

I will begin by saying in my experience , community interests always supersede individual interests. In the case of northern Pulp, their interest is solely financial while the communities interest is financial and environmental. Northern Pulp s only interest is making money and they are prepared to do whatever is necessary to accomplish that goal.

While NP supports many jobs within the province one must ask , at what cost? The cost to the province on an environmental scale rivals that of the Sydney tar ponds, the impact on the health of the residents of the area cannot be accurately calculated as we do not know for certain what the long term impact will be from the emissions from the plant. Furthermore, dumping of waste into the Northumberland Strait can only have a negative impact on the marine life in the area. Do we sacrifice clean water and jobs in the fishery so a corporate giant can continue to squeeze out profits? We all know that when NP decide the plant is no longer profitable they will not hesitate to turn off the lights and move on to another jurisdiction where they can once again repeat the cycle of economic ransom and environmental chaos.

As Nova Scotia taxpayers we are going to pay sooner or later; so why wait. If we cut our losses now we at least can improve the life of those residents of the area and not allow the pristine waters of the Northumberland Strait to be contaminated. In addition, closing the plant will save countless acres of Crown land from being clear cut; another environmental win for the residents of the province.

Yes, there will be job losses but these will occur at some point anyway. Adjustments will be made and new employment opportunities will result. For far too long our province has failed to plan for the future and believed that some industries have the right to exist. Propping up environmentally toxic industries has to stop, the larger community interests must prevail.

Close the plant, clean up Boat Harbour and not compound the problem by allowing the plant to operate until they decide they can no longer exploit the province and the tax payer any further. The time is now for action!

Wayne Rogers