



## PRESS RELEASE

**For immediate release:** October 12, 2023

**Press Conference Oct 14, 2pm - “Let's Talk about Fire and Trans Mountain “**

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Səlilwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh), Kwikwəłəm (Kwikwetlem), Skwxwú7mesh  
Úxwumixw (Squamish) and Xwməθkwəyəm (Musqueam) Nations (Vancouver, BC)

**TIME:** 2:00 pm Saturday, October 14th.

**PLACE:** Trans Mountain, Burnaby Mountain Terminal, 8099 Shellmont St, Burnaby

**EVENT:** Protect the Planet, Stop TMX (TransMountain Pipeline Expansion) and allies will hold a press conference with international media in attendance to talk about the significant and unaddressed fire risk from the expansion of the Trans Mountain Burnaby Mt. Terminal next to Simon Fraser University.

Many residents of BC are angry as unprecedented climate disasters mount and scientists are “gobsmacked” by the unexpected acceleration of climate change, while the government continues their reckless expansion of the Trans Mountain pipeline. The prospects of a large fire on Burnaby Mt. are a significant concern to Burnaby residents and Fire Chief Chris Bowcock.

Speakers will include Jim Leyden, Indigenous elder who recently won an appeal of a charge stemming from opposition to the project, earth-sciences professor John Clague, specialist in earthquake related fire risk on Burnaby Mountain, an SFU scientist working on respiratory health impacts of climate change, and members of the local community threatened by the facility.

Karl Perrin, long time resident on the mountain asks, “Who would expand a rickety, flammable 1952 oil tank farm on a slope, below a university, next to a hot, dry forest, and an elementary school? And who would cut corners to maximize the storage capacity with taller tanks too close together, so a fire could easily spread from one tank to the next? And who would fail to upgrade the 1952 tanks to modern seismic standards in an earthquake zone? Who? JUSTIN TRUDEAU!”

Fire conditions on heavily forested Burnaby Mt. are growing more dangerous with climate change, yet Trans Mountain will not comply with City of Burnaby fire bylaws. In his affidavit (22Dec21) Fire Chief Chris Bowcock explains, ““As a fire chief with extensive experience in the context of planning hydrocarbon storage facility firefighting response procedures and pre-plan development, it is my view that there are multiple potential tank fire scenarios within the terminals that would be unextinguishable due to lack of safe firefighting positions.”

“The smoke resulting from a fire could pose a large health risk to communities living both near and far from Burnaby Mt. Fires emit enormous amounts of hazardous air pollutants and exposure to smoke can trigger a wide range of respiratory and cardiovascular problems,” notes SFU health sciences assistant professor Stephanie Cleland. There are many unmitigated public health risks says physician-scientist Tim Takaro. “Trans Mountain has shown a reckless disregard for public health throughout the project, most recently in their Human Health Risk Report filed in May 2023. In response to the BC Environmental Assessment office’s demand for a more **realistic and thorough** response plan for a tanker spill in English Bay, Trans Mountain gave a response that was neither realistic nor thorough. The Trans Mountain contractor, Intrinsik missed its own deadline for review of their report and cut corners on air pollution modeling. They then put the onus on local Health Authorities to protect human health in the event of a spill, something neither Fraser Health nor Vancouver Coastal Health are prepared to do.”

Human health is not the only concern says Kaylee Byers, Senior wildlife scientist at SFU, “Wildfires have immediate and lasting health impacts on wildlife, even after

the fires have gone out. Just as for people, wildfire smoke can lead to respiratory and cardiovascular illness in animals. Wildfires also transform landscapes, displacing animals, reducing access to food and water, and impacting disease spread."

Organizers are demanding: mitigation of the fire risks outlined by Fire Chief Bowcock; a halt to construction until ALL public health risks are fully addressed; repurposing of the pipeline right of way to emission reduction projects e.g. high voltage direct current electric lines; and a serious Canadian climate plan, that addresses the urgency of today's climate emergency and instead of expansion, begins the phase out of tar sands production.

# # #

Protect the Planet is a coalition opposed to tar sands expansion and the Trans Mountain Expansion pipeline. For more information: [stopTMX.ca](http://stopTMX.ca) • [facebook.com/StopTMX](https://facebook.com/StopTMX) • [@PPSTMX1](https://twitter.com/PPSTMX1)

350 SFU is a branch of 350.org residing on Burnaby Mountain:  
<https://www.sfu350.com/>

BROKE is Burnaby Residents Opposing Kinder Morgan Expansion:  
<https://brokepipelinewatch.ca/home-2/>

Mountain Protectors is a collective of protectors monitoring Tran Mountain's construction activities: <https://www.facebook.com/mountainprotectors/>

Climate Convergence Metro Vancouver is a grassroots network of climate justice organizations: <https://www.climateconvergence.ca/>



Firefighters work to put out the fire of a storage oil tank at the port of Es Sider in Ras Lanuf, Libya in this Dec. 29, 2014 file photo. ABC News.