



PRESS RELEASE

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Jet Fuel in the Fraser River Back in Court Again on January 22, 2016

In June 2015 the BC Supreme Court ruled that the Petition which VAPOR* Society and Otto Langer launched against the BC Attorney General, BC Environmental Assessment Office, Minister Mary Polak and Rich Coleman in 2014, be dismissed, stating the errors in the public consultation process were minor and would not have changed the final approval (Environmental Certificate) issued by the ministers.

Soon after the judgement, the Attorney General of B.C., who represented the Executive Director of the EAO (Environmental Assessment Office) and the Ministers of Environment and Natural Gas Development, determined that they were not seeking that VAPOR pay the Province's legal costs. Despite that, in October, 2015 the Vancouver Airport Fuel Facilities Corporation (VAFFC - a corporation representing Air Canada, Westjet, Air China, Lufthansa, KLM and about 25 other airlines at YVR) decided that VAFFC is not prepared to forgo the usual entitlement of the successful party to legal costs of the judicial review.

VAPOR is a small citizens group acting to protect the Fraser River and the public interest. Its ability to raise monies to pay a part of the VAFFC legal costs was limited and after much thought and discussion, VAPOR instructed our lawyer to apply to Madame Justice Dillon, who heard the judicial review, for an order that each party pay their own legal costs. This matter will now be heard in BC Supreme Court in Vancouver on January 22, 2016.

The plan to put super tankers of highly toxic and flammable jet fuel into the river is unacceptable. After years of negative leadership of the past government, VAPOR was encouraged by the October federal election of the Trudeau Liberal government. Two successful local Liberal candidates in Richmond and Delta did indeed show an interest in the protection of the Fraser River.

Thus we are meeting with the new Trudeau government to discuss the needs for the restoration of environmental protection legislation in Canada, better protection for the Fraser River Estuary, and specifically a second look at the jet fuel project and better alternatives to deliver jet fuel to YVR. We hope the Trudeau government can erase years of setbacks as caused by a deliberate loss of will to protect the environment and a flawed environment assessment and public consultations process seen in the past Harper federal and present BC provincial governments.

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***VAPOR is a citizens' society formed to oppose jet fuel tankers and fuel handling and storage in the Fraser River and estuary. VAPOR promotes an environmentally safer, more reliable land based pipeline option to supply jet fuel to YVR that will remove all jet fuel barges and supertankers in the Fraser River, its estuary and Burrard Inlet.**