

# envirolawsmatter

From coast to coast to coast, Canadians depend on the environment for our water, air, livelihoods and ways of life.

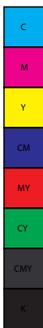
But from climate change to the oil sands, pipelines to fish farms, we are facing threats to the environment and democracy like never before.

The government has weakened environmental laws at industry's request, putting Canadians and the environment at risk.

How do you fight a hundred battles at once?

How do you stand up for nature, your community and your right to be heard?

**You change the rules of the game.**



# Industry asked.

# The government gave.



The federal government has systematically shredded Canada's environmental laws at industry's request. Petroleum and mining groups asked for a regulatory "overhaul," complaining that environmental "red tape" was getting in the way of profits.

In response, in 2012 the government rammed through the so-called "budget" Bills C-38 and C-45, repealing or amending Canada's oldest and most important environmental laws, making it easier for companies to push through risky projects that threaten peoples' health and the environment.

## KEY CHANGES



- Replacing the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act with the weaker CEAA 2012, which scrapped over 3,000 environmental reviews, limits what gets considered in assessments and restricts the public's right to participate.
- Gutting the Fisheries Act by weakening fish habitat protection, removing protection over some fish species and broadening government's powers to allow harm to fish and fish habitat.
- Handing environmental oversight of major energy and pipeline projects the National Energy Board.
- Changing the Navigable Waters Protection Act to the Navigation Protection Act, lifting legal protection of over 99% of Canada's lakes and rivers.

- Repealing the Kyoto Protocol Implementation Act, Canada's only law requiring mandatory greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets.
- Amending the Species at Risk Act by removing mandatory time limits on permits allowing impacts to threatened and endangered species.

### Since Bills C-38 and C-45, government has:

- Tabled regulations to allow fish farms to dump aquatic drugs and pesticides into wild fish habitat without needing permits.
- Weakened environmental protection and public oversight of projects on federal port lands under the Canada Marine Act.

## We need your help.

The rollbacks put Canadians' health, their environment, their livelihoods and their communities at risk.

**Visit [www.envirolawsmatter.ca](http://www.envirolawsmatter.ca) to learn more.**

# What you can do



Across Canada, groups are going door-to-door, raising Canadians' awareness of issues like climate change, oil tankers, pipelines and the erosion of democracy.

What do these issues have in common? Scratch the surface and you see weakened environmental laws that make it easier to ram through risky projects and shut science and local voices out of environmental reviews.

We strong federal environmental laws that stop problems before they start.

## We need laws that

- Require fair and transparent processes
- Ensure decisions are based on sound science, traditional and local knowledge, and communities' concerns
- Safeguard Canada's wild spaces and all its waterways
- Protect all fish and wildlife species and their habitats
- Ensure a climate-safe future for our future generations
- Preserve Canadians' health and livelihoods
- Base decisions on sustainable futures, not the short-term gains of a few companies

We need a just and sustainable Canada.  
**This election, vote for nature and democracy.**

Visit [www.envirolawsmatter.ca](http://www.envirolawsmatter.ca) to get involved.



# Environmental laws matter.

The federal environmental law rollbacks affect you and your community. West Coast Environmental Law can help you learn how.

Since 2012, we have closely monitored and analyzed the ongoing systemic weakening of federal environmental laws and what those changes mean for communities. We provide legal education and resources to help Canadians better understand the underlying causes of environmental threats.

**Battling a pipeline proposal?**

**Concerned about muzzling of science and citizen voices?**

**Want a climate-safe future for your children's children?**

## We are here to help.

## What we do

- Give talks and presentations to groups of all sizes
- Provide custom analysis and literature on federal environmental legal issues
- Conduct telephone town halls
- Provide resources and tools to help groups call for a stronger federal environmental safety net to stop problems before they start.

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A project of  
**WEST COAST ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION**