**CALL TO ACTION**

**Advocating for Bill C-226: An Act respecting the development of a national strategy to assess, prevent and address environmental racism and to advance environmental justice**

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**In Brief**

Environmental racism in Canada has received a lot of attention for its impact on African Nova Scotians and Indigenous communities through the work of Dr. Ingrid Waldron. Waldron describes how one’s ability to adapt to the effects of climate change, and the determinants of health are “caused by structural factors such as race, immigrant and refugee status, poverty, education, food security, and access to clean air, water and soil” (CCI, 2022). Further, the proximity to environmental hazards is exacerbated by the lack of opportunity and choice many remote and Indigenous communities face when forced to resort to developing non-renewable natural resources. This bill would enact the need for a national strategy on environmental racism and environmental justice – aligning with goals of sustainable development goals, human rights, and global and domestic efforts to address systemic racism and inequity.

**What you can do**

About to go forward for its third reading in the House of Commons, you can urge your Member of Parliament to support this bill. This strategy of approaching MPs attempts to gain broad-based support. This will be followed by monitoring of government implementation. If individuals, as well as clubs put forth an effort to advocate on this bill across the country, our representatives know that this is a topic of concern to their constituents.

**More about environmental racism**

* Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada – [How hazardous facilities disproportionately affect Indigenous and Black Nova Scotian communities (2020)](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/society-societe/stories-histoires/story-histoire-eng.aspx?story_id=291)
* Canadian Climate Institute - [Environmental Racism and Climate Change: Determinants of Health in Mi’kmaw and African Nova Scotian Communities (2022)](https://climateinstitute.ca/publications/environmental-racism-and-climate-change/)
* Canadian Commission for United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization – [Environmental Racism in Canada, July 2020, Ingrid Waldron.](https://en.ccunesco.ca/-/media/Files/Unesco/Resources/2020/07/EnvironmentalRacismCanada.pdf)
* [United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. A/HRC/45/12/Add.1: Visit to Canada - Report of the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes. 27 November 2020.](https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/country-reports/ahrc4512add1-visit-canada-report-special-rapporteur-implications-human)