



September 8, 2015
For Immediate Release

Edmonton: Bruce Nilles from the Beyond Coal Campaign is travelling to Alberta this week to share his experience in helping to shutter over 200 plants in the United States.

Bruce Nilles, Senior Campaign Director with the US Sierra Club will be speaking in Edmonton tonight. Mr. Nilles, who helped launch and leads the very successful Beyond Coal Campaign, will share lessons learned from the front lines in the US where the campaign has, over the past dozen years, pushed 203 existing coal plants into retirement and stopped 184 new coal plants from being built.

"Working closely with frontline communities, we secured the retirement of one third of US coal plants since 2010" Bruce Nilles offered. "At the same time we have reduced barriers for the rapid deployment of clean energy, such that the solar industry now employs more people than the US coal mining sector in the United States."

Nilles has come to Alberta to participate in the Climate Summit organized by the Pembina Institute for Wednesday September 9th. His knowledge on the public health and climate effects of coal, as well as tactics used to retire coal plants and deploy large amounts of wind and solar, will help inform Alberta's experience moving forward.

CAPE and its partners have organized a public lecture tonight featuring Nilles that is free to the public at CN Theatre (Rm 5-142, 105 Street Building) at Grant MacEwan University at 7:00.

"We are eager to hear how they did it in the United States" explained Dr. Joe Vipond, an emergency room physician and CAPE member who has been outspoken about the need for a coal phase-out in Alberta. "We're moving beyond the idea of whether to phase out coal plants early, and entering the "how-to" chapter. Alberta needs to know more about techniques to phase them out; how do we do it in a way that creates new jobs in our province, as well as clean air and a stable climate".

Both Dr. Vipond and Mr. Nilles will be available for interviews during the day on Tuesday, and after the event. Please contact Ms. Perrotta for more information on the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment and the Alberta Coal Phase-Out Campaign.

Contacts:

Bruce Nilles, US Sierra Club
bruce.nilles@sierraclub.org

Dr. Joe Vipond, CAPE Lead on Alberta Coal Phase Out
jvipondmd@gmail.com

Kim Perrotta MHSc, Executive Director, CAPE
905-320-8710 (cell phone)
kim@cape.ca