

# How to talk to your MP about changes to Canada's environmental protections

Right now, the Canadian government is trying to gut key federal environmental protections in order to fast-track large industrial projects.

A recent government discussion paper outlines proposed changes that would rollback decades of hard-won progress, consultation requirements and safeguards – safeguards that protect our communities and environment from bad projects seeking to line the pockets of wealthy corporate interests. They could affect any part of Canada, with the potential to damage or destroy whole ecosystems and contribute to the extinction of endangered species.

## The proposed changes include:

- Pre-approval of large, industrial projects before consultation with the public and Indigenous Rights Holders.
- Federal impact assessment of only certain projects, leaving out many types of large projects the federal government usually assesses.
- The creation of “economic zones” that would exempt corporations from following environmental laws in the name of “development.”
- Allowing Ministers to “adjust” the conditions associated with approval for a large industrial project.
- The Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Nature would no longer have the final decision about whether a project has significance adverse effects for nature.
- Allowing Cabinet to override aspects of Canada's Species at Risk Act, meaning a project could be approved even if it would destroy critical habitat of an endangered species.

**But we can still stop this!**



# What can you do to stop these proposed changes?

**The Carney government has already delayed the proposed legislation following widespread public backlash. We have their attention, so now we need to keep the pressure up!**

It's critical that MPs hear from constituents on this issue while they're at home in their ridings over the summer. We've prepared example questions to help you speak to your MP on the summer barbecue and event circuit in your community. These can help let your MP know their constituents have concerns about the proposed risky changes, and that you want them to send that message to Ottawa.

These are just examples. What's most important is that MPs know their constituents have concerns about these risky changes.

**Canada is at a crossroads. We need to stop the gutting of our environmental regulations – for the sake of our communities, our environment and our democracy.**

**Let's be clear:** if a project can't be built without ignoring the laws that protect our communities and environment, then it shouldn't be built in the first place!



### Example question for your MP:

*"I heard about the proposed rollbacks on environmental regulations – are you planning to let this happen? / what are you doing to make sure that nature is protected?"*

### Example two:

*"I'm very concerned about the direction the Canadian government is taking on major projects – why do you feel it is okay to roll back some of our best environmental protections?"*

### Example of a good response from your MP:

*"Yes, I'm glad you raised that. We want to see that projects can be developed in a timely fashion, but not at the expense of environmental protection. I will make sure the Prime Minister and Cabinet know my constituents are concerned and I will work to make sure any proposed changes don't throw out decades of progress."*

**Note:** the most important part is that they agree to bring your concerns to the Prime Minister and Cabinet. Our leaders need to know their constituents have concerns and act on those concerns in a meaningful way.

### Example of a red flag response:

*"Our mandate is to build Canada, and the environmental review and regulation system has been slowing resource development projects down. We need to put the economy first."*

**Note:** if your MP hand-waves your concerns and hides behind an "economy first" stance without meaningfully answering how they plan to fight risky, short-sighted changes to consultation processes and environmental protections, this is a red flag! We can build our economy thoughtfully with care for our health, environment, water and democracy!

