

# LEAB

## Leduc Environmental Advisory Board

February 17, 2021

City of Leduc Council  
1 Alexandra Park  
Leduc, AB T9E 4C4

Re: Alberta Coal Policy and Consultation Process

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Mayor Young and Leduc City Council Members,

The Leduc Environmental Advisory Board (LEAB) has been following the recent developments with respect to the provincial coal policy and the issues surrounding open-pit mining projects throughout the province. On February 8, 2021, the 1979 Coal Policy was reinstated and a consultation process announced. However, coal exploration is still proceeding on the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains, with the potential to negatively affect water quality, water quantity, biodiversity, natural areas and wildlife, leading to broader implications for the social and economic wellbeing of citizens.

Several municipal councils have recently passed motions to put a hold on exploration activity until a thorough consultation process can be conducted. LEAB is recommending that City of Leduc Council pass a similar motion in order to support other Alberta municipalities, to acknowledge the impact that coal mining has on the environment, and to show leadership on this important environmental issue.

- 1. LEAB recommends that City Council send a letter to the appropriate provincial government officials to request a pause on all current coal exploration on the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains pending a comprehensive public consultation.**

There is also concern about the potential implications of current and future coal policies on the North Saskatchewan River Watershed, which is the drinking water source for the City of Leduc. This watershed is one of the largest watersheds in Alberta, and is inhabited by one third of Alberta's population,<sup>1</sup> which is more than 1.4 million residents.

Municipalities and stakeholder groups are rapidly gathering information on the potential effects of coal policy changes on municipal water sources. LEAB is committed to conducting further research on the coal policy and potential impacts to City of Leduc residents. LEAB wanted to bring this issue before Council in a timely manner, recognizing that more research is required, and that more detailed input can be provided during the provincial consultation.

- 2. LEAB recommends that City of Leduc provide input to the coal policy consultation process, once it is established, at both the political and administrative levels e.g. as part of watershed stakeholder groups, water commissions, municipal regional collaboration groups, etc. LEAB is committed to actively participating in the consultation process.**

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,



Wendy Yule  
Chair, Leduc Environmental Advisory Board  
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<sup>1</sup> North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (NSWA). 2009. *Cumulative Effects Assessment of the North Saskatchewan River Watershed using ALCES*. 32 pp + app. Submitted by Dr. M.G. Sullivan, ALCES Group. Edmonton, Alberta: The North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance Society. Available on the internet at [https://www.nswa.ab.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/CUM\\_EFFECTS\\_alcesOct8-2009.pdf](https://www.nswa.ab.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/CUM_EFFECTS_alcesOct8-2009.pdf)