

PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS

**KELSEY MECH
CRITIC OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS**

RESOLUTION (NO. 4) IN OPPOSITION TO THE ALBERTA TAR SANDS DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS the Alberta Tar Sands is the largest fossil fuel project on the planet, lying beneath 141,000 sq. km. of northern Alberta forest, making Alberta Canada's largest greenhouse gas emitting Province at 31.4% and the Tar Sands Canada's single largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions growth in Canada. [1]

AND WHEREAS strip-mining in the Tar Sands is destroying the complex ecosystems of the Boreal Forest, the world's single-largest terrestrial storehouse of carbon that helps regulate the climate. [2]

AND WHEREAS producing a barrel of oil from the Tar Sands emits three times more greenhouse gas emissions than producing a barrel of conventional oil, making Alberta's Tar Sands oil some of the dirtiest oil produced on the planet. [3]

AND WHEREAS processing the Tar Sands uses 2 tons of oil sands to produce one barrel of oil (roughly 1/8 of a ton), enough natural gas in a day to heat over 3 million homes in Canada, and an amount of water equivalent to twice that used by the city of Calgary (2 to 4.5 barrels of water for each barrel of oil). [4]

AND WHEREAS most waste water used to process Tar Sands oil ends up in acutely toxic tailing ponds, ponds so toxic that propane cannons are used to keep ducks from landing on them and which cover more than 50 sq km and can be seen from space. [5]

AND WHEREAS downstream aboriginal populations are experiencing rare cancers suspected to be caused by toxic substances that have leached downstream from Tar Sands production, deformed fish have been found in nearby Lake Athabasca, and game animals are being found with tumours and mutations. [6]

AND WHEREAS exporting oil from the Tar Sands is going to involve massive pipeline construction and expansions from northern Alberta into the United States and to Kitimat, British Columbia, then via tanker through 90 kilometres of BC's fragile inside passage then overseas. [7]

AND WHEREAS the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), adopted May 1992, provides the basis for global action "to protect the global climate system for present and future generations". [8]

AND WHEREAS expansion of renewable energy industry jobs could replace jobs lost due to the closure of the Tar Sands.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1 The 80th British Columbia Youth Parliament opposes the development of the Alberta Tar Sands and calls for a halt to both existing and future Tar Sands projects.
- 2 The Provincial Secretary communicate this position to
 - (a) the Prime Minister of Canada, Stephen Harper
 - (b) the Premier of Alberta, Ed Stelmach
 - (c) the Minister of Environment, Jim Prentice
 - (d) the Minister of Natural Resources, Lisa Raitt
 - (e) the Premier of British Columbia, Gordon Campbell

CARRIED

YEAS – 57

NAYS - 20

Weaver A. 2008 *Keeping Our Cool*, Canada: Penguin Group and

<http://members.greenpeace.org/blog/greenwash?blog=26468&cat=34333&page=1&disp=posts&paged=2>

1 <http://news.mongabay.com/2007/0514-canada.html>

2 <http://www.tarsandswatch.org/oil-sands-canadas-dirty-secret>

3 <http://www.tarsandswatch.org/expedition-raise-awareness-about-threats-athabasca-river> and

http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20081021/tar_sands_081021/20081021?hub=CanadaAM

4 <http://www.treehugger.com/files/2008/02/tar-sands-most-destructive-project.php> and www.forestethics.org

5 <http://www.forestethics.org/section.php?id=44> and

http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20080215/tarsands_enviroreport_080215/20080215?hub=SciTech

6 <http://www.indigenousportal.com/index.php/Mining-and-Extractive-Industries/Tar-Sands-Environmental-Justice-Treaty-Rights-and-Indigenous-Peoples.html> and http://www.dogwoodinitiative.org/bulletins/opposition_growing_to_enbridge

7 <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/conveng.pdf>