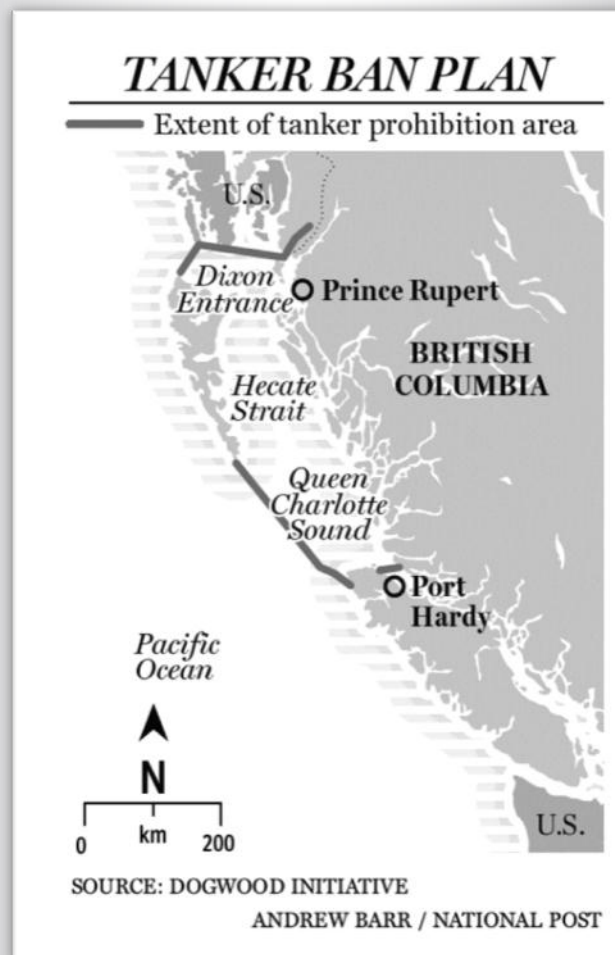


DEMARKETING ALBERTA

In the guise of environmentalism, U.S. foundations are spending millions to stop oil tankers along the B.C. coast

by Vivian Krause



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Last week, Michael Ignatieff and 142 other Members of Parliament voted in favour of a motion to ban oil tanker traffic on the north coast of British Columbia. This week, Liberal MP Joyce Murray from Vancouver Quadra introduced Bill C-606 to put that motion into law by amending the Canada Shipping Act to prohibit oil tanker traffic on the north and central coast of British Columbia.

Ms. Murray and every single one of those MPs played right into the hands of the U.S. foundations seeking to block oil tanker traffic. Whether intentional or not, these actions will also stop oil exports to Asia. On the surface, this is about oil, Canada's single most important export. More important, this is about the sovereignty of our country, which should be decided by Canadians, not foreign-funded campaigns.

The charge to pressure MPs to vote for a tanker ban was led by the Dogwood Initiative. In 2009, a U.S. foundation paid \$30,000 to the U.S. Tides Foundation to fund the Dogwood Initiative "to expand an outreach campaign to mobilize urban voters for a federal ban on coastal tankers." Another U.S. foundation paid the Dogwood Initiative "to help grow public opposition to counter the Enbridge pipeline construction ..."

In 2006, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund paid \$100,000 to the Pembina Foundation and \$100,000 to the Westcoast Environmental Law Research Foundation, "To prevent the development of a pipeline and tanker port that would endanger the Great Bear Rainforest."

China, Japan, South Korea, and other Asian countries would just love to buy Canadian oil -- if only there were a pipeline to get it to the B.C. coast. But if Canadian oil gets exported to Asia, where will U.S. oil companies get enough gas to put in the pumps at gas stations across the U.S.? Iran, Iraq, Nigeria, Sudan, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela are the choices. Is it any wonder that U.S. foundations are spending hundreds of millions of dollars on "conservation" initiatives that would land-lock Alberta oil within North America?

