

North Bay, April 2  
Bunty Swanson  
Canadian Federation of University Women of North Bay

The Canadian federation of University Women is a national organization of women graduates, students and associate members working to improve the status of women and girls, to promote quality education and to advance human rights, justice and peace. CFUW North Bay is one of 122 clubs across Canada and we are a bilingual, non-profit, non-partisan, self-funded organization.

The only positive effects of Trans-Canada's proposed Energy East Pipeline are the temporary increase of jobs in our community and the economic spin-offs to this. Ditto province-wide. Once the Pipeline is flowing, how many people would still be employed for monitoring and upkeep?

Negative effects--

It is disturbing to learn that this process of sending bitumen to refineries and then to offshore constituencies does not translate into energy cost savings for the citizens of North Bay, Ontario or Canada.

We seem to be concentrating on this pipeline as a Federal fait accompli. It is difficult to hear about all the safety measures in place for if and when the Pipeline has a leak. Considering that the existing gas pipeline through North Bay is over 30 years old and also that it flows through our existing fresh water shed and beside our Trout Lake, source of A level drinking water, would it not be mandatory to put in a new state-of-the-art pipeline and move it back over the escarpment away from our watershed? Also, if a leak occurs, what are the other additives in the bitumen to keep it viscous? We do not want them in our water either. And bitumen will sink to the bottom of the lake and is impossible to clean up. Poor wildlife and poorer us.

When the last Energy East Pipeline open house happened, one of their engineers allowed as how he was blown away by our lovely lake area and the purity of our water supply. He said he could recommend what we are suggesting, but he doubted if he had any clout!

Subjects for focus from the Ontario Energy Board

1 Water is a precious commodity .

2 All Ontarians have the right to fresh, clean drinking water.

3. There is no room for even one mishap in regard to Trout Lake, especially when the odds could be mitigated.

4 Energy East assured us at Council last month that they had deep pockets for cleanup. Please tell them to spend some of those monies instead on safe transportation of bitumen around North Bay and away from our drinking water!!!