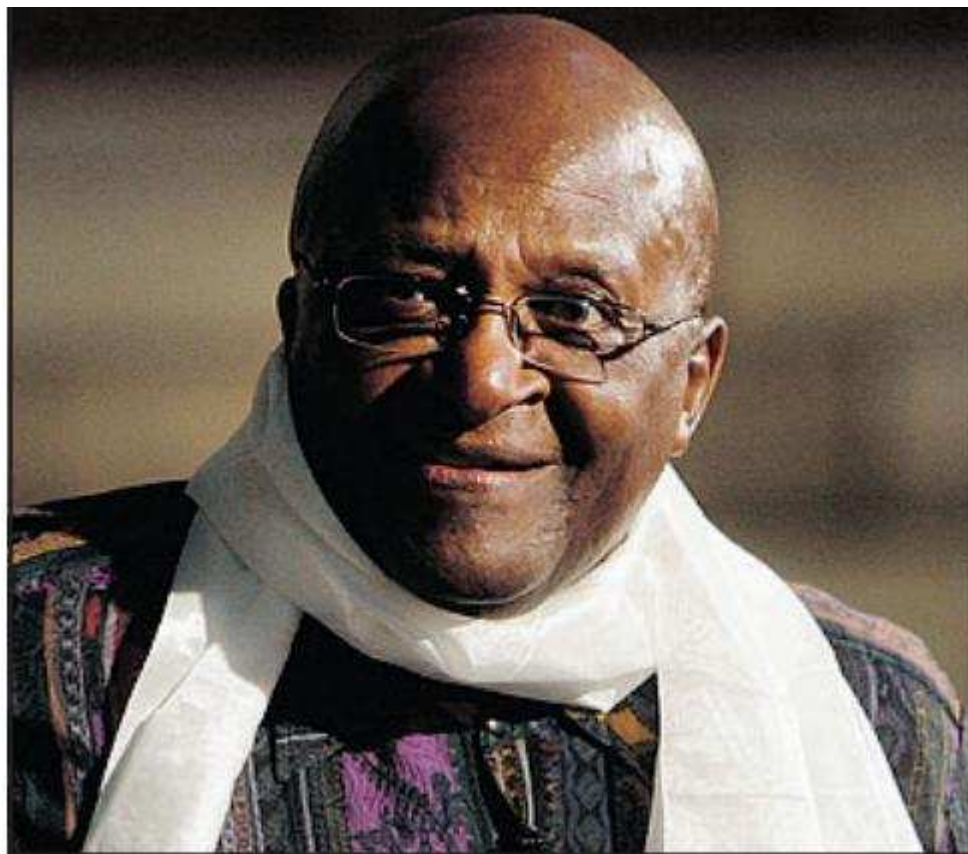




Archbishop Tutu challenges Canada to stop protecting big oil

BY MIKE DE SOUZA, POSTMEDIA NEWS NOVEMBER 29, 2011



Archbishop and Nobel laureate Desmond Tutu is challenging the Canadian government's support for the oil and gas industry, while urging it to start leading the world in addressing climate change as it did in opposing the "whites-only" rule that plagued South Africa in the 1980s.

Photograph by: Mark Wessels, Reuters, Agence France-Presse

OTTAWA — Archbishop and Nobel laureate Desmond Tutu is challenging the Canadian government's support for the oil and gas industry, while urging it to start leading the world in addressing climate change as it did in opposing the "whites-only" rule that plagued South Africa in the 1980s.

"Canada, you were once considered a leader on global issues like human rights and environmental protection," says a new statement signed by Tutu and other South African leaders that was published in newspapers Tuesday. "Today you're home to polluting tarsands oil, speeding the dangerous effects of climate change."

The statement is part of a \$53,000 marketing offensive by environmental groups, including Canadian organizations such as Environmental Defence, Greenpeace Canada, Equiterre and the Nobel Women's Initiative, who drafted the message to raise awareness about Canada's position at international climate-change negotiations that started this week in Durban, South Africa.

