

May 14, 2008

Petitcodiac Riverkeeper, Conservation Council of New Brunswick, SCARE NB

New Brunswick groups unite to pursue ban on uranium

Province-wide uranium opposition growing

(Fredericton, May 14, 2008) – Environmental groups from across the province are marking Canadian National Mining Week by joining forces in calling for an immediate ban on uranium exploration and mining in New Brunswick.

“Today, we are officially announcing that 30 groups from across the province have signed a [statement](#) endorsing a complete ban on uranium exploration and mining in New Brunswick. This coalition continues to grow and we will be seeking out new members,” says Petitcodiac Riverkeeper Tim Van Hinte. “In addition, we are officially denouncing the decision by the provincial government to ignore requests for a permanent ban,” he added.

Last month, the opposition Conservatives tabled a motion in the provincial legislature asking the government to place only a temporary halt to uranium exploration and mining until the matter is further studied. The Liberal government defeated the motion.

Yvonne Devine, the president of the Southeast chapter of the Conservation Council of New Brunswick has organized several public forums to educate the public on the impacts of uranium. “In all the forums we’ve held to date, everyone we have heard from is opposed to uranium mining,” stated Devine. “We take great exception to Minister Arsenault’s assertion that ‘a silent majority’ supports uranium. This is a shameful statement and there is no evidence to support his claim,” she added.

In Canada, areas such as northern Saskatchewan and Elliot Lake in northern Ontario have been heavily contaminated with radioactive materials from uranium mining. Inka Milewski, Science Advisor to the Conservation Council of New Brunswick, has seen the damage first hand since she grew up in Elliot Lake. Elliot Lake was once home to 12 uranium mines. “The by-products of uranium mining cause cancer. Many miners and citizens have died in Elliot Lake as a result of mining activities, including my mother and father,” said Milewski.

Walter Moore of the group Support Citizens Against Radioactive Emissions New Brunswick (S.C.A.R.E. NB) urges citizens and other groups to join the fight to ban uranium exploration and mining. “This is a call to action – we are looking for groups to sign our statement endorsing a permanent ban, from municipalities to health care professionals to First Nations,” said Moore.

The Conservation Council of New Brunswick will be hosting a public information session on uranium exploration and mining tonight, May 14th from 7:00pm to 9:00pm in the McCain Auditorium at St. Thomas University.

To sign on visit http://archives.nben.ca/aboutus/caucus/indexframe_caucus.htm