

Greenpeace; Environmental Defence; Équiterre; Leadnow.ca; AQLPA; Ecology Action Centre; Canadian Youth Climate Coalition; Nature Québec; Council of Canadians; Ecology Ottawa; 350.org; Manitoba Energy Justice Coalition; Action environnement basses Laurentides; Friends of Temagami; Association de propriétaires privés, agricoles (acéricoles) et forestiers; West Coast Environmental Law; Association; Citizens Environmental Alliance; Citoyens au Courant; Foire ÉCOSPHÈRE; Greenspiration; For Our Grandchildren; Green 13; Living Oceans Society; Manitoba Energy Justice Coalition; Mouvement citoyen Alerte Pétrole Rive-Sud; Northwatch; Oil Change International; Polaris Institute; PEACE-New Brunswick; Regroupement citoyen contre les bitumineux et pour le développement durable; Saint John Citizens Coalition for Clean Air; Sierra Club Canada Foundation; Stand (formally ForestEthics); Stop Oléoduc Outaouais (SOO); Conservation Council of New Brunswick; Temiskaming Environmental Action Committee; Nipissing Environmental Watch; Climate Action Now; Coalition vigilance Oléoducs; Citizens Climate Lobby Canada; The Aboriginal People's Council, Local 10; Regroupement vigilance hydrocarbures Québec; Conseil régional FTQ du Montréal métropolitain; GRAME - Groupe de recherche appliquée en macroécologie; STOP oléoduc Île d'Orléans; Canadian Interfaith Fast for the Climate; ClimateFast; Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice; Oléoduc Laval en amont (OLEA); Eau Secours! Coalition pour une gestion responsable de l'eau; Association madelinienne pour la sécurité énergétique et environnementale; Fondation Rivières;

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

September 7, 2016

Dear Prime Minister,

We represent organizations who believe that the National Energy Board (NEB) members who met with former premier Charest should recuse themselves from the review of the proposed Energy East pipeline.

Many of our groups have expressed this opinion directly to the NEB, but we are writing to you today to put the controversy surrounding the National Energy Board into context. In short, we are calling on you to overhaul the NEB before the federal government decides how to proceed with the proposed Kinder Morgan and Energy East pipelines, not after. This is not the first time that many of us have made this argument to you, but the breakdown in the Energy East review process and the obvious failure of pipeline proponents to secure social license for these ill-conceived projects presents an opportunity for you to show leadership.

At the end of the day, the NEB's problem is not only that Board members acted inappropriately by meeting with Mr. Charest, but that the NEB suffers from so many short-comings and conflicts of interest that the institution fundamentally lacks legitimacy. Of course the board members who acted inappropriately

should recuse themselves, but this will not solve the credibility gap that is plaguing the pipeline review process in Canada. It is unreasonable to expect people whose drinking water is at risk to politely follow the rules of a process that is both a farce and a foregone conclusion. It is unreasonable to ask people who are deeply concerned about the growing climate change emergency to trust in a review process that your own government has acknowledged is inadequate.

The NEB process is broken. This is clear and you are now taking steps to fix it by initiating a wholesale review, but the interim measures that you have put in place do not solve the underlying problem. The process currently being used to review the Kinder Morgan pipeline did not overcome the failures of the original NEB review, and the Energy East process is obviously deeply flawed. That is why we are calling on you to address the crisis of confidence that surrounds the NEB before you decide on the Kinder Morgan and Energy East pipelines, not after. We are calling on you to put aside the fundamentally flawed work that has been done by the NEB to date. Overhaul the NEB, renew the confidence of Canadians in the federal government's pipeline review process and, only after this has been accomplished, assess these projects in an atmosphere that is not plagued by the legacy of the Harper era. Doing this will be seen by the people of Canada as an indication that your stated commitments to Indigenous rights and a safe climate are sincere and that you are prepared to honour and defend the water, land and climate on which we all depend and cherish.

It is in the interest of all stakeholders that these projects go through a credible review. That cannot happen until your government completes its overhaul of the NEB.

Canada is at a crossroads, but this is not a moment that demands a ruling from an illegitimate National Energy Board on the misconduct of its board members. It is a moment that demands political leadership from a government that claims to be committed to change. We are asking you to show that leadership.

Sincerely,

Sharon Flatt
Aboriginal People's Council,
Local 10

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Action environnement
basses Laurentides (AEBL)

France Lamonde
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Joy Kennedy
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Cathy Orlando
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Peggy Walsh Craig
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Watch

Martin Poirier
NON à une marée noire dans
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