

CONSERVATIVES SHUT DOWN RENEWABLE ENERGY

“Mr. Todd Smith: What’s going on in Prince Edward county really has to stop. The government’s Environmental Review Tribunal has been revealed to be a kangaroo court. Government lawyers, rather than standing up for the interests of the community, regularly take the side of the power company. Community concerns have been disregarded or ignored, and recent documents reveal that the Ministry of the Environment believes that the appeals process is little more than a rubber stamp of the developer’s proposals.

This is all going on in order to develop a wind power project in what the Environmental Commissioner recognizes to be an internationally significant, important bird area. Internationally, only Spain and Bulgaria allow for such environmentally harmful development, while Great Britain and many other states have put such development off-limits. The Environmental Commissioner joins Nature Canada, the National Audubon Society, the Sierra Club and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds in calling for an end to this project.

The people of the county have had enough: enough of the kangaroo courts, enough of the fancy promises from an intellectually bankrupt government, enough of having their community torn up to install wind turbines that are anything but green, and enough of expensive power whose chief accomplishment is the closure of manufacturing facilities all over this province. I’m firmly behind Lisa Thompson’s Bill 39, the Ensuring Affordable Energy Act, and encourage the other parties to follow suit.”

https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/house-documents/parliament-40/session-2/2013-04-18/hansard#P623_158062

HARPER GOVERNMENT - ALBERTA OIL SANDS - CHINA - FIPA

“The Harper government concluded negotiations on the treaty in 2012, amid concerns surrounding human rights abuses in China.

FIPA was signed by Harper in Vladivostok, Russia in 2012.

On 18 January 2013, the Hupacasath First Nation of British Columbia filed a court application to stop the Harper administration from ratifying the Canada China FIPA until consultations with First Nations on potential impacts of the FIPA took place. First Nations were concerned about the FIPA’s Investor State Arbitration (ISA) clause.

While Canadian trade officials said in 2014 that FIPA was "unremarkable" and that it was a continuation of "Canada's past foreign investment promotion and protection practice, a 2014 Canadian Yearbook of International Law article described FIPPA as "novel" as it was "non-reciprocal in favour of China". The Yearbook article said that FIPPA provides a "general right of market access by Chinese investors to Canada but not by Canadian investors to China." China was given a "wider scope for investment screening" than Canada. The agreement did not include a "long-standing Canadian reservation for performance requirements that favour

Aboriginal peoples". It diluted "Canada's established position on transparency in investor-state arbitration". These and other textual aspects of the China FIPPA are highlighted in comparison to other trade and investment treaties, especially those to which Canada is a party, that provide for investor state arbitration.

Elizabeth May said that the FIPA posed a threat to Canadian sovereignty. May described the negotiations as "secretive". The terms of the agreement were not released until after the Harper government fell. Critics said that some of the terms were considered unfavourable to Canadian investors and citizens.

The Canada China FIPA has been in force since 1 October 2014.

By 2017, the Canada China FIPA remained unfamiliar to most Canadians, even investors, according to the Canada China Business Council Rotman Institute for International Business. The Rotman Institute said that the agreement provided considerable certainty for those investors who are familiar with it.

The CCPRPIA was mentioned by Elizabeth May in the second French leadership debate of the 2019 Canadian federal election on 10 October.”

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canada-China_Promotion_and_Reciprocal_Protection_of_Investments_Agreement

<https://www.greenparty.ca/en/content/stand-against-sellout-china-0>

PIERRE POILIEVRE - OIL SANDS STRONG

“When Progressive Conservative MP Pierre Poilievre wore an Oil Sands Strong hoodie while walking with his young daughter in his riding in Carleton, Ontario – and shared the photo to social media – he likely had no idea it would start a fire storm of controversy and spark the idea for a cross-country tour to showcase the positive impact of the oil and gas industry on the lives of Canadians.

The Carleton Federal Liberal Association publicly attacked Poilievre for wearing the hoodie, accusing him of climate change denial and racism. Oil Sands Strong founder Robbie Picard fought back, incensed by the accusation that supporting the oil sands industry, an integral part of the Canadian economy, is intrinsically linked to climate change denial and racism.

