

News release

Greenpeace Canada activists block tar sands oil pipes at loading dock terminal in Montreal

5 December 2016 (Montreal) — Greenpeace Canada climbing activists are occupying the pipes used to load tar sands oil onto tankers in the Port of Montreal and are in the process of hanging a banner saying: “Stop Pipelines: Protect Our Water and Climate”. Other activists have locked themselves to the front gate. The action follows the federal approval of the Kinder Morgan and Line 3 pipelines and is intended to send a message of pan-Canadian opposition to new pipelines to the December 8-9 First Ministers’ meeting on climate change.

“Across the country, we stand united against new tar sands pipelines that would break our commitments to the climate and to First Nations. We are not going to sit idle while our government approves new tar sand oil mines and pipelines to carry it,” said climber activist Marie-Eve Robert, who is one of the climber activists chained to a tar sands oil loading pipe. “Our message to Prime Minister Trudeau and other Premiers is clear: you can’t be a climate leader and approve new pipelines. Climate leaders will get our support, but pipeline builders will meet fierce resistance.”

Greenpeace Canada activists entered the loading dock terminal in the Port of Montreal early in the morning and sent three climbers up the loading pipes to hang the banner. Kayakers will join the protest later in the day to highlight the risk of an oil spill in the St. Lawrence River.

“The Prime Minister says that the Great Bear Rainforest is no place for a pipeline, but we believe that the St. Lawrence is equally precious,” said activist June Kendall who is chained to the front gate. “Pumping bitumen through the aging Line 9 pipeline puts the drinking water of over a million people in the Montreal region at risk and should not have been allowed without the consent of First Nations and other communities along the route. Building the Energy East pipeline would magnify these risks for decades to come.”

Over 300 cities in Quebec and the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador have come out against the controversial Energy East pipeline proposal that would carry oil from the tar sands to New Brunswick, citing concerns over the risk to water and to the climate. On the west coast, 22 municipalities and 86 First Nations stand opposed to the Kinder Morgan’s Transmountain pipeline that would carry tar sands from Alberta to British Columbia.

“Building new tar sands pipelines like Energy East in Quebec or Kinder Morgan in B.C. would trample First Nations rights and put Canada’s Paris climate commitments out of reach,” said Greenpeace Canada climate and energy campaigner Patrick Bonin. “We

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can't stand by and do nothing when our governments fail to protect our climate and drinking water. As long as our governments continue to break their promises and approve new tar sands pipelines, the resistance will continue to grow."

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Location: 2 Hinton Avenue, next to the Parc de l'Hotel de Ville, Montreal East

For more information:

On-site: Keith Stewart, Head of Greenpeace Canada's climate and energy campaign
(416-659-0294)

To schedule an interview: Jess Wilson (778-874-5417)

Photos and video will be available at link:

<http://media.greenpeace.org/shoot/27MZIFJJBIFQ&SO>