

Stéphane Cyr

From: Minister, Natural Resources and Renewables <MINNRR@novascotia.ca>
Sent: April 5, 2023 9:18 AM
To: claude_comeau@yahoo.com
Cc: info@ronnieleblanc.ca; Chris.dentremont@parl.gc.ca; Stéphane Cyr; Gatien, Karen M; Zinck, Janice; MacPherson, George E; MacNeil, John D
Subject: FW: Mining exploration permit- Clare concerns (Log # 2023-00378)

COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION

Claude Comeau
P.O. Box 122,
Saulnierville, Digby Co.
N. S., B0W2Z0
claude_comeau@yahoo.com

Dear Mr. Comeau,

Thank you for your email of March 15, 2023, in which you expressed your concerns about the interest in mineral exploration in Nova Scotia, particularly in the municipality of Clare. I am pleased that you could use the public maps to identify the locations of exploration licences. I encourage you to review our Geoscience and Mines website for additional information that may be useful or of interest.

I want to bring to your attention the fact that these are exploration licences, which identify areas for prospecting and exploration surveys. Often, these surveys are done along roads and trails or by aircraft and in all cases, landowner permission is required before the prospector can access the property. In many cases, numerous sites are visited to better understand the geology of an area and information gathered in one area may provide a better understanding of the potential resources in another location. In no cases does an exploration licence permit mining or even guarantee the issuance of a Mineral (mining) Lease.

The active licences in the area of Eel Lake are held by Rob McEwan.

Exploration provides information about the rocks and minerals in an area and may be used by the public to understand things like soil conditions and groundwater availability. Information collected by exploration companies is submitted to the Province and is made public through our website.

Should a discovery of something with economic potential be made, further work must be done to evaluate the environmental and social impacts before approvals are considered. These evaluations will always include community engagement and participation.

Regards,

Original signed by

Tory Rushton

Minister of Natural Resources and Renewables

- c The Honourable Ronnie LeBlanc, MLA Clare
- The Honourable Chris d'Entremont, MP West Nova
- Mr. Stéphane Cyr, CEO, Municipality of Clare
- Ms. Karen Gatien, Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Renewables
- Ms. Janice Zinck, Executive Director of Geoscience and Mines
- Mr. George MacPherson, Director Mineral Management Division
- Mr. John MacNeil, Registrar of Mineral and Petroleum Titles

From: Claude Comeau <claud_comeau@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2023 10:21 AM
To: Minister, Natural Resources and Renewables <MINNRR@novascotia.ca>
Cc: d'Entremont, Chris M.P. <chris.dentremont@parl.gc.ca>
Subject: Fwd: Mining exploration permit- Clare concerns

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Begin forwarded message:

From: Claude Comeau <claud_comeau@yahoo.com>
Subject: Mining exploration permit- Clare concerns
Date: March 15, 2023 at 7:58:10 PM ADT
To: Ronnie Leblanc <info@ronnieleblanc.ca>
Cc: Gail Comeau <gailcomeau@gmail.com>, Joel Comeau <comeau_joel@hotmail.com>, Rejean Comeau <rejeancomeau@gmail.com>

To: minister Tory Rushton, March 15, 2023

N.S. Department of Natural Resources and Renewables
Registry of Mineral Petroleum Titles

I have recently learned that a Nova Scotia mining exploration license has been granted for an extensive area in the municipality of Clare! In reviewing the maps on the N.S. government website my concerns about this development increased as much of the permit area covers areas where residents have their homes and cottages!

The only reason I became aware of this was a small article in the news recently about a newfound interest in lithium exploration in N.S. which I investigated further.

For example I reside at Eel lake, (which is part of the Meteghan river system), near Bangor in an area that has many year round residents, the mining exploration permit covers this entire area!

Much of the residential, cottage and local woodlot areas along the Meteghan River and lakes system, is also covered by the Mining exploration permit! Also much of the Clearwater lake and Salmon river system is incorporated into this permit! These areas are now the prime location in the municipality of Clare for residential homes, cottages and recreation. This is some of the most desirable building locations in the Municipality with many living there.

The area also includes many valuable and active local woodlots which are close to our residences where we gather our firewood, hunt and fish, manage our woodlots, and harvest logs for lumber.

Why are mining exploration permits being issued in our local areas, our backyards and in our prime recreational areas? No amount of lithium or whatever this mining corporation is looking for, is worth the potential damage to our lifestyles, mental health, and local environment!

Why aren't Nova Scotia residents being informed about mining exploration licenses being issued on the property where they have their homes, cottages, and local woodlots. Why are not our MLA's, our municipal officials aware if these permits within our Acadian community?

I note that several areas on the mining exploration permit map show that mining is not permitted, as they are wildlife areas.

Are these wildlife areas more important than people's homes and backyards?

If there is no intent to permit mining inside of our active Acadian community why are you issuing mining exploration permits here?

I am informed that I can deny the mining company access to my land however I am also advised that the mining company has a mechanism to go around my denial and gain access to my property regardless of my disapproval. This entire process of issuing mining permits is unacceptable, within our local community.

I request that the province update the mining exploration license application system to ensure that permits are issued well away from residential, recreational or local woodlot areas. This is 2023, not the 1950's it's easy to determine where an active community is.

Secondly the current permit which was just issued (December 2022?), should be reviewed to ensure that no mining explorations take place anywhere near our homes, cottages, local recreational waterways, or local woodlots.

Nova Scotia has hundreds of square miles in the middle of nowhere where mining would not directly impact municipal residents, keep any mining activity, including exploration, in places like that.

Again, no amount of minerals under our land is worth destroying the fabric of our unique community! We Acadians were already displaced once from our lands in the Annapolis valley in 1755, we don't need to be now displaced by mining companies operating in our present community of Clare!

Note: I have asked our MLA Ronnie Leblanc to follow up with the province on this concern, as it's the Nova Scotia government that issued the permit.

Please respond,
Claude Comeau
P.O. Box 122,
Saulnierville, Digby Co.
N. S., B0W2Z0

Cc,
M.L.A. Ronnie Leblanc
CEO Stephane Cyr, Clare Municipality
M.P. Chris D'Entremont

From Claude's iPad