

Key Communication Points

1. This permit poses serious risks to Shawnigan Lake and other BC Communities:
 - Community bears 100% of the risk and endures a negative impact – zero benefit to Shawnigan – benefits go to a corporation.
 - Risks are environmental, health, and economic – fundamental risk to drinking water and an assault on property values for everyone.
 - An engineering failure cannot be remediated in a watershed, especially in an aquifer.
 - Company is responsible for self-monitoring; this is shown not to work (Mt Polley, for example) and the MOE has demonstrated over the last 14 years that they do not have the capacity to monitor or to enforce remediation.
 - There are no plans in place to deal with a failure on the site, either by the company or the ministry.
 - Engineering failures are commonplace and to be expected in a mining operation lasting 50 years.
 - Mining licenses throughout the province become potential fill sites for contaminated soil, a precedent that affects every community, not just Shawnigan.

2. There are serious oversights, errors, and omissions in the Ministry process:
 - The process is flawed and does not serve the people of BC or protect the environment.
 - All of the experts who testified during the hearings agreed that the site is not suitable for a contaminated soil dump.
 - It is unheard of to dump contaminated soil on a site in a community watershed where no contamination exists and there is an active quarry with ongoing blasting.
 - Victoria and Vancouver drinking watersheds are protected, as all drinking watersheds in BC should be.
 - The Statutory Decision Maker erred in a number of ways in issuing the permit
 - Did not consider expertise, competency, ethical conduct, and financial viability of the company.
 - Did not consider the financial impact on the community.

3. Flaws with the Environmental Appeal Board decision include:
 - Reliance on SIA's engineering report, even when their qualified professional did not testify and the report was demonstrated to be full of errors during the hearings.

- CVRD offered to work together to find a suitable site in the region –this offer was ignored by the Ministry of Environment. It remains on the table as an honourable and practical alternative. The Tervita site is an example of an existing alternative dump site within the CRD.
- Decision assumes Ministry of Environment is competent and able to do the monitoring when in practice the Ministry is understaffed and unable to deal with problems that arise (eg. Mt Polley). This is demonstrated in the illegal soil dump sites already in the CVRD.
- A significant amount of information was omitted from the decision that was presented during the EAB hearings.

Actions

- Appeal to BC Provincial Cabinet by writing letters requesting that the permit be revoked and that the province take up the CVRD offer to search for a suitable site that does not compromise a community watershed:
 - www.gov.bc.ca/premier/cabinet_ministers/
 - Use key points, but also make your letter personal – how does this affect you? Why does it matter to you and your family?
 - Always be respectful in your communication
 - CC Bill Routley (bill.routley.mla@leg.bc.ca) and John Horgan (john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca) on all letters
- Write letters to the editor – try to keep these under 250 words and link them to other current stories in the papers (eg. World Water Day, Nestle controversy, drought conditions and the need to protect dwindling sources of drinking water).
- Monitor www.soniafurstenau.ca for communications, action plans and status updates. Send an email to Sonia at soniafurstenau@gmail.com to be added to a distribution list for email updates.
- Support SRA’s legal action plan through donations – www.thesra.ca

Letters to the Editor – Email Addresses

Shawnigan Focus: editor@shawniganfocus.ca
Victoria Times Colonist: letters@timescolonist.com
Cowichan Valley Citizen: news@cowichanvalleycitizen.com
Cowichan News Leader: editor@cowichannewsleader.com
Island Tides: news@islandtides.com
Victoria News: editor@vicnews.com
Vancouver Sun: sunletters@vancouver.sun.com
Vancouver Province: provletters@theprovince.com
The Globe and Mail: letters@theglobeandmail.com
National Post: letters@nationalpost.com
CBC Radio: victoria@cbc.ca

Provincial Cabinet Email Addresses

(All addressed as “Honourable”)

Premier Christy Clark: premier@gov.bc.ca
Mary Polak, Minister of Environment: env.minister@gov.bc.ca
Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource: flnr.minister@gov.bc.ca
Norm Letnick, Minister of Agriculture: agr.minister@gov.bc.ca
Bill Bennett, Minister of Energy and Mines: mem.minister@gov.bc.ca

Rich Coleman, Deputy Premier: mngd.minister@gov.bc.ca
John Rustad, Minister of Aboriginal Relations: abr.minister@gov.bc.ca
Andrew Wilkinson, Minister of Advanced Education: aved.minister@gov.bc.ca
Stephanie Cadieux, Minister of Children and Families: mcf.minister@gov.bc.ca
Coralee Oakes, Minister of Community, Sport, and Cultural Development: cscd.minister@gov.bc.ca
Peter Fassbender, Minister of Education: educ.minister@gov.bc.ca
Michael de Jong, Minister of Finance and Government House Leader: fin.minister@gov.bc.ca
Terry Lake, Minister of Health: hlth.minister@gov.bc.ca
Teresa Wat, Minister of International Trade: mit.minister@gov.bc.ca
Shirley Bond, Minister of Jobs, Tourism, and Skills Training: jtst.minister@gov.bc.ca
Suzanne Anton, Attorney General and Minister of Justice: jag.minister@gov.bc.ca
Michelle Stilwell, Minister of Social Development and Social Innovation: sdsi.minister@gov.bc.ca
Amrik Virk, Minister of Technology, Innovation, and Citizens’ Services: tiacs.minister@gov.bc.ca
Todd Stone, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, Deputy House Leader: minister.transportation@gov.bc.ca
Naomi Yamamoto, Minister of State for Tourism and Small Business: stsb.minister@gov.bc.ca

Mailing addresses can be found at www.gov.bc.ca/premier/cabinet_ministers/