



February 18, 2025

Dear Mayors and Wardens,

On behalf of the Southwest Paddlers Association, I am contacting the Mayors and Wardens cc'd herein (attached) regarding the letter the Minister of Municipal Affairs, John Lohr, sent you asking you to support "greater resource development" within our province.

Requesting blanket support for such an ill-defined request is troublesome. We know that the term "resource development," although it sounds positive, really means "resource extraction." This could mean lifting bans on fracking and uranium mining. As of this month, the Premier is allowing Continental Lithium, a subsidiary of Australia's Manhattan Corporation Ltd., to explore for lithium on 1,200 square kilometres of land across Digby and Yarmouth counties—which now can take place without private landowners' permission. Resource extraction will also mean a greater emphasis on High Production Forestry—conducting clear-cuts in regions with pockets of Old Growth Forests, high conservation value, and many Species At Risk—all needed to counter our current crisis in climate change.

Yes, we are facing challenging economic times. But Nova Scotians are creative and resourceful. Let us invest our money and energy into projects that will help us be more sustainable. Any efforts to grow our fisheries, agriculture, tourism, manufacturing, technology, renewable energy sectors, and small businesses will contribute to and enhance the lives of all Nova Scotians. In contrast, we know too well how foreign corporations are the primary beneficiaries of resource extraction projects. Sadly, Nova Scotians have often had to pick up the pieces and pay to clean up the mess left behind.

Please do not give Minister Lohr *carte blanche* to do as the government pleases. Going into high gear with resource extraction was not part of the PC's platform during the election. This approach to economic development is neither sound nor healthy. Both the environment and Nova Scotians will suffer.

Members of the SWPA Board of Directors would be willing to consult with you at any time regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Sandra Phinney

Chair, Southwest Paddlers Association, [REDACTED]

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