



Ecology Action Centre

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HALIFAX - Ecology Action Centre joins other Canadian environmental non-governmental organizations in calling on the Provincial Premiers to join Ontario's dissention to the outcome of the recent Energy Ministers meeting in Kananaskis, at the Council of the Federation meeting in Vancouver tomorrow.

All of the provinces and territories, with the exception of Ontario, released a communiqué on Tuesday that described Alberta's tar sands as a sustainable, 'responsible and major supplier of energy to the world'.

"We just weren't comfortable with the wording that the oil sands are sustainable and responsible," Ontario Energy Minister Brad Duguid said in an interview Tuesday. Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty has echoed similar concerns about Western-centric energy policy.

"The Premier of Nova Scotia Darrell Dexter and our Energy Minister Charlie Parker should join Mr. Duguid and Mr. McGuinty from Ontario in expressing deep concerns about a clearly irresponsible energy strategy that unfairly favors Alberta's economic interests. Nova Scotia cannot afford to let this strategy dominate any plans for a sustainable national energy strategy," says Brennan Vogel, Climate Change and Energy Coordinator at the Ecology Action Centre in Halifax.

"Western Canada's plans for rapidly developing the Keystone and Northern Gateway pipelines for the export of dirty tar sands oil to Asia and the USA is tantamount to lighting the wick on the world's largest carbon bomb," says Vogel.

"This is at a time when Nova Scotia faces increasing climate change impacts like flooding, coastal erosion, heat waves, forest fires and hurricanes as a result of increasing carbon in the atmosphere," continues Vogel.

"Without serious leadership from the Premiers and Ottawa on real, clean energy solutions to reduce our country's emissions, we are on track for catastrophic levels of warming over the next few decades. That's frankly quite unacceptable," says Vogel.

Last week Mr. Dexter hosted the Eastern Canadian Premiers and New England Governors in Halifax and expressed support for regional action on reducing greenhouse gases. Endorsing the national energy strategy proposed in Kananaskis would be a contradiction to last week's commitments, as any expansion to the tar sands will precipitate the likelihood of catastrophic climate change.

EAC calls on Mr. Dexter and Mr. Parker to show responsible climate leadership to protect Nova Scotians from climate change and show true leadership and support for the transition to a renewable, low-carbon energy economy in 21st century Nova Scotia.

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