

**Vietnam's Environmental Disaster with Raw Sewage/Heavy Metals Discharges  
into the Eastern Sea**

Remarks by David Kilgour

At public rally at Official Residence of Government of Vietnam

55 MacKay Street

Ottawa

28 May 2016

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Chers amis/cheres amies,

...Thanks to the hundreds of you who came in buses and cars from across Ontario and Quebec to this protest rally.

We are here to protest the irresponsibility of the government of Vietnam concerning toxic waste discharged by the Formosa Plastics' subsidiary Formosa Ha Tinh Corporation.

The Formosa Ha Tinh Corporation strongly appears to have discharged thousands of cubic metres of raw sewage containing heavy metals into the Eastern Sea. This has caused severe pollution along a 250 km stretch of the coastline. We are informed that the consequences include the deaths of millions of fish, shrimps, crabs, oysters, etc, thereby causing thousands of fishermen to lose their livelihoods.

The toxic sewage will also have a long term impact on regional health and the local environment.

Other points should also be stressed:

- 1-The disaster has international long-term impacts because the toxic wastes discharged by the Ha Tinh Formosa Steel Corporation in Vietnam will be carried to nearby countries, affecting their marine life;
2. Sea food exported by Vietnam to other countries, including Canada, if not properly inspected, will affect the health of the people in the importing countries;
3. Canada should send financial help to Vietnam towards building up technological expertise at universities and other organizations in the non-profit sector to detect sources of pollution in a timely and effective way, and to find remedies to the damages from similar incidents;
4. Corruption, lack of expertise and lack of resolve are no doubt the ultimate causes of this and other environmental disasters in Vietnam.
5. The Canadian government should raise its concerns about this grave incident immediately.

Thank you/merci.