

Gwe, teluisi, kyra gilbert and i'm an indigenous student at Citadel high school. Today along with every other day, I carry the weight of your decisions on my shoulders, let alone my other youth and elders who fight for the right causes. Our biggest fear as youth is that our future is in your hands, and right now we have no control over that. We have no control over the waters you'll poison, the fossil fuels you admit, and the animals you'll make go extinct.

As you all know Alton Gas is a company proposing to help provide Nova Scotians with affordable and reliable natural gas year-round. To do so they have to build salt caverns and put massive amounts of brine into them. This will happen at Shubenacadie river, They say it won't contaminate the water, but the whole purpose is to get the gas flowing. As soon as this happens, it will affect the aquatic life, make the water uninhabitable, have the water levels rise out of control, not to mention unfilterable. This will cause the salinity levels to rise drastically, with the constant highest tides and currents in the world, it will be pushed in and out of the Bay Of Fundy into the Atlantic ocean daily, our Atlantic ocean connects to almost the entire world. Imagine how many other provinces, and countries that could get affected in the process of Alton gas proposal. Of course this won't be an immediate reaction but over time it will 100% happen. Over thousands of species live in the Atlantic ocean and with the bringing process could seriously harm them. Documents show that salinity levels will be 6 times higher than what's habitable for fish. There's no way any fish big or small could prepare themselves from getting blasted 260 parts per thousand of undiluted brines into their gills. Imagine the amount of dead aquatic life and creatures that will wash up upon our waters!

Shubenacadie river has been unseated Mi'kmaq territory for centuries, meaning the Mi'kmaq people never settled for land claims in this sacred area, this land has never been disrespected or taken for granted until now. My cousin is Mike Sac, Chief of Indian Brook reservation, had land claims of the river, until he sold it off to Alton Gas back in 2018. It's a big fight for us Mi'kmaq people to protect our land right now because Mother Nature is what's most important to us. My heart breaks when I think about the ancestors and elders who've sat on our land for years before us, that now have to watch it be destroyed. I know some of you are aware there are water protectors next to the Alton Gas site, who have set up their own site to keep an eye on the process of Alton, because at this moment there not supposed to continue until the court case being held against them by 3 grandmothers claiming our right to the land has ended. As Mi'kmaq people we have treaties to the land, to the river and to the fish. With you all just standing by, letting this happen were losing these rights you've given us, and now you're taking them back?

The bill you're proposing says you'll take immediate climate action to any climate crisis in need, well take a big look at this one. Why are you not educating the youth on this subject? We've known about this for over 30 years now, are you just going to allow the children to not know their future is getting ripped into shreds right in front of them. Know our future is in your hands, and remember that. This bill is missing so many important

aspects and i believe you should take a second look and with consideration of what everyone here has said today.

You way you care about my future, don't tell, me show me!

-Kyra Gilbert