

Black Out Speak Out ^[1]



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AVAILABILITY

Black Out Speak Out website ^[2]



^[3]

Excerpts from the campaign website:

Our land, water and climate are all threatened by the latest federal budget. Proposed changes in the budget bill will weaken environmental laws and silence the voices of those who seek to defend them.

SILENCE IS NOT AN OPTION.

Speak out today in defence of two core Canadian values: Nature and democracy.

...

Right now, Parliament is pushing through a bill to weaken many of the country's most important environmental protection measures and silence the voices of all Canadians who seek to defend nature. Today it's our voice; tomorrow it could be yours.

Here are the top five reasons to Speak Out:

1. Charities are being targeted. The government is adding \$8 million in new funding for the Canada Revenue Agency to audit charities like environmental groups in spite of the fact they have simply exercised their legal right to advocate for things like laws to fight global warming. This will have a chilling effect on democratic debate. What's more, under these new laws, citizen groups will likely be shut out of environmental reviews of big projects like oil pipelines. Key government agencies with expertise will also have less input. Well-funded backroom lobbyists and political operatives will have greater influence.
2. Canadians' participation in Parliament is being disrespected. Instead of following the established process for making sweeping changes, which allows for thorough public debate, these changes are being shoehorned into a massive budget law. This drastically reduces the amount of consultation on a whole variety of topics. These changes will have serious consequences for all Canadians and our voices are not being heard.
3. Nature is being put at serious risk. The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act is being replaced with a totally new law. Under it, Ottawa will play a much smaller role in protecting people from harmful projects, while retaining the right to basically rubber-stamp big projects that powerful oil interests want. And the new weaker rules are being applied to review processes that are already underway-so projects like the Enbridge Northern Gateway tankers and pipeline project could get an easier ride.
4. Too much power is in the hands of too few. The National Energy Board will no longer be able to say "no" to oil pipeline projects that are not in the public interest. Politicians in Cabinet will be able to overrule the expert energy regulator if powerful oil interests don't like its decision. Permits that allow the destruction of habitat for fish and threatened or endangered species will now be issued behind closed doors without public scrutiny, if they are required at all.
5. Trusted advisors to government that provide high-quality analysis for balanced policy are being ignored. The 2012 budget

eliminates the funding for the last remaining government advisory body - the National Roundtable on the Environment and Economy (NRTEE). The NRTEE provides analysis and advice on how to meet our international commitments to reducing greenhouse gas pollution. Many lakes, rivers and streams that provide habitat to fish will be at greater risk of destruction because of changes to the Fisheries Act contained within the budget implementation bill. Healthy fish habitat is important for fish and for the people and businesses that depend on them.

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In solidarity with the Black Out Speak Out movement, the Childcare Resource and Research Unit is calling on our leaders to speak out for nature and democracy.

Speak out by visiting the [Black Out Speak Out website](#) [2], signing the petition and joining the movement on your social media pages and websites.

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Source URL (modified on 27 Jan 2022): <https://childcarecanada.org/documents/research-policy-practice/12/06/black-out-speak-out>

Links

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