

NORWEGIAN GRANDPARENTS APOLOGIZE TO CANADIANS FOR NORWAY'S STATE -OWNED OILCOMPANY'S TAR SAND PROJECT IN CANADA

On April 6th, Alberta's largest daily newspaper, Edmonton Journal, will carry this message from the Norwegian Grandparents' Climate Action to the citizens of Canada:

NORWEGIAN GRANDPARENTS PROTEST STATOIL'S TAR SANDS PROJECT IN ALBERTA

We, a network of concerned grandparents in Norway, want Canadian citizens to know that the environmental movement in Norway is unanimous in its condemnation of the ongoing tar sands extraction in Alberta.

The project plans will have a devastating impact on wildlife, water and boreal forests as well as on indigenous communities. Not least do we deplore the effects that the production methods will have on the global climate – methods that are many times more carbon-intensive than those used in production of conventional oil, thus increasingly jeopardizing a sustainable future for today's young people. It is still feasible to stabilize the climate, but only if we leave the tar sands in the ground.

As Norwegian citizens, we deeply regret that Norway's 67% state-owned company, Statoil, is part of this dirty and dangerous project. The Norwegian environmental movement has therefore demanded that the Parliament and Government must instruct Statoil to withdraw from the tar sands exploitation in Alberta, a demand that is being supported by a growing number of political parties, organizations and citizens.

We, the Grandparents' Climate Action of Norway, will stand firmly on these demands and have adopted this position because it is inseparable from the struggle for our common future and the prosperity and safety of our grandchildren.

The Grandparents' Climate Action (Besteforeldreksjonen), being a network of ca. 2000 concerned elders, represents a broad spectrum of the Norwegian society, such as former members of Parliament as well as former Cabinet ministers, bishops, scientists, authors and judges.

Our advert in the Edmonton Journal, underlining that the environmental movement of Norway is unanimous in its condemnation of the ongoing tar sands extraction in Alberta, will appear on the same day as the first court session of the environmental case between Statoil and the state of Alberta.

Thus April the 6th seems like an appropriate day for Norwegian citizens to express our deep regrets for Statoil's part in the dirtiest form of oil extraction in the world, the tar sand oil business. As citizens, we feel co-responsible for the destruction of environment and climate caused by our state-owned oil company in Alberta.

"It is still feasible to stabilize climate, but only if we leave the tar sands in the ground (...) If we extract and use the tar sands, there can be no sustainable future for young people." Dr. James E. Hansen, letter to Norwegian prime minister Jens Stoltenberg (May 19th 2010).

Thanks to the generous response from our network of concerned grandparents, the advert was soon made possible. The overwhelming response also serves to confirm that responsible Norwegian citizens will not be silent witnesses to crimes against the future of all our grandchildren.

The Grandparents' Climate Action (GCA) is associated to the Norwegian environmental organization *Framtiden i våre hender (Future In Our Hands)*. www.besteforeldreksjonen.no