

# LNG Position STATEMENT

February 2025



*As we head toward the latter half of this critical climate decade, Climate Action Network - Réseau action climat Canada recognizes the vital importance of preventing the expansion of the liquefied natural gas (LNG) export industry, primarily in what is currently called British Columbia.*

## Priority action

Based on the overwhelming scientific consensus regarding the climate crisis and its key driver - fossil fuels - and in consideration of the many factors which, collectively, portray LNG industry expansion as a risk that humanity simply cannot afford, CAN-Rac is calling for:

- **An immediate moratorium on LNG industry expansion.** Any LNG project not currently under construction must be prohibited from proceeding and new projects must not be approved as governments - provincial, federal and Indigenous - plan for the net zero future on which a livable planet depends; a planet where there is no place for LNG and fossil fuel industry expansion.
- **Explicitly ruling out the use of any public funds in support of the LNG industry,** including the provision of new electricity supply for liquefaction plants.
- **A comprehensive, well resourced Just Transition plan for workers affected by the moratorium.** As the renewable energy transition continues at an increasingly rapid pace, workers affected by the transition must be supported.
- **An Indigenous Community Diversification Fund** for Indigenous communities, always on the front lines of extractivist pressure, must be put in place to support the diverse choices Nations wish to make in charting their own path to economic, social and cultural well being.



### Context

The overwhelming scientific consensus articulated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and other key voices is clear that we cannot build any more fossil fuel projects anywhere if we wish to have a livable planet. And the world's most authoritative voices on energy markets and energy policy at the [International Energy Agency](#) (IEA) echo the IPCC's urgent expert guidance.

The [IPCC's 2023 AR6 Synthesis Report](#) was crystal clear:

"All global modeled pathways that limit warming to 1.5°C with no or limited overshoot, and those that limit warming to 2°C, involve rapid and deep and, in most cases, immediate greenhouse gas emissions reductions in all sectors this decade...Climate change is a threat to human well-being and planetary health. There is a rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all."

Of the 425 carbon bombs in the world, [12 are in Canada](#). The single biggest carbon bomb in Canada is the Montney gas play in northeast British Columbia. It's the 6th biggest carbon bomb in the world and would dramatically worsen the climate crisis if fully exploited. If all of the LNG projects now underway and proposed in British Columbia were to proceed, [exported emissions](#) would be more than double the province's total emissions and approximately 20% of Canada's total emissions.

Much of the rhetoric and media coverage about LNG has focused on the energy crisis in Europe precipitated by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. However, [Europe has no need](#) for Canadian LNG or for LNG expansion anywhere in the world, having replaced Russian gas via demand destruction and more stable providers of energy to European countries.

The only active LNG projects in Canada and all of the fossil fuel industry's pressure to expand is focused on the Montney play in BC and export to Asia, where markets are set to decline.

### Indigenous rights and decolonization

The history and current story of resource extraction on Indigenous Lands and Water - racialized extractivism - cannot be separated from the ongoing colonial project. Successive colonial governments have limited Indigenous jurisdiction and authority, siphoned wealth, and imposed colonial rule through legislation, regulation, and policy. Collaboration with industry is often an extension of this colonial project, diminishing the full assertion of Indigenous sovereignty and decision-making, such as Land Back and major financial reparations, by disingenuously holding back many Indigenous Peoples, and their Nations, from participating fully in economic partnership opportunities or 'economic reconciliation' so that only privileged extractive, polluting projects earn revenue - including LNG projects.

In instances where Indigenous nations choose to pursue new fossil fuel projects, like LNG, we honour their self-determination as a sovereign nation, while building reciprocal relationships with space for respectful disagreement, as we would with any level of government. Similarly, we stand in solidarity with Indigenous nations and communities who are defending their territories against fossil fuel projects and infrastructure expansion.



