

February 8, 2021

Hon. Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada

Hon. Seamus O'Regan
Minister of Natural Resources

Dear Sirs:

Re. **Expectations of Public Interest Groups Regarding
Canada's Review of Radioactive Waste Policy and Waste Management Strategies**

On November 16th 2020 Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) launched a review of Canada's Radioactive Waste Policy. We write now to inform you of our expectation that the Review will ensure that the public interest is fully considered.

To date, NRCan has populated a [web site](#), posted [four discussion papers](#) and comment forums, and held one by-invitation "information session" and a number of bilateral conversations with civil society organizations and others in December 2020.

As public interest groups, many with considerable expertise in nuclear waste management, we consider this Review to be of utmost national importance. The outcomes of the Review process will impact not only the current generation of Canadians but also generations to come. As we have communicated with NRCan staff and in earlier letters to you as Prime Minister of Canada and as Minister of Natural Resources, we have [serious concerns](#) about the shape of the review as announced to date.

In particular, a timeline with March 31, 2021 for the end of public engagement is unreasonable and unacceptable. Most Canadians have not yet even been made aware of this review and its far-ranging implications. At the very least, Canadians must be given notice of the Review process and opportunities to participate.

Our expectations for the review of Canada's radioactive waste policies and the development of radioactive waste management strategies are as follows:

1. The process will be open and transparent and publicized to all Canadians, through a variety of media, from coast to coast to coast.
2. All Canadians will be given equal opportunities to participate in the Review process. To avoid conflict of interest, the nuclear industry will not be afforded privileged opportunities to affect process outcomes or to influence policy decision-makers.
3. The process will only move forward with the participation of Indigenous peoples, who are engaged in a manner and on a timeline determined by those Indigenous peoples who choose to participate.
4. The resulting policy will be the product of the engagement of Indigenous peoples, the Canadian public and civil society with the Government of Canada; the engagement

practices for the review process must reflect this. For example, a reasonable timeline would not be expected to produce outcomes prior to 2022.

5. Resulting strategies will be the product of the engagement of Indigenous peoples, the Canadian public and civil society with the Government. Specifically, strategies will not be formulated by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization.
6. Protection of health and the environment will be at the forefront of and embedded in the Review process as well as the resulting radioactive waste policies and radioactive waste management strategies.
7. The review process will be iterative, and include comment on discussion papers, open comment opportunities, a feedback period on “What We Heard” reports, and a comment period on resulting draft policies and draft strategies.
8. The outcome strategies will address all categories of radioactive wastes and include timelines and budgets.
9. The process outcomes will be determined by the Government of Canada.
10. The establishment of the resulting policies and strategies must be the result of a multi-departmental process and not the sole domain of Natural Resources Canada.

As you are aware, the current review is responding to recommendations from the International Atomic Energy Agency’s Integrated Regulatory Review Service peer review of Canada’s radioactive waste policies in 2019. The IAEA found Canada’s policies and strategies for the management of radioactive waste to be inadequate.

Canada's response to the IAEA findings is a litmus test of this Government’s earlier commitments to restore Canadians’ trust in our democracy and to ensure an open and transparent government.

Now is the moment to take action to correct the course of this review process. We remain available for further clarification or detailing of the above and would be pleased to meet at your convenience. We look forward to your response to our expectations.

Sincerely,

Action Climat Outaouais - Québec	Réal Lalande
Action Environnement Basses-Laurentides	Lucie Massé
Algonquin EcoWatch (formerly)	Mke Wilton
Association québécoise de lutte contre la pollution atmosphérique	Jocelyne Lachapelle
Biigtigong Nishnaabeg	Duncan M Michano
Bonnechere River Watershed Project	Kathryn Lindsay
Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment	Cathy Vakil
Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility	Gordon Edwards
Canadian Council on Food Safety and Health	Ken Billings
Canadian Environmental Law Association	Theresa McClenaghan
Canadian Peace Research Association	Anne Venton
Canadian Voice of Women for Peace	Vanessa Lanteigne
Centre de recherche en éducation et formation relatives	Isabel Orellana

