

# BALACLAVA!

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unceded Coast Salish Territory

Vancouver Media Co-op • A special look at the Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement • [vancouver.mediacoop.ca](http://vancouver.mediacoop.ca)

## New deal on boreal forests draws fire



Fake boreal forest behind fake G8 lake - the real thing is under threat from corporate control.

**Vancouver Media Co-op**

The battle is on for control of Canada's boreal forests.

Timber companies and environmental organizations joined together in May to announce the Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement. They claim the deal will protect a swath of forest twice the size of Germany, and maintain forestry jobs across Canada.

"This is an agreement between the two principle combatants over logging," said Steve Kallick, director of the Boreal Conservation campaign of the Pew Environment Group.

But Indigenous peoples have been left out of the agreement, and grassroots environmentalists are concerned that the deal is a move towards more corporate control over Canadian forests.

"Name a forest struggle in Canada that hasn't been spearheaded by First Nations from the beginning," said Clayton Thomas-Muller, tar sands campaigner with the Indigenous Environmental Network.

"I think that a lot of First Nations groups, in Haida Gwaii, in the Boreal forest, and places like Grassy Narrows, Barrier Lake and Temagami, would have a much different analysis and memory than Mr. Kallick."

The three-year agreement is the largest of its kind on the planet, according to a Greenpeace representative. Twenty-one forestry companies have signed on, as have nine environmental organizations.

But for some, like Thomas-Muller, the announcement is reminiscent of another deal, signed in British Columbia in 2006.

"I think we have to remember the previous version of this deal, which was (about) the Great Bear Rainforest, and we have

to remember how that deal in the end was signed. It was signed not with all the First Nations partners and it was signed behind closed doors by Tzeporah Berman (then with Greenpeace) and company," he said. "And many First Nations felt extremely burned by that.

"It's a massive tomb, uh, tome that we've put together," misspoke Richard Brooks from Greenpeace at the May press conference announcing the deal. Only a 12-page abridged version of the agreement has been made public. The full agreement was leaked to the Vancouver Media Co-op on May 19. According to Brooks, it will now be presented to various levels of government.

"It will really change the nature of environmental work and the debates around the environment," said Kallick. But whether those changes are for better or for worse is still up for debate.

"The Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement is essentially another huge jump away from democracy, towards corporate control of the lands of Canada, as well as the corporatization of what is left of a once defiant environmental movement," said Macdonald Stainsby, coordinator of OilSandsTruth.org.

Although the big environmental groups will drop their "do not buy" and divestment campaigns around Canadian timber, Thomas-Muller predicts the conflicts will continue.

"I hardly think that this in any way represents an end to the conflict between the true proponents of the war over the boreal forest, which of course are corporations and First Nations," Thomas-Muller said. "What this means is that First Nations no longer have the support of these mainstream environmental groups that have fallen into the strategy of conquer and divide deployed by industry."

“For far too long, Big Green groups like the National Wildlife Federation, Conservation International, Environmental Defense Fund, Natural Resources Defense Council and many others have allowed their financial and political relationships with Corporate America to compromise their positions on the biggest ecological crises in history.”

*Rising Tide North America*  
[www.risingtidenorthamerica.org](http://www.risingtidenorthamerica.org)

“Environmental groups used to be funded largely by their members and wealthy individual supporters. They had only one goal: to prevent environmental destruction. Their funds were small, but they played a crucial role in saving vast tracts of wilderness and in pushing into law strict rules forbidding air and water pollution. But Jay Hair - president of the National Wildlife Federation from 1981 to 1995 - was dissatisfied. He identified a huge new source of revenue: the worst polluters.”

*The Wrong Kind of Green, Johann Hari*  
[www.thenation.com/article/wrong-kind-green](http://www.thenation.com/article/wrong-kind-green)

“End the promotion of false solutions such as carbon trading, carbon offsets, using forests and agriculture as offsets, agro-fuels, carbon storage and sequestration, clean coal technologies, geo-engineering, mega hydro dams and nuclear power. These allow the rich industrialized countries to avoid their responsibility to make major changes.”

