



## City of Powell River

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File No. 0220-01

April 9, 2018

Sonatrach Petroleum Corporation  
5 Princes Gate  
London, United Kingdom  
SWJ 1QJ

Attention: Mr. Mohamed Meziane, Chief Executive Officer

Dear Sir:

**Re: Sonatrach Petroleum Corporation Fair Share of Climate Change Costs in Powell River, BC, Canada**

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We write as the Mayor and Council of the City of Powell River, a municipality on the Sunshine Coast of British Columbia. Like other communities around the world, we are increasingly concerned about the harmful effects that climate change will have on our community and on other communities around the world. We are being forced to prepare for progressively more serious and frequent impacts. Among other impacts we are presently facing increased fire risk, extended summer droughts and extreme winter rain events. Increased winter precipitation is impacting our roads and stormwater management and increasing our costs as a local government. A coastal community, we are concerned about rising sea-levels and coastal erosion as well, although most of our lands are well above sea-level.

We expect the climate change costs facing our community to rise as global temperatures increase and as we examine how best to help our residents withstand the current and expected impacts. Climate change – as a result of fossil fuel pollution – is occurring now and growing more severe as you continue to market your products without aggressively moving to a different, more sustainable business model. Because of this pollution, we need to plan for and adapt to ongoing changes in our local climate, caused by rising global temperatures, so as to avoid future negative economic and other impacts of climate change in our municipality. As we move forward with preparing our community and infrastructure for climate change, we will be incurring additional costs and inconvenience as a result of the increased severity of climate change attributable to your products and operations.

While we recognize that individual consumers, and our community, do play a role in responsibility for the fossil fuel economy, your company has had the power to lead the transition away from that economy, but has instead profited to the tune of many billions of dollars from products that you have known, or should have known, would harm our communities. You cannot make billions of dollars selling your product, knowing that it is causing significant



financial harm to communities around the world, and not expect to pay at least some of that harm.<sup>i</sup>

All communities will expect you to pay your fair share of the costs associated with preparing for climate change. It has been estimated, by the source noted below, that the emissions from those products and operations amount to fully 0.66% of historic human-caused greenhouse gas emissions and we suggest that this figure is a reasonable basis for estimating your company's fair share of costs incurred due to climate change.<sup>ii</sup>

We expect your industry to take cradle to grave responsibility for your product – and that starts by taking responsibility for its effects in the atmosphere and the resulting harm to communities. In addition, we would like to hear what steps you plan to take to reduce or eliminate the future negative impacts of your company's products on our community. We know that our community will end up sharing some of the costs of climate change even if you and other fossil fuel companies do pay your fair shares. These would include costs that cannot be recovered. We will do our part to minimize these costs and impacts, and we look forward to your confirmation that you will do your part as well.

Sincerely,  
CITY OF POWELL RIVER

**David Formosa**, Mayor

DF/rp

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.smokeandfumes.org/fumes>

<sup>ii</sup> [http://climateaccountability.org/carbon\\_majors\\_update.html](http://climateaccountability.org/carbon_majors_update.html)