

CANADA

# INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN THE PEACE RIVER VALLEY

WRITE FOR RIGHTS

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL 

## Dam threatens way of life

A century ago Helen Knott's great-great grandfather signed a treaty with the Canadian government to protect his people's way of life in the Peace River Valley, British Columbia. But instead of honouring that promise, the government has ignored it and authorised a massive hydro-electric dam that threatens the way of life of the indigenous communities in the region.

The Peace River Valley is home to numerous cultural and heritage sites with a history spanning 10,000 years. Now members of the West Moberly and Prophet River First Nations have gone to court, insisting the government honours the 100-year-old promise and stops work on the Site C dam. Even though the case has not been decided yet, the hydroelectric company has begun clearing the valley.

### SEND A SOLIDARITY MESSAGE TO:

Owing to the number of communities affected, we're asking people to send messages online using Facebook, Twitter or Instagram using the hashtag #WithThePeaceRiver. These will be automatically added to our solidarity website, and shown at an Amnesty Canada event with the Peace River Valley communities in late 2016.

■ **Language:** Any

■ **Suggested message:** '#WithThePeaceRiver #NoSiteC #HonourTreaty8 We stand with you.' The more personalised the message, the better it demonstrates the global nature of the support.



### GET CREATIVE

Upload a photo of your favourite place, say why it is important to you and that you stand with the communities in their struggle. You could use symbols of your own culture or refer to a nearby river. For example: 'From the banks of the Thames, we stand with the peoples of the Peace River Valley.'

### CAN I

- ✗ Send a religious card or message?
- ✓ Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty?
- ✗ Include my name and address?

### STAY INFORMED

[www.amnesty.org.uk/write](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/write)

### SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

**Urge Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to halt the Site C dam, and honour Canada's obligation to protect the rights of indigenous peoples in the Peace River Valley.**

**Write to:** The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON  
Canada  
K1A 0A2

**Fax:** +1 (613) 941-6900

**Email:** [pm@pm.gc.ca](mailto:pm@pm.gc.ca)

**Twitter:** @JustinTrudeau

**Salutation:** Dear Prime Minister

**In your letter:** Urge him to halt the Site C dam. Highlight the dam's harmful impact on the lives and well-being of indigenous peoples, that fishing will be destroyed and cultural and sacred sites lost. Emphasise that flooding the valley will affect indigenous peoples' rights to health, culture and livelihood, which are protected by Canadian and international law. Urge the prime minister to ensure their rights are respected and the dam will not proceed against their wishes.

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