

Greenpeace hires B.C. environmentalist

BY LARRY PYNN, VANCOUVER SUN FEBRUARY 15, 2010



Tzeporah Berman was recently hired by Greenpeace International to direct the organization's global climate and energy campaign.

Photograph by: Ward Perrin, Vancouver Sun, Vancouver Sun

Veteran B.C. environmentalist Tzeporah Berman said Saturday she has been hired by Greenpeace International to direct its global climate and energy campaign.

Berman, who previously served as a forests campaigner with Greenpeace, said she applied for the job after reconnecting with the group at the Copenhagen climate conference last December and being embarrassed at international criticism of Canada for its weak policies on climate change.

The job will give her the opportunity to have the "biggest impact" possible on the issue, she said. "We're living a critical moment in history."

As part of her job, she'll be working with 110 Greenpeace climate campaigners in 28 countries. She'll be based in Amsterdam for up to two years, after which she can return to B.C. to continue her job.

Berman, 41, lives on Cortes Island, but is building a duplex in Vancouver's Kitsilano neighbourhood. Her husband is Christopher Hatch, a former tree planter and Clayoquot Sound protester, and her sons are Quinn, six, and Forrest, 10.

Berman joined Greenpeace Canada in 1993 as a forest campaigner, and later coordinated the organization's international forest campaign from 1996 to 1999.

She went on to co-found ForestEthics and play a major role in forest conservation campaigns such as Clayoquot Sound and the Great Bear Rainforest and in discouraging major retailers from buying

unsustainable old-growth wood. Almost two years ago, she started PowerUp Canada, an organization seeking stronger laws to fight global warming in Canada.

Recently, she's been splitting her time about 70 per cent with PowerUp and 30 per cent with ForestEthics.

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