

BILL C-45

A CANADIAN ISSUE!

The voices of Aboriginal people have been the loudest against the changes introduced with Bill C-45 however this is an issue that will impact all Canadians.

This omnibus bill contains approximately 90 pieces of legislation that:

- weaken Canada's environmental laws,
- remove critical safeguards, and
- reduce opportunities for the public to have their say about major industrial projects that could threaten the air, water, soil and natural ecosystems on which all Canadians depend on.

The long-term health and safety of ALL Canadians is in jeopardy!

If these major changes are not stopped now, the effects will ripple across communities everywhere - putting OUR water, air, food and quality of life at risk.

YOUR VOICE IS IMPORTANT!

Write letters, make phone calls and raise your concerns to your local MP, MLA, Federal and Provincial Ministers and/or Leaders.

For a template letter and list of people to contact visit:

<http://mikmaqrightrights.com/page.asp?ID=661>

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What does it mean for the Mi'kmaq and for ALL Canadians?

<i>Mi'kmaq</i>	<i>Canadians</i>
<i>Navigable Waters Protection Act</i>	
-Reduces the protection of our waterways	-Only 97 of the approx. 32,000 major lakes in Canada are left protected. -In NS, only the LaHave River, the Bras d'Or Lake and the GreatBras d'Or will be protected. -Places like: Lake Ainslie (where hydraulic fracturing is a risk) and the Margaree River (well known for Salmon fishing) are NO LONGER protected.
<i>Canadian Environmental Assessment Act</i>	
-Opportunities to examine and engage in the approval process for major developments are reduced. -May lead to conflict between proponents, governments and the Mi'kmaq.	-These changes remove the requirement for rigorous review of the potential impacts to our lands, and waters, putting the environment at risk from potentially harmful damages.
<i>Employment Insurance Act</i>	
-Mi'kmaq Fishers and other seasonal workers will no longer be able to go on EI in their off-season. -Work must be found within six weeks of finishing the season.	-Seasonal workers, such as those in tourism, fisheries and farming, will only have six weeks to look for a job in their field before they must take available work within an hour's commute that pays at least 70% of their previous salary.
<i>Fisheries Act</i>	
-Introduced a definition of "Aboriginal Fishery" that does not recognize a moderate livelihood fishery. -Inconsistent with the affirmed Treaty Right in the 1999 Marshall Decision.	-These changes go directly against Supreme Court rulings and the Canadian Constitution. -This will put stress on the relationship between the Federal Government, the Province and Aboriginal Peoples.
<i>Indian Act</i>	
-Reserve land designations and the process to lease reserve lands to third parties was changed to a "simple majority" voting.	-It unilaterally made changes to a decision making process. -This has set precedence for the Federal Government to be able to make legislative changes without input from Canadians.

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