

**From:** Sue Moen <contact information withheld>

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**To:** Raven@ceaa-acee.gc.ca; env.minister@gov.bc.ca; Minister@ec.gc.ca; info@coalwatch.ca

**Subject:** Raven Coal Mine

We have studied the detailed and thoughtful position papers published by CoalWatch Comox Valley regarding the proposed Raven Coal mine. The Green Party of Canada understands that Canadians want and need energy that doesn't pollute the air, water and land in our communities. Independent research has shown that renewables, in combination with conservation, can provide Canadians with an abundance of energy.

It is therefore, Vancouver Island North Greens' position that there be **no** increased development of coal mining, and that we must decommission all existing coal mines while supporting industry and individuals to conserve energy until renewables are developed and implemented.

If the current governments choose not to take the moral action of denying the application, then VING supports the call of CoalWatch Comox Valley that Minister Prentice:

1. refer the environmental assessment of Compliance Coal Corporations' proposed Raven Underground Coal Project to a joint federal/provincial independent expert Review Panel for full public hearings (CEAR reference number 10-03-55529);
2. ensure that the environmental assessment of the project is carried out by the same joint federal-provincial independent expert Review Panel conducting full public hearings; and
3. before any further consideration is given to the proposed project, comprehensive aquifer mapping and modeling of the entire Raven coal tenure be completed --and fully publicly vetted. The 3100 hectare Raven tenur includes all or significant portions of the watersheds of Cowie/Cougar Smith Creek, Tsable River, Wilfred (Coal) Creek, and Hindoo Creek which flow into Baynes Sound. It is essential that the hydrology and dynamics of these surface water systems and their interactions with groundwater be understood."

We fully support the research and submissions made by the Coal Watch Comox Valley group.

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Sue Moen  
Green Party of Canada  
Candidate Vancouver Island North  
<contact information withheld>

"When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world." -  
John Muir