

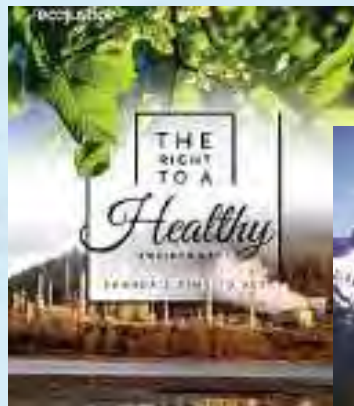


SEE THE CHANGE BE THE CHANGE



Right to a healthy environment?

- Do Canadians have this right?



ecojustice



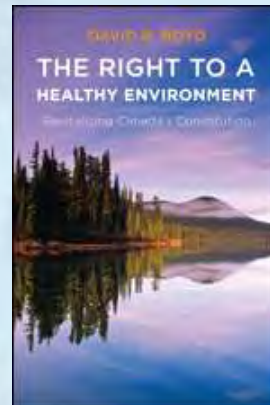
....not in Canada

- Canadian constitution **does not** include the right to a healthy environment
 - Uncertainty--which level of gov't is responsible?
 - Unequal protection--patchwork of laws
- 110 other nations recognize this right



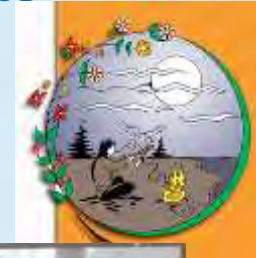
Canadian Environmental Bill of Rights

- **Bill C-634** would create an environmental bill of rights and would:
 - Safeguard right to healthy environment for present and future generations;
 - Hold the federal government accountable for protecting the environment, enforcing the law;
 - Give Canadians greater access to info and decision-making processes that impact the environment
 - Legal protection for environmental whistleblowers



Public Trust Doctrine

- Roman law--Emperor Justinian
- Gov't is trustee of natural resources
- Duty to protect environment for present *and* future generations
- First Nations' treaty rights
 - Charter challenges
- Our Children's Trust
 - U.S. law suits



Provincial rights to healthy environment

- Quebec
 - *Environmental Quality Act* 1978
 - *Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms* 2006
- Ontario
 - *Environmental Bill of Rights* 1993
- Yukon, NWT, Nunavut
 - Modest laws passed in 2011



What Canadians value

- 9 out of 10 Canadians polled by Angus Reid think gov't should recognize their right to a healthy environment
- More Canadians say they're concerned about their children's future



Canada— An environmental fossil?

- Only nation to withdraw from Kyoto Accord
- Lack of national climate change action
- UN's Ban Ki Moon to Canada: be more "ambitious and visionary"
- Doing less than U.S., China



Table 7: Climate Change Performance Index for G20 Countries*

Rank	Country	Score	Rank	Country	Score	Rank	Country	Score
6	United Kingdom	70.79	37	South Africa	54.63	55	Korea	44.15
12	France	64.11	44	United States	52.33	56	Russian Federation	43.39
17	Italy	61.75	45	China	51.77	58	Canada	38.81
18	Mexico	61.30	48	Argentina	49.61	60	Australia	35.57
22	Germany	59.60	49	Brazil	48.51	61	Saudi Arabia	24.19
23	Indonesia	59.57	51	Turkey	46.95			
31	India	56.97	53	Japan	45.07			

* Not included: European Union (The European Union is part of the G20 Countries.)

