

February 7, 2007
NB Telegraph Journal

Don't build second refinery

Jessica Coleman
Sussex

It is with great sadness and horrified astonishment that I am witnessing the people of New Brunswick, and especially Saint John and the surrounding area, being treated as a toxic waste site. The really sad part, we are not even blinking an eye!

So, the new oil refinery will bring economic prosperity to Saint John as did the first one? I wonder, then, why is Saint John one of the poorer cities in the country? Will two refineries fix what one did not? Maybe, but fix the economy for how long?

Is this small amount of time really worth the sacrifice? Do we not have a responsibility to the rest of the world to really consider what we are doing? No matter how you look at it, improved technology or not, it is ludicrous to be planning on building something such as a oil refinery when we are already seeing the effects of climate change.

What about the people of Saint John? Is health not a concern? What is more important, money or a healthy place to live? Poorer health is not to be talked about as something in the future. It will happen to you as well as your grandchildren. Do you think Saint John is a healthy place to live? Think again, and imagine what another refinery will do.

The city is polluted, the air tastes and smells awful, the water does not taste much better, and people look and are unhealthy. So what is a job worth? The health of your child or grandchildren? Do you want to be a sick city?

Then by all means please, build the refinery. I am sure your wish will come true. The image of Saint John right now is not one of a nice healthy place to live. Two refineries and we can make it a place that people will not even want to visit. The people of Saint John and New Brunswick deserve better than that.