

Dear Minister of Environment (thank you!), Honourable Gordon Wilson,

Back in the early fall, the town of Pictou lost its water for nearly 24 hours. While it was a planned 'outage', it did last a bit longer than planned. Of course, not everyone was prepared, so many were upset at the loss of easy access to this [basic human right](#) that we can so easily take for granted. Most of the time, we're very lucky to have access to clean water here in Pictou County...but that's unfortunately unlike many other communities in Canada/worldwide.

Having been an advocate of, and having integrated the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#) in my everyday classroom teaching, I'm aware of the international push to secure clean, accessible water for the countless communities worldwide, that don't currently have it. I also hope that the Canadian government is working to secure this for all Canadian communities; I suppose it'd be somewhat your responsibility to ensure that's the case here, in Nova Scotia? And, would it also be your responsibility to ensure that no proposed projects would threaten a community's access to clean water - and endanger this human right?

This is the biggest flaw that trumps any and all other flaws with [Northern Pulp's proposed effluent pipeline](#) - it jeopardizes the [Town of Pictou's watershed](#). I don't understand how a company - no matter how many jobs it provides - can propose to compromise a basic human right here in Pictou, Nova Scotia, Canada in 2019. I just don't know how the puck doesn't stop here. It should, as the submitted focus report fails to address this giant red-flag-of-a-concern!

I trust you will make the right decision with this proposal...and when you really think about it, the risk of contaminated water, is really not worth it for us to have the luxury of wiping our butts with white toilet paper! I have a source for recycled toilet paper, and I'd be happy to send you a roll to try, if you're interested!

Kindest regards, and deepest respect for the position you hold,
[Melinda K. MacKenzie](#)