

Open Letter to Hon. Christy Clark, John Horgan & Andrew Weaver

May 18, 2017

Re: The Site C dam project in the Peace Valley:

Dear Hon. Christy Clark, John Horgan & Andrew Weaver

The two political parties that gained the majority of the popular vote made repeated and prominent commitments to either stop Site C dam outright or refer it to the independent BC Utilities Commission for further review. We hope that the Liberal party will, on consideration of these results, show greater willingness to listen to the concerns of British Columbians who have opposed the Site C dam.

We draw to your attention the imminent destruction of third generation family homes and First Nations' grave-sites in the Peace River Valley. Given the outcome of this election, the future of Site C dam is disputed by too many British Columbians for any kind of government to continue with the status quo. We believe it would be unjust to allow irreversible material and cultural destruction to proceed until the project has gone through the BC Utilities Commission hearings.

1. Two urgent and irreversible harms related to the Site C project's Highway 29 road realignment are imminent. We ask you to find ways to prevent these:
Multi-generational farm family homes like the Boons' and the Meeks' are slated for destruction as early as June 1st and the families are required to move in less than two weeks!
First Nations' grave sites, cultural sites and significant archaeological sites are at risk of destruction.
2. Awarding of any further major contracts by BC Hydro, including a \$2 Billion contract expected to be awarded by July 1, 2017, must be halted pending Election and BCUC decision making processes.

We understand the concern that stopping Site C would result in job losses initially. We assert that the question of job creation needs to be answered not project by project and not only in the context of Site C dam. There are better, less expensive, more diversified and more sustainable ways to create infrastructure and energy jobs than by destroying the Peace River Valley for power we do not need.

We believe an independent review of the Site C dam with full procedural safeguards done by a reinvigorated BC Utilities Commission will result in the dam project being shelved for good. We ask you to cooperate to make this question your first priority once BC's new government is established.

In the meantime please take whatever actions are necessary to halt the awarding of any further contracts and to stop the injustice of preventable and unnecessary harm to farm families and First Nations until such time as the larger questions are answered.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and we trust that you will honour the faith that British Columbians have placed in you.

Sincerely,

Amnesty International Canada
David Suzuki Foundation
KAIROS BC-Yukon
Wilderness Committee
Sierra Club BC
Keepers of the Water Society
Peace Valley
Alliance4Democracy
Peace Valley Land Association
Peace Valley Environment Association
West Moberly First Nations
Prophet River First Nation