



Tell your MLA and BC's cabinet ministers to cancel Site C

The clock is ticking to stop the Site C megadam. The BC government is about to decide whether to cancel, continue or suspend the project. It's all hands on deck to ensure they make the right decision.

Following the November 1 release of the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) report, Premier John Horgan and BC's 22 cabinet ministers will make their decision—as early as November 2.

The BCUC is only looking at the economics of Site C, but Cabinet must consider all implications: BC Hydro debt, cost overruns, First Nations' rights, loss of food-producing land and wildlife habitat, downstream impacts on water and more.

Call or send a letter to your MLA and cabinet ministers

A letter or phone call to your MLA and BC's cabinet ministers could make all the difference. They need to hear that you care about this issue and that if they do the right thing, they'll be supported in cancelling Site C.

While Premier Horgan and BC's cabinet ministers will make the decision, other MLAs can have a lot of influence on those ministers, so it's worthwhile to contact them. Your MLA represents you, and they should be doing everything they can to stop Site C.

How do I contact my MLA and cabinet ministers?

Look up your MLA and their contact information here: leg.bc.ca/learn-about-us/members

If your MLA is also a cabinet minister (they'll have 'Hon.' in front of their name) you could have some special influence as that minister's constituent. You can contact them at their Ministry office address or their constituency office – in either case, make sure to include where you live so they know you live in their riding.

You can also search cabinet ministers' names or Ministry names in the government directory: dir.gov.bc.ca

Emails are great, but hand-written letters demonstrate that you care enough to sit down and write it out. A phone call is also a great way to be heard. Do all three!

What should I write?

Tell them why **you** care about stopping Site C. Here some tips courtesy of Consumer Protection BC:

1. **Be concise.** Keep your letter to one page. You may be more likely to get a response if you can succinctly lay out your concern without rambling on with unnecessary details. If it's not adding to your argument in some way, leave it out.
2. **Be clear.** Make it clear from the beginning why you are writing: to stop Site C.
3. **Be personal.** Introduce yourself at the beginning and share why the issue concerns you on a personal level. Allow them to see you as a person and a member of the community they represent.
4. **Include questions.** There is always room for questions and it's a good way to facilitate effective communication. You may also be more likely to get a response.
5. **Be polite.** A polite and respectful letter helps get your point across in a calm manner.
6. **Follow up.** Whether or not you hear back, it's always a good idea to follow up. If you haven't heard from them, you can send a friendly reminder. If they responded to your initial email, make sure you thank them for their response and remind them of the commitments they may have made to you.



Here is a sample letter:

*The Honourable Michelle Mungall, M.L.A.
Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources*

Dear Minister Mungall,

I am writing to call for the termination of the Site C dam. British Columbians cannot afford this hugely expensive mistake. I've never been to the Peace River, but I live by a river myself and I can't imagine it being dammed up and ruined for no good reason.

Here's why I think the dam would have disastrous long term consequences for BC:

- *BC ratepayers are already facing huge Hydro rate increases—before the cost of Site C is added to our bills. We cannot afford higher Hydro rates.*
- *Since BC doesn't need the power, it would be sold at a loss. Cancelling Site C would represent huge cost savings for ratepayers.*
- *Wind, solar, geothermal and energy conservation create better long term jobs and offer a much cheaper solution for addressing BC's future energy needs than Site C.*
- *Treaty 8 First Nations have the right to use the Peace River Valley for hunting, fishing and cultural purposes. Site C tramples on these rights.*
- *The Peace Valley is prime agricultural land, which we need in BC.*
- *The Joint Review Panel concluded that Site C would cause significant irreparable harm to fish and wildlife in the Peace Valley, cutting off a key migration corridor.*

What will you do to make sure Site C is stopped? Please respond to let me know.

*Thank you,
Tom Jones
Kelowna, BC*

I wrote a letter. What else can I do?

Lots! Here are some ideas:

1. **Complete this online action and share it with your friends:** sierraclub.bc.ca/cant-afford-site-c
2. **Host a letter-writing party.** All the instructions above can be used to help your friends write Stop Site C letters. Bring some pens, paper, stamps and cookies, and you've got yourself a party. Or potluck. Or BBQ. Dancing to follow?
3. **Visit the office of your MLA or a cabinet minister.** Check their office hours and drop in. Bring a personal letter. Smile and get to know the staff. You can even ask to book a sit-down meeting.
4. **Write a letter to the editor** of your local paper or a BC-wide paper. Google that paper's 'Letters' section to find out if they have a word limit, then mail or email it in.
5. **Donate** at sierraclub.bc.ca/donate or host a concert and raise funds for Sierra Club BC to keep fighting.
6. **Get creative.** Art has a special power to make change. Make a 'Stop Site C' mug, paint a mural, or write a song. Do something we haven't thought of yet.