Environmentalists say an oil tanker spill on the West Coast would be catastrophic. They're dead right. But to say the only acceptable way to prevent such a risk is a complete ban on tanker traffic is like saying the only way to avoid a fatal car accident is to never get in a car.

If marine conservation were really the issue, the ban wouldn't be only for the north coast of British Columbia and U.S. foundations would be funding a tanker ban in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, on the Eastern Seaboard and in the Gulf of Mexico. But no, U.S.

foundations are funding a tanker ban campaign only for the central and the north coast of British Columbia--right smack where oil tankers, export-bound for Asia would need to travel.

The day the House of Commons voted for the tanker ban, I was in Ottawa at the invitation of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources. On the basis of U.S. tax returns that I've analyzed on my own nickel -- with additional data from Vancouver consultant Rob Scagel -- I testified that since 2000, U.S. foundations have spent upward of \$300-million on "conservation" initiatives and the so-called "reform" of resource-based industries in Canada. That \$300-million sounds like a lot -- and it is -- but it is less than 3% of the \$11.7-billion that U.S. foundations have spent since 2000 on environmental and wildlife protection.

At least \$210-million was from five U.S. foundations: the William & Flora Hewlett Foundation, the David & Lucile Packard Foundation, the Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation, the Pew Charitable Trusts and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund.

More than \$120-million from U.S. foundations went toward the Great Bear Rainforest Initiative on the B.C. coast (\$29-million), the Boreal Forest Initiative (\$56-million), The Turning Point Initiative for First Nations in B.C. (\$14-million), and the Pacific North Coast Integrated Area Management Initiative (PNCIMA) (\$20-million) whose member organizations are anything but favour-able to oil tanker traffic.

Since 2004, U.S. foundations have granted \$18-million specifically for "demarketing" Alberta oil. Demarketing is reducing demand or shifting demand away. The lion's share of that \$18-million went to the U.S. Tides Foundation (\$7-million), Tides Canada (\$2-million), the Pembina Foundation (\$4-million) and Corporate Ethics International (\$1.2-million).

Several U.S. foundations made grants that explicitly spell out over-reliance on fossil fuels as a matter of national security. By their own admission, protecting the environment isn't their only concern.

The Rockefeller Brothers Fund granted \$105,000 specifically to the First Nations at the Kitimat village, which is right at the mouth of the Douglas Channel. That's precisely where export-bound oil tankers would need to load. That included \$70,000 for an anniversary celebration in 2004 and \$35,000 for a ceremonial event in 2006. Of all the aboriginal people in the world, why is the Rockefeller Brothers Fund giving money to the First Nations at Kitimat Village?

Over the past 10 years, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund (RBF) also paid \$1-million to the David Suzuki Foundation. That included \$425,000 for "legal, scientific and media work" and "for organizing First Nations' work" along the B.C. coast. Between 2000 and 2003, the David Suzuki Foundation was granted about \$5-million from U.S. foundations, U.S. tax returns say. Canadian tax returns over those same years show the David Suzuki Foundation granting about \$2-million to First Nations along the B.C. coast.

In 2009, RBF paid Tides Canada Initiatives Society (TCIS) \$20,000 for DeSmog Blog, which is run by the chairman of the David Suzuki Foundation, James Hoggan. RBF also paid TCIS \$255,000 (2004-2006) for its "Canadian Climate Project."

Compared to what U.S. foundations are spending on the B.C. coast, what they have granted for the interior of B.C. is a pittance.

U.S. foundations also funded the demarketing of Canadian forest products and B.C. farmed salmon -- all in the name of protecting the environment. The Moore Foundation paid \$560,000 "to provide a high quality toolkit and co-ordination infrastructure for environmental organizations in their campaigns to shift consumer and retailer demand away from farmed salmon." These campaigns involved "science messages," "earned media," and "co-ordination of media for anti-farming environmental organizations." Ahem. With all the bad press over farmed salmon, the value of Alaskan salmon has tripled.

When concern was raised about the "anti-farming campaign," four grants for \$3.6-million were quietly rewritten by the Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation. In a grant to Living Oceans Society for \$453,400, the Farmed and Dangerous campaign was renamed the "Aquaculture Education Campaign."