à l'environnement et à l'écocitoyenneté, Université du Québec à Montréal	
Citizens Against Radioactive Neighbourhoods	Jane Scott
Citizens Environment Alliance of Southwestern Ontario	Derek Coronado
Citizens' Network on Waste Management	John Jackson
Clean North	William G. Cole
Coalition Against Nuclear Dumps on the Ottawa River	Eva Schacherl
Coalition for a Clean Green Saskatchewan	David Geary
Coalition for a Nuclear Free Great Lakes	Michael J. Keegan
Coalition for Responsible Energy Development - New Brunswick	Ann McAllister
Comité des Citoyens et Citoyennes pour la Protection de l'Environnement Maskoutain	Annabelle T. Palardy
Committee for Future Generations	Candyce Paul
Concerned Citizens of Hornepayne	Sandra Fraser
Concerned Citizens of Manitoba	Dave Taylor
Concerned Citizens of Renfrew County and Area	Ole Hendrickson
Concerned Citizens of Saint John	Paula Tippet
Provincial Council of Women of Quebec	Elizabeth Hutchinson
Council of Canadians	Mark Calzavara
Council of Canadians, Fredericton Chapter	Gail Wylie
Council of Canadians, Ottawa Chapter	Janet Graham
Council of Canadians, Peterborough and Kawarthas	Roy Brady
Council of Canadians, Regina Chapter	Jim Elliot
Council of Canadians, Saint John Chapter	Leticia Adair
Council for Public Health in Mining Communities	Sue Moodie
County Sustainability Group	Don Ross
Durham Nuclear Awareness	Gail Cockburn
Eau Secours	Rébecca Pétrin
Environment North	Graham Saunders
Espace Humain	Helene Tremblay
Extinction Rebellion New Brunswick	Jessica Spencer
Fédération des travailleurs et des travailleuses du Québec	Denis Bolduc
Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations	Terry Rees
Friends of Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention	Richard Denton
Friends of the Earth Canada	Beatrice Olivastri
Green Coalition/Coalition Verte	Gareth Richardson
Greenpeace Canada	Shawn-Patrick Stensil
Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital	J. P. Unger
Hiroshima Nagasaki Coalition	Rosemary Keenan
Indigenous Solidarity Working Group/UJPO-TO	Ann Pohl
Inter-Church Uranium Committee Educational Cooperative	Michael Poellet
International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War Canada	Vinay Jindal

JustEarth
Lake Ontario Waterkeeper
Le regroupement des citoyens de Saraguay
Leap4wards Saint John
MiningWatch Canada
National Council of Women of Canada
Nipissing Environmental Watch
North Bay Peace Alliance
Northwatch
Old Fort William Cottagers' Association
Ontario Clean Air Alliance
Ontario Nature
Ottawa Raging Grannies
Ottawa River Institute
Ottawa Water Study/Action Group
PEACE-NB
Petawawa Point Cottagers Association
Pontiac Environment Protection
Port Hope Community Health Concerns Committee
Prevent Cancer now
Protect Our Waterways - No Nuclear Waste
Provincial Council of Women of Ontario
Ralliement contre la pollution radioactive

RAVEN project, University of New Brunswick
Recherche Indépendante de Retraitée en Écologie
Regroupement des organismes environnementaux en énergie
Regroupement pour la surveillance du nucléaire
Regroupement vigilance hydrocarbures Québec
Réseau québécois des groupes écologistes
Saskatchewan Provincial Council of Women
Saskatoon Peace Coalition
Science for Peace
Seventh Generation Initiative
Sierra Club Canada Foundation
Sierra Club Canada Foundation, Atlantic Canada Chapter
SOS Great Lakes
Sustainable Energy Group
Temiskaming Environmental Action Committee
The Inverhuron Committee
UNIFOR 6001 Québec
United Jewish People's Order - Canada
Voices for Sustainable Environments and Communities
WaterCare Allies, First United Church Ottawa

Dorothy.Goldin Rosenberg
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Sylvia Oljemark
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Jill Taylor
Sam Arnold
Ambrose Raftis
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Raymond Thibert
Rachel Epstein
Rick Cheeseman
Judith Miller

Watershed Sentinel Educational Society
Women's Healthy Environments Network

Anna Tillman
Cassie Barker

This letter has been endorsed by:

Jenica Atwin, Member of Parliament, Fredericton

Green Party of Canada

Richard Cannings, Member of Parliament, South Okanagan-
West Kootenay

New Democratic Party of
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Monique Pauzé, Députée, Repentigny

Bloc Québécois

Please direct reply correspondence to nuclearwastewatch@gmail.com for distribution to the signators and endorsers listed above.

cc. Paul Lefebvre, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Natural Resources
Mollie Johnson, Assistant Deputy Minister, Natural Resources Canada
Jim Delaney, Director, Uranium and Radioactive Waste Division, Natural Resources Canada
Members of Federal Cabinet

Greg McLean, Natural Resources Critic, Conservative Party
Richard Cannings, Natural Resources Critic, New Democratic Party
Mario Simard, Natural Resources Critic, Bloc Québécois
Elizabeth May, Parliamentary Leader, Green Party of Canada
Dan Albas, Environment Change and Climate Critic, Conservative Party
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