

Report 10

Reports of the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development to the Parliament of Canada

Environmental Petitions Annual Report | 2024



Office of the
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of Canada

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Introduction

About environmental petitions

10.1 Environmental petitions are a unique way for Canadian residents—acting as individuals or on behalf of an organization—to bring their concerns and questions about environmental and sustainable development issues to the attention of the federal ministers responsible and be guaranteed a response from them. The Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development administers the environmental petitions process on behalf of the Auditor General of Canada.

Focus of the report

10.2 The purpose of this annual report is to inform Parliament and Canadians about the number, subject matter, and status of petitions received during the reporting period, 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, as required by section 23 of the [Auditor General Act](#).

2023–24 Results

Petitions received

10.3 The OAG received 26 environmental petitions during the reporting period. For the titles of petitions and provinces of origin, please refer to the list of 2023–24 petitions received (see page 3).

10.4 In total, 20 federal organizations received petitions requesting a response. In many cases, a petition was sent to more than 1 organization. The 5 organizations that received the most petitions were

- Environment and Climate Change Canada (12 petitions)
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada (8 petitions)
- Health Canada (7 petitions)
- Transport Canada (7 petitions)
- Natural Resources Canada (5 petitions)

Key issues raised

10.5 Petitions submitted during the reporting period addressed a wide variety of environmental concerns and issues including toxic substances, monitoring greenhouse gas emissions, protecting green spaces, and protecting human and aquatic life.

Organization performance and responses

10.6 During the reporting period, 20 organizations responded to 23 petitions. Three responses were not sent within the 120-day statutory deadline.

Visit our [Environmental Petitions Page](#) for more information about past petitions and the petitions process.

2023–24 Petitions Received

From 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, petitions originated from the following 4 provinces:

Alberta

- 496—Update on the status of the Governor in Council’s Undertaking to Implement the Canada Energy Regulator’s 16 Recommendations to the Governor in Council for the Trans Mountain Expansion Project
- 498—Oil spill response plans for the southern resident killer whales
- 499—Environmental effects of the closure, remediation, and reclamation of oil sands mines
- 500—Government of Canada’s plan to achieve net-zero procurement by 2050
- 501—Abandonment and reclamation liability of inactive oil wells on First Nations reserves

British Columbia

- 494—Questions on mobile-source emissions-control technologies and wood-burning appliances
- 504—Request for regulations under the *Fisheries Act* for managing riparian areas
- 505—The protection of fish habitat in rivers and streams
- 506—Call for a national pollinator strategy
- 508—Protection of fish habitat in the Englishman River, Vancouver Island
- 514—Baynes Sound ship-breaking industry proximity to residences
- 515—Leaded aviation fuel safety concerns for the community

Ontario

- 390F—Follow-up petition on the quantification of Canada’s total carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from exported fossil fuels
- 473D—Follow-up to petition 473C on permethrin fogging of weeds and drift to weeds where bees are actively foraging
- 477B—Follow-up to petition 477 regarding federal environmental responsibilities for the Ottawa Hospital
- 493—Canadians have the right to breathe clean air—A call for federal action on heavy truck pollution
- 495—Government of Canada funding through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, for research into the link between radiofrequency fields and potential health effects
- 497—Environmental impacts of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization’s (NATO’s) Camp Adazi military base in Latvia
- 502—Federal government obligation to disclose information on presence of radioactive waste contamination
- 509—The climate and environmental impacts of Canada’s NORAD modernization and NATO operations in the North

510—Federal policies on airport development, community engagement, accountability, and environmental policies regarding the Hunt Club Forest, Ottawa

- 511—Remediation of 8 National Capital Commission properties on Bayview Station Road
- 513—Effects of proposed investment relating to the Elk Valley, British Columbia

Quebec

- 503—National Urban Park status for the National Capital Greenbelt
- 507—Policy measures to bring zero-emission advanced air mobility to rural Canada
- 512—Legislated protection for Gatineau Park

