

WHAT ABOUT THE WORKERS?

There are currently approximately 5000 workers at the Site C Dam – all of which are trying to do their best supporting themselves and their families. Why not provide them with the chance to work on meaningful projects that actually benefit communities? There will continue to be lots of work restoring the Peace River Valley if the project is cancelled, and the provincial government could easily fund cheaper and greener energy projects immediately. Solar farms in Alberta are now being built for about \$1 million per megawatt of capacity, so we could equal the capacity of the Site C dam for as little as \$1.1 billion, rather the endless billions we are currently faced with.

And why stop at energy? There are 20 Indigenous communities in BC who don't have safe drinking water. Let's build suitable water treatment facilities. Let's build and repair schools, hospitals, community centres, libraries, roads, and much more. The list of other useful projects that need workers is endless.



CANCEL
SAVE BILLIONS IN COST OVERRUNS
SITE C
KEEP PROMISES TO INDIGENOUS NATIONS
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The Site C Dam has been a failed project since the 1970s when it was first proposed, opposed and subsequently shelved. The 60-metre-high hydroelectric dam would flood 100 square kilometres of the Peace River Valley in northern British Columbia. Brought back from the dead by the previous BC Liberal government as a power source for LNG fracking operations, and now spearheaded by the NDP provincial government, the megaproject is a worse idea every day. From billions in cost overruns to be shouldered by taxpayers, to broken promises to Indigenous nations, to the destruction of unique ecosystems and important farmlands, to growing safety concerns, it's clear that BC needs to cut the losses and move forward with greener and cheaper energy projects. There's still time to stop the Site C Dam. Here are some of the best reasons why we must.

SAVE BILLIONS STOPPING COST OVERRUNS

The original budget for Site C was \$6.6 billion. After years of missed deadlines and geological debacles, the estimated cost rose to \$12 billion. Now things have deteriorated to the point that BC Hydro refuses to make new public cost estimates, reporting only that “a project risk has materialized on the right bank” that could lead to “significant cost pressures”.

AVOID UNSAFE AND COSTLY GEOTECHNICAL ISSUES

It has been common knowledge for decades that the Peace River Valley’s shale geology makes it prone to landslides. The left bank of the dam was supposed to be the biggest challenge, but John Clague, a geologist at Simon Fraser University, says BC Hydro “just assumed” that bedrock on the right bank was stable and solid. There are engineering approaches that might improve stability but, “I can only imagine that would cost a fortune,” Clague says. Agrologist Wendy Holm, an expert witness on Site C at the Joint Federal Provincial Environmental Impact Assessment Review Panel, has likened it to trying to build the massive dam on top of pool balls.

CUT DANGEROUS CONNECTION TO LNG “FRACKING”

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives recently released a report that shows more than 6,500 earthquakes associated with natural gas industry “fracking” operations occurred in the Peace River region in 2017 and 2018 alone. Most were close to the sensitive area around where Site C is being built.

Hydraulic fracturing or “fracking” is the process of drilling down into the earth before a high-pressure water mixture is directed at the rock to release the gas inside. Water, sand and chemicals are injected into the rock at high pressure to release the gas. It doesn’t take a scientist to realize this will cause earthquakes!

Adding insult to injury, BC Hydro admits the public doesn’t actually need the new power created by Site C for another decade, but Premier Horgan is already signing deals to give the LNG industry tens of millions in electrical subsidies for new projects. **So our rates go way up, and their rates go way down!**



KEEP PROMISES TO INDIGENOUS NATIONS

The NDP government has publicly committed to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, and has tried to portray itself as taking Indigenous Rights seriously. However, after years of consultations with BC Hydro, the Prophet River Band and the West Moberly First Nation were clear that Site C should not be built. Most obviously because the Dam would flood their traditional territories. Both Nations are covered by Treaty 8 – which promises nothing will be done to interfere with their way of life, including hunting and fishing. Construction went ahead regardless, as consultations did not include an option for the Site C to be outright rejected. This is a clear sign that their rights were never taken seriously. However, both the Liberal and NDP governments have tried to use the mere fact that the so-called consultations took place as a sign that have upheld their commitments to Indigenous Nations.



"We do not wish to be arrested. We wish to see Canada respect the rights of indigenous people in accordance with its international obligations. We remain strong, united and firm in our opposition to this unnecessary project. We will do everything in our power to ensure Canada lives up to its commitments to indigenous peoples."

- Helen Knott, great great granddaughter of Chief Bigfoot, the last to sign Treaty 8 in 1911

SAVE UNIQUE AND ESSENTIAL AGRICULTURAL LAND

In the era of COVID-19 and the uncertainty it brings to international food supply chains, local food security is more important than ever. The food security situation in Northern BC, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories is already precarious, with shipping costs driving up food prices there. About 60% of the fresh fruits and vegetables in BC are imported from California and Mexico, a supply that might be cut off in the event of borders closing due to the pandemic worsening, or a new and more severe pandemic emerging. The construction of the Site C Dam would result in the flooding of over 35,000 acres of agriculturally valuable land in the Peace River Valley, which, if developed to its full agricultural capacity to grow fresh vegetables, could feed a million people per year indefinitely.