

July 12, 2023

Hon. Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson
Minister of Natural Resources

Dear Sirs:

**Re. Response to Canada’s Policy for Radioactive Waste and Decommissioning (2023)
Government of Canada Role in Developing the Radioactive Waste Management Strategy**

Over 100 civil society organizations have signed letters sent to you since the November 2020 launch of the review of Canada’s radioactive waste policy framework, setting out expectations for a sound, comprehensive and responsible waste policy. On specific points, such as the need for an independent, arm’s length oversight body, and a ban on the extraction of plutonium from nuclear fuel waste, you have received thousands of communications. Hundreds of Canadians and Canadian organizations contributed extensively to the radioactive waste policy review.

Radioactive Waste Policy

We write today to express our profound disappointment in [Canada’s Policy for Radioactive Waste and Decommissioning](#) (the Policy) released on March 31st. We urge you – despite our disappointment – to engage again with Canadians in the establishment of a detailed strategy for radioactive waste management in Canada.

Canada’s [new policy](#) leaves the nuclear industry in charge and the public and the environment at risk. Key priorities were omitted, including the establishment of a national oversight body, a ban on the reprocessing of nuclear fuel waste to extract plutonium, and a commitment to keep radioactive waste isolated from the biosphere.

Radioactive Waste Strategies

On February 8, 2021, 100 civil society organizations wrote expressing our strong concern and disagreement with NRCan’s decision to ask the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) to lead the development of an “integrated strategy for radioactive waste”. In that letter, we set out our expectations for the review of Canada’s radioactive waste policies and the development of radioactive waste management strategies.

Minister O’Regan was clear that the product of the NWMO’s exercise was to be provided for [review and consideration by the Government](#). **We fully understand and accept industry having input into Canada’s radioactive waste management strategy; we fully reject any notion that industry determines the strategy. That is the work of Government.**

On July 4th the NWMO [announced](#) that it had submitted to you its “[recommendations](#)” for an Integrated Strategy for Radioactive Waste. Further to the commitments made by the office of the Minister of Natural Resources, we now await your invitation to dialogue on this important matter.

We urge you to ensure the full engagement of the Canadian public and Indigenous peoples with the Government in developing Canada's strategy for radioactive waste management.

Thank you for your consideration. We await your reply with positive expectations.

Endorsed by the following organizations:

350 Ottawa	Ontario
Action Climat Outaouais (ACO)	Québec
Action Environnement Basses-Laurentides	Québec
Amis de la Terre de Québec	Québec
Artistes pour la Paix	Québec
Avalon Chapter Council of Canadians	NFLD & Labrador
Awakening to Possibility, Inc.	Ontario
Canadian Association of Physician for the Environment NB Chapter	New Brunswick
Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility	Québec
Canadian Environmental Law Association	Ontario
Chairman of the Lac Des Mille Lacs First Nation Elders Council	Ontario
Chemainus Climate Solutions	British Columbia
Citizens against Nuclear Energy (C.A.N.E.)	Ontario
Citizens Against Radioactive Neighbourhoods	Ontario
Citizens' Network on Waste Management	Ontario
Clean Green Regina	Saskatchewan
Clean North	Ontario
Climate Justice Coalition	New Brunswick
Coalition for a Clean Green Saskatchewan	Saskatchewan
Coalition for Responsible Energy Development in New Brunswick	New Brunswick
Concerned Citizens of Manitoba	Manitoba
Council of Canadians	National
Council of Canadians - Fredericton Chapter	New Brunswick
Council of Canadians - Halifax Regional Municipality Chapter	Nova Scotia
Council of Canadians - Kitchener-Waterloo Chapter	Ontario
Council of Canadians - Kitchissippi-Ottawa Valley	Ontario
Council of Canadians - Ottawa Chapter	Ontario
County Sustainability Group	Ontario
CUSP - Citizens United for a Sustainable Planet	Ontario
Durham Nuclear Awareness	Ontario
Edmonton Small Press Association	Alberta
Environment North	Ontario
Fondation Rivières	Québec
Grand Riverkeeper Labrador	Nfld & Labrador
Green Coalition Verte	Québec
Green Teacher	Ontario
Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital	Ontario
Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception	Ontario
Hollyhock Haven Farm Vacation	Ontario
Inter-Church Uranium Committee Educational Cooperative	Saskatchewan
International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War Canada	British Columbia
IPPNWC - Sudbury Chapter	Ontario
KAIROS Halifax	Nova Scotia
Le regroupement des citoyens de Saraguay	Québec

Lotbinière en transition	Québec
Montreal for a World BEYOND War	Québec
Mouvement d'éducation populaire et d'action communautaire du Québec	Québec
Mouvement écocitoyen UNEplanète	Québec
New Brunswick Anti-Shale Gas Alliance	New Brunswick
New Brunswick Environmental Coalition	New Brunswick
Nipissing Environmental Watch	Ontario
No Nuclear Waste in Northwestern Ontario	Ontario
NOCANDU	Ontario
North Bay Peace Alliance	Ontario
NorthWest Nuclear Watch	Ontario
Northwatch	Ontario
Nova Scotia Voice of Women for Peace	Nova Scotia
Nuclear Free Thunder Bay	Ontario
NW1 Environment Action Group	Ontario
Old Fort William Cottagers Association	Ontario
Ontario Clean Air Alliance	Ontario
Ottawa Water Study Action Group	Ontario
PEACE-NB	New Brunswick
Peterborough Pollinators	Ontario
Planetary Association for Clean Energy, Inc. (PACE)	Ontario
Pontiac Environment Protection	Québec
Port Hope Community Health Concerns Committee	Ontario
Protect Eisner Cove Wetland	Nova Scotia
Protect our Waterways No Nuclear Waste	Ontario
Provincial Council of Women of Ontario	Ontario
Qu'Appelle Valley Environmental Association Inc.	Saskatchewan
Ralliement contre la pollution radioactive	Québec
Recherche Indépendante de Retraité.e.s en Écologie	New Brunswick
Regenerative Strategies	Québec
Regroupement Vigilance Hydrocarbures Québec	Québec
Rive-Sud en transition	Québec
Science for Peace	Ontario
Seniors for Climate Action Now- Ottawa	Ontario
Seniors for Climate Action Now! (SCAN!)	Ontario
Standing for Water	New Brunswick
Sunset Country Spirit Alliance	Ontario
Sustainable Energy Group	New Brunswick
The Global Sunrise Project	Ontario
The Oxford Coalition for Social Justice	Ontario
Thompson Institute	British Columbia
Victoria Peace Coalition	British Columbia
We the Nuclear Free North	Ontario
WILPF Canada	National
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)	British Columbia
York Region Environmental Alliance	Ontario
Yukoners Concerned	Yukon
Yukon Conservation Society	Yukon

Please direct reply correspondence to nuclearwastewatch@gmail.com for distribution to the signators.

cc. John Hannaford, Deputy Minister, Natural Resources Canada
Mollie Johnson, Associate Deputy Minister, Natural Resources Canada
Jim Delaney, Director, Uranium and Radioactive Waste Division, Natural Resources Canada
Members of Federal Cabinet and Federal Critics