

From: Anne Bishop
To: [PublicOnlyCouncilEmail](#)
Subject: Minister Lohr's Letter
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To West Hants Council

A letter from Minister of Municipal Affairs John Lohr to Mayors and Wardens is circulating on the Internet. I assume you have received it and will be discussing it at your coming meeting. I am writing to ask you to please not express support for the Provincial government's plan to open up our natural resources for limitless exploitation. The removal of the uranium mining and fracking bans, in particular, have huge implications for West Hants. It was the West Hants Council that originally proposed the uranium mining ban in 1984 because the first mine was being developed at Millet Brook, next to Falls Lake. We also have the type of shale appropriate for fracking. If the mine had gone ahead in 1984, its productive life would be over and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission would currently be managing tens of thousands of tons of radioactive waste at the site with the Avon River watershed at risk should anything go wrong.

The Provincial government is echoing the mining industry's claim that the technology has changed and both types of mining are now safe, but uranium mining still involves bringing huge amounts of radioactive rock to the surface. Eighty-five percent of it is waste, which must be safely stored basically forever – the CNSC website says it takes billions of years to return to the earth's normal background level of radiation. Fracking still involves forcing thousands of gallons of water, sand and "thickeners" – proprietary mixes of chemicals that are not safe for animals or humans to drink – into the ground with enough pressure to send cracks many miles through the rock. It is not common for the fracking waste to end up in underground water sources but it does happen and then there is no way to clean it up. Nova Scotia is the most heavily populated area ever proposed for uranium mining and more populated than most fracking sites.

Uranium mining and fracking both require huge investment and involve bringing in large corporations from outside. Nova Scotians should know by now that these corporations take the profit elsewhere and leave us with the mess. There are better ways to develop our economy, ways that use our natural resources sustainably and develop our people and communities at the same time. Ways that do not involve putting our land and water at risk.

Let me share with you a great quote from a commentary by Nova Scotian John Wesley Chisholm: "Resource extraction is not development. It is liquidation. It is the slow, grim process of converting a place's natural wealth into temporary revenue and unintended consequences.(...) Look around the world: economies that thrive do so not by clinging to unstable commodities markets but by building industries that create, innovate, and refine. Nova Scotia has the opportunity to invest in sectors that generate real wealth—technology, advanced manufacturing, sustainable fisheries, high-value agriculture, and renewable energy. These industries do not just create jobs; they create economic ecosystems that drive long-term stability, intellectual capital, and regional self-sufficiency."

https://open.substack.com/pub/thebeens/p/digging-ourselves-into-a-hole-the?utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=web

Please turn down Minister Lohr's request for support
Thank you,

Anne Bishop

PS The whole story of the fight for and against the uranium mining ban, including the role played by West Hants Council, Women's Institute and several local groups including Citizen Action to Protect the Environment (CAPE), is told in the book *In Defence of Home Places: Environmental Activism in Nova Scotia* by Mark R. Leeming. There are four copies in the Annapolis Valley Regional Library collection.