

Bill # 39

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46 StoneGate Court
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
B2X 3T2
1st November 2009

To:

Gordon Hebb,
Chief Legislative Counsel

Re: Bill #39

Dear Mr. Hebb:

I am a resident of Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. I hold a master's degree in Geology from Acadia University and a master's degree in Electronic and Electrical Engineering from the University of Surrey. I have worked in uranium exploration projects in New Brunswick and Labrador, and in mineral exploration projects in many Canadian provinces, including Nova Scotia, and in China and Latin-America. I have personally collected and studied geochemically thousands of outcrop and drill-core samples for uranium and other metals.

I have become very concerned that Bill #39 in its present form will have a major negative effect on Nova Scotia. As the Bill is proposed, it is not only based on poor science and comparable to witch-hunts banning the teaching of evolution, but it is also a substantial contribution to the NOT IN NOVA SCOTIA philosophy and will further enhance the already tremendously negative image of the province as a place not to invest.

I am also gravely concerned that, to the best of my knowledge, there has been no concerted effort by the provincial authorities to contact parties that would be affected by Bill #39 in its present shape. The legislation of Bill #39 as proposed appears to be largely based on the views of politically motivated environmental groups, who are relying on emotion and a poor understanding of science clouded by disregard for existing current technology and the actual nature of radioactive elements.

Based on the nature of the Earth's crust and taking into account that Nova Scotia is anomalously but naturally enriched in uranium by the actions of Mother Nature, it would be impossible for the following operations not to encounter at least 1-3 ppm Uranium: dimension stone quarries, decorative stone quarries, gravel pits, gypsum extraction, salt extraction, soil providers. It would be very likely, if not a certainty, that the following operations would encounter 10-100 ppm Uranium or even >100 ppm Uranium in soils, outcrop and/or some drill-holes: shale gas, hydrocarbon exploration (including offshore), metallic mineral exploration, water-well boring, construction of foundations for homes, road-fill quarrying, farming, geothermal power exploratory holes, construction of foundations for windmills.

Whilst an adequate procedure for remedial work should be established when ore-grade uranium is encountered, a requirement to isolate physically outcrops or drill-holes that encounter >100 ppm Uranium would not simply be economically unfeasible, it would effectively amount to banning the vast majority of existing and future industrial activities that touch rocks in Nova Scotia. I am concerned that Bill #39 will have the effect of shutting down all extraction industries and many industrial activities in Nova Scotia.

I would like to propose that:

1. The Assembly abandon completely Bill #39 in its current form and revisit the issue at a later date after consultation with academic scientists, industry experts, citizen groups and those who may be affected by this bill. This would allow the Assembly to acquire enough information to make a decision in the best interests of ALL Nova Scotians affected.

OR

2. That the Assembly abandon completely plans to ban uranium mining and exploration.

Uranium mining and nuclear power are enterprises performed safely to the great benefit of modern, western democratic societies such as the province of Saskatchewan and France, the former being a role model of economic performance and citizen services in Canada and the latter a model in reducing consumption of hydrocarbons and coal.

Yours faithfully,

José Texidor Carlsson, *M.Sc., M.Eng.*