

# Why B.C. needs to move *Beyond Gas*

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**Fracking for gas is B.C.'s biggest climate problem.** It's poisoning air, land and water in the northeast, and fuelling violence towards Indigenous people. And if you cook with gas, it could be making you sick. **B.C. needs to go beyond gas.**

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## **B.C.'s biggest climate bomb**

Gas is not a clean alternative: it's a super-polluting fossil fuel and we need to keep it in the ground. **Gas is made up mainly of methane, an extra-potent greenhouse gas that's 86 times worse for the climate than carbon dioxide.** If the B.C. government's plan to massively expand fracking and LNG exports goes ahead – propped up by billions of dollars a year in taxpayer subsidies – this one industry alone will blow any chance of meeting B.C.'s climate targets. We'll be condemning communities here and around the world to deadly floods, fires and heat waves.



## **Poisoning water, land and air**

The massive fracking operations in B.C.'s northeast have converted forests and farmlands to a **scarred landscape five times larger than the Alberta tar sands.** Toxic gas flares burn right next to people's homes. Vast quantities of freshwater, our most precious natural resource, are poisoned forever each year. Cattle graze beside open ponds full of radioactive wastewater. High-pressure blasting triggers thousands of earthquakes a year. And higher rates of rare cancers and birth defects are found in nearby communities. **As citizens, we cannot allow the devastation caused by fracking to stay 'out of sight, out of mind.'**



## **The Gas We Breathe**

Six in 10 B.C. households use gas for cooking, heating or hot water, 90 per cent of which is fracked. **Emissions from burning gas in buildings accounts for more than half the total climate pollution in our cities.** And mounting evidence shows that gas appliances cause dangerous levels of indoor air pollution. Even when not turned on, gas stoves leak toxic gas. Health Canada warns users to cook only on the back burners, since most gas stoves exceed safety standards for nitrogen dioxide exposure. With B.C.'s abundant supply of zero-emissions electricity, **one of the best things we can do for the climate and our own health is to work together to get our buildings off gas, fast.**

*Work with us and meet new, like-minded friends!*

Check the 'Volunteer' box on our signup sheet, or talk to the volunteer who gave you this.

**Join the fight to move B.C. beyond gas! [www.dogwoodbc.ca](http://www.dogwoodbc.ca)**

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# B.C. Beyond Gas is 100% possible.

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## Violating Indigenous rights

By destroying land and water, fracking undermines the ability of local First Nations to hunt and fish. **The B.C. Supreme Court has determined that these irreversible impacts are a violation of Treaty 8.** The Coastal GasLink pipeline, designed to feed fracked gas to LNG terminals on the coast for export, crosses the unceded territories of Indigenous people who have never given their consent. Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs and their supporters have faced **criminalization and violence for defending their territory from pipeline construction** – despite Canadian courts affirming they are the rightful title-holders to the land.



## What about jobs?

Oil and gas companies want us to believe they bring wealth to our province. In reality, **the industry creates less than one per cent of jobs in B.C. – and they get five times more in taxpayer subsidies than they pay back** to the province in royalties. Instead of funneling money to wealthy, out-of-province fracking companies, we should be investing in clean industries and worker training programs – for jobs that won't disappear, or condemn resource-dependent communities to a bleak future, as the world transitions away from oil and gas.



## Powering our province

B.C. has enough clean energy potential to accommodate a rapid transition off so-called 'natural' gas. **We have plenty of other strong industries that can drive our provincial economy, and are already doing so.** Northern and Indigenous communities have no shortage of proposals for local economic development that doesn't rely on the oil and gas industry.

A B.C. beyond gas is 100% possible. But oil and gas companies wield enormous power in B.C. politics. Their lobbyists meet with provincial officials multiple times a day. **The only way to take on this industry is by harnessing the power of everyday people, and acting together in a way that makes us stronger than the sum of our parts.** We do that by talking to our friends and neighbours. By working in solidarity with new allies. By connecting climate problems and solutions to the things that matter in people's everyday lives.



## Join the fight to move B.C. beyond gas!

We have a plan, we have strong allies, *all we need is you!* What will it look like to volunteer? You'll work shoulder-to-shoulder with other people committed to safeguarding our planet for future generations and building a fairer, healthier province that works for all of us, not just a powerful few. There are different roles to be filled, and regular trainings to ensure you have all the information you need.

Take the plunge. Work with us and meet new, like-minded friends! Check the 'Volunteer' box on our signup sheet, or talk to the volunteer who gave you this handout.

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