

Honourable Margaret Miller, Minister of Environment
Environmental Assessment Branch, Nova Scotia Environment
P.O. Box 442 Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2P8

Nadine C. MacLellan

River John, Nova Scotia

Minister Miller,



I am contacting you in relation to Northern Pulp's Replacement Effluent Treatment Facility Project. I am addressing you as someone who makes their living in the fishing area 26A in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. These fishing grounds encompass the area of the southeastern part of Northumberland Strait between Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island and the western half between Prince Edward Island and Cape Breton. Firstly I would like commend each of the members in my community who are addressing the issue in of Northern Pulp's presence on The Northumberland Strait. I have never publicly expressed my feelings regarding the environmental atrocity that is Northern Pulp but cannot go without taking this opportunity to make this personal appeal to you. My community is often regarded as being divided but many have been brought together by their concern over the treatment of our waters & residents. I

could not be prouder to be from Nova Scotia except that our representation is truly failing us by supporting an industry over its own citizens. You have been disregarding the voices of a concerned community. **I urge you to recognize your support of Northern Pulp over the people of this area as the destruction of the cultural heritage of communities along the Northern Shores of Nova Scotia & take commendable action in requiring an environmental assessment report (EAR) to be conducted Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA).** Together with the supported of obedient Provincial Governments the pulp mill operation in our community have a continuous track record of negating our community and neglecting our environment. Nova Scotia's culture was formed by our & continues to develop from the interactions within environment of our scenic coastlines. **I demand you address the environmental effect of Northern Pulp's operation on the culture of Northern Nova Scotia by stepping away from the situation & ordering an EAR of the proposed area from the CEAA before any actions can taken in relation to the proposed pipeline.**

I can attest that the culture contained & surrounding the area of the proposed pipeline is boundless compared to the value of the pulp produced at Northern Pulp in Abercrombie, Nova Scotia. I was raised in a 'fishing family' in Pictou County, Nova Scotia; graduating from in Alma from Northumberland Regional High School where I received my first formal education on the injustices related to the area's pulp mill through a law class. At the time my peers & I would get inundated with the presence of sulfur and other pollutants in the air as we learned. I continued my studies at Dalhousie University's School of Nursing learning the significance of social and cultural determinants of health. After attending a lecture on environmental racism I discussed the concept with my Father; while he had never heard the terminology before that he was very much aware of its effects on the coastline. When I developed bipolar disorder the Northumberland Strait was the therapeutic entity that sought me through. I could be dead but I'm a fisherman. The Strait taught me how to transition through life; it gifts me with joy, gratitude & some pride in myself. My Father forced me onto the water each morning & into having a purpose. I will never find the words to describe how pushing off of our wharf, spending the day the day on my water & returning home with bounty healed me. I've been vegetarian for fifteen years & I've never eaten a lobster. As a child I watched my Grandfather & Father struggle with daily catches that were in the double digits poundwise. Today we benefit from the environmental effects of a warming planet; there is no better feeling knowing you're top boat & I love seeing my Brother & Grandfather floating as we sail in with catches that are ten times what they were in the early 2000s. I know programs in the area are benefiting us too but we as a society must address the environmental conundrum that is the Northumberland Strait. A decade has passed since I first brought up the environmental racism with my Father yet there is significant distress in the area regarding the multitude of issues caused by Northern Pulp's continued operation. My father has remained a positive example for me by continuously expressing his belief that the conversation regarding these issues must be solution-focused. My sister's partner is a engineer technician at Northern Pulp and my partner works the forestry which is heavily dependent on the funding provided by the pulp and paper industry. As a family I feel like we have done very well by maintaining respectful discussion regarding the operation of Northern Pulp. However I am deeply distressed by the Provincial Government's delinquency in caring for our waters & am now asking you to consider the direct environmental effects on the culture of this area as your personal decision. **I urge you to hand off the responsibilities of an EAR to the CEAA before the situation worsens.**