*from Four Principles for Climate Justice*  
*Indigenous Environmental Network*  
[www.ienearth.org](http://www.ienearth.org)

“A small, secretive group of insiders has been collaborating with large American foundations and industry to concentrate decision-making power concerning anti-tar sands campaigns. Headed by Michael Marx, one of the architects of the Great Bear Rainforest deal in northwestern British Columbia, these groups have a track record and a documented trail of funding relationships that steer them - whether they intend to or not - into closed-door, back-room deals with industry and government.”

*Offsetting Resistance*  
[www.offsettingresistance.ca](http://www.offsettingresistance.ca)

# Banner days banished for forest activists

by Dawn Paley

To ensure that the days of Greenpeace dropping banners from Abitibi-Bowater's HQ are long forgotten, the Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement (CBFA) stipulates that ENGOs will take back whatever bad things they may have said about forest industry (FPAC) member companies in the past.

This mandatory change in tone by environmental groups takes a couple of forms.

According to Section 6.3.D.ii of the agreement, "Where an FPAC Member demonstrates an impediment to selling forest products to a specific customer from the boreal as a result of past or current advocacy work or communications, ENGOs will communicate with that customer to confirm they are receiving all joint communications related to progress in implementing the CFBA and that this should be taken into consideration in making procurement decisions."

The agreement also stipulates that ENGOs will "review and update" their websites to "remove or update any information superseded by the CFBA." For example, should Canfor find a photo or story about their activities in the boreal forest on the Forest Ethics website objectionable, "immediate steps will be taken to revise that material."

The agreement also means that if an environmental group which is not a signatory of the deal should happen to tell someone from, say, the David Suzuki Foundation about plans to denounce one of the companies involved in the CBFA, the person from the Suzuki Foundation must warn FPAC member companies immediately.

ENGOs and FPAC will then jointly plan how to respond, which includes actively working together to "have such a third party appropriately modify its position and/or public statements." This legalese means that the ENGOs and FPAC might jointly threaten to sue or sue the third party. In the past, industry has undertaken such SLAPP (Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation) suits, but it is precedent-setting that ENGOs have now become willing participants in striking down criticism of forest practices across Canada.

Signatories to the CBFA:

#### Environmental NGOs:

Canadian Boreal Initiative  
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society  
Canopy  
David Suzuki Foundation  
ForestEthics  
Greenpeace  
The Nature Conservancy  
Pew Environment Group  
International Boreal Conservation Campaign  
Ivey Foundation

#### Logging/forestry:

AbitibiBowater Inc.  
Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc.  
AV Group  
Canfor Corporation  
Canfor Pulp Limited Partnership  
Cariboo Pulp & Paper Company  
Cascades inc.  
Daishowa-Marubeni International Ltd.  
F.F. Soucy Inc.  
Howe Sound Pulp & Paper Limited Partnership  
Kruger Inc.  
Louisiana-Pacific Canada Ltd.  
Mercer International Mill & Timber Products Ltd.  
NewPage Corporation  
Papier Masson Ltée  
SFK Pâte  
Tembec  
Tolko Industries Ltd.  
West Fraser Timber Co. Ltd.  
Weyerhaeuser Company Ltd.

## The CBFA by the numbers

Between April 1, 2009 and March 31, 2012, Forest Products Association of Canada companies had scheduled to harvest and build roads on 756,666 hectares inside caribou range lands. According to existing industry plans, the vast majority of those lands were not slated to be harvested by the spring of 2012.

Far from protecting the lands, the CBFA only reduces the FPAC affiliate cut to 684,461 ha until spring 2012. So 72,205 ha will be "deferred" to "areas outside of caribou range" - meaning no change in the harvest amount, only in the locations.

While the agreement "covers" a forest twice the size of Germany, the amount of caribou range that won't be cut before 2012 as a result of the deal is only slightly larger than Toronto.

The deal allows 684,461 ha to be cut in caribou habitat, despite a Canadian Wildlife Service recommendation to suspend virtually all industrial activity in woodland caribou range.

By agreeing to the CBFA, the nine ENGOs involved are actively supporting the logging of an area larger than Prince Edward Island within caribou habitat between now and 2012.



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# DEMOCRACY LIMITED

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June 26, 12 Noon Grandview Park. Slam the Gate on the G8! Protest against the G8/G20 summits in solidarity with the Toronto Community Mobilization Network