

I am speaking to you as a very concerned private citizen, but also as the Political Advocacy Chair for the Retired Teachers of Ontario Nipissing District 43 which has over 600 members. We are one district of 48 districts of the Retired Teachers of Ontario which has over 70,000 members in Ontario as well as British Columbia. We are non-partisan organization and do not support any political party, but meet with all parties to express our concerns about our top priorities.

After reflecting on 2013 and the number of unprecedented natural and unnatural disasters that occurred, our top priority for 2014 and the years to come will be to deal with the environment and its effect on climate change. In order to address the topic of the urgent need to have a pipeline go through North Bay, we need to be informed of the bigger picture of why it is so important and also how the Federal government has planned and prepared for this to happen. According to the Fifth Estate documentary ``Silence of the Labs``, in the past five years the federal government has dismissed more than 2000 scientists who were working on hundreds of research programs in world-renowned research facilities by drastically cutting their funding. The programs monitored things such as smoke stack emissions, oil spills, water quality, environmental pollution and climate change.

The world-renowned Polar Environment Atmospheric Research Laboratory (PEARL) founded by Dr. Tom Duck and located 1000 kilometres from the North Pole was a one-of-a-kind facility that provided scientific data on ozone depletion and climate change for scientists around the world. Its funding was drastically reduced in 2012. Without that funding, Dr. Duck had to stop his research and most of his colleagues left the country to find other work. As a result, it will now give the oil companies an opportunity to pursue without proper oversight the valuable oil and gas resources in the Arctic that have become increasingly more accessible due to climate change.

In the summer of 1991, Canadore College in North Bay opened its laboratories to NASA and Dr. Sherry Rowland who won the Nobel Peace Prize for discovering the hole in the ozone layer over Antarctica to study the ozone layer over the Arctic. At that time, over 20 years ago, he warned us about the drastic consequences of climate change.

Dr. Peter Ross, Canada's only marine mammal toxicologist, spent 15 years studying the increasing levels of toxins in oceans and in animals like the killer whale especially on the West Coast. But in the spring of 2012, the federal government closed the Department of Fisheries contaminants program, dismissing Ross and 55 of his colleagues across the country creating an open door for the oil tankers from China to line up for the Tar Sands oil from the West Coast pipeline to Kitimat, B.C with absolutely no oversight. In 2007, while visiting Australia we saw hundreds of Chinese ships along the coast near Sydney lined up to get their load of coal from a coal mine in Newcastle which they owned. We all know about the pollution in Beijing where citizens have to walk around with masks.

Our federal government wants to get the oil from the Tar Sands to market and therefore is pushing for a pipeline to the West Coast, a pipeline to Eastern Canada and a pipeline through the United States. Mr. Harper has said to President Obama that he will not take **NO** for an answer! The present federal government ideology is putting ``**economic development**`` ahead of the

environment and climate change. The passing of the Omnibus Bill C-45 last year also drastically reduced proper environmental assessment and regulation of any new projects. Trout Lake has also been taken off the list of protected water bodies. North Bay and area has a huge fight on its hand to ensure that the Tar Sands oil in the pipeline does not ruin our environment and contaminate our watershed. We are all aware of the disastrous impact the extraction of the oil in the Tar Sands has had on the environment and water bodies in Northern Alberta.

What are the possible effects of having this oil brought to Eastern Canada?

- We are told that the oil pipeline will increase jobs. What jobs and for how long?
- We are told that Eastern Canada will have less expensive oil. We do not need an additional 1.1 million barrels of dilbit (raw oil with diluents from Saudi Arabia) per day when the nearest refinery is in Sarnia – nowhere near North Bay. This oil is bound for hungry markets overseas which will pay more and potentially drive the price of oil up and the cost of gas at the pumps. This project would make Canada's economy even more dependent on the export of unprocessed fossil fuels leaving us in a vulnerable position when the carbon bubble bursts.
- Our natural gas prices to heat our homes will also go up dramatically with half of our supply being eliminated.
- Increased Tar Sands production will add 32 million tonnes of carbon pollution per year to Canada's total emissions. The same amount of carbon emissions that Ontario is eliminating by closing its coal fired electricity plants.
- The price of pipeline spill cleanup is astronomical! The infamous dilbit spill in Marshall, Michigan has cost over 1 billion, so far and it is still not completely cleaned up.
- How many Northern Ontario municipalities will suffer damage to their drinking water? How many rural wells will be contaminated by poisoned ground water?
- North Bay will no longer be a beautiful place with excellent drinking water. People, businesses and corporations will no longer want to settle here if there is the slightest risk of contamination of our water. Real estate prices will plummet.

We are in a **lose-lose** situation. The Federal government has signed the Foreign Investment Protection Agreement with China who owns 40% of Alberta's OIL Resources. What does this mean? If China does not get its oil to market and therefore does not make the profit it anticipates on their investment then they can sue us in an outside court for billions of dollars which all of the taxpayers in Canada will eventually have to pay.

If Mr. Harper will not take **NO** for an answer from the most powerful country in the world, he will not take **NO** from a small community of 60,000 people like North Bay because he knows the consequences to the taxpayer if China Sue.

We ask the Ontario Energy board which has already approved the Number 9 pipeline through Toronto, the most populated area in Ontario, to do their job with **due diligence** and insist that a brand new pipeline be built back over the escarpment and away from our watershed and our pristine beautiful Trout Lake which is the source of our excellent drinking water!! Water is essential to life! North Bay will not take **NO** for an answer!