I make my living on the Northumberland Strait in more than one way. I am a deckhand, working alongside my Brother, Father & paternal Grandfather out of Skinner's Cove in River John, Nova Scotia. Since 2017 I have supplemented my income by working in the tourism industry as a server at The Pictou Lodge; an institution built in 1926 that accommodates those visiting the area. Here I meet people from all over the world who are travel to our beautiful shoreline because of the nature of The Northumberland Strait. Harkening first hand accounts of what Come-From-Aways cull on our shores frames the global perspective on Nova Scotia as a whole. These conversations have defined how fortunate I feel to live & work here; I have a great love for the sea. I assure you that our culture and waters are worth more than pulp. If Northern Pulp

continues to operate alongside a submissive provincial government I know the tourism industry this area has worked to build up will collapse with the environment; No one wants to vacation in a cesspool. **The culture here is informed by the environment which will be affected if you permit Northern Pulp to operate without and EAR conducted by the CEAA.**

My partner & I have both grown up in homes that our Great-Great-Grandfathers had lived in. We have both acquired knowledge informed by a multi-generational relationship with this environment. His family has been farming the shoreline of Caribou Harbour since arriving here from Scotland in the early 1800s. This area is the proposed site of Northern Pulp's pipeline. **I encourage you to think of it as ground zero & your legacy by acknowledging the significant**

cultural value of the Northumberland Strait in handing off responsibility of an EAR to the CEAA.

The culture of this area is indubitably conjoined with commercial fishing which both of our families sustained themselves from. In 1939 my Grandfather was born in a farmhouse very near Skinner's Cove & has been sailing 'The Strait' since childhood. The first vessel he operated was one he had fashioned by welding two car hoods together. He continues to fish at 79 & has witnessed the coastal transformation of this area over his lifetime. Fishing beside my Brother, Father and Grandfather gladdens my heart in ways that I cannot express in words. I fear that I am at the end a line and will be unable to pass on my knowledge and skill set to a future generation because my government doesn't value the very environment it exist within. My Grandfather's experience is quintessential to who I am as a person; part



of this experience is how this environment has been altered by the undeniable results of a changing, polluted environment. He recalls bluffs that have eroded, forests that no longer exist & much, much colder waters. I know our commercial fishing operation will be unsustainable if the mill pollutes our beautiful Strait. I am disgusted by the multitudes of wrongdoings by industry & governments alike since the mill began its operation in Abercrombie. **There must be an objective, independent EAR completed by the CEAA of the Northumberland Strait to address the environmental effects of Northern Pulp's operation on the scenic coastline to identifying how these effects will impact the socio-economic conditions on our culture which has significant historic and future value.**

Those of us who live, work & play on The Northumberland Strait can palpate the environmental effects of the unsustainable pulp & paper industry. There is no wonder why. For a short period during the 1970s my Grandfather supported his family by working at Canso Chemicals, the company who made “the caustic” required for the pulp mill. During this time my Grandfather had a continuous cough, skin rash & eye irritation. At that time he sought the opinion of his family physician Dr. Skinner regarding his ailments who told my Grandfather he was insane for working there. My grandfather has always reported to me that he felt helpless and silenced as Canso Chemicals released straight, untreated waste into Pictou Harbour during early morning hours. He left his employment at Canso Chemicals knowing that they waited until children were sleeping in their beds to illegally dump toxic effluent. If you think you know what dangers are present in under Our waters you have no sense of the situation whatsoever. **An EAR of the Northumberland Strait must be conducted by the CEAA to determine the environmental effects of pulp production in Abercrombie before any decisions regarding future production in the area. In vivo veritas.**

By conforming to Northern Pulps demands I ensure you that you will be forever regarded as the executioner of a culture. I know this community & you are unprepared for dealing with the consequences of not handing an EAR to the CEAA. **Take action by washing your hands clean of any decision-making by electing the CEAA to do an EAR at the proposed site.** I assure you that otherwise the Provincial Government will overloaded: there will be an impassable, occupied causeway. I believe a reasonable answer to having effluent dumped in my workspace is having it tanked & dumped where those responsible for that work. If you expect this community to live & work in effluent I would expect the same from you. **Order an independent EAR conducted by the CEAA or you will be unleashing an inferno of anguish on this community & our culture beyond anything you could possibly conceive of.**

With some hope,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. MacLellan'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'N' and a long, sweeping underline.

Nadine C. MacLellan