

REPORT FROM **THE COUNCIL OF CANADIANS COMOX VALLEY** CHAPTER TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS OF THE PROPOSED RAVEN COAL MINE – May 26, 2011

Dear Rachel Shaw and Andrew Rollo:

Our Chapter is opposed to the development of this coal mine for many reasons:

1. **WATER:** Mining uses an inordinate amount of water via fracking, and the discarded pollutants contaminate the earth and the aquifers. This leads to contaminated streams and eventually the ocean.

Water is a precious and limited resource and should not be wasted in these processes.

2. **SHELLFISH FISHERY:** The contaminated ocean waters will affect the marine life disastrously. Any clean-up would take years of recovery. In the meantime, the loss of the sea life and the loss of the fishers' livelihoods will be monumental.

3. **AIR QUALITY:** The coal dust will affect the human and animal population of the Comox Valley and all the way to Port Alberni.

4. **ROAD CONDITIONS:** Since many heavy trucks are planned to take coal from the Comox Valley to Port Alberni, the roads and traffic will be overly taxed.

5. **HARBOR CONDITIONS IN PORT ALBERNI:** The dredging of the harbor and the passage of huge barges will impact negatively on the newly developing eco-tourism industry. In addition, the building of a coal storage facility in a Tsunami zone seems counter-productive at best.

6. **JOBS:** The coal mine jobs for twenty years will be cancelled out by the loss of the shellfish industry jobs.

7. **COMMUNITY CONSULTATION:** There have already been many community meetings about the proposed coal mine and the vast majority of residents have stated loudly and clearly that they do not want this Raven Coal mine.

8. The Coal Watch and Water Watch groups have done a very good service in the community by researching all of the facts. They have been assisted by the Watershed Sentinel group of researchers. The local Chapter of the Council of Canadians supports and endorses their opposition to Raven Coal.