



*Alternatives North*

6 June, 2018

The Right Honourable Justin Pierre James Trudeau, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Langevin Block  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister;

Alternatives North is a social justice coalition operating in the Northwest Territories. Within our ranks are representatives of churches, labour unions, environmental organizations, women and family advocates and anti-poverty groups. Individual citizens are important participants in our work.

We are writing to express our dismay and complete opposition to Canada's intended acquisition of the existing Kinder Morgan Pipeline and the proposed Trans Mountain Pipeline expansion infrastructure in British Columbia, with the intent to complete twinning of the existing line and tripling of the shipping capacity of oil/dilbit through this corridor. This is an extremely inappropriate use of tax-payer dollars. In particular, we are struggling to understand how this fits with the 2018 budget:

Chapter 2 Progress: [Stronger and More Collaborative Federal Science](#)... "evidence based decision making... especially in critical areas like the environment" - Where is the evidence showing this is the best choice to support future Canadians (and this budget)?

Chapter 3 [Reconciliation](#): The entirety of chapter 3 is dedicated to reconciliation – Given the insights revealed through investigative journalism, we cannot be confident that Indigenous people have been adequately consulted.

Chapter 4 Advancement: "Canada's Natural Legacy" clearly states that [A Clean Environment for Future Generations](#) is paramount - How does a billion dollar investment in the extraction and shipment of highly carbon-emitting energy support a clean environment?

Our reasons for opposing this infrastructure acquisition purchase are numerous, but we would like to emphasize:

- the substantively increased GHG emissions that would result from the enabled oil sands expansion are at odds with Canada's commitments with regard to the Paris climate accord,
- the failure to comprehensively meet Indigenous rights to be meaningfully consulted and our proclaimed national commitment to reconciliation,

- the greatly increased probability of disastrous spill events given increased marine shipment and traffic congestion in concert with our inability to effectively clean up dilbit,
- the likelihood of the pipelines becoming stranded assets by 2035 or earlier, according to a global study released this week (*Mercurie et al. 4 June, 2018. Macroeconomic impact of stranded fossil fuel assets. Nature Climate Change*), and finally
- the missed opportunity and dire need to direct these significant resources (potentially well over 10 billion dollars) towards renewable energy / energy efficiency and the clean economy we all want and must achieve.

A critical component of the latter is the thousands of lasting and meaningful jobs across the nation that would accrue, in comparison to the paltry and largely ephemeral jobs the proposed fossil fuel project will provide.

Prime Minister, we need sound leadership for our future, now. We request that you reverse this decision and redirect the funds to support development of a truly clean economy that will serve Canadians and the planet.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Bromley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Robert G. Bromley, for  
Alternatives North.

c.c.: The Honourable Catherine Mary McKenna, PC MP, Minister, Environment and Climate Change ([ec.ministre-minister.ec@canada.ca](mailto:ec.ministre-minister.ec@canada.ca))

The Honourable James Gordon Carr, PC MP, Minister, Natural Resources Canada ([RNCan.ministre-ministerNRCan@canada.ca](mailto:RNCan.ministre-ministerNRCan@canada.ca))

The Honourable William Francis Morneau, PC MP, Minister, Finance ([Fin.ministre-minister.fin@canada](mailto:Fin.ministre-minister.fin@canada))

Michael McLeod, MP Northwest Territories ([Michael.McLeod@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Michael.McLeod@parl.gc.ca))