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GOALS of M4CJ

- 1) To help build a global movement for climate justice that encourages urgent action to avoid catastrophic climate change, and which addresses the root social, ecological, political and economic causes of the climate crisis toward a total systemic transformation of our society.
- 2) To promote and strengthen the rights and voices of Indigenous and other affected peoples, including workers in energy-intensive industries, in climate mitigation and adaptation strategies.
- 3) To expose the consequences of false and market-based climate “solutions” as well as corporate domination of climate negotiations, while advancing alternatives that can provide real and just solutions and which protect biodiversity.

WHAT SHOULD RBC DO ABOUT ALL THIS?

Mobilization for Climate Justice-London insists that RBC withdraw financing for all projects associated with the tar sands. We also insist that RBC — along with the other corporations that have profited from the tar sands and the governments that encouraged them — pay reparations to all First Nations communities negatively impacted by tar sands projects. This is necessary in order to compensate those communities for lost income, as well as ecological, cultural, or health impacts

WHAT CAN WE DO, HERE AT WESTERN?

There are important steps we can take at U.W.O. to send a clear message to RBC that we reject their attempt to profit from environmental destruction and social injustice.

First, the UWO Senate should adopt a resolution to insist that Western’s endowment funds will not be invested in RBC or any of its subsidiaries--unless and until RBC stops financing tar sands-related projects. Second, while these tar sands projects continue, UWO and the University Students Council should remove all ATMs owned by RBC from the Western Campus. Third, UWO should return RBC’s money and fund what is now called the “RBC Economic Policy Research Institute” in a manner that is consistent with environmental justice.



Is there *anything*
RBC
won't do to boost
its profits?

**RBC is the leading financier for
the world's most environmentally
destructive energy source—
the Alberta tar sands.**

Mobilization for Climate Justice London

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RBC is trying to boost its oversized profits by bankrolling environmental destruction.

We need to make them stop.

Join M4CJ.

RBC's CHOICE: PROFITS FIRST

RBC is Canada's largest, most profitable bank, with a trillion dollars in assets. It is also the main financier of Tar Sands oil extraction projects. The Alberta Tar Sands produce the world's dirtiest oil, and the exploitation of the Tar Sands is contributing to climate change, devastating Boreal forest ecosystems, and poisoning First Nations communities downstream.

By financing further oil extraction projects in the Tar Sands, RBC is helping to create massive environmental destruction. But it is also helping to create massive profits for RBC. For now, it seems that RBC has decided that destroying the planet and poisoning our water is good for business. M4CJ-London is working with other groups across North America and around the world to force RBC to stop. Now.

WHAT ARE THE TAR SANDS?

Tar Sands (or "Oil Sands") are, put simply, a particular type of oily soil. The oil is found in the ground in the form of bitumen, which is solid at normal temperatures and mixed in with sand, clay and water. The bitumen is extracted in either of two ways: when it's closer to the surface it is extracted using giant open pit mining techniques, and when it's further down, high pressure steam injection ("in situ") technology is used to remove it.

Open pit mining strips away the trees from the top layers of the earth to expose the bitumen beneath it. Two tons of bitumen-rich material are extracted for every one barrel of oil produced. This process destroys the local environment and ecosystems, leaving gaping open pit mines 75 meters deep as scars on the devastated landscape.

In situ mining, the technique needed to reach 80% of the bitumen, is not a better option. It requires injecting the bitumen with high pressure steam, to separate the oil from the sand so that it can be piped to the surface. Heating the water to produce the steam requires large quantities of natural gas.

THE IMPACT OF TAR SANDS OIL EXTRACTION

Only Saudi Arabia has more oil reserves than Canada. If it were all to be extracted the effect on the climate would be devastating:

- Increased emissions from the Tar Sands is the principal reason why Canada will not meet its former Kyoto reduction commitments. By 2010, **almost half of Canada's greenhouse gas emissions** will come from the Tar Sands alone.
- Global warming **pollution from Tar Sands oil refineries** is expected to soar by as much as 40% over the next decade.
- Tar Sands oil is the **worst type of oil for the climate**, due to the amount of energy required to separate tar from sand and then convert it to oil. Enough natural gas is used every day extracting Tar Sands to

heat 3.2 million Canadian homes for a year.

- **Greenhouse gas is emitted in the tar sands at 3 to 5 times the rate of conventional methods** of oil extraction.
- Huge quantities of water is used in Tar Sands production and infrastructure. It takes up to five litres of water to produce one litre of usable oil. This **water is being diverted from rivers, lakes, farms and cities** throughout Canada; the water levels in the Athabasca River have already dropped several meters.
- Much of the **water used in Tar Sands production ends up in toxic 'tailings ponds'**, so vast they are visible from space. These ponds leak toxic waste into local water supplies. A generation ago, the Athabasca River was clear and drinking from it was common. Now, those that live alongside the river consider it poisonous and off-limits.
- **Contamination of groundwater** has led to arsenic and other heavy metals in moose meat — a dietary staple for many First Nations peoples in the Athabasca river region — up to 300 times acceptable levels, and deformed fish have been found in nearby Lake Athabasca. **Elevated rates of cancer** have been documented by a study commissioned by the regional health authority.

This is RBC's latest 'cash cow.' This is how they are trying to inflate their profits. But people have begun to organize against it. Climate justice activists in Alberta First Nations communities, in the US, Europe, and across Canada, are building a growing campaign to force RBC to get out of the environmental destruction business.

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Climate Justice ~
London**

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