

News Release

Lawsuit says Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain Pipeline approval appears corrupted by \$750,000 in donations to B.C. Liberal Party

Kinder Morgan and oil companies who plan to ship bitumen through the proposed Trans Mountain Pipeline donated more than \$750,000 to the B.C. Liberals in the past five years, putting Premier Clark and her Cabinet in a conflict of interest that prohibited them from making the pipeline approval decision

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Tuesday, January 31, 2017

OTTAWA - Today, Democracy Watch and the PIPE UP Network applied to the B.C. Supreme Court for an order quashing the approval of the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain pipeline approval on the basis that more than \$750,000 in donations to the B.C. Liberal Party by Kinder Morgan and pipeline-connected companies created an apparent conflict of interest that prohibited Premier Christy Clark, Environment Minister Mary Polak and Natural Gas Development Minister Rich Coleman from deciding the pipeline approval.

Democracy Watch and PIPE UP also contend that the apparent conflict of interest was compounded by the fact that Premier Clark benefited personally from the donations as she received a \$50,000 salary each year from the party, a total salary of \$300,000, during the same years the donations were made. The conflict of interest was also created because Premier Clark and Cabinet ministers participated in obtaining some of the donations at high-priced, secretive "cash-for-access" fundraising events.

"The Premier may have recently stopped receiving her \$50,000 salary each year from the B.C. Liberal Party but that does nothing to erase the conflicts of interest and appearance of bias created by her receiving more than \$300,000 in salary from the party during the same years Kinder Morgan and pipeline-connected companies donated more than \$750,000 to the party," said Duff Conacher, Co-founder of Democracy Watch.

Lynn Perrin, a Director of the PIPE UP Network, stated *"The fate of the Trans Mountain pipeline, which puts our oceans and rivers at extreme risk, should be decided by people who do not have their hands in the pockets of Kinder Morgan and pipeline-connected companies."*

A copy of the lawsuit application and supporting affidavits can be seen [here](#).

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