



EnCana to Appear in Court for the Tenth Time on Charges of *Canada Wildlife Act* Violation in Suffield National Wildlife Area

Calgary (April 20, 2009) – Four years ago, in March 2005, EnCana installed a section of pipeline in the CFB Suffield National Wildlife Area without a permit. After numerous adjournments and a plea of not guilty of charges of violating Canada's *Wildlife Act*, a preliminary hearing is set for April 21-24, 2009 in Medicine Hat.

It is expected that this hearing will determine whether EnCana goes to trial for these charges. If it does, the trial will apparently be held at the Court of Queen's Bench in Calgary, but probably not until year end or even next year.

Much has happened since EnCana's first court appearance on this charge on December 6, 2007. The environmental assessment of EnCana's proposal to drill within Suffield National Wildlife Area has long wrapped up, the Joint Review Panel has delivered its recommendations on the project and the Government of Canada is a few months into preparing its response to the Panel's report.

"The Suffield Coalition is following this trial and EnCana's proposed project closely," says Carla Sbert from Nature Canada. "We are concerned about the effective protection of the Suffield NWA and its wild species, and we are also very interested in the overall enforcement of the *Canada Wildlife Act*."

For more information:

Dawn Dickinson, Grasslands Naturalists: 403-526- 6443, dmdickinson@shaw.ca

Sandra Foss, Past President, Federation of Alberta Naturalists: 403-932-2947, sefoss@telus.net

Carla Sbert, Nature Canada: 1-800-267-4088, ext. 222 csbert@naturecanada.ca

The Suffield Coalition comprises seven groups: Alberta Wilderness Association, Federation of Alberta Naturalists, World Wildlife Fund Canada, Nature Saskatchewan, Southern Alberta Group for the Environment, Grasslands Naturalists, and Nature Canada.