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Tides Canada grants to tackle the Alberta oil industry

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Mr. McMillan,

According to an article this week by Joel McKay, Tides Canada told Business in Vancouver that Tides Canada has taken "no stand for or against the oil sands." I find that statement difficult to reconcile with some of the information in Tides Canada's own U.S. tax returns, and the tax returns of the U.S. foundations that have paid Tides Canada nearly **\$57 million**, according to my calculations.

For example, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund Inc. (RBF Inc.) paid Tides Canada **\$50,000** for a web-site about "Oil Sands Tourism." According to RBF Inc., the project was "to increase pressure on Alberta policymakers to shift development plans onto a more sustainable track." Given that Tides Canada has taken money to pressure the Alberta policymakers it seems to me that Tides Canada has taken a stand.

In 2008, Tides Canada paid Environmental Defense **\$105,000** for the "Toxic Tar Sands Phase I Project." Through Tides Canada Initiatives Society, in 2009 Tides Canada spent **\$202,608** internally for its own "Tar Sands Research project and communications work on Alberta's Energy Footprint" and paid the Prairie chapter of the Sierra Club for its Tar Sands Campaign. Tides Canada paid **\$191,773** to Ducks Unlimited "to document the extent of polycyclic hydrocarbon being released from Alberta tar sands" and **\$200,000** for Ducks Unlimited's "Athabasca Watershed water quality research." I don't see how Tides Canada can have funded a "Toxic Tar Sands" project and a "Tar Sands campaign" by the Sierra Club and yet say that it hasn't taken a stand against the Alberta oil sands.

Last year, Tides Canada was paid **\$400,000** by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation "for efforts to reduce fossil fuel development." That grant was part of **\$12 million** that Hewlett has granted to tackle the oil and gas industry in Canada. One of the first of Hewlett's grants in this series was **\$70,000** paid to Tides Canada in 2004 "to develop a strategic plan to address the development of oil and gas in British Columbia."

The U.S. Tides Foundation (Tides USA) was paid **\$700,000** by the Oak Foundation "...to raise the visibility of the tar sands issue and slow the expansion of tar sands production by stopping new infrastructure development."

Tides USA was also paid **\$2 million** "to promote awareness of and opposition to tar sands," by the Sea Change Foundation.

Tides USA was paid by the Bullitt Foundation "to [mobilize urban voters for a federal ban](#) on coastal tankers."

While Tides USA and Tides Canada are legally distinct entities, the fact is that Tides USA has granted at least **\$4.4 Million** to Tides Canada, U.S. tax returns show. The founder and CEO of Tides USA for 34 years, and the "founding chair" of Tides Canada is the same person: Drummond Pike.

Tides USA paid the First Nations Turning Point Initiative **\$27,000** to hire a co-ordinator to engage with government, industry, environmental groups, media and the public regarding the proposed Enbridge Gateway tar sands pipeline." The Turning Point Initiative has vowed to oppose the Enbridge pipeline "with everything we have." In 2008, Tides Canada paid **\$27.3 Million** to the Coast Opportunity Endowment Fund Foundation, the sister organization of the Turning Point Initiative. As far as I can tell, most of that came from U.S. foundations.

In 2008, Tides Canada paid the West Coast Environmental Law Foundation for "[mobilizing First](#)

[Nations](#) against climate change in B.C.” Tides Canada also paid \$9,750 “in support of [indigenous](#) tar sands educational campaign” and paid the Dogwood Initiative [\\$40,654](#) in 2008 and [\\$46,639](#) in 2009.

If I have mentioned anything that is factually incorrect, or if I have missed any important points, please let me know.

Sincerely,
Vivian Krause
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