As a network, we continue to push our colonial governments to fully respect and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), including the right to self-determination and free, prior, and informed consent, to information and public participation, to freedom of association, expression, and peaceful assembly, deliver major financial reparations, address chronic underfunding, and amplify Indigenous calls for legislative changes to support the full expression of Indigenous sovereignty and decision-making.

### A Just Transition for workers and communities

As the Canadian Labour Congress' [Sustainable Jobs Blueprint](#) puts it:

There must be “targeted social security measures put in place to support workers during periods of change and transition. Ensuring Canada’s safety net is responsive to modern realities is a fundamental responsibility of government. The resources required to transition Canada’s energy systems to align with global net zero realities are not insignificant. To make the most out of government spending on transition, other benefits should be sought after that uplift equity-deserving groups and make communities more resilient to change.”

### Climate impacts of LNG

The fossil fuel industry claims that LNG is a better choice than coal from an emissions perspective. But there is little to no evidence to support this claim when full lifecycle emissions - from wellhead to burner tip - are considered. In fact, a growing [body of research](#) indicates that, when considering the full lifecycle, LNG is worse than coal. Simply, LNG locks in emissions well beyond this critical climate decade, locks up investment needed for the clean energy transition and locks out renewables.

The [rejection of the GNL Québec Énergie Saguenay LNG project](#) was an important precedent, where an LNG proponent made claims about the purported climate benefits of LNG and where [government\(s\) found that the project would worsen](#) the climate crisis. The fundamental dynamics of the GNL Québec project are the same as those for all LNG projects proposed and under construction in Canada: LNG drives the climate crisis and undermines the urgency of the energy transition.

[Recent reporting](#) shows significant economic risks associated with LNG expansion in B.C., highlighting a massive wave of global supply coming online in the near term, and calling into question demand for this fuel. As the International Energy Agency [highlights](#) in their most recent global forecast, global demand will be influenced by myriad factors and, even if it grows, suppliers will face a highly competitive market where they may have difficulty realizing returns.

In mapping the net zero future needed for a livable planet, the [IEA sees a 78% decline](#) in LNG demand out to 2050. In other words, if we and our leaders are serious about a livable planet then we cannot allow new LNG projects to be built, anywhere, and especially in a country like Canada which holds a disproportionate historical responsibility for the climate crisis.

Betting on LNG is betting against a livable planet.



Risk of stranded assets and shuttered facilities on Indigenous territory are a significant and growing risk as market [prospects for Canadian LNG continue to deteriorate](#).

Fossil fuel exporting jurisdictions, whether they are provinces, states or countries, must stop hiding behind narrow technocratic arguments about the carbon intensity of fossil fuel production. Exporting emissions at this point in the climate emergency is a grave existential issue. We must elevate the debate about our energy and existential future to the moral and ethical issue it is for every single fossil fuel project.

### Health impacts of LNG

In 2023 BC and Canada experienced their worst wildfire seasons in recorded history, blanketing communities with smoke that incurred [health costs in Ontario alone](#) of \$1.28 billion in just five days. In 2021 The Western Canada heat dome [killed 619 people in BC](#)—the worst weather-related mass casualty event in Canada's history. The 2021 atmospheric river and flooding in BC was the most expensive extreme weather event in BC's history, [costing over \\$450 million](#), interrupting healthcare supply chains and cutting patients off from essential medical care.

In light of the many serious [health risks posed by fracking and LNG](#) it is critical that government(s) fund a comprehensive and independent health impact assessment on the effects of LNG and fracking activities. In the interim, as the assessment is being conducted, regulations and monitoring protocols to reduce air and water pollution from current operations should be strengthened to protect the health of workers and communities.



Climate Action Network – Réseau action climat Canada (CAN-Rac) is the farthest-reaching network of organizations taking action on climate and energy issues in what is currently known as Canada. Our membership brings together organizations from coast to coast to coast, including First Nations, unions, local grassroots initiatives, faith groups, and environmental, social justice, development, health, and youth organizations.