

Media advisory
For immediate release

COP15: Over 100 organizations and Indigenous delegations from across the world call for mass mobilization ahead of December 10th's March for Biodiversity and Human Rights

TIOHTIÀ:KE (Montreal) Dec. 5th, 2022 - Hundreds of Quebec and international civil society organizations — all part of the COP15 Collective, the CBD Alliance and the Global Youth Biodiversity Network — as well as Greenpeace Canada, are calling for mass mobilization ahead of this Saturday's March for Biodiversity and Human Rights taking place at 1pm in front of the Mount Royal Statue. Led by a contingent of Indigenous delegations from around the world, the march will be a critical moment for civil society to ensure its demands are heard loud and clear by governments gathered in Montreal for the United Nations Conference on Biological Diversity (COP15).

The protest will signal to countries currently negotiating the next Global Biodiversity Framework — a key international agreement set to shape the next decade of ecosystem preservation — the enormity of what is at stake if they fail to set ambitious and socially just targets, or fail to meet them. As the climate and biodiversity crises overlap and compound one another, communities face concrete threats to their lands and livelihoods, and collective survival.

At the forefront of coalitions' demands is the protection of human rights, including the protection of Indigenous peoples, and with nearly [a million species](#) now threatened with extinction according to IPBES, there is an urgent need for states to take immediate, decisive action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss. This cannot be achieved without respecting the rights, worldviews, governance structures, cultures, and knowledge systems of Indigenous peoples and local communities, whose territories are home to the vast majority of the world's biodiversity.

The march will conclude with speeches outlining demands from Indigenous peoples' representatives and spokespeople of civil society organizations that organized the protest.

DETAILS

WHAT: March for Biodiversity and Human Rights

WHEN: Saturday Dec. 10th, 1pm. Speeches will take place at the Parterre du Quartier des spectacles around 2pm

WHERE: Mount Royal Statue (on Parc Avenue, downhill from Mount Royal)

WHO: 100+ organizations part of Collectif COP15, the CBD Alliance, and the Global Youth Biodiversity Network, as well as Greenpeace Canada

Link to Facebook event: <https://fb.me/e/2hQSOW78b>

Spokespeople available this week include :

Representatives of Indigenous delegations:

- Adrienne Jérôme, chief of Lac Simon First Nation, Quebec, Canada
- Arkilaus Kladiit, député du Conseil de la tribu Knasaimos, représentant de la communauté autochtone, Papouasie occidentale, Indonesia
- Dinamam Tuxá, executive coordinator of the Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB), Brazil

- Orpha Yoshua, Indigenous Namblong woman, Western Papua, Indonesia
- Valentin Engobo, leader communautaire autochtone de Lokolama, bassin du Congo
- Ta’Kaiya Blaney, Tla A'min land defender, British Columbia, Canada

Representatives of the civil society organizations behind the march:

- Anne-Céline Guyon, climate expert and project manager for Nature Québec (member organization of Collectif COP15)
- Esmeralda Wirtz, team member of the Global Youth Biodiversity Network
- Mariann Bassey, CBD Alliance and Environmental Rights Action, Nigeria
- Marie-Josée Béliveau, COP15 campaign manager, Greenpeace Canada
- Ashley Torres Olachea, delegate of the Muskrat Collective

- 30 -

For interview requests:

Marie-Eve St-Onge
COPTICOM, Strategy and Public Relations
514-601-5504
mestonge@copticom.ca

Source:

Albert Lalonde
David Suzuki Foundation
514-699-6561
alalonde@davidsuzuki.org

Ashley Torres Olachea
Muskrat Collective
438-924-2038
mobilization@asfa.ca

About

• COP15 Collective

The Quebec civil society COP15 collective ([Collectif COP15](#)) is an alliance of over 100 organizations, composed of environmental non-profits, international cooperation NGOs, unions, professional associations, youth organizations, financial organizations, research centres and charitable foundations that have joined forces to protect life on the occasion of COP15.

• CBD Alliance

The CBD Alliance is a global network of over 400 civil society organizations that share a common interest in advancing the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) with a vision that addresses the underlying causes of the biodiversity crisis. It aims to ensure a link between those who protect biodiversity on the ground and within the CBD bodies, while respecting the autonomy of each.

• Global Youth Biodiversity Network

The Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN) is an international network of youth organizations and individuals from all over the world whose common goal is to prevent the loss

of biodiversity. Recognized and supported by the CBD Secretariat, GYBN is the official body representing the voice of global youth in the negotiations under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

- **Greenpeace Canada**

Greenpeace is an international network of independent organizations that act according to the principles of non-violence to protect the environment, biodiversity and to promote peace. It relies on a movement of committed citizens to build a sustainable and equitable world.