

November 10, 2009

Belledune Citizens Committee, Conservation Council of New Brunswick, Sierra Club of Canada Atlantic Chapter

## Groups province-wide demand regulation of quarries

Thirty organizations from across the province of New Brunswick are expressing concern over existing and proposed quarries in their communities ([see attached statement](#)).

“Witnessing the onslaught of huge quarries-for-export operations in Belledune, I am convinced that quarrying operations need to be regulated. Removing large amounts of stone changes the landscape and affects neighbouring communities and ecosystems,” stated Peggy Gordon, a member of the Belledune Citizens Committee. “The quarries found and proposed in Belledune and elsewhere are larger scale operations than what we are used to in New Brunswick. The quarries have expanded to service export markets. Current policies and regulations on quarries are inadequate to protect adjacent communities and the environment. The regulations need to be modernized.”

The statement demands that permits for quarries be revoked and new permits not be approved until the following conditions have been met by the provincial government:

1. The Quarriable Substances Act be overhauled to address the scale of the large export-driven quarrying operations. This includes amending the Quarriable Substances Act to include mandatory public consultation and amending the Quarriable Substances Act to require an automatic “Approvals to Operate” from the Department of Environment.
2. Environmental Impact Assessment regulation be amended to include quarry expansion and development. Quarries must be assessed under the Clean Environment Act and must require permits under the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act.
3. Consent from local communities affected by current and proposed quarry operations is obtained.

“Of concern are the expansion plans of the Blanchard quarry to alter Duncan’s Brook, which flows into the Baie des Chaleurs. Background levels of arsenic in this area are high according to a number of government and industry-funded studies. It is irresponsible to not do an environmental assessment of quarrying operations for a long list of environmental reasons,” stated Tracy Glynn from the Conservation Council of New Brunswick.

“The proposed quarry in Digby, Nova Scotia was shelved due to high degree of public consultation which led to the conclusion that the quarry was not in the best interest of the community because of the environmental damage it would cause. A Federal Review Panel, the highest level of environmental assessment in Canada, warned against “quarry creep”: the incremental expansion of small quarries to larger ones. The Panel recommended that the Province of Nova Scotia modify its regulations to require an environmental assessment of quarry projects of any size,” stated Gretchen Fitzgerald of the Sierra Club Canada Atlantic Chapter.

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