

World Community Development Education Society - Comox Valley, British Columbia

On behalf of World Community Development Education Society I am writing to register our opposition to the Raven Underground Coal project.

World Community is a Comox Valley-based organization, established in 1990. We are a community of advocates working to foster a greater awareness of the social, economic and environmental consequences of human activity at both the local and global levels. Many of our 500+ members as well as most of the board of directors have attended the public meetings that were recently held in the Comox Valley. We are deeply concerned about the negative long lasting effects this coal mine will bring to the Comox Valley and beyond.

Despite the obligatory assurances of well-being from the proponents of this project, we believe that this project will be devastating to the local shellfish industry, air quality, aquifers and water supply, wildlife of land, air and sea, the local tourism industry and the quality of life of local residents.

We are also greatly concerned about the greenhouse gas emissions that will be produced in the eventual use of this coal. It would be short-sighted to only consider the effects of this project within a small geographic area. We believe, as citizens and stewards of our piece of this planet, that actions taken in one area have rippling effects felt far and wide.

For these and many other reasons we ask:

- for a joint federal/provincial independent expert Panel Review with full public hearings so that the public can hear for themselves the opinions of experts
- for a comprehensive aquifer mapping and modeling of the full Raven tenure including interaction between ground and surface waters and their relationship to Baynes Sound
- for inclusion of the Bear Project within the list of future activities whose materials in the watersheds flowing into Baynes Sound must be assessed.

We are not a group of scientists or experts. We are citizens who care deeply about the environmental integrity of the land we call home.

We also speak strongly of our concern about the democracy of this process. The people of this area have clearly spoken against this project. If the people's voice holds no meaning or influence, we cannot call this a democracy.

To Whom It May Concern,

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Sincerely,
Medwyn McConachy - Chair
Board of Directors - World Community Development Education Society