

August 21, 2019

Elizabeth May, Leader
Green Party of Canada

Dear Elizabeth May,

Re: Request for your support of the Basel Ban Amendment

With this letter, we the undersigned call on you as leader of the Green Party of Canada to support the Basel Ban Amendment, which prohibits developed countries like Canada from exporting their hazardous wastes to developing countries.

The amendment is supported by the African Group of countries and many other developing countries, as well as by the European Union. Indeed, the ratification by only

two more countries from the 90 countries that were present at the time of its adoption in 1995 is needed for the Basel Ban Amendment to come into effect.

One of the primary objectives of the Basel Convention is to have countries take responsibility for their own wastes in their own country and, in particular, stop the practice of exporting their wastes to developing countries. A [recent survey](#) showed that Canadians overwhelmingly support this goal and say Canada should manage and dispose of its own waste and recycling. Only 18% said Canada should be able to export waste and recycling overseas and 79% supported what the Basel Ban Amendment would require.

Shipping our wastes half-way around the world, allegedly for recycling, to countries that are already deluged with wastes, is a practice that is readily abused. It is a practice that is neither environmentally responsible nor just. Canada has, in fact, over the past several months been the subject of strong criticism for shipping our wastes to the Philippines, Malaysia and Cambodia.

We are therefore writing to the leaders of all the federal political parties to ask that they let us know their position on the Basel Ban Amendment.

We strongly hope that you and the Green Party of Canada support the Basel Ban Amendment and we look forward to receiving your response as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Ruff, Director
RightOnCanada.ca



Theresa McClenaghan, Executive Director and Counsel
Canadian Environmental Law Association




Beatrice Olivastri, CEO
Friends of the Earth Canada



Jim Puckett, Founder, Director
Basel Action Network



Pamela Miller
IPEN Co-Chair



Sarah King, Head of Oceans & Plastics campaign
Greenpeace Canada



Heather Marshall, Campaigns Director
Toronto Environmental Alliance



Dr. Olga Speranskaya, Co-Director
Health and Environmental Justice Support International

* Developing countries are defined in the amendment as countries not part of the EU, OECD and Liechtenstein.