

Les effets potentiels du projet d'exploitation
d'une mine et d'une usine de niobium à Oka
sur les eaux de surface et les eaux
souterraines ainsi que sur leurs utilisations
Oka 6211-08-003



Sheila Bonspiel

February 8, 2005

The Honorable Andy Scott, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-status Indians
Terraces de la Shadier, 21st floor
10 Wellington Street
Gatineau, Quebec
K1A 0H4

Subject: Proposed Niobium Mine in Oka (Niocan)

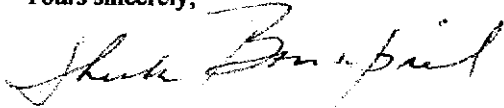
I recently attended all the BAPE (Bureau d'audience publiques sur l'environnement) hearings in Oka, concerning the potentially adverse effects from the proposed mining project, the week of January 17th 2005 and was *outraged* to see that there was not one representative from the Department of Indian Affairs present at these hearings.

On January 27th 2005, I spoke with Michelle Moisan, the Regional Environment officer for the Department and she was indeed aware of these hearings being conducted but informed me that the Department was not *invited* to participate. Since when does the Department of Indian Affairs need an *invitation* to participate in the protection of our rights, interests, and well-being--first and foremost the safety of our drinking water and the air we breathe? The Department is so concerned about our safety that it dug deep into the coffers and found \$9 million dollars in less than a year to combat alleged "criminal activity" yet when it comes to real safety and health issues, the Department is nowhere to be found.

I would like to know what the Department of Indian Affairs is going to do, especially when one of your own research scientists, Miroslav Nastev, from the Department of Natural Resources Canada, states in the newspaper *La Presse* that he found discrepancies in Niocan's calculations and that the mine will produce more pollutants than what Niocan is claiming.

I am therefore insisting that the Department of Indian Affairs finance a new independent study to be conducted for the effects on the ground water, air pollutants, and any other contaminants, for the Mohawks of Kanesatake.

Yours sincerely,



Sheila Bonspiel
Kanesatake Mohawk Territory

ccs The Honorable Paul Martin, P.C., M.P., Prime Minister of Canada
The Honorable Andy Scott, P.C., M.P., Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs
Mr. Jim Prentice, M.P., Critic for Indian Affairs
Mr. Bernard Cleary, M.P., Critic for Indian Affairs
The Honorable Stephane Dion, P.C., M.P., Minister of Environment
Mr. Bob Mills, M.P., Critic for the Environment
The Honorable Ujjal Dosanjh, P.C., M.P., Minister of Health
Mr. Steven Fletcher, M.P., Critic for Health
 Mr. Andre Harvey, BAPE
Mr. Joseph Zayed, BAPE
Mrs. Joanne Twigg, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food
Mr. Thomas J. Mulcair, Ministere de l'environnement Quebec
Mr. Pierre Corbeil, Ministere de la protection de la faune
Mr. Ghislain Picard, Assembly of First Nations Regional Chief for Quebec and Labrador
Mr. Alain Picard, CBC Canada
Mr. Kenneth Deer, Eastern Door