From this incident the concept of a cross-country bus tour was formed, one that would stop in Canadian cities to talk with everyday Canadians who are the direct and indirect beneficiaries of oil and gas development. Robbie will be at the helm of this tour, filming the very people who keep our country running, and bringing their stories with him to Ottawa – and to Carleton, the place where the incident that inspired this tour occurred.

Far from dividing Canadians further, Robbie intends this tour to provide an opportunity for Canadians to share their stories of how the oil and gas industry has fueled their lives, giving them opportunity, potential and prosperity. Rolling through Canada, the tour will bring Canadians

together under the banner of belief in an industry that both directly and indirectly increases quality of life for all residents of our country.

Coming soon to a town near you: the Oil Sands Strong tour is about to hit the road!"

<https://oilsandsstrong.com/tour/>

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA - CHINA

"Mr. Lu Congmin extended a very warm welcome to the Canadian delegation and opened the meeting by providing a positive scenario of the evolving relationship between Canada and China over the past thirty six years of diplomatic relations. Within this context, he praised the long history and accomplishments of the two parliamentary associations.

Parliamentarians raised a number of issues including Approved Destination Status (ADS) for Canada, the rule of law, human rights, the importation of Canadian beef, energy, the environment and bilateral relations between the two countries.

The Chinese reassured the Canadians that the issue of ADS for Canada was of importance to China. However, according to the Chinese side, the onus is on the Canadian Government to take the necessary steps to ensure the success of the negotiations.

Regarding the rule of law, the Chinese informed the Canadians that legal reform in China became a government priority in the 1990s. At that time, China enacted legislation designed to modernize and professionalize the nation's lawyers, judges and property and commercial laws. Individual human rights, commercial rights and property rights are now protected under the Chinese Constitution.

The environment, the delegation was told, has become a major preoccupation of the Chinese. The National People's Congress has enacted laws for environmental protection, which now form a basic national policy for China. China will optimize its industrial structure to reduce environmental degradation by decreasing coal dependency and increasing the use of clean air technology. With regard to energy, the Chinese noted that Chinese oil companies are investing in the Alberta Oil Sands.

On the question of the import of Canadian beef, the Chinese noted that negotiations are ongoing.

A substantive discussion followed on the subject of Canada-China bilateral relations. Although the Chinese noted that Canada was a long-time friend of China, they expressed concern over the apparent increase in "contradictions" between the two countries. The Chinese raised the numerous recent visits to Taiwan by Canadian parliamentarians, the granting of honorary Canadian citizenship to the Dalai Lama and the perceived tolerance of Canadian authorities towards Falun Gong demonstrators. **The Canadian parliamentarians reassured their Chinese counterparts that the Canadian government's policy was consistent with that of previous governments.** The Canadians stressed that the Canada-China Legislative

Association is the only association officially recognized by the Parliament of Canada to conduct bilateral exchanges with the National People's Congress and, as such, travel by Canadian parliamentarians on non-official activities are personal in nature and do not reflect Canadian policy.

Mr. Lu Congmin concluded the consultations by suggesting that the two associations clarify their respective functions and responsibilities, establish better mechanisms for substantive dialogue, promote the exchanges of parliamentary committees, draw lessons from each country's legislation and encourage participation of small-scale delegations of parliamentarians in exchanges and seminars. Mr. Lu offered the suggestions in the spirit of improving the relationship between the two countries. The Chairs of the two associations agreed to exchange letters to explore ways of enhancing their current relationship.

The Canadian Co-chairs formally extended an invitation to their Chinese counterparts to visit Canada in 2007 and suggested Eastern Canada as a possible venue for the visit.”

<https://www.parl.ca/diplomacy/en/publication?sbdid=cb334500-91cd-413e-8afb-254fd29e182a&sbpid=1&language=E&mode=1&sbpid=8d5d26d4-ab73-4716-8274-f453865e5730>

Brenda Everall

www.holisticusinternational.ca

April, 2024