research into geothermal potential in B.C. by BC Hydro and the government is a ‘dereliction of duty’.

### Loss of critical wildlife habitat
According to Dr. Clayton Apps, Wildlife Biologist,
- “Site C will form yet another barrier to wildlife movement in a region where industrial development is expanding rapidly.”
- “Site C will threaten the future survival of several wildlife populations in the Peace region.”

### Photo: Garth Lenz
What are we doing to STOP Site C Dam?

A number of avenues are being pursued to stop this devastating and unnecessary project.

Pressure from the United Nations
- In May-June 2016, UNESCO will undertake a mission to Canada to investigate the threat posed by Site C to Wood Buffalo National Park, a World Heritage Site, downstream from Site C. The World Heritage Committee has requested that Canada put on hold any projects that would cause irreversible impacts to the park at its globally significant wetlands.

Opposition by First Nations & Landowners
- There are presently 3 court cases and 1 judicial review outstanding on Site C. The cases have been initiated by landowners as well as the Prophet and West Moberly First Nations. BC Hydro continues to clear immense areas of land despite these unheard and unresolved cases.

Growing campaign support
- Last February, 29 provincial, national and international organizations wrote to Prime Minister Trudeau, requesting that Site C be halted immediately so the project could be re-examined. They raised concerns about project impacts that would: undermine Indigenous peoples’ use of the land; harm rare plants and other biodiversity; make fishing unsafe; and, submerge burial grounds as well as other crucial cultural and historic sites.

Support from Amnesty International
- The Secretary General of Amnesty International recently sent a letter to Prime Minister Trudeau expressing concern about the violations of Indigenous peoples’ human rights that would result from Site C dam.
- Amnesty continues undertake numerous initiatives to bring the violation of human rights issues resulting from Site C to the attention of the federal government.

Peaceful Public Action
- Numerous organizations continue to undertake actions and initiatives to protect the Peace Valley such as rallies, letter writing campaigns, petitions, solidarity paddles and more.
- See the information below on how to join us, keep informed and add your support.

JOIN US!
You can help protect over 57,000 acres of forest and farmland from Site C dam in the Peace River Valley by:
- Signing our petition at www.StopSiteC.org
- Sending a letter through www.RealSiteCHearings.org
- Joining our 11th Annual Paddle for the Peace on July 9, 2016 www.PaddleforthePeace.ca
- Keeping up-to-date on our action alerts and updates on social media:
  Peace Valley Environment Association  @SavePeaceValley  www.SaveBCfromSiteC.ca

Thank you for your support!
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