



environmental  
defence



For Immediate Release: December 13, 2022

## **Media Advisory: Upcoming press briefing about tar sands tailings with Indigenous speakers at COP15 UN Biodiversity Conference**

Montreal | Traditional, unceded territory of the kanien'kehá:ka First Nation - On Dec 15th, Environmental Defence and Keepers of the Water will be conducting a press briefing at COP15 about the current and looming threats the tailings pose to the biodiversity of the Athabasca River and its delta. Speakers include a Mikisew Cree First Nation representative, various Indigenous experts from Keepers of the water, and science and policy experts.

The tar sands tailings "ponds" are immense lakes of toxic waste generated by oil companies that scar the Northern Alberta landscape at an unparalleled scale. The briefing will cover the specific ways in which the tailings ponds act as a major contributor to biodiversity loss, from seepage of toxic chemicals into the groundwater to destroying habitat for fish, caribou and migratory birds. The briefing will introduce the oil industry's new push to release "treated" tailings fluids into the Athabasca and the threat this poses to ecosystems and Indigenous Nations downstream of the tar sands.

More information can be found here:

<https://environmentaldefence.ca/report/50-years-of-sprawling-tailings/>

**WHAT:** Press Briefing on Tar sands' toxic tailings: Canada's largest and growing industrial footprint.

**WHERE:** **Palais des congrès de Montreal**, 1001 Place Jean Paul Riopelle - Media Center Room 220 D.

**WHEN:** Thursday, December 15 at 10 AM ET

**WHO:** The following spokespeople will be in attendance:

Daniel T'selie, NWT Outreach manager, Dene from Fort Good Hope

Tori Cress, Communications Manager, Keepers of the Water

A Mikisew Cree First Nation spokesperson

Aliénor Rougeot, Climate and Energy Program Manager, Environmental Defence  
(FR/ EN)

Paul Belanger, Science lead, Keepers of the Water

ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENCE ([environmentaldefence.ca](http://environmentaldefence.ca)): Environmental Defence is a leading Canadian environmental advocacy organization that works with government, industry and individuals to defend clean water, a safe climate and healthy communities.

ABOUT KEEPERS OF THE WATER ([keepersofthewater.ca](http://keepersofthewater.ca)): Keepers of the Water are First Nations, Métis, Inuit, environmental groups, concerned citizens, and communities working together for the protection of water, land, air, and all of the life forms within the Arctic Ocean Drainage Basin.

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For more information or to request an interview, please contact:

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