

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**WHAT DOES JUSTICE, DEMOCRACY, AND CONFLICT
HAVE TO DO WITH THE ENVIRONMENT IN CANADA?
Ask two writers from Edmonton's University Community**

Vancouver, BC – On April 8th Randy Haluza-Delay, co-editor of *Speaking for Ourselves: Environmental Justice in Canada*, and Laurie E. Adkin, editor of *Environmental Conflict and Democracy in Canada*, will jointly launch their books at Greenwood's Bookshoppe in Edmonton.

Why is environmental justice a little-known area in Canada? *Speaking for Ourselves* opens the doors to this issue drawing together scholars and activists who talk about social equity and the environment. The book opens with one of the most compelling pieces in this collection, Notes from Prison by Robert Lovelace. The 61-year old grandfather, and a chief of the Ardoch Algonquin, was in prison for standing up for social justice and environmental protection. Lovelace wrote his story from the minute space of his prison cell with a 4" pencil that he sharpened on the abrasive tread of a set of stairs. Ironically, being imprisoned for his activist work afforded him the time to tell of his experience of protecting the Algonquin lands in Ontario from uranium mining – one of thousands of environmental injustices in Canada. His voice is heard, many are not. The book ends with a playful, yet serious dialogue:

***speaking for ourselves* hmm
so where's the howling and yelping and thrackkking and rapping
seems to me there's a whole lot of english language ideas and words
getting in the way of what is really going on
and who's really being impacted by capitalism consumerism and cronyism
from c to shining c**

- Pat O'Riley and Peter Cole, Coyote and Raven Talk about Environmental Justice, *Speaking for Ourselves* (p. 233)

What does democracy have to do with the environment? *Environmental Conflict and Democracy in Canada* is a very important collection of articles that address issues that profoundly affect every Canadian citizen, and our animal neighbours. This is not a book that will be widely read, it is a book that will be used for a university-level course. However, it is also a book that should be read by those who have a deep understanding of citizenship, democracy and the environment.

It is time to set aside the master's tools of "sustainable development" and turn our efforts toward the realization of ecological democracy.

- Laurie Adkin, Introduction, *Environmental Conflict and Democracy in Canada*, p. xii

Laurie E. Adkin is associate professor of comparative politics in the Department of Political Science at the University of Alberta.

Randolph Haluza-DeLay is an assistant professor of sociology at King's University College.

The authors will be available to participate in radio and print interviews in Edmonton before or after the book launch.

REVIEW COPIES ARE AVAILABLE:

Speaking for Ourselves:

Environmental Justice in Canada

Edited by Julian Agyeman, Peter Cole, Randy Haluza-Delay, and Pat O'Riley
\$32.95 Paperback

Environmental Conflict and Democracy in Canada

Edited by Laurie E. Adkin

\$34.95 Paperback

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, REVIEW COPIES AND TO SET UP INTERVIEWS,
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