

Climate Action Network Canada Reports on Tar Sands Expansion



A new report, *Dirty Oil Diplomacy – the Canadian Government’s Global Push to Sell the Tar Sands*, begins with reasons for Canadian pride: being among the first to impose sanctions against the apartheid regime in South Africa, helping other countries when disaster strikes, sending Peacekeepers to war-torn areas, and creating a model health care system. However, the report continues, “Today, this reputation is being undermined by the oil companies extracting dirty oil from the Alberta tar sands. These companies, along with some government officials, are aggressively expanding the tar sands and pushing Canada’s oil on the world and blocking effective, smart policies to fight global warming in Canada, the United States, and Europe. All the while, Canada’s wilderness and wildlife, clean air and fresh water are being contaminated and destroyed. Pipelines across the United States and Canada carrying tar sands also pose major risks to the ocean, lakes and rivers, lands and wildlife.”

This report from Climate Action Network Canada, in partnership with other environmental groups, outlines the changing domestic and international policies of the Canadian government as it works to expand the tar sands – Canada’s fastest growing source of greenhouse gas pollution. The report is based on hundreds of pages of documents obtained through Canadian freedom of information laws; it paints a clear picture for the first time of the tar sands advocacy strategy, a collaborative effort of the Governments’ of Canada and Alberta along with industry to promote these highly polluting tar sands. It shows the reality of tar sands extraction, government attacks on environmental groups and First Nations, and the overall undermining of climate action by Canada, the United States, and others. The full report can be accessed here: [Learn more about the changing domestic and international policies of the Canadian government as it works to expand tar sands.](#)

In mid-March hundreds of people gathered in vigils outside more than 20 Canadian diplomatic missions in the U.S. and European Union to call on Canada to reverse its international lobbying on behalf of the highly destructive and polluting tar sands oil industry. [See photos from the New York City vigil here.](#) Meanwhile, the southern leg of the Keystone XL pipeline is proceeding in the U.S.