



March 19, 2024

Senate Standing Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources
Senate of Canada
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A4
enev@sen.parl.gc.ca

Dear Senators,

We are pleased to submit the text of a petition, signed to date by 9,073 individuals in every province and territory, for inclusion in the Committee's official record on Bill C-226, National Strategy Respecting Environmental Racism and Environmental Justice Act.

The full petition with list of signatories has been sent to the clerk.

Sincerely,

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Encl. Petition to the Senate of Canada

Petition to the Senate of Canada

Whereas:

- Environmental racism refers to the disproportionate siting of polluting industries and other environmental hazards in Indigenous, Black, and other racialized communities, and uneven access to nature and environmental benefits;
- The United States established a program on environmental justice nearly three decades ago and Canada lacks parallel requirements;
- A 2020 report by the UN Special Rapporteur on Toxic Wastes and Human Rights pointed to “a pattern in Canada where marginalized groups, and Indigenous peoples in particular, find themselves on the wrong side of a toxic divide, subject to conditions that would not be acceptable elsewhere in Canada;”
- Bill C-226, the National Strategy on Environmental Racism and Environmental Justice Act, would require the minister of environment and climate change to examine the links between racialization, socio-economic status and environmental risk, and consult on and develop Canada’s first national strategy on environmental racism and environmental justice;
- The House of Commons passed Bill C-226 and sent it to the Senate on March 29, 2023; and
- The Canadian Coalition for Environmental and Climate Justice has urged the Senate to act on Bill C-226 at the earliest opportunity.

Therefore, the undersigned individuals call on the Senate to prioritize and pass Bill C-226 as soon as possible in 2024 to help keep the important work of tackling environmental racism and environmental injustice on track.

[9,074 signatures]