

Darren McDonald

► **Premier Stephen McNeil and NS Minister of Environment Gordon Wilson**

Re : Opposing Northern Pulp Submission

Nov 8, 2019

Dear Premier McNeil and Mr. Wilson,

I am a resident of both East Hants in the winter months and Pictou County during the summer season as we have a summer residence in Caribou River.

For the past decade our family been enjoying the waters of the Northumberland Strait. The entire region surrounding Pictou is very beautiful except for the disgusting pollution that the Northern Pulp Mill has been depositing into the air and water surrounding the region.

Each trip to the summer cottage constantly reminds of us what the local residence must endure year around as the foul odor hits you miles before hitting Abercrombie. On a day with a low ceiling that foul smell even saturates the air some 15 kilometers as the crow flies away in Caribou River.

This mill has been causing in my opinion great economic oppression for Pictou and the whole county. The Pictou Harbor waterfront is steeped in History being the entry point for many Nova Scotia family's starting with the Historic Ship "Hector". The region is beautiful and it is a gateway between 2 provinces arguably strategically located between 2 of Canada's top tourist destinations.

It should be a stopping point and destination for many visitors to the region. It should enjoy the success that other similar waterfront towns and communities throughout the province do. With the sheer number of cottage owners along the shore in Pictou County the harbor town should be booming all season long but there are empty buildings and evidence of failure all over the community. My family would love to frequent the local waterfront businesses but can't tolerate the putrid smell of the mill across the harbor.

I don't buy into the idea that job losses will be as significant as what has been purported. I'm sure that there will be some businesses and workers in the province that may lose their jobs due to failure to adapt but I don't believe that "There will never be another log processed in this province". There are always solutions and other markets.

I lived in Summerside some 35 years ago when the announcement was made that the CFB Summerside was closing and that community was sure it was to be the end as it was a massive employer and contributor to that local economy. It happened and within a few short years the economy around Summerside was bustling again and today is one of the Strongest in PEI.

I have read most of the reports contained in the 2400 some pages that were submitted and all I can say is that quite simply lets not accept science based on what is promised ahead by those that stand to financially benefit but look in our rear view mirror at the science and performance that has been experienced in the past 53 years.

Do we accept science that tells us that 5 meters away from 82 million liters of effluent will be almost undetectable? Do we even want to accept that risk? Can we afford to accept that risk? Does your administration want to go down in history as making one of the biggest ecological mistakes of our generation?

Too much to losetoo little to gain!

Yours truly,

Darren McDonald

Darren McDonald