

The Honourable John Horgan  
Premier  
Government of British Columbia  
PO Box 9041 STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria, BC, V8W 9E1

The Honourable David Eby  
Attorney General  
Government of British Columbia  
PO Box 9041 STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria, BC, V8W 9E1

## **Open letter**

6 March 2018

Dear Premier Horgan and Minister Eby,

### **Re: Public interest advocates welcome Attorney General's commitment to anti-SLAPP law**

We welcome Attorney General Eby's commitment to enacting anti-SLAPP legislation following the call to action from respected members of the justice system. Strategic lawsuits against public participation, or SLAPP suits, are an abusive tactic that chills public debate and clogs the justice system. Corporations are using Canadian courts and the threat of costly lawsuits to intimidate and silence people from speaking out about matters ranging from the environment and public health to human rights.

We have all been affected by these suits – some of us have been SLAPPED ourselves – and many British Columbians have been afraid to speak out on matters of public interest for fear of retribution.

We support anti-SLAPP legislation to protect British Columbians' right to free expression and applaud the Attorney General's commitment to ensuring that BC's anti-SLAPP legislation will be fair and effective.

The *Protection of Public Participation Act, 2015* in Ontario and Quebec's anti-SLAPP provisions in the *Code of Civil Procedure* provide good models to start from in shaping proposed legislation in BC. We look forward to working with your government to build on these models and – taking into account BC's unique context – to develop anti-SLAPP legislation for BC.

Sincerely,

350.org  
Amnesty International Canada  
Argenta-Johnsons Landing Working Group  
BC Civil Liberties Association  
BC Government and Service Employees' Union  
BC Nature  
Broadbent Institute  
Burnaby Pipeline Watch

Canadian Association of Journalists  
Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives – BC  
Canadian Friends Service Committee  
Canadian Journalists for Free Expression  
Canopy  
Centre for Free Expression, Ryerson University  
Committee to Protect Journalists  
Dogwood Initiative  
Ecoforestry Institute Society  
Ecojustice  
Freedom of Information and Privacy Association  
Georgia Strait Alliance  
Greenpeace Canada  
KAIROS Canada  
Kamloops Area Preservation Association  
Leadnow  
Living Oceans  
Nature Canada  
Organizing Committee Member and SLAPP defendant, Alan Dutton  
Organizing Committee Member, Franke James  
OpenMedia  
Pacific Centre for Environmental Law and Litigation  
Perry Ridge Water Users Association  
PEN Canada  
Reporters Without Borders  
Sierra Club of BC  
Stand.earth  
SumOfUs  
T. Buck Suzuki Environmental Foundation  
The Leap  
The Writers' Union of Canada  
Union of BC Indian Chiefs  
Voices-Voix  
Wells Gray Gateway Protection Society  
West Coast Environmental Law Association  
Wilderness Committee  
Wildsight