

Join the Wave Against the Pave!



MEDIA RELEASE

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Earth Day Occupation Aims to Stop Climate Crime

DELTA – Earth Day has become known as a day to quietly plant trees in parks. But this year concerned community members are planning to plant trees on a freeway construction site on the banks of the Fraser River. Some plan to pitch tents and occupy the site for at least two days to stop the freeway they call a ‘climate crime’.

“We will be planting trees on ‘Mother Earth Day’, but to demonstrate that we are fed up with battling asthma and cancers, we won’t be planting them in a park” explains PJ Lilley, a Surrey organizer with StopThePave.org. “As a mom with kids at a school near the highway ‘fall-out zone’, I want to see a stop to the insanity of paving over our last green spaces on the Fraser River just to bring more trucks and pollution to our communities. Christy Clark’s government is not putting ‘families first’, money must go to transit, schools and health care instead.”

The province is spending an estimated \$1.2 to 2 billion on the new South Fraser freeway and is planning to spend up to \$1 billion more on the North Fraser Perimeter Road through New Westminister. "TransLink has cut bus service to save a few million, meanwhile the province is spending billions on freeways which increase our dependency on cars and tar sands oil," explains Bob Ages of the Council of Canadians national board. “1950’s thinking won’t solve the problems of the 21st century.”

"We must stop spending public money on making the climate crisis worse, and shift the money to solutions like public transit and electric trains" says Eric Doherty with the Council of Canadians Vancouver / Burnaby Chapter. “It’s time for all concerned people to take a stand against these freeway projects that are cooking our planet.”

"Gateway's goal with the South Fraser Perimeter Highway is to triple truck traffic. What they don't tell you is that means triple the pollution, too," says North Delta resident, Richelle Giberson. "I live three doors up from where this freeway is slated to go. My windows get coated in black soot from the truck exhaust already; it scares me to think about what it could be like in a few years.”

This action is an initiative of local residents and climate justice activists from StopThePave.org, local Council of Canadians chapters, and the Critical Criminology Working Group at Kwantlen University, and is endorsed by the over 20 groups listed at www.StopThePave.org

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