Preamble

What is this petition?
This petition is to ask the Macdonald Campus Students' Society (MCSS) to post an official statement on behalf of all Macdonald campus undergraduate students. If 50 signatures are collected in this petition, MCSS will be obligated to hold an open student society meeting where a vote can be held on the attached statement. This official statement, if voted 'yes' on by 10% of the undergraduate and FMT student body, will position the MCSS ~~students~~ against Bill C-39.

What is Bill C-39?
Bill C-39, the *Canada Strong Act*, constitutes the largest environmental rollbacks in Canadian history and raises massive concern for democratic accountability, Indigenous rights, public consultation, and the climate crisis.

Bill C-39 will allow prime minister Mark Carney to ram through industrial mega-projects, such as the BC-Alberta oil pipeline, without subjecting them to environmental impact assessments. It will exempt mega-infrastructure projects from the *Fisheries Act* and the *Species at Risk Act*, to name only a few, and will designate entire "regions of national interest" as environmental sacrifice zones. This will affect every living being on planet Earth.

Bill C-39 also completely disregards both Indigenous and democratic rights. Regulatory processes of Indigenous people in the granting of project pre-approval will be extremely compressed. These proposed timelines cannot uphold the principle of Free Prior and Informed Consent and are innately incompatible with the government's duty to consult, which is enshrined in the United Nations Declarations of Indigenous Rights.

There are many resources to learn more about Bill C-39 online. The Canadian Labour Congress, The Assembly of First Nations, First Peoples Law, and 350.org are all good sites to begin your research.

What does it mean for MCSS to publish this statement?
Once this petition reaches 50 signatures, the MCSS council will hold an open student society meeting. Here, a vote will be held to publish the statement. We will need to reach quorum, 10% of the undergraduate and FMT student body, or 118 students, to be able to vote on statement. If quorum is met, and the vote passes with simple majority (50% + 1), the official statement, which you can view attached to the petition, will be published by MCSS on behalf of all Macdonald campus undergraduate and FMT students.

Publishing this statement is significant in telling the Carney government that students are aware of the democratic and environmental rollbacks they are trying to get away with. As students who will live with the repercussions of these rollbacks, we must make our voices heard and tell the government we care.