The Pew Charitable Trusts has spent \$44-million since 2002 for the Boreal Forest Initiative. Based in Philadelphia and Washington, D.C., Pew has \$5.8-billion in assets that originated from the founders of Suncor, a U.S. oil company.

Pew recognizes a need to protect boreal forests in Russia, South America, Indonesia and Africa, but the place where Pew is spending tens of millions is Canada. Pew acknowledges that 12% of our boreal forest is already protected by Canada but that's not good enough for Pew.

Let's not forget, Canadian forests cover some of the world's largest deposits of energy and minerals. This is not lost on Pew. In fact, two of Pew's grants for the Boreal Forest Initiative are actually titled, "British Columbia mining."

According to Pew's database, since 1997 Pew hasn't made one single grant to address the pine beetle, the single most serious problem afflicting B.C. forests. The pine beetle-infested forests in B.C. aren't even included on the map of the Canadian forests that are of interest to Pew.

Since 2006, Moore has paid \$20-million toward PNCIMA which, supposedly, is a collaboration between Canadian environmental organizations and the Canadian government. On top of that, \$8-million more was promised in November. Moore-funded environmentalists may be every bit as Canadian as I am, but their funder and the interests they're serving are anything but purely Canadian. And yet, \$6-million of our taxes has gone into topping up this U.S.-funded initiative that bears the logo of the Government of Canada.

PNCIMA extends from the northern tip of Vancouver Island to the southern tip of Alaska but not Vancouver Island. Thus, PNCIMA covers precisely the area where oil tankers would need to pass -- but not other parts of the B.C. coast. While Moore has paid or promised \$28-million for PNCIMA, Moore granted less than \$1-million for the west coast of Vancouver Island.

Like PNCIMA, the Coast Conservation Endowment Fund Foundation (CCEFF), commonly known as the "Coast Opportunity Fund," covers the same part of the north and central coast of B.C. -- but not the coast of Vancouver Island. The CCEFF supports "eligible" First Nations along the north and central coast of B.C. Of the 37 grants the Rockefeller Brothers Fund has made since 2003 for projects in Canada, the largest by far was a 2003 grant to the CCEFF for a nice, cool \$1-million.

The year 2003 was a boom year indeed, especially for the Heiltsuk, a vociferous First Nation on the B.C. coast. U.S. tax returns show that in 2003 the Packard foundation paid \$935,000 to Tides Canada, including \$175,000 "to develop the Canadian capacity for indigenous conservation philanthropy." That same year, Moore granted \$500,000 to Ecotrust for work with the Heiltsuk. The Rockefeller Brothers Fund gave \$5,000 for a summer camp for Heiltsuk youth and from 2004 to 2006, more than half of Tides Canada's scholarship funds went to two Heiltsuk individuals.

The CCEFF now has equivalency status in the United States, so U.S. foundations can quietly channel millions of dollars directly to First Nations -- but only along the B.C. coast. U.S. tax returns show that since 2000, U.S. foundations have granted at least \$50-million to First Nations. In 2008, one single grant from Tides Canada was for a whopping \$27.3-million. If First Nations would support the Enbridge pipeline, my hunch is that they wouldn't be getting U.S. money. Last week, 61 First Nations in B.C. agreed to support the tanker ban.

The Moore Foundation has granted at least \$8.7-million for projects specifically with First Nations along B.C.'s north and central coast. In 2007, Moore granted \$250,000 for "a groundbreaking test case related to aboriginal rights and title to the lands and water of Haida Gwaii." That grant says, "The legal framework for aboriginal rights and title in Canada has the potential to have a significant impact on land and natural resource conservation in affected regions." No kidding. Aboriginal rights and title are the best pretext for choking oil exports to Asia and preventing Canada from diversifying our customer base in Asia.

It may be that blocking oil exports to Asia isn't the intention of environmentalists or U.S. foundations. Regardless, that would be the consequence of their initiatives.



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