

Human Rights in Manitoba and the Line 3 Pipeline

What You Need to Know



There are numerous oil and gas pipelines running through southern Manitoba. A corridor running from the Saskatchewan border into the US has seven pipelines that are all owned by oil and gas corporation Enbridge. One of these is **Enbridge's Line 3**, a 1,660km crude oil pipeline from Alberta to the USA. **This line has deteriorated significantly and Enbridge is now proposing to replace the pipeline, while nearly doubling its capacity to 760,000 barrels per day, and to leave the existing, decaying pipe in the ground.** In Manitoba, Line 3 would pass many ecosystems, lakes and rivers, including the Assiniboine, as well as through more than ten communities and First Nations reserves.

*What **rights** do you have as a citizen, a Canadian, and a Manitoban against the potential environmental and personal damage from the Line 3 pipeline?*

You do have some **very significant legal rights to protect** your community, waterways and ecosystems. While there is still a long way to go to enshrine the right to a healthy environment for all Canadians within our Constitution, we do have **international, national, and provincial laws** that protect us from the potential environmental and personal damage of pipeline development. With this important knowledge of our shared rights, you can equip yourself to fight for your community's right to a healthy environment and call for greater action to protect future generations.

This project occurs on Treaty 1 and 2 territory, and as Canadian citizens it is our duty to honour and respect the rights of Indigenous people. Please read more in our *Indigenous Environmental Rights in Manitoba* document.

International Human Rights and the Environment

- **United Nations Declaration on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights:** Canada signed in 1976, including right to "*the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health*", meaning governments must ensure **access to clean water for all**. With a growing number of pipeline spills, this internationally enshrined right may be jeopardized with spills seeping into the many lakes and rivers in Line 3's path.
- Canada has signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, meaning we are **internationally obligated to report on greenhouse gas emissions reduction**. Continual reliance on fossil fuels will only deepen our greenhouse gas emissions, and as a citizen, you have the right to ensure that Canada is meeting its international obligations to combating climate change

National Right to a Healthy Environment

- **Charter of Rights and Freedoms: Guarantees every person's right to life, liberty and security of the person under Section 7.** Oil spills and pipeline breaches could be some of the many damaging ways that Line 3 could impact your right to life and your security. The risk of a spill of crude oil from the line threatens the integrity of our ecosystems and the health of our communities.
- The **Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA):** passed in 1993, CEPA prevents harmful pollution and negative environmental and human impacts from projects like Line 3

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- While **there is individual protection against harmful projects**, our Constitution does not explicitly state our right to a healthy environment. *A constitutionally enshrined right to a healthy environment would strengthen environmental laws and ensure the safety and protection of you, your community, and our ecosystems*

Provincial Environmental Protection

There is **Manitoba legislation** that may serve to help fight destructive environmental projects:

- *Climate Change & Emissions Reduction Act*: says reducing emissions essential for human health
- *Water Protection Act*: protect and care for Manitoba's water resources since they are essential to life
- *Endangered Species and Ecosystems Act*: protect threatened species & ecosystems to help them recover
- *The Environment Act*: management system to protect environment for this and future generations
- *Contaminated Sites Remediation Act*: risky & closed sites should be restored to useful purposes

While these acts give Manitobans rights to protect against destructive development, we would *benefit from a provincial environmental bill of rights* to protect an individual's right to basic elements needed for survival such as clean air, water, and land. **Municipal bans and declarations** have passed, and successfully stood up in court, that stand against pollution and projects that pose a threat to the environment.

Act now – Assert your rights against Line 3

Equipped with the knowledge of the rights we have for a healthy environment internationally, nationally, and provincially, our communities can stand up to big projects like Line 3.

- Write a letter to your elected officials - local councillors, MLAs, and MPs
- Educate your neighbours on how pipelines infringe their rights
- Challenge your municipality to stand up to Line 3

You have the rights, now use them!

To get involved with the campaign against Line 3:

Email: info@mbenergyjustice.org

Visit www.mbenergyjustice.org or www.facebook.com/mbenergyjustice

Thanks to Manitoba Association for Rights and Liberties for research and writing.
To get involved with human rights education: email connect@marl.mb.ca or visit marl.mb.ca