© Germanwatch 2014



Global warming impacts

- More heat waves, extreme precipitation events of greater frequency and intensity
- 2014--hottest year on record

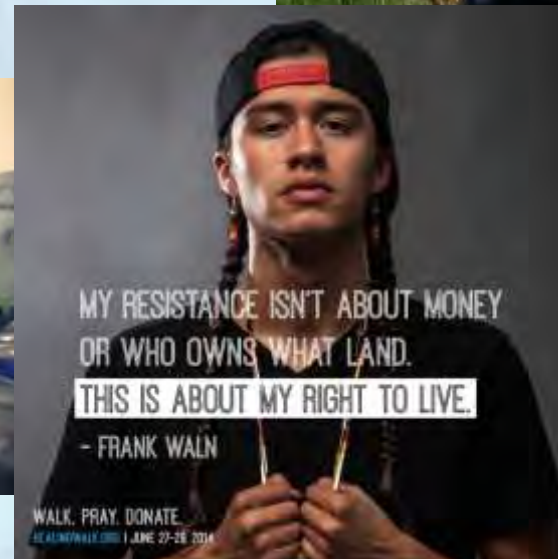


Climate impacts--Canada



A climate of inequality

- Unequal burden
- Developing nations
 - Youth, children at risk
- Canada—First Nations



Canada's top export?



Resource dependence

- Natural resources abundant--most not renewable
- Fossil fuel subsidies
- Free trade agreements



The cost of carbon

- Economic & environmental impacts
- Oil export-dependent economy
 - Volatility in oil prices
 - Canadian currency affected
 - Impact on jobs
- Impacts not equally distributed



Natural Capital

Why is Natural Capital Important?

Natural capital and economic activity are highly linked. . .



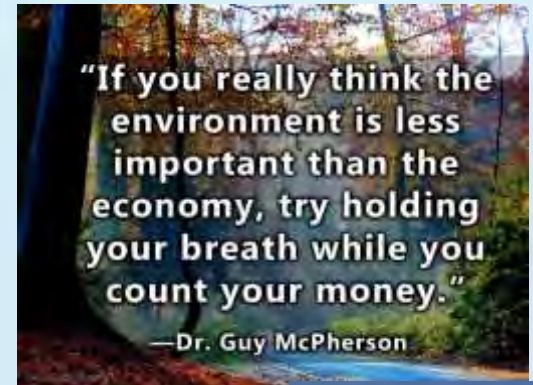
. . . if we extract too much from nature or cause environmental damage, we degrade our natural capital and put our economy at risk

SP Sustainable Prosperity



Green economy

- Needn't be a trade off
- Not just green energy
- Less carbon
- What are things made of?
 - Choose/use less toxic, more sustainable materials
 - Fossil fuels used in making many products



Green, healthy jobs

- Healthier, sustainable jobs
- Healthier materials, processes
- Benefits worker, community and environmental health

Number of jobs created for every \$1 million invested

OIL & GAS



CLEAN ENERGY (wind, solar, hydro and biomass)



Where do you want Canada to invest?

*Blue Green Canada. (2012, November 22).
More Bang For Our Buck: How Canada can create more jobs and less pollution.



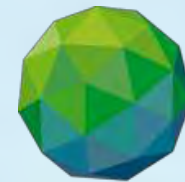
Just transition

- Workers should not bear the burden of transition from polluting industries
- Protection, assistance for workers and communities
- Retraining, income security, work in alternative industries



Global action

- Copenhagen Accord 2009
 - Keep global temperature increase to **2°C**
 - Fossil fuel reserves **5 X** more than **2°C** action level
 - GHG targets are **voluntary**
- UN Green Climate Fund
 - Help poor nations transition
- COP21 Paris UNFCCC
 - Hope for a legally binding, universal agreement



GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND



Need for Federal action

- Canadian national climate change strategy must include:
 - National policies on energy, transportation
 - Regulation of oil sands development
 - Green jobs strategy
 - Extended producer responsibility



Provincial Action to date

- No national strategy—piecemeal provincial actions
- B.C. carbon tax
- Ontario:
 - Green Energy Act
 - Phase-out coal
 - Cap and trade with QC
- Quebec
 - Fuel-efficiency standards
- Alberta carbon tax



Individual actions

- Living sustainably
 - Meeting our needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs
- How do we choose, use and dispose of products and services
- School campaigns



Your power!

- Learn more
- Do more
- Contact your MP, MPP, city councillor



People power



Have your say!

- **#endclimatecopout**
 - Unifor/WHSC twitter account
 - What action would you take?
 - Post your messages, photos, actions



Thank you!

