

April 3, 2013

Diana McQueen
Minister of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development
Government of Alberta

Dear Minister McQueen,

As representatives of environmental, First Nation, labour and landowner groups we are very concerned about the startling details released late last week regarding the 2011 3-day Suncor toxic release into the Athabasca river and the continued lack of information regarding the March 25, 2013 pipe burst that also went into the Athabasca.

Premier Redford has continued to assert her government's transparency but we continue to see instances where the public cannot even get simple answers. These latest two shocking incidents are only the latest example of this government's lack of transparency.

Related to the 2011 Suncor toxic release into the Athabasca we ask that you immediately publicly release answers to the following:

- Why is information on this 2011 spill only being made public now?
- Will the deadline for filing a private prosecution be extended, given that the delay in releasing information has caused the normal filing period to expire?
- When did the company first report the event?
- What chemicals went into the river?
- What chemicals are in the pond now?
- Why were charges never laid against Suncor?
- What percentage of tar sands company exceedances & releases are prosecuted?
- How many other incidents or releases are there?

Related to the March 25, 2013 Suncor pipe rupture and release into the Athabasca river we want you to immediately and publicly release answers to the following:

- Who initially reported the rupture (company representative, public citizen etc.)?
- When did they discover it?
- What happened in the 7.75 hours after the rupture occurred and before the Government of Alberta was notified?
- What specific chemicals were in the pipeline?
- How close was the rupture epicenter to the Athabasca River?
- When will **all** pictures of the event be released?

Finally, we need the long awaited independent monitoring system instituted as soon as possible. A growing number of Albertans don't trust the government or the tar sands industry to give them factual information, thus an independent monitoring system is key to restoring trust.

In the future we also hope that rather than the public forcing the release of such information that it will instead be forthcoming from the government that the people of Alberta elected. Each time there is an exceedance or incident the public should be notified in a very clear way and should have basic details of the event and be able to see pictures of the event.

This public transparency needs to become the norm in Alberta rather than the rarity it currently is.

Sincerely,

1. Alberta Union of Provincial Employees
2. Alberta Surface Rights Group
3. Alberta Wilderness Association
4. Canada's Citizens Climate Lobby
5. Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment
6. Canadian Voice of Women for Peace
7. Canadian Youth Climate Coalition
8. Catch the Keys
9. CAUS-C
10. Central Athabasca Stewardship Society
11. Change Alberta
12. Clearwater Foundation
13. Climate Action Network
14. Climate Fast
15. Council of Canadians
16. David Suzuki Foundation
17. Environmental Defence
18. Forest Ethics Advocacy
19. 4RG (For Our Grandchildren)
20. Georgian Triangle Association
21. Global Community Monitor
22. Global Exchange
23. Green 13
24. Greenpeace Canada
25. Hungry for Climate Leadership
26. Indigenous Environmental Network
27. Indigenous Tar Sands Campaign
28. Keepers of the Athabasca
29. L'Association québécoise de lutte contre la pollution atmosphérique
30. Living Oceans Society
31. Natural Resources Defense Council
32. Onoway River Valley Conservation Association
33. Pipe Up Network

34. Polaris Institute
35. Public Interest Alberta
36. RAVEN
37. Sierra Club of Canada
38. Sierra Club B.C.
39. Sierra Club Prairie Chapter
40. Society of High Prairie Regional Environmental Action Committee
41. Springvale Surface Rights Association
42. United Landowners of Alberta
43. West Coast Environmental Law
44. Windfall Ecology Centre

cc: Steve Williams, president and chief executive officer, Suncor Energy