

Alana Richards

Subject: NS physicians warn of health risks of fracking and uranium mining
Attachments: Open letter to Premier Houston-NS physicians warn about health harms.pdf; CAPE NS submission Bill 6-Dr. Nancy Covington.pdf

From: Tynette Deveaux
Sent: March 4, 2025 4:44 PM
Cc: CAPE NS Chair
Subject: NS physicians warn of health risks of fracking and uranium mining

Dear Mayors, Wardens, Councillors, and CAOs of Nova Scotia,

We are writing to you on behalf of the Nova Scotia committee of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment ([CAPE](#)) with an urgent matter.

As Nova Scotia physicians and healthcare providers, we are deeply concerned that Premier Houston's government is taking steps to repeal legislation protecting Nova Scotians from the development of hydraulic fracturing (fracking) and uranium mining in the province. Attached is an open letter we sent to the Premier on February 19, outlining the health threats posed by these industries.

We know from medical research that fracking is strongly linked to increased rates of birth defects, childhood leukemia and asthma, increased hospitalizations for cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, and higher overall mortality rates and reduced life expectancy.

In northeastern British Columbia, where fracking is already well established, physicians are closing their practice and moving their families away, privately identifying it's because of the adverse health and community impacts of the local fracking industry. ([Health professionals urge B.C. to stop investing in the LNG industry](#))

Uranium mining poses grave health and environmental risks as well. Uranium mining (and exploration) releases radioactive materials into the air and water, and leads to elevated levels of radioactive toxic metals in the environment. This can cause long-term contamination of soils, well water and other water resources, and wildlife. (See attached submission by Dr. Covington for more information).

Studies show increased rates of lung cancer and other respiratory diseases for those living in nearby communities, as well as workers in the industry. Radon, the radioactive gas that is released when uranium is disturbed or mined, is the second leading cause of lung cancer in Canada, after smoking.

The decisions made in the coming days could have long-lasting consequences for the health of Nova Scotians and our environment. As local leaders, you have a crucial role to play in protecting the health and well-being of your communities. We urge you to speak out publicly against Bill 6, which would repeal the existing bans on these industries, and to communicate your concerns directly to Premier Houston and your local MLAs.

We stand ready to provide any additional information or support you may need in addressing this urgent matter. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further discussion or clarification.

Sincerely,

Dr. Laurette Geldenhuys

Dr. Nancy Covington

On behalf of the Nova Scotia committee of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE)

* CAPE is a non-partisan, physician-led organization with over 36,000 supporters across the country. It plays a unique role at the intersection of health and the environment, bringing a credible, evidence-based perspective delivered by doctors, other health professionals, and researchers to support community and planetary health and enhance equity. CAPE Nova Scotia represents more than 100 physicians and other healthcare providers in the province.

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Tynette Deveau

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I live and work in Kjipuktuk (Halifax), on Mi'kma'ki territory, which is covered by the treaties of peace and friendship, guaranteeing the rights of Mi'kmaq to fish, hunt, and trade in perpetuity. These treaties are part of the Canadian Constitution and remain binding today. We are all treaty people.

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