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Forest Ethics funded to stop the Northern Gateway pipeline

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Date: February 01, 2012 5:42:27 PM

[Oak Forest Ethics Tar Sand...jpg \(937 KB\)](#)

Mr. McMillan,

As I mentioned earlier today, I have been asked to testify next week to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Natural Resources. In preparation for that, I have several questions that I would like to ask about the programs that Tides Canada is funding.

Last year, Tides Canada's vice-president of business development, Sarah Goodman, was quoted by Business in Vancouver as saying that Tides Canada has "taken no stand for or against the oilsands." As I pointed out at the time, this doesn't ring true for me in light of the [20 projects and organizations](#) that Tides Canada has funded, and that have clearly taken a stand against the Enbridge pipeline and the development of the Alberta oilsands.

According to my analysis and calculations, Tides Canada has granted at least \$7 million to 20 organizations and campaigns that are not supportive of the development of the Alberta oilsands nor of the Northern Gateway pipeline project. For that analysis, click [here](#). That's not including grants made in 2001 or 2011.

One of the groups that appears to me to be clearly against the development of the Canadian oilsands is Forest Ethics. Yesterday, in an [op-ed in The Tyee](#), you identified Forest Ethics Canada as "a project of Tides Canada." U.S. tax returns show that in 2009 alone, Tides Canada Foundation paid \$783,603 to Forest Ethics Canada for "capacity building." On top of that, Tides Canada also granted \$848,966 for the Rainforest Solutions project of which Forest Ethics is a member.

According to its web-site, in 2010 the Oak Foundation granted \$US 299,879 to Forest Ethics "to minimize Tar Sands impacts by 1) creating a perception of economic risk, whereby Tar Sands imports became less attractive to US corporations and, the Canadian government questions its unbridled support for expanded and unregulated development; 2) placing a hard cap on Tar Sands emissions to slow expansion and clean up operations; and 3) addressing the environmental impacts of Tar Sands to limit toxic pollution of water and air and respect Aboriginal Treaty Rights.

As shown below, the Oak Foundation specified, "Forest Ethics will work with at least 10 Fortune 500 companies to publicly disavow Tar Sands fuel and to purchase fuel from less polluting sources; work with at least one of these companies to exert influence within the US Government to support regulations that will disadvantage Tar Sands fuel; and stop Enbridge's proposed Northern Gateway pipeline which would carry Tar Sand oil from Alberta through BC's pristine wilderness to an oil tanker port on the coast for shipment to Asia."

The country specified in the Oak Foundation's grant is the United States yet it specifically mentions influencing the Canadian government and Aboriginal Treaty rights, which presumably, are in Canada.

In light of the above, I would like to ask:

- 1) Is it still the case that Tides Canada says that Tides Canada takes no stand for or against the oilsands, as your spokesperson told Business in Vancouver, last year?
- 2) Did any of the \$299,879 that Forest Ethics was granted by the Oak Foundation get used by Forest Ethics Canada, which you have identified as a project of Tides Canada? If so, how was this money used?
- 3) The [Tyee acknowledges funding from Tides Canada](#). How much money has Tides Canada granted to The Tyee, both directly and indirectly? Does Tides Canada fund The Tyee through its Media Democracy Project, the one for which information is [no longer on-line](#)?

As before, I'll post this at my blog: www.fair-questions.com. And as before, you or your staff can reach me at 604.618.8110.

Sincerely,
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Oak Foundation commits its resources to address issues of global social and environmental concern

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Tar Sands Campaign

Organisation: ForestEthics **Website:** www.forestethics.org **Amount:** USD 299,879

Purpose:

To minimise Tar Sands impacts by 1) creating a perception of economic risk, whereby Tar Sands imports become less attractive to US corporations and, the Canadian government questions its unbridled support for expanded and unregulated development; 2) placing a hard cap on Tar Sands emissions to slow expansion and clean up operations; and 3) addressing the environmental impacts of Tar Sands to limit toxic pollution of water and air and respect Aboriginal Treaty Rights. ForestEthics will work with at least 10 Fortune 500 companies to publicly disavow Tar Sands fuel and to purchase fuel from less polluting sources; work with at least one of these companies to exert influence within the US Government to support regulations that will disadvantage Tar Sands fuel; and stop Enbridge's proposed Northern Gateway pipeline which would carry Tar Sands oil from Alberta through BC's pristine wilderness to an oil tanker port on the coast for shipment to Asia.

Programme: Environment **Sub-programme:** Climate Change North America **Country:** United States

Year Awarded: 2010 **Startdate:** 1-Aug-10 **Enddate:** 1-Aug-12 **Duration:** 24months