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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CoalWatch Comox Valley is releasing today a report entitled “Does the Comox Valley need the Raven Underground Coal Mine?” The report prepared by Dr. Joan Kuyek, is a socio-economic review of the costs and benefits to the communities in the Comox Valley of the proposed Raven Underground Coal Mine Project.

“The proponents of the Raven Project have only jobs and local economic impacts to offer as benefits to the Comox Valley for this proposed coal mine,” said CoalWatch president John Snyder. “Dr. Kuyek’s report calls both of those into serious question.”

Some of the issues discussed in the seven page report include jobs, local government revenues and costs, and likely impacts of the Raven Project on specific components of the region’s economic development plan.

“We are very fortunate in having someone with Dr. Kuyek’s expertise in preparing this report”, said Snyder. “Joan’s past work with MiningWatch Canada gives her the qualifications to review mining projects, and their socio-economic impacts on communities.”

Dr. Kuyek has also been retained by CoalWatch and the Alberni Environmental Coalition to review the Raven Mine proponents’ socio-economic impact study when it is made public as part of the environmental assessment review process.

“With the limited amount of socio-economic impact information currently available in the environmental review process, this report is a good start in starting a public dialogue on the socio-economic impacts of this massive coal mine project in our communities,” said Snyder.

The full report can be viewed on the CoalWatch website: www.coalwatch.ca

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Media contacts: John Snyder, Coalwatch president (250)- 335-2246
Dr. Joan Kuyek (613) -761-9794 , cell#(613) -795-5710