

Brief to the Standing Committee on
Environment and Sustainable Development
about Nuclear Waste Governance in
Canada

Mémoire au Comité permanent de
l'environnement et du développement
durable sur la gouvernance des déchets
nucléaires au Canada

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To whom it may concern,

These are my comments on the governance of nuclear waste in Canada:

As Canadians we face a terrible legacy of radioactive nuclear waste already produced and stored in temporary facilities. That radioactive waste from the nuclear industry must be contained for a very long time, it requires perpetual monitoring and must not be abandoned, and it carries serious health and environmental impacts. We must deal with that existing radioactive waste and add as little as possible to it.

1. The nuclear industry has an obvious vested interest in minimizing the liability it has for nuclear waste. Federal and provincial governments in Canada promote nuclear development and are therefore also biased. Therefore we must have an independent agency, arms-length from government and industry, to oversee radioactive waste management and decommissioning in Canada.
 2. That independent agency along with government and industry must be open and transparent in all aspects of the management of radioactive waste, including its transportation.
 3. Importation of radioactive waste from other countries must not be allowed.
 4. Reprocessing of radioactive fuel waste must not be allowed.
 5. Plutonium extraction must not be allowed.
 6. All Canadians, including Indigenous peoples who have been impacted by nuclear development, especially uranium mining, must be given access to all pertinent information regarding the management of nuclear waste, must be given opportunity to engage in decision-making, and must be fully informed of the risks involved in the management of nuclear waste.
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