



5 steps YOU can take to save public power and BC's pristine wilderness...

...because actions speak louder than words.

Did you know that residential electricity rates are expected to **more than double** over the next eight years because the provincial government's energy policy seeks to **privatize** BC's electricity sector?

Did you also know that 130 water licences have been issued and 585 applications remain under review to construct **environmentally devastating** private run-of-river power projects on some of British Columbia's most pristine rivers, streams, and inlets (our enclosed map shows slightly earlier figures)?

I'm writing to you on behalf of **BC Citizens for Public Power (BCCPP)**—a grassroots, non-profit provincial organization established in 2002 to protect and promote publicly-owned, regulated, and operated, renewable and affordable electricity generation in BC.

Because of your interest in and commitment to social and environmental issues affecting British Columbians, I hope you will share our **deep concern** over the **significant social, economic and environmental threats** posed by the privatization of our province's electricity sector and sabotage of our Crown utility—a public entity that, over decades, has supported health care, education, and other social programs and services, while providing affordable electricity rates to BC residents.

Let me briefly explain some of the **shocking** facts that demonstrate the **disastrous** implications of the government's decision to privatize BC Hydro—and what you can do to **help** stop it—before it's too late.

The move to **double residential electricity rates** is already well underway with a proposed 21% increase over the next three years as consumers are forced to subsidize the exorbitant cost of private power.

**Even higher rates** have hit some BC residents, over and above last year's 6.56% hike (recently reduced to 3% by the BC Utilities Commission). A two-tiered rate structure introduced last October has **dramatically increased costs** for consumers who use more electricity—penalizing low income British Columbians and northern residents who depend on electric heat.

Making matters **worse**, to rationalize the privatization of BC's electricity sector—and the construction of hundreds, potentially thousands of private hydro projects—the government has effectively **fabricated** an **energy crisis**, then advanced private so-called "green" energy projects as the solution.

But **privately generated run-of-river power is not green**. These developments require **logging, access roads, transmission lines, rock blasting, and river diversion**. Without public ownership and oversight, regional planning, and adherence to strict environmental standards, these projects risk **major damage** to BC's **wilderness, wildlife, and many aquatic species**.

True: hydro power (both micro projects and BC Hydro's existing dams) does not generate greenhouse gases. And this is positive from an environmental standpoint.

**Yes, I will help BC Citizens for Public Power take action to stop new attacks on public power!**

I'm enclosing a gift of: \$      \$      \$      \$ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Method of payment:  Cheque (Payable to Citizens for Public Power Society)

    

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Because BCCPP is an advocacy non-profit, we are **not** able to issue a charitable tax receipt.

**I CAN HELP IN OTHER WAYS TOO!**

- I'd like to display a public power lawn/window sign on my property.
- I am willing to help deliver lawn/window signs to public power supporters who live in (list areas)

TO BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR, PLEASE COMPLETE SECTION ON REVERSE SIDE.

Your privacy matters to us. From time to time we may exchange names and addresses with other non-profit groups to expand our constituency of support. If you do not want your contact information shared, please check here.

Please remove my name from future mailings.



But private companies—driven by profit—realize revenue through *consumption*, not *conservation*. By contrast, a public utility can measure profitability through economic, social, and political objectives: **green energy** generation, meeting **conservation** targets, and **fair pricing**.

**The province-wide citizens' movement to protect public power in BC is growing!**

Through the coordinated efforts of **BC Citizens for Public Power**, community and environmental groups, First Nations, and thousands of concerned citizens have joined forces. Last October, we hosted a two-day educational, skills-building, and networking conference that has spawned **province-wide community-based action** to protect public power and BC's precious natural resources. And to meet the needs of our flourishing movement and diverse network, we recently launched our **BC Guardians campaign** ([www.bcgardians.ca](http://www.bcgardians.ca)).

Although the government has largely ignored citizens' protests on this issue, one crucial situation has changed: British Columbians will cast their votes in the next **provincial election on May 12<sup>th</sup>**.

If you agree that something must be done **immediately** to save British Columbia's precious natural resources and public power advantage, I hope you will **act quickly**. Here are **five ways you can help**:

- 1 Publicize your position! Display a BCCPP lawn sign** on your property or in the window of your home or vehicle. Signs read: *BC Hydro: The Power is Ours. KEEP IT PUBLIC. Vote May 12<sup>th</sup>*. Signs are free; volunteers are needed to help distribute signs.
- 2 Question the candidates! Attend All Candidates' meetings** during the campaign period and raise questions about the social, environmental, and economic impacts of BC's energy policy. **A list of questions for candidates is included with this mailing** (see next page).
- 3 Go on record! Write the Ministers of Energy and Environment, the Premier, and your MLA.** Tell them you oppose the government's energy policy and their privatization of BC's electricity sector. We've **enclosed a letter** that you can **photocopy, sign, and mail**. Or, if you prefer, express your views in a letter of your own. Either way, let provincial politicians know that public power is a key election issue for you as a voter.
- 4 Support our work! With your donation, BC Citizens for Public Power can do so much more!** We need to expand our outreach and communicate our message—before the election—by speaking at public meetings and by sending out thousands of letters and maps. But we simply can't afford these activities without your **support**.
- 5 Vote!** Find out where your local candidates stand on this issue, then cast your **vote to protect public power on May 12<sup>th</sup>**.

**Now is the time for action.** In these final weeks prior to the election, we will work tirelessly to reach British Columbians across the province. With your financial support, we will conduct large-scale mailings, distribute lawn signs, participate in public meetings, lobby politicians, engage the media, and strengthen the BC Guardians network. Together, we can make a change.

Sincerely,



Melissa Davis, Executive Director

PS: During these challenging economic times, perhaps a small monthly contribution might be more manageable than a larger single gift. If so, please join our group of **PUBLIC DEFENDERS** by completing the monthly donor registration form (see below). **Thank you for your support!**

*Authorized by BC Citizens for Public Power, Registered under the Election Act, 604.681.5939*

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**YES, I'd like to become a PUBLIC DEFENDER.**

Small monthly contributions are an affordable and convenient way to support the work of BCCPP all year long. I authorize BC Citizens for Public Power to process automatic withdrawals, each month, in the following amount:

\$10     \$15     \$25     \$40     \$50     \$ Other (min. \$5)

I wish to pay through my:  Bank account (Please enclose VOID cheque)               

Signature     Card No.     Expiry   
Phone #     Email

Because BCCPP is an advocacy non-profit, we are **not** able to issue a charitable tax receipt.

**To make a single gift (rather than monthly donation), please complete section on reverse side.**

Established in 2002, BC Citizens for Public Power is a registered non-profit society that works to ensure that BC's electricity system is publicly owned, regulated, and operated by and for the citizens of British Columbia through mobilization, education, and advocacy.