

Offshore Oil and Gas Too Risky: British Columbians Send A Clear Message

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Seventy five percent of coastal residents support maintaining the moratorium on offshore oil and gas development in British Columbia. Those are the findings released today by the Public Review Panel commissioned by the federal government. According to the report, the need for “alternative and sustainable energy sources were mentioned more frequently than any other single issue.”

The report on the views of Coastal First Nations, also released today, expressed unanimous opposition to lifting the moratorium.

“The Public Review panel accurately reflected the views of coastal residents who are overwhelmingly in favour of protecting this coast, the fisheries, and the wildlife,” said Jennifer Lash, Executive Director of Living Oceans Society, a conservation organization based on the central coast of BC. “Mr. Martin must now live up to this mandate and maintain the moratorium on offshore oil and gas development.”

“Offshore oil and gas is obviously not an option supported by the majority of British Columbians, it is time for governments to stop spending taxpayers money on dinosaur industries and begin to look at sustainable options that will help our communities without threatening the industries that we already depend on,” says Oonagh O’Connor, Offshore oil and gas, Campaign Coordinator for Living Oceans Society.

Living Oceans Society would also like to see the provincial government stop spending taxpayers dollars on an industry that coastal resident don’t want. “Premier Campbell has already planned to spend over 20 million dollars on pro oil lobby groups and other tactics to try and lift the moratorium,” says O’Connor. “Campbell should be investing taxpayers money in sustainable economic development that the communities want, not forcing them to deal with oil rigs in their front yards.”

The Oil Free Coast Alliance represents over 100 conservation groups, First Nations, commercial fishermen, and tourism operators committed to maintaining the moratorium on offshore oil and gas.

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