

REACTION - Greenpeace welcomes the conservation funding in 2018 Federal Budget

27 February 2018 (Montreal) - In response to today's announcement on the Federal government's 2018 budget, Greenpeace Canada reacted on the environmental front:

"Today's budget promises the largest contribution in conservation that Canada has seen to date, and is a positive step forward. This investment will not only help us meet our domestic obligations to protect species at risk, such as caribou, it will also help Canada achieve its goal of 17% protected land by 2020. Moving forward, it will be important that these funds directly reaches provinces, territories and Indigenous communities already working on conservation measures on the ground," said Olivier Kolmel, Forest Campaigner with Greenpeace Canada.

On the climate front, Mike Hudema, Climate & Energy Campaigner with Greenpeace Canada, said:

"It's worrisome that the government is not proposing new significant measures to break our fossil fuel addiction and speed the transition to green jobs and a renewable energy economy. Lack of action on climate change is particularly concerning knowing the government's own data shows the gap between the governments Paris climate commitments and our greenhouse gas emissions continue to widen."

The Green Budget Coalition, a collective of 19 environmental organizations, has calculated the need to invest \$1.4 billion over three years in protected areas. The Federal budget shows a \$1.3 billion investment over 5 years. Delivering greater protections for woodland caribou will help Canada meet its domestic obligations under the Species at Risk Act, while protected areas can help meet international commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity to protect 17 percent of its lands and inland waters by 2020. Taking these steps in partnership with Indigenous Peoples furthermore offers Canada an important opportunity to respect its obligations under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

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