

Onni Milne Canada Email address : onnivcn@vcn.bc.ca

I am no longer proud to say that I am Canadian. Stephen Harper's continuing repressive legislation has turned Canada into a pariah state instead of a leader among nations.

Instead of maintaining high environmental standards, as per NAAEC obligations, Harper's legislation gutted environmental standards by:

- eliminating thousands of environmental assessments and shutting the public out of environmental assessments,
- gutting Canada's Fisheries Act,
- repealing Canada's only law addressing greenhouse gas emissions,
- removing legal protection for the lakes and rivers,
- defunding and politicizing environmental science in Canada. Scientists ARE NOT ALLOWED TO SPEAK WITHOUT PRIOR PMO CLEARANCE.

The Canadian government needs to hear from you that bringing its changes to the Fisheries Act and the Navigable Waters Protection Act into law is a violation of NAAEC.

I am asking NAAEC to guarantee public involvement in major changes to environmental laws. The Harper government currently is making it difficult for citizens to participate in environmental reviews. Everyone must now fill out a nine page form to be evaluated and approved. Only those directly affected by a project will be allowed to speak. No longer are we citizens who are responsible for ensuring effective government. We are being turned into consumers who have to accept what the government gives us, no matter the cost or consequences. Who will call this "democracy".

With hope in my heart, I am asking NAAEC to give the Canadian public recourse when environmental standards are weakened to favor industry or gain a trade advantage. With hope in my heart, I am asking NAAEC to ensure that Canadian governments which fail to live up to commitments made in NAAEC will be held to account for their lack of